

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 21 January 2009

Country Arts Support Program funding now available

The state government's Country Arts Support Program (CASP) provides small grants to arts and community organisations in regional NSW for short term, locally initiated projects. Applications for 2009 funding close next month.

Projects that can be funded under the program include workshops, arts activities as part of community festivals or events, artist-in-residence programs, public art and design projects, performances, arts and cultural directories, community seminars and forums, exhibitions and other local arts initiatives.

These are small grants - between \$500 and \$2500 - and are available primarily to cover professional artist's fees, travel and accommodation. As the total amount of funding is limited, Arts OutWest is particularly encouraging groups who have not previously received CASP or other funding to apply.

Last year 14 Central West projects were funded by CASP, including kids drama workshops and performances in Bathurst, Wattle Flat and Rylstone, art and mural projects at schools in Blayney and Corinella, art and sculptural exhibitions in Cumnock and Wellington, work on Oberon's Terrazzo Tapestries and construction of tiled family history poles in Yeoval.

The program aims to increase opportunities for regionally based groups to access a diverse range of arts programs, to enable communities to work together to explore and express their cultural identities and to bring social and economic benefits to the community through training, employment and promotional activities.

Applications close Friday 13 February 2009. Groups wishing to apply for the funding should read the guidelines carefully and *must* discuss their project with Arts OutWest before submitting an application.

The Country Arts Support Program is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW. Download the funding criteria from www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/grants.htm and contact Arts OutWest on 02 6338 4657 or email artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

Closing date 13 February 2009

→For projects happening 10 April 2009 – April 9 2010



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Images available on request:

- Participants from Bathurst Regional Art Gallery's 'Hill Shadows'
- Bathurst Theatre Company's 'Do You Know About The Creatures in the Trees' show
- Cumnock's 'On Ya Bike' Art exhibition
- Mosaic making for Oberon Arts Council's 'Come to the Common'