

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## North East Victorian creatives are building connections and momentum

The **Arts Connect series** reaches the end of its North East Victorian tour in **Dookie** on **Sunday 7 April**. Featuring conversations about staying inspired and making things happen, strategic planning and governance, **Arts Connect Dookie: Connection and Momentum** is for regional creatives looking to take the next big step in their practice.

**Arts Connect Dookie** is a one day professional development intensive that brings artists and community leaders together to extend their knowledge. Panel discussions, presentations and case studies have been programmed to address the professional development interests of North East Victorian creatives. The program features our very own Executive Director (CEO) **Joe Toohey**, visual artist **Alison Percy**, founder of Lot 19 **Mark Anstey**, local legend **John Head**, Tallarook Mechanics' Institute mastermind **Libby Webster**, and more.

It's an event for artists, committee members, event coordinators, gallery curators, local government workers, volunteers and resident movers-and-shakers, aiming to inspire and equip attendees to take their work to the next level. Participants will meet other creative people in their local area and share ideas for a day of collaborative learning.

This is the second year of the Arts Connect series. Previous attendees have said:

*"A great atmosphere. Educational, informative and fun,"* and *"Wore out a pen taking notes from the panel speakers."*

Director of Partnerships at Regional Arts Victoria Liz Zito says that the Arts Connect Series supports regional artists and arts organisations to realise their ambitions.

*"Regional artists across Victoria are creating outstanding, innovative work. The Arts Connect Series supports the promotion of that work, allowing it to have a life outside of its local community,"* Ms Zito said.

*"Each Arts Connect event is tailored for its community, building on local strengths and working to address local needs. It has become a means to strengthen local creative leadership and build stronger connections throughout a network of creative people across the state."*

The Arts Connect Series is supported by Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund and Regional Arts Victoria, with partnership support from Local Government Authorities and Regional Arts Victoria's members. The Arts Connect Series expands upon Regional Arts Victoria's Regional Cultural Forums that ran from 2012-2016, and continues Regional Arts Victoria's commitment to providing professional development opportunities and support for regional artists. Locally, this event is supported Riverlinks and Greater Shepparton City Council.

Find out more about the Arts Connect Series, and stay up to date with upcoming events, by visiting our website. [www.rav.net.au](http://www.rav.net.au)

**EVENT DETAILS**

Arts Connect Dookie: Connection and Momentum

Sunday 7 April 2019

10.00am – 5.00pm

Dookie Memorial Hall

Mary Street

Dookie VIC 3677

FREE, but **bookings are essential.**

<https://www.trybooking.com/BBXT>

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**Regional Arts Victoria** is the peak body for regional artists and arts organisations in Victoria and the leading organisation for regional creative practice in Victoria. We are inspired by arts across the state, and through partnerships, programming and projects, we develop creative practice all over Victoria.

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*Speakers available for interview upon request.*

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