

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Condobolin's Heather Blackley wins Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Award

Condobolin's **Heather Blackley** was named the inaugural NSW winner of the Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Award at a ceremony under the stars at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station on Saturday 4 October during Art at the Heart, the Regional Arts Australia conference.

13 people from across Australia received the prestigious new award, designed to give volunteers national recognition for their sustained contribution towards the arts across regional, rural and remote Australia.

Heather was recognised for her long and outstanding contribution to the arts in Condobolin and the Lachlan Shire. Heather is President and an inaugural member of the Lachlan Arts Council and has been a Board Member of Arts OutWest, the regional arts board, for 17 years.

Each recipient received a beautiful artwork created by Alice Springs designer Elliot Rich and a certificate designed by Katrina Allan and signed by Suzie Haslehurst, president of Regional Arts Australia, and Kathy Keele, CEO of The Australia Council for the Arts. The award included free flights, accommodation and registration to attend Art at the Heart in Alice Springs.

Art at the Heart was the 6<sup>th</sup> biennial Regional Arts Australia conference, drawing 960 artists, arts and community workers to Alice Springs over the October long-weekend.

Arts OutWest staff Hannah Semler and Maryanne Jaques, board member Wendy Carlson (Wallerawang) and Chair Brandon Wilson (Wellington) also attended the Art at the Heart conference alongside other central west artists and local government staff.



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Released by Maryanne Jaques, Arts OutWest - Phone: 02 6338 4657 / email: [artsoutwest@csu.edu.au](mailto:artsoutwest@csu.edu.au)

Heather Blackley is available on (wk): 6895 3301

Interviews also possible with Arts OutWest Executive Officer Hannah Semler or Arts OutWest Chair Brandon Wilson.

Images (L) Heather Blackley receiving her award in Alice Springs.(R) Heather Blackley and her mother Doris Guest at the award ceremony in Alice Springs