

MEDIA RELEASE

\$144,700 OF REGIONAL ARTS FUNDING ANNOUNCED

The Chair of Regional Arts Victoria, Mike Zafiropoulos, has just announced funding for 12 projects totalling \$144,700 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 Regional Arts Organisations in each State and Arts Ministries in the Territories.

"This funding provided through the Regional Arts Fund will assist regional communities across Australia to celebrate the cultural identity of their own communities," Mr Zafiropoulos said.

"A wide range of activities have been supported in Victoria but they have one important thing in common. 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.

Projects include:

- a sculpture of pipes and timber totems depicting symbolic imagery from local Yorta Yorta tribal groups in Echuca set in a section of Echuca Cemetery and landscaped to support a sense of belonging, respect and connection for Aboriginal people to the site
- a new project by Natimuk's famous Y-Space featuring the development and performance of a theatrical work, with animation, aerial and acting performances and live music, within and around a purpose built bamboo theatre
- a collaborative performance event on Lock Island, Mildura developed by artist-in-residence Jill Orr and two local Indigenous colleges, based on local stories about the island, river and untold histories
- an artist-in-residence project with four artists and four communities exploring, through charcoal, pastel, music and theatre, what remains to be celebrated following the devastation of the Grampians bush fires in 2006

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.

Robbi Neal

"Varuna Longlines Program"

One day festival that brings resources such as mentors, publishers, agents, writers to regional Victorians; expanding on the Longlines program of the Varuna Writers centre in NSW.

\$5,000

Mirrimbeena Aboriginal Education Group

"'Dreamtime' Cemetary Area "

Artists Clive Atkinson and Judy Atkinson will work with the Yorta Yorta community in Echuca to create a sculpture consisting of eight mosaic pipes and eight timber totems depicting symbolic imagery from local tribal groups. This will be set in a section of the Echuca Cemetery and appropriately landscaped to support a sense of belonging, respect and connection for Aboriginal people to the site

\$15,000

Prom Coast Seachange Festival Committee

"Fire Up"

A collaborative project using dance and literature. A new choreographed work (and book) will be created and performed as part of the Prom Coast Seachange Festival.

\$15,000

Visionary Images

"A-Lure"

Artists in Melbourne and Shepparton will work collaboratively to develop interactive games using mobile phones and other communications technologies. These will be exhibited on formats such as billboards, and large-scale projections. Artists include Maria Filippow, Ian Corcoran, Eugenia Lim and David Wolstencroft.

\$15,000

Brigitte Muir

"Wimmera's New Settlers"

Emerging regionally-based filmmaker Brigitte Muir will create a documentary about the current wave of new migrants to the Wimmera. A migrant from Belgium herself, she will explore the stories of Canadians, Israelis, Punjabis, Nepalese and South Africans who have brought a diverse range of skills and outlooks.

\$9,000

Y Space

"Y Space 'Clown'"

The development and performance of a theatrical work within and around a purpose built bamboo theatre. Including animation, aerial and acting performances and live music.

\$15,000

Jill Orr

"The Crossing"

A collaborative performance event on Lock Island, Mildura developed by Artist-in-Residence Jill Orr and two local Indigenous colleges, based on local stories about the island, river and untold histories.

\$15,000

Friends of the Grampians

"What Remains?"

What Remains? is an interpretative project between four projects and artists and the communities surrounding the Grampians National Park referencing the 2006 bushfires.

\$10,000

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

"Creative Environment"

A community mapping project forming the basis for an exhibition involving 3 established artists and 3 developing artists each in a mentoring process that brings natural resources management, multidisciplines and community together.

\$12,500

Aphids

"Music at Mt Egerton"

An historic-artistic project involving research and community engagement: workshops and walking tours of the Mt Egerton site; installations and performances.

\$12,500

Swan Hill Aboriginal Health Service

"Come and Have a Look At Yourself"

To document the Indigenous population of Swan Hill and district to create a photographic installation/family tree at Swan Hill Gallery in 2007

\$8,500

Barmah Kindergarten

"Long Necked Turtle"

A sculpture of a long necked turtle, which will be created in collaboration between Barmah Kindergarten and Yenbena TAFE college art students, under the direction of Angie Russi.

\$12,200