

MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2007

\$136,082 OF REGIONAL ARTS FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR VICTORIA

The Australian Government Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator George Brandis, has announced funding for 11 projects totalling \$136,082 that will go to regional, rural and remote communities across Victoria. Funds are provided through the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government program administered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

The Chair of Regional Arts Victoria, Mike Zafiropoulos said, "This funding will assist regional communities across Australia to celebrate the cultural identity of their own communities. A wide range of activities have been supported in Victoria but they have one important thing in common," he said. "They capitalise on local strengths and will help ensure that cultural expression thrives and continues to enhance community vitality."

Projects include all art forms and will involve people from regional and remote communities in a wide range of activities.

- In Port Fairy five regional Indigenous dance groups will gather to share in cultural and professional development prior to the Tarerer Festival. The local dance group will attend schools to teach a local Indigenous dance that will be performed by dance groups, students and all who attend the Tarerer Festival.
- North of the state in Echuca, digital storytelling practitioner, Kate Toll from the Australian Centre for the Moving Image will guide ten Crossenvale residents in constructing a filmic representation of their individual stories. The creative process will enable the individuals to understand their identity and encourage a sense of sharing amongst the participants. The project will culminate in public screenings of the digital stories in order to raise the profile of Crossenvale in the wider community.
- Local artists will work under the direction of esteemed artist and sculptor Gary Yelen, to create a faux display home in the East Gippsland town of Nowa Nowa. Artists will renovate the derelict building with their artwork made from locally found objects and materials, thus revealing the inner sparkle behind a dreary façade. The 'display home' is expected to open for public inspection over the summer months of 07/08 and will house pre-planned workshops and artists' master classes.
- Rural women from across the South West Barwon region will gather in Warrnambool to create an original musical theatre production. Participants will be involved in all aspects of the production process including: story telling, singing, writing, performance, design, stage production management, publicity and promotion. The production will have a performance season at the Warrnambool Entertainment Centre before touring to Hamilton and Portland.

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. Details can be downloaded from the Regional Arts Victoria website www.rav.net.au.

Contact

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REGIONAL ARTS FUND PROJECTS Round 1, 2007 – VICTORIA

11 Projects, totalling \$136,082

Morphed South West Healthcare, Warrnambool - \$10,000

Building the capacity of rural women across the Barwon South West region in: story telling, singing, writing, performance, design, stage production management, publicity and promotion. This will be achieved through the creation of an original women's musical theatre production. The production will have a performance season at the Warrnambool Entertainment Centre before touring to Hamilton and Portland.

Autumn Harvest Moon Festival; 'Tales of the Moon' Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo - \$10,000

The creation of a large scale community performance, *Tales of the Moon* to celebrate the major Asian cultural event, the Autumn Harvest Moon Festival. The event will be celebrated with two performance of *Tales of the Moon* in the grounds of the Bendigo Museum.

Feature Sculpture for Infant Memorial Garden Horsham Rotary Club, Horsham - \$15,000

To commission a local sculptor to work with the Horsham community to develop a sculpture that will form the main feature for the soon to be developed Infant Memorial Garden in Horsham. The Sculpture will create an environment where the spirit and spontaneous nature of children will be easily recognised and will provide a public space for reflection.

Maar Meerreny Karweeyn (People of the land who dance) Tarerer Gunditj Project Association, Port Fairy - \$15,000

Five regional Indigenous Dance groups will gather to share in cultural & professional development in a camping environment four days prior to the Tarerer Festival. The local dance group will attend schools to teach a local Indigenous dance that will be performed by dance groups, students and all who attend the Tarerer Festival.

Spanners - Welding our Community Boort Regional Arts Group, Boort - \$14,872

Boort Regional Arts Group will commission Sculptor John Piccoli to construct a permanent visual artwork on the edge of Little Lake Boort. The sculpture will acknowledge Boorts Indigenous and European history and will be constructed from antique spanners donated by the local community. Local artists and other members of the community will work with John to construct the sculpture at his studio 19 km north of Boort.

Turtle Meeting Place Teesdale Community, Teesdale - \$9,550

Local artist, Marita Seaton, will be mentored by Film and Television Producer, John Foss (Golden Seahorse Productions) to film and document the community project *Teesdale Meeting Place*: a project involving the design and construction of a permanent landmark and performance space in Teesdale. Marita will be mentored in all aspects of filming, film production and editing and will produce a high quality 15 minute documentary film of the *Teesdale Meeting Place* Project.

Crossenvale Community Digital Stories Shire of Campaspe, Echuca - \$15,000

Plagued by social and cultural problems, Crossenvale, is often referred to as the 'ghetto' of Echuca. In this project digital storytelling practitioner, Kate Toll, from the Australian Centre for the Moving Image will guide ten Crossenvale residents in constructing a filmic representation of their individual stories. The process of creating will enable the individuals to understand their identity and encourage a sense of sharing amongst the participants. The project will culminate in a public showing of the ten, three minute digital stories at the Crossenvale Community House. Six additional public screenings will also take place in other locations in order to raise the profile of Crossenvale in the wider community.

Open for Inspection Nowa Nowa Community Development Group, Nowa Nowa - \$15,000

Local artists will work under the direction of esteemed artist and sculptor Gary Yelen, to create a faux display home in the East Gippsland town of Nowa Nowa. Artists will renovate the derelict building with their artwork made from locally found objects and materials, thus revealing the inner sparkle behind a dreary façade. From December 2007 to March 2008 the faux 'display home' will be open to the public for inspection, the space will also house pre-planned workshops and artists masterclasses.

Valley of Coal Susan Purdy, Stony Creek - \$10,000

Valley of Coal involves the creation of a powerful installation constructed using photograms to map the archaeology of the once great Gippsland forest. Experienced local artist, Susan Purdy, will recreate a scene from the Gippsland rainforest on a grid of photogram's. Susan will mentor three local emerging artists throughout this large scale arts project, extending their technical skills as artists and exposing them to an innovative and ambitious project. Only 1% of the original Gippsland rainforest is still in existence, this installation hopes to raise the profile of environmental issues created by continuous land clearing. LaTrobe Regional Gallery has committed to displaying the installation and a submission has been made by the artists to include the work in the Centre of Contemporary Photography's 2008

Orchestras for Everyone Orchestras for Everyone, Warrnambool - \$7,260

For musicians and non-musicians to express themselves through playing a musical instrument and participating in creating a new musical work reflecting the local landscape.

Brass Form Gippsland Regional Arts Sale, Sale - \$14,400

Brass Form' combines Adrian Sherriff and the Sale City Band to energise and extend the artform. Presenting at the Powder Magazine and opening during the waterwater Festival.