

MEDIA RELEASE

\$1.16 MILLION DOLLARS OF REGIONAL ARTS FUNDING ANNOUNCED

The Chair of Regional Arts Victoria, Mike Zafiropoulos, has just announced funding for 10 projects totalling \$121,477 will go to regional, rural and remote communities across Victoria.

Funds are being provided through the Regional Arts Fund, which is an Australian Government program administered by the member organisations of Regional Arts Australia.

"This funding provided through the Regional Arts Fund will assist regional communities across Australia to develop their own arts and cultural activities," Mr Zafiropoulos said.

"These projects will support local engagement with culture and the arts, help to generate partnerships, capitalise on local strengths and ensure that culture and the arts are a key part of quality of life in regional Victoria."

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

Projects include:

- an explosive spectacle of light, sound and performance staged in the snow at Mt Hotham Victoria
- a theatre work and sculptural installation on the use of water in Gippsland, Victoria
- Community workshops to write songs' reflecting natural riches of the Grampians region after the recent bushfires that devastated the region
- a contemporary music, video arts and events management program building skills and capacity with people with a disability

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.

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.

Tuesday June 5 2006

Halls Gap Community Association

" *Grampians Gariwerd Songs Project* "

'Community workshops to write 'Grampians Gariwerd Songs', reflecting natural riches and our connection with the land. To sing, record, film and publish these songs. To raise awareness, increase understanding, care for our place and it's natural treasures and people after the recent bushfires that devastatad the region.

\$7,500

Wimmera Uniting Care

" *ArtSplash @ awakenings.wimmer.fun!* "

'Visual arts workshops project in Horsham and Stawell, with an exhibition outcome at the Awakenings Festival and mentoring of local regional artists.p>

\$8,462

Gorgeous Voices Festival

" *Singing In Quirky Places* "

'Singing In Quirky Places' will use the unique historical spaces in Bendigo as performace venues for vocal work under the leadership of Christine Sass.

\$14,300

Arthouse Gippsland

" *The Rainmaker* "

Eye2Eye Theatre will create a performance work and sculptural installation about the use of water in the Macalister Water District.

\$15,000

Sandy Watson

" *56 Faces* "

'56 Faces' is the regional component of an exhibition capturing stories of Hungarian political refugees who settled throughout Victoria following the 1956 Hungarian uprising.

\$8,915

Community Centre Swifts Creek

" *Snow Circus at Possum Flat* "

Snow Circus at Possum Flat will be a, explosive spectacle of light, sound and performance art staged in the snow at Mt Hotham involving the small and isloated communities of the Victorian Alps.

\$15,000

Steve & Melissa Proposch

" *The Starving Artist* "

An exhibition of original artwork created for The Starving Artist book, coinciding with the launch. Accompanying catalogue and web page to augument and promote the project.

\$10,000

St Lawrence Community Services

" Plugged In, Turned On - Benalla "

Program of workshops and performances in contemporary music, video arts and event management with people with disabilities from Benalla and Districts; plus professional development for local artists and capacity building for local partners network.

\$15,000

Michelle Ripper

" Hitting The Streets "

A large scale outdoor dance event at the Port of Sale, as part of the 06 Water Water Festival, culminating with a contemporary dance piece led by choreographer Michelle Ripper.

\$12,300

The Old Van Ltd

" The Life and Deaths of Don Coyote "

A new chapter in the life of Don Coyote featuring drive-in movies and live performance. Directed by Fiona Blair and the communities of the Bendigo region.

\$10,000