



Media Release
For Immediate Release

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FUNDING FOR REGIONAL ART

Mr Mike Zafirooulos, Chair of Regional Arts Victoria, has announced the successful Victorian projects in the latest round of grants from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

"\$144,984 has been granted to 13 exceptional projects from throughout regional Victoria", said Mr Zafirooulos.

"The Regional Arts Fund benefits people from widely differing communities, and supports skills development, community building, and great art in regional Victoria", he added.

The projects that have been funded in regional Victoria include:

- **Shack** – Under the direction of Jude Anderson a team of artists will work with communities in eight small towns in the Goldfields region to create *Shacks* containing memories, songs and stories of settlement, and transience. The eight Shacks form the set for a performance in each of the participating towns.
- **The Biting Dog Theatre Festival** – A participatory theatre festival at HotHouse Theatre for young people offering a wide range of learning and performing opportunities in a professionally supported environment.
- **Bark Canoe Project** – A cultural project to transfer knowledge, in a traditional learning environment, to young people in indigenous communities in the tradition of canoe making as used by their ancestors. Conceived by Uncle Sandy Atkinson the project will see Elders join young people on trips to the bush to make bark canoes. The canoes will be displayed at the Koori Heritage Trust.
- **Bitscape** – Bitscape is a community cultural development project with a focus on youth and new media art, initiated by the 2006 Next Wave Festival. Through a program of workshops young people from the Latrobe Valley and Macedon Ranges will use digital media to explore positive change in their lives. The work will be exhibited in the Next Wave Festival and the Commonwealth Games Youth Cultural Festival.

The Regional Arts Fund was established to give all Australians, wherever they live, better access to opportunities to practise and experience the arts. The Regional Arts Fund also aims to increase opportunities for isolated Indigenous and/or smaller regional communities. In Victoria, the Regional Arts Fund is managed by Regional Arts Victoria, further information can be downloaded from the Regional Arts Victoria website www.rav.net.au.

For more information, contact Regional Arts Victoria on either 03 9644 1800 or Toll Free (Country Victoria only) 1800 819 803, or visit www.rav.net.au.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

For further information about the Regional Arts Fund, or any of the projects, contact **Ruth Gormley** at Regional Arts Victoria ph: **(03) 9644 1800**, e: rgormley@rav.net.au or visit our website www.rav.net.au

The full list of projects to receive funding from the Regional Arts Fund follows:

Punctum – *Shack* (\$15,000)

Region: Bendigo; Inner Regional ,

Federal Electorate: Bendigo

Under the direction of Jude Anderson a team of artists will work with communities in eight small towns in the Goldfields region to create *Shacks* containing memories, songs and stories of settlement, and transience. The eight Shacks form the set for a performance in each of the participating towns.

Latrobe City – *Latrobe Space and Place* (\$15,000)

Region: Gippsland; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: McMillan

A large scale community public art project utilising aerial dance, projected interactive animation, shadow puppetry, sculpture, animation, film, indigenous imagery and performance, live choir and music.

HotHouse Theatre – *The Biting Dog Theatre Festival* (\$15,000)

Region: Wodonga; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Indi

A participatory theatre festival for young people offering a wide range of learning and performing opportunities in a professionally supported environment.

NextWave Festival – *Bitscape* (\$6,000)

Region: Moe; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: McMillan

Bitscape is a community cultural development project with a focus on youth and new media art, initiated by the 2006 Next Wave Festival. Through a program of workshops young people from the Latrobe Valley and Macedon Ranges will use digital media to explore positive change in their lives. The work will be exhibited in the Next Wave Festival and the Commonwealth Games Youth Cultural Festival.

Art Is....Festival – *Holding Your Ground, Sharing Your Ground* (\$15,000)

Region: Horsham; Outer Regional

Federal Electorate: Mallee

Six Wimmera based artists will work with the community to develop three temporary, interactive public artworks that focus on the theme of community inclusiveness, identity and place. The artworks will be presented at the 2006 'Art Is...A Common Well' Festival.

Deans Marsh Community Cottage Inc - *Collecting Memories* (\$15,000)

Region: Deans Marsh; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Corangamite

The project is an artistic reconstruction of a community's local history through "Photographic memoirs" of elderly citizens and their descendants living in the Deans Marsh area. Artist Lily Meloni will work with older people and their descendants to create a montage of images of the individuals, their homes, the landscape around their home as it is today and as it was when they were younger, portraying their lives and community over time. The work will be installed as multi-media exhibition in the Sacred Moon Gallery in Deans Marsh.

Bendigo Access Employment Inc - *Pepper Green Farm Celebrations* (\$8,000)

Region: Bendigo; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Bendigo

A community celebration with a series of multi-art form projects presented and developed through a four month artist in community residency.

Tracey Bourne - *Running With Pigs* (\$5,500)

Region: Ballarat; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Ballarat

Rehearsal and performance of the experimental music theatre piece 'Running with Pigs' in Ballarat at the Post Office Box Theatre. *Running with Pigs* is about motherhood and children, in particular, those whose families are affected with mental illness.

Sandy Atkinson - *Bark Canoe Project* (\$10,000)

Region: Tatura; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Murray

A cultural project to transfer knowledge, in a traditional learning environment, to young people in indigenous communities in the tradition of canoe making as used by their ancestors. Conceived by Uncle Sandy Atkinson the project will see Elders join young people on trips to the bush to make bark canoes. The canoes will be displayed at the Koori Heritage Trust.

Flying Fruit Fly Circus - *Where We Keep Our Dreams* (\$15,000)

Region: Wodonga; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Indi

Collaboration between regionally based Flying Fruit Fly Circus and Melbourne's Strange Fruit resulting in significant skills development for regional, national and international touring.

Bruthen Arts & Events Council - *Stirring The Pot* (\$11,564.50)

Region: Bruthen; Remote

Federal Electorate: Gippsland

Establish an art patronage scheme to develop relationships between local artists and influential businesses/individuals who can assist their career development.

Tongala Community Activities Centre Inc –

Tongala Radio Play and Live Performance Partnership (\$4,200)

Region: Tongala; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Murray

To create and perform a play using anecdotes from long term residents. This as a forerunner to a radio serial broadcast weekly over twelve months.

Sue Ingleton - *The First Step On A Project Tram Is Hell* (\$9,700)

Region: Castlemaine; Inner Regional

Federal Electorate: Bendigo

A touring performance exploring death, ageing, bodily failures, mental disappointments, family fractures and friendship replacements, through the character of nonagenarian, Edith Wise, controlled by Sue Ingleton.