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MEDIA RELEASE

20 January 2021

## \$302,850 ANNOUNCED FOR REGIONAL ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES IN VICTORIA

Recovery Grants have been awarded in Victoria to 13 applicants, receiving \$302,850 in funding through the Australian Government's highly competitive Regional Arts Fund Boost Program, delivered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

Director of Partnerships at Regional Arts Victoria, Liz Zito, said that the projects in this round were of a high quality and offered a wide range of diverse activities.

"These Recovery projects reach from Portland to Wodonga, Natimuk to Lake Tyers Beach and places in between," Ms Zito said. "It is thrilling to see the depth of work that will be delivered in regional Victoria in 2021, across digital platforms, festivals, venues, collectives, First Nations-led and multicultural communities."

Successful applicants include:

- **Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation – Heywood**  
*Brambuk: Renewing our Arts Program*  
Brambuk, The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, celebrates and interprets the cultures of the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung Peoples of Gariwerd (Grampians). This project involves Traditional Owner artists trialling a series of musical performances and arts workshops at Brambuk, which could then be included in Brambuk's ongoing cultural program. Due to COVID-19, Brambuk will have to pivot its visitor offering to focus on domestic markets as international markets are unlikely to fully recover before 2023. The cultural activities will involve contemporary interpretations of cultural traditions, with artists telling their own stories through music and visual arts.
- **The Village Festival of New Performance Inc – Fryerstown**  
*Our Village*  
In partnership with the Castlemaine State Festival and Murnong Mamas, The Village Festival will premiere its community art project *Our Village* under the newly established Village Production House. The Production House is a response to the challenging realities of COVID-19 and sees a pivot to produce COVID-safe community art in partnership with third party regional festivals. *Our Village*, the first project within this new model, has been programmed in the 2021 Castlemaine State Festival. It is a collaborative arts project where child participants construct a utopian cardboard city which is flooded, and from the debris a native garden grows.
- **Tom Richardson – Warrnambool**  
*Music Mentorship; Developing young people & community*  
This project is a mentorship program that will support medium-to-long term arts practice and employment for two regional artists in direct response to COVID-19. The mentorship will develop new skills, offer unique workshops and connect regional communities. It will involve experienced local musician, Tom Richardson, and young, upcoming musician, Lewis Stone, who identifies with a disability. The project will develop an engaging and accessible drumming program and promote social cohesion across the entire southwest region.

Please see attached for a full list of all recipients and project descriptions.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund Recovery Boost is a \$10 million targeted measure announced by the Australian Government in 2020 as part of the Relief and Recovery Fund. It responds to the difficulties experienced by regional artists, arts organisations and communities who have been heavily impacted by COVID-19. The Regional Arts Fund meets the strategic priorities of supporting participation in and access to the arts and encouraging greater private sector support for the arts. The Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia, and in Victoria it is administered by Regional Arts Victoria according to the objectives and general eligibility determined by the Australian Government.

Information regarding upcoming rounds will be made available via [rav.net.au](http://rav.net.au).

**For more information on Recovery funded projects, please contact:**

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#### RECOVERY SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

**Lynden Nicholls**

Ballarat East

\$17,680

*Facing Up*

The funds will be used to create a new theatre work coming out of COVID-19 restrictions, combining Ballarat Indigenous and non-Indigenous actors. It will galvanise the community empathy that has emerged during lockdown and will have a focus on Indigenous treatment since Federation to the present. The process will involve Indigenous consultation, writing, set design, rehearsing and a public showing. A guided workshop will follow the showing and performance. *Facing Up* will be adaptable to a wide range of audiences in a variety of contexts and will be available to tour for Reconciliation Week in 2021.

**Art Resource Collective Inc.**

Yinnar

\$30,000

*The Arc Print Studio Re-engagement Project*

Funds will support Art Resource Collective to run technical art workshops. Capable technicians are essential for artists and designers, as they allow them to develop and produce products and workshops including facilities for printmaking, ceramics, set building, 3D, painting and drawing. The Arc print workshop will also perform the role of "hub" for pathways to and from external print studios, arts education organisations and creative-makers networks around Gippsland and Victoria, strengthening shared arts culture, product development, small business, residency and training opportunities.

**Tom Richardson**

Warrnambool

\$7,830

*Music Mentorship; Developing young people & community*

This project is a mentorship program that will support medium-to-long term arts practice and employment for two regional artists in direct response to COVID-19. The mentorship will develop new skills, offer unique workshops and connect regional communities. It will involve experienced local musician, Tom Richardson, and young, upcoming musician, Lewis Stone, who identifies with a disability. The project will develop an engaging and accessible drumming program, and promote social cohesion across the entire southwest region.

**The Centre for Rural Communities Inc.**

Lake Tyers Beach

\$30,000

*School for unTourists*

*School for unTourists* (S4U) is an artist-made destination experience, curated and operated by the artists who have embedded themselves in the Gippsland Lakes catchment. Artists, environmentalists, entrepreneurs and community will collaborate across Lakes Entrance to reactivate a town through arts-led tourism. S4U establishes a creative enterprise in a struggling tourism town, activating Lakes Entrance wharf precinct and creating direct and indirect income streams. S4U will engage a new generation of local artists and be a base for a creative community that has, until now, had nowhere to gather due to COVID-19.

**Rainbow Arts and Culture Foundation**

Lexton

\$30,000

*Rainbow Serpent Festival - Conscious Streaming*

Funding will support the recording of the Rainbow Serpent Festival, a gathering of storytelling, music, dance and corroboree. This project is essential for the recovery of the Rainbow Arts and Culture Foundation from the impacts of COVID-19. A recording direct from the Rainbow Serpent Festival site in regional Victoria will feature the Rainbow Serpent dreaming storytelling, Welcome to Country and ceremonies by the local Dja Dja Wurrung and Wadawurrung First Peoples, and live music, leading into an evening of dance and celebration by seminal Victorian musicians, visual artists and performers.

**Metanoia Theatre (Metanoia T Inc)**

Woodend North

\$30,000

*The Deregulated Market of Fact and Fiction - a tragedy with performance possibilities in 150 parts*

Funding will support Metanoia Theatre to create the work *The Deregulated Market of Fact and Fiction*. This performative elaboration of local market traditions will see artists as stallholders working at their ironic entrepreneurial best, grasping at straws, making meaning out of commodities and never letting the truth get in the way of a good story. This project addresses social disconnection, loneliness and isolation experienced by the community after months of lockdown, and immerses audiences in communal arts experiences that are safe in this new COVID-19 world.

**Glenelg Shire Council**

Portland

\$30,000

*A.D.A.P.T.D. - A Digital Adaptation of Performance and Theatre Development*

*A.D.A.P.T.D.* is a collaboration between Portland Arts Centre and theatre company Lab Kelpie to deliver an innovative series of three performances and three training opportunities over six months

for the Glenelg Shire community. Each activity will be adaptive, and together will form a tailored journey of applied skill development for participants, and a flexible, COVID-safe pathway from digital to live engagement for the audience. The project anticipates a different future and tests new ways of working with the community, particularly Seniors and LGBTQIA+ youth, to find their voices, tell their stories, and empower the creation of a local youth theatre group.

### **Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) Bendigo**

Bendigo  
\$30,000

#### *Bendigo Cultural Exchange*

*Bendigo Cultural Exchange* will be a dynamic cooperative suitable for running an arts and cultural centre based on self-determination, sharing and exchange. Through a collaborative methodology, MAV will operate a shared facility under a COVID-safety plan that will include a program of capacity building, enterprise development, mentoring, exhibitions and installations, studio based practice, forums, and creative commissions that consider the Mining Exchange through the lens of decolonisation. MAV will develop an in-parallel strategy to build sustainability and growth of this model through their networks.

### **Helen Bodycomb**

Vaughan  
\$6,000

#### *The Synergy Exhibition*

Funding will support *The Synergy Exhibition* at the Lot 19 Gallery in Castlemaine, Central Victoria. *The Synergy Exhibition* will be a COVID-19 recovery project, building on earlier initiatives by Helen Bodycomb to unite a group of regional women isolated by COVID-19 lockdowns.

### **Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation**

Heywood  
\$30,000

#### *Brambuk: Renewing our Arts Program*

Brambuk, The National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap, celebrates and interprets the cultures of the Jadawadjali and Djab Wurrung Peoples of Gariwerd (Grampians). The project will involve Traditional Owner artists trialling a series of musical performances and arts workshops at Brambuk, which could then be included in Brambuk's ongoing cultural program. Due to COVID-19, Brambuk will have to pivot its visitor offering to focus on domestic markets as international markets are unlikely to fully recover before 2023. The cultural activities will involve contemporary interpretations of cultural traditions, with artists telling their own stories through music and visual arts.

### **The Village Festival of New Performance Inc.**

Fryerstown  
\$17,340

#### *Our Village*

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**HotHouse Theatre**

Gateway Island

\$29,000

*This is Your City - Albury Wodonga*

HotHouse Theatre will create *This is Your City - Albury Wodonga*, a multi-reality, location-based game inspired by a 1980s legacy board game of the same name. Reimagined, regional communities will play the game live through the twin cities in a 1980s-style car rally. Combining live performance, geocaching and immersive theatre, participants will race through the cities, exploring spaces, hunting for clues, completing tasks and experiencing performances to complete the game. Developed by regional artists, this work will catalyse recovery, reactivating the creative industry, supporting local business and providing long-term impact on domestic tourism with a COVID-safe visitor attraction.

**Arapiles Community Theatre (Act Natimuk)**

Natimuk

\$15,000

*GRIST - A Portable Arts and Cultural Venue.*

The funds will be used for a portable venue *GRIST*, informed by the agricultural landscape that surround the town of Natimuk. *GRIST* will be an adapted field bin, custom-designed to offer a variety of arts and cultural opportunities within the many open spaces of Natimuk and surrounding areas. A COVID-safe moveable feast, it is a stage for performance, an external exhibition space, an afternoon or evening hub of musical treats, a peek-a-boo dance experience, a space for sharing cuisine, and a bar.