

How this position supported Federal, State and Local Government policy objectives

Contributing to a thriving economy

The total Regional Arts Fund grant money achieved for projects in South West region in 2007 was \$80,590. For every dollar of the Fund, another \$3.30 is attracted in project earnings, sponsorship, and other grant money, thus, the total economic activity generated through the Regional Arts Fund by RAV's South-West RADO during 2007 was \$346,537. If the standard economic multiplier is applied, we can say that ***the economic impact of RAF-funded projects supported by RAV's South-West RADO for the 2007 calendar year is \$866,342 or the equivalent of 19 full-time jobs.***

Contributing to quality health and education outcomes

Jo provided assistance to South West Healthcare to develop a theatre project in order to broaden their reach in the region. She also worked with community houses in both Glenelg and Moyne Shires to expand their artistic programs in order to enhance their engagement with their communities.

Supporting the development of caring communities with a vibrant democracy

RAV's South-West RADO assisted Moyne Shire to review the cultural strategy and identify new projects that better met long-term community engagement objectives. She also assisted the Merino Progress Association to find a professional artist to design and build a public art piece funded by Rural Development Victoria. The Arts Company Portland utilised Jo's services to identify potential partners in order to create greater access to their resources thereby enriching artistic experience within the wider community of Portland.

Strengthening communities

Jo delivered the South West component of the state-wide project *Fresh & Salty* in partnership with Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation strengthening local relationships across Indigenous and non-Indigenous local residents.

Stimulating community participation

Jo assisted Port Fairy Film Society and Moyneyana House, the local elderly citizens residence, to deliver a film project based on the lives and stories of the residents. She also arranged funding to support the attendance of local festival committee members to the regional Festivals Conference (Murtoa, July 08). Attendees will benefit from experiences and shared knowledge as well as developing their capacity for delivery.

Raising awareness re: sustainable use of precious resources

The dry stone sculpture at Winda Mara brought a number of unlikely partners together to raise community awareness about our use of our most precious resource—water. Jo also used the networks she has developed to ensure strong communication between major metropolitan organisations and local cultural and non-cultural organisations to ensure a quick response to partnership project opportunities as they arise.

Helping regional communities manage the impact of growth and change

Jo developed a regional network of arts workers to build professional capacity and share best practice. In addition, she facilitated the delivery of Creative Volunteering workshops for committee members of cultural organisations in small communities to ensure these communities are able to retain valuable event management skills and knowledge when key people move on. In order to support future projects, she developed a comprehensive data-base of contacts.

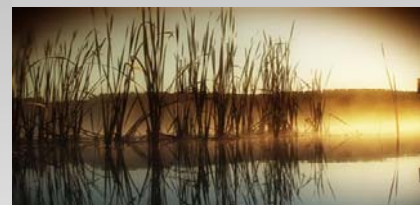
Jo Grant: Regional Arts Development Officer: South-West Partnership



Jo Grant graduated from RMIT with a Bachelor of Photography in 1993 and has worked as a commercial photographer and taught photography at TAFE and University. She completed a Master of Visual Arts in Brisbane 2004. Prior to working as a RAV RADO, Jo was involved in community projects in the South-West including an *Artist in Schools* project with the Lismore Primary School (her home town), a photographic residency in the town of Ararat and a Lismore Landcare project photographing local participants.

Her documentary photography work has included a 36-day arts workshop in outback Queensland and a Museum of Brisbane commission to photograph migrant gardeners of Brisbane. She has worked as a curator for the Queensland Centre for Photography and been guest editor of *The Australian Photojournalist* magazine.

Jo has had solo and group exhibitions at the Centre of Contemporary Photography, State Library Victoria, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Monash University Museum of Art and Queensland Centre for Photography. Recent exhibitions include *Snap Freeze*, an exhibition of still life at TarraWarra Museum of Art and a solo exhibition at Mildura Art Centre, with work that has been on tour in regional Victoria since 2005. Jo also has work represented in collections such as Artbank, State Library Victoria, Latrobe City Gallery, Horsham Gallery and Toowoomba City Collection.



Partnership Priorities

Jo was appointed to this role in July 2006. As a measure of the impact of a RADO in this region, in the year before Jo started, the calendar year 2005, the total Regional Arts Fund money that was allocated to projects in this part of the state was \$2,500. In 2007, the total was \$80,590.

Through this partnership, Glenelg and Moyne Shires both wanted to promote existing arts commitments and other opportunities to residents within their immediate municipality. Moyne Shire also wanted a review of their Cultural Strategy. Both Shires aimed to ensure that cultural organisations and individuals had access to a wide range of resources, training and funding opportunities. They also acknowledged the need for general assistance to groups and individuals to build greater capacity. Importantly, they hoped that a RADO would be able to create links between cultural and non-cultural organisations within the Shire by developing new initiatives.

Direct service provided to local government partners

During 2007, Jo reviewed Moyne Shire's Arts and Culture strategy via a council workshop and subsequent meetings with the Arts and Cultural Committee. As part of this process, she researched and implemented an acquisitions policy, and also developed and implemented *Artist of the Moment*, a project to profile local artists at Moyne Shire Offices. Of timely use, she developed a traditional language area map as a resource for groups such as the Moyne Reconciliation Committee.

Jo assisted Glenelg and Moyne Shires to provide Creative Volunteering workshops for local volunteers. She also provided valuable advice in relation to Glenelg's application to Arts Victoria's Local Partnership Program.

Jo facilitated many opportunities for Councilors to engage directly with community members, for example by judging a local art show. Jo also had regular meetings with local state and federal politicians and with representatives of state government departments to ensure the best possible two-way exchange of information.

“Jo's delivery of the local component of the Fresh & Salty sculpture project created employment for 2 local artists, a local stone waller and 3 young Indigenous trainees over a four week period. Many other local artists and community members attended a workshop on site.

A direct result has been the cross-regional networking that Jo worked hard on implementing - this has connected project partners and artists to other project participants across the state, generating the cross fertilisation of ideas and new collaborations.”

*- Karl Hatton,
Cultural Services Officer,
Glenelg Shire*

“I can't overstate the importance of Jo's role to ours and other neighbouring communities. In her short time here, she has provided networking, training and information and invaluable community development support to a large number of artists and community organisations.”

- Cr Di Clanchy, Moyne Shire

Nature of assistance provided to local cultural organisations

Jo conducted numerous strategic planning sessions, identifying organisational threats and weaknesses and devising innovative projects and processes to address these. This process often involved community consultation sessions. New projects planned and implemented included open days, workshop programs, festivals and other cultural events. She developed funding plans which identified all possible funding sources.

Jo developed a number of important network resources such as an artists' register. She brokered numerous relationships between artists and organisations, from identification and selection of artists for projects and performances to contract negotiations and assistance with processes such as expressions-of-interest for sculpture commissions and exhibition opportunities. Her networking and liaison role extended to linking city-based organisations (eg Next Wave, the Torch) with local community cultural groups and artists. She also brokered partnerships between local organisations for joint projects.

Training needs were mapped and appropriate solutions found, for example, the provision of Creative Volunteering workshops in the local region. Jo also suggested new media options for telling local stories using video and digital post-production, for example, to capture the stories behind an elderly persons' home. For many local organisations she provided information, advice and direct assistance in relation to audience development.

Jo also built relationships with local media, ensuring artists and organisations could use media effectively to promote their projects and events.

Organisations RAV's South-West RADO provided assistance to in 2007



Gunditjmiring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Tarerer Festival
Mortlake Buskers' Festival
Merino Progress Association
Port Fairy Folk Festival
Corangamite Arts
Portland Bay Festival
Port Fairy Community House
Port Fairy Film Society
Music Glenelg
'Rail Shed' Committee
Casterton Media Centre
Mortlake 'Muster' Festival
Warrnambool Art Gallery
Lake Bolac Eel Festival
Tarerer Gunditj Project Association
Historic Buildings Restoration Committee
Ex-Libris Book Fair
Casterton Community Centre
Portland Coastal Infrastructure Board
Woolsthorpe Progress Association
Mortlake College Sensory Garden Project
Macarthur 150th Celebrations Art Show
Casterton Community Centre
Port Fairy Lions Art Show
Moyne Reconciliation Committee
Wishart Gallery Port Fairy
Portland Arts Company
Framlingham Aboriginal Trust

Major Project Fresh & Salty

RAV was keen to involve its partners in a major state-wide project in order to lift the perception of the arts and demonstrate the capacity of innovative, creative partnerships to build communities. *Fresh & Salty* supported communities to creatively explore one of the country's most crucial issues – water.

Jo implemented the local component of this project, a large dry stone Eel Trap installed on land owned and managed by Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation. Local artists Vicki Couzens and Carmel Wallace worked with dry stone waller Alistair Tune to create a work that references both European and Indigenous water use. The sculpture will remain on the land as a permanent cultural and education tool.

Regional Arts Victoria programs and services provided to the broader region

Jo delivered 12 Regional Arts Fund (RAF) info sessions in Warrnambool, Camperdown, Mortlake, Port Fairy and Hamilton and targeted assistance to areas without previous success such as Portland, Heywood and Casterton. Sessions offered advice in relation to other funding programs: the Australia Council and Arts Victoria. Jo helped gather and compile examples of excellent projects to use as resource materials for these sessions and others across the state. She also provided year-round advice to artists and groups about RAF program grants and Quick Response Grant applications and feedback to unsuccessful RAF applicants throughout '07. For some months, Jo also assessed Quick Response Grants for the entire state. Throughout the year, Jo represented RAV at launches/openings of RAF funded projects.

RAV's schools touring program **arts2GO** presented a two-week long ACMI workshop in Portland and Jo provided liaison with program sponsor Alcoa in Portland, ensuring they were fully engaged with all aspects. She also ensured schools in Warrnambool, Hamilton and Portland accessed the workshop.

Jo also participated in an **arts2GO** Possum Skin Cloak schools workshop to further extend networks and to support RAV's presence in the community.