

MEDIA RELEASE For immediate release

28 July 2015

\$105,148 ANNOUNCED FOR REGIONAL ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES IN VICTORIA

Minister for the Arts Senator George Brandis QC has announced a total of \$105,148 of funding for grants projects in regional and rural communities across Victoria. Eleven projects have been funded through the Australian Government's highly competitive Regional Arts Fund, delivered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

Director of Regional Arts Victoria, Esther Anatolitis said, "This is an impressive range of projects that reflect the depth and the diversity of artistic practice throughout Victoria. This Regional Arts Fund round supports new work across fashion, film, song, theatre, circus, craft and beyond. From Indigenous stories through colonial history to popular culture, this Regional Arts Fund round supports contemporary practice as well as artist-led developments in unexpected places. Regional Arts Victoria is proud to partner with the Australian Government on this vital program. We thank all the applicants as well as our independent panel for their commitment to this Fund."

Successful applicants in Round 1, 2015 include:

- **Monkey Heads West** – Castlemaine
This retelling of the 1980s cult Japanese TV series *Monkey* consists of a theatrical production created by the Castlemaine Theatre Company in collaboration with a number of community groups. Through the classic journeys of *Monkey*, this story celebrates the multicultural history of Castlemaine and the Chinese community in Central Victoria during the Gold Rush.
- **Shearwater Short Tales** – Phillip Island and Mallacoota
Shearwater Short Tales features creative collaborations between artists, performers and Indigenous cultural advisors from Bass Coast to Mallacoota. Community members will be supported to develop short productions in theatre, song, music, dance, poetry, film or visual media. Ten completed productions will be performed at the Shearwater Festival in November 2015.
- **The Rail School 100 Years Night Screening Celebration** – Nyah West
This project will produce a short film about the history of education in Nyah West over the last 100 years. Nyah District Primary School will create an entertaining, moving history about everyday life at their school through the eras. This film will engage the whole community and will be screened in a spectacular display on the local silos.
- Please see the attached full list and description of all recipients.

The Regional Arts Fund is one way the Australian Government supports regional artists and arts organisations to develop their artistic practice and produce works and experiences to benefit their local communities. The Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in communities across regional, remote and very remote Australia. Funding is targeted at activities that will have long-term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and communities through the development of partnerships and cultural networks. It provides artists with professional development and employment opportunities, and supports arts and community development projects that provide regional communities with the opportunity to access and participate in cultural activities. The Regional Arts Fund has an emphasis on building capacity in youth, disadvantaged, very remote or Indigenous communities. The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and its member organisations.

There are two funding rounds per year. Applications for Round 2, 2015 close on 17 August 2015. Visit www.rav.net.au/funding-opportunities/regional-arts-fund for further details.

For more information on Round 1, 2015 funded projects, please contact:

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ROUND 1, 2015 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Joanne Watt

\$5,500

Theatre Craft Youth Unlimited, Summer Performance Project – YARRAGON

Multidiscipline workshops will be led by specialist artists to deliver experiences in theatremaking process as preparation for performance. This project's aim is to encourage, support, and prepare artists and participants for confident and skilful ongoing contributions to their communities as youth arts leaders.

Nyah District Primary School

\$10,953

The Rail School 100 Years Night Screening Celebration – NYAH WEST

This project will produce a short film about the history of education in Nyah West over the last 100 years. Nyah District Primary School will create an entertaining, moving history about everyday life at their school through the eras. This film will engage the whole community and will be screened in a spectacular display on the local silos.

Kat Pengelly

\$15,000

Fashion for Funerals and Fantasy Eulogies – NATIMUK

A fashion show will bring death to life by creating a cultural shift in the way we grieve, making our inevitable end accessible and acceptable. To be premiered at the 2015 Nati Frinj, Fashion for Funerals and Fantasy Eulogies puts the fun into funerals with a multimedia, storytelling theatrical fashion show.

Shearwater Festival Working Group

\$13,450

Shearwater Short Tales: Facilitating Creative Collaborations across Gippsland – PHILLIP ISLAND & MALLACOOTA

Shearwater Short Tales features creative collaborations between artists, performers and Indigenous cultural advisors from Bass Coast to Mallacoota. Community members will be supported to develop short productions in theatre, song, music, dance, poetry, film or visual media. Ten completed productions will be performed at the Shearwater Festival in November 2015.

Rich River Quilters and Friends Inc.

\$1,000

Skills Upgrade – ECHUCA

A recognised and experienced tutor will engage the Rich River Quilters and Friends members in a familiar environment to learn and experiment with modern quilting techniques. This will bring a new, dynamic element to the quilts that the group donates to local charities.

Castlemaine Theatre Company Inc.

\$13,000

Monkey Heads West – CASTLEMAINE

This retelling of the 1980s cult Japanese TV series *Monkey* consists of a theatrical production created by the Castlemaine Theatre Company in collaboration with a number of community groups. Through the classic journeys of Monkey, this story celebrates the multicultural history of Castlemaine and the Chinese community in Central Victoria during the Gold Rush.

Castlemaine Circus Inc.

\$12,000

Atopia – CASTLEMAINE

Atopia will see performers, circus artists, musicians and emerging artists from Castlemaine and Maldon respond creatively to the civic spaces of their home towns. Skills development workshops with local

organisations will support young people with limited access to creative activities. The project will culminate in site-specific performances in Castlemaine and Maldon.

SEAM (Sustainable Environment Arts Movement) Inc.

\$15,000

WARM – BALLARAT

WARM is a textile art project about why the earth is warming, and what we can do to make a positive contribution to a safe climate future.

Sally French

\$5,000

Murder, Maladies and Miscreants – NATIMUK

Emerging local artist and history fanatic Sally French will investigate the darker history of Natimuk through a guided after-dark tour of the town during the 2015 Nati Frinj Festival. Guided by performance artist Trevor Flinn, little-known stories of the town will be told as a nightly tour group is led through the streets of Natimuk.

Kate Cotching

\$4,245

Disquietude Trophy – MILDURA

The Disquietude Trophy Project is a community arts initiative of workshops that will result in an exhibition at the Mildura Arts Centre Foyer. Over 100 soft-sculpture trophies will be made by diverse members of the Sunraysia community, representing a challenge or achievement in life that has gone unnoticed by others.

Warrnambool City Council

\$10,000

Memory in Motion: The Lost Art of Christmas Revived – WARRNAMBOOL

Memory in Motion aims to reinvigorate the lost art of the Christmas window display by facilitating a project that installs contemporary modern works through Warrnambool's central business district. Led by Dave Jones, the project will bring Warrnambool's community into the traditional heart of the city to uncover a trail of Christmas wonder told through a mix of contemporary art installations and historic dioramas.