

Media Release

Thursday April 2, 2009

3 pages (including full list of successful applicants)

Huge demand for Country Arts Support Program funding

Regional Arts NSW has announced \$14,070 in small projects funding to the Central West through the NSW Government's Country Arts Support Program (CASP).

There was a huge demand from the Central West region for the funding, with 23 applicants seeking more than \$40,000 in funds. 16 applications from the Central West region were successful in the 2009 round, with projects spread across the region.

CASP is a key regional arts funding program for NSW which provides support to employ artists in locally initiated arts and cultural projects. The aim is to provide access to arts activities for small communities, to encourage communities to work together on cultural projects, to foster cultural diversity in the region and to ensure that regional and rural areas have an artistic voice.

Arts OutWest Executive Officer Tracey Callinan said "these sixteen diverse projects offer exciting new opportunities to communities, arts makers and audiences in the region. While it is always unfortunate that there are many more deserving projects than there is money to go around, this year's CASP funding is sure to contribute to some really worthwhile initiatives."

Projects receiving funding include:

- A regional theatre training program in Parkes
- The first Mudgee Readers Festival
- Art, writing and drama workshops for children
- Workshops for Wiradjuri girls in traditional dance
- A jazz ensemble tour
- A thirteen week program of singing workshops for the Lithgow Community including people with disabilities from boarding houses and group homes.
- Cumnock's quirky 'Animals on Bikes' project will see two-metre high sculptures created by locals for the roadside from Orange to Dubbo.

2009 saw a large number of applications from groups who have not before applied for any kind of funding. Many applicants took advantage of a grant writing workshop held by Arts OutWest in January to polish their proposals.

"The Country Arts Support Program plays a key role in developing arts and cultural activities in regional communities," said Elizabeth Rogers, CEO of Regional Arts NSW. "These small grants seed fund projects that develop artistic skills and leave a legacy that enables further development."

As the Regional Arts Board, Arts OutWest services the 12 local government areas of Bathurst Region, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Region, Oberon, Orange, Parkes and Wellington.

State-wide \$200,000 was distributed through CASP. See the full list of all 142 NSW projects at www.regionalartsnsw.com.au

Details of central west successful funding applicants attached.

Successful 2009 Central West Country Arts Support Program projects

Parkes Musical & Dramatic Society

Regional Youth Drama Workshop

Project description: Professionally tutored regional youth drama workshop for junior members of regional theatre societies in the Arts OutWest area, improving stagecraft skills in drama, dance and music

Funding: \$1000

Location: Parkes

Bead and Wirecraft Guild Inc

Lampwork Workshop

Project description: Pauline Delaney will teach framework beads, shaping and sculpture glass at Bathurst in June 2009.

Funding: \$1000

Location: Bathurst

Wollemi Children's Creative Arts Committee

Winter Holiday Art Workshops

Project description: A variety of creative arts workshops for children aged 7-17 years. These workshops will be presented by two visiting and nine local artists who will facilitate sessions in painting, drawing, mixed media, textiles, sculpture, craft, calligraphy and cake decorating.

Funding: \$500

Location: Rylstone

Mitchell Conservatorium Inc - Lachlan Division

Dr Music and the Con Kids on Tour

Project description: Doug Richards and Catherine Arthurson, teachers at the Forbes branch of the Conservatorium, will take their jazz band, which include five Con students, on tour to play and workshop students in remote areas.

Funding: \$600

Location: Regional tour

Kandos Youth Activity Centre

Spiel Shop 2

Project description: Two local drama tutors will deliver weekly drama classes to approximately 20 children of primary school age at the Kandos Youth Activity Centre after school hours. The work will culminate in a performance to relatives and friends in October 2009.

Funding: \$1000

Location: Kandos

Mudgee Readers Festival

Mudgee Readers Festival

Project description: Mudgee Readers Festival will celebrate the joy of reading by exposing both adults and children to a range of high quality authors. The event will be held in Mudgee and Gulgong over September 11-12, 2009.

Funding: \$1000

Location: Mudgee

Burrallgang Aboriginal Dance

Migagalangbu Yinaagalangbu Waganha

Project description: Aboriginal girls and young women of primary and high school age in the Central West region will be taught Aboriginal cultural songs and dances based on Wiradjuri women's traditional culture by Fleur Magick from Burrallgang Aboriginal Dance.

Funding: \$1620

Location: Orange

Bathurst Public School P&C Association

Indigenous Artist in Residence/ Mural Project to Celebrate NAIDOC Week

Project description: Employment of indigenous artist William 'Bubba' Kennedy to work in residence in the school to create a mural and educate students in his methods and stories.

Funding: \$500

Location: Bathurst

Oberon Arts Council Inc.

Embossing Plaques for Pioneer Memory Wall

Project description: Employment of artist Gabriella Hegyes to develop Pioneer Memory Walls on the Oberon Common, recording in art the story of Oberon. She will run workshops to develop embossed relief forms of local pioneering families, flora and fauna (especially endangered) for permanent placement on the walls.

Funding: \$800

Location: Oberon

Blayney Public School Parent Club (on behalf of Heritage Schools Cluster)

Heritage Schools Writing Project

Project description: Author and literacy consultant Paul Stafford will facilitate writing workshops in five schools throughout the Blayney region that fall within the Heritage Schools Cluster.

Funding: \$1500

Location: Blayney area

Lachlan Arts Council

The Surf to Dirt Palette

Project description: To provide professional tutors to rural and remote artists who do not have access to high quality training. The tutors are from Kiama and have formed a strong relationship over the past two years with Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo artists.

Funding: \$1000

Location: Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo

Lithgow Community Choir

Knock On Effect

Project description: A thirteen week program of two-hourly singing workshops for the Lithgow Community including people with disabilities from boarding houses and group homes, with the view to forming a choir.

Funding: \$650

Location: Lithgow

Ceramic Focus Group

Artist in Residence

Project description: Local Gulgong ceramic artist Susan Bridgford will work with gifted and talented year 7 to 11 students developing their skills in hand building, wheel throwing and ceramic firing techniques. The program will be held at Gulgong High School in terms 1, 2 and 3 of 2009.

Funding: \$1000

Location: Gulgong

Cowra Regional Art Gallery

Artist Workshops and Public Talks

Project description: This project is the presentation of two distinctive programs of workshops/ public talks at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery for local artists, teachers and art enthusiasts.

Funding: \$400

Location: Cowra

Mullion Creek Public School P&C

Mullion Murals

Project description: Art boards depicting the rural theme of the area will be created by students under guidance of art teacher and permanently displayed around the village area on sides of private, public and community buildings for general audience, passing traffic and local residents and wider community.

Funding: \$500

Location: Mullion Creek

Cumnock & District Progress Association

'Animals on Bikes' Paddock Art

Project description: 120km art tourist trail depicting 2m high metal sculptures featuring 'Animals on Bikes' in the paddocks along Obley Rd from Molong, Cumnock, Yeoval and Dubbo. A community oriented art project with masterpieces displayed at the opening in September.

Funding: \$1000

Location: Cumnock