

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday July 6, 2009



ArtStart 2009: Arts skills for young people

Thinking about a career in design, event management or on the stage? There's nothing like getting some hands-on skills to get you started.

These July school holidays hundreds of young people from the Central West will get skilled-up at ArtStart Youth Arts and Skills workshops.

Happening every two years, ArtStart is a state government initiative funded by TAFE NSW and managed by [Arts OutWest](http://www.artsoutwest.org.au). It provides skill building and community networking opportunities for young people aged 12 to 24.

ArtStart projects around the Central West have been developed through consultation with community and youth organisations. Some of the projects are focussed on specific vocational skills – like scriptwriting, video making and editing – and others are workshops that use arts skills to build confidence, peer networking and social skills.

The first of the 2009 ArtStart projects started last term with Oberon High School hosting the 'Better Futures' program. This project uses fortnightly community theatre workshops to build up the skills young people need for developing positive and fruitful relationships. All year-nine students are participating in this program, delivered by Lisa Lantry from Bathurst's Veritas House and Toby Finlayson and Rohan Smyth from youth arts company [Desert Pea Media](http://www.desertpeamedia.com.au).

The 'Better Futures' program is only an example of what is available this year. The up-coming July school holidays is packed with ArtStart workshops across the Central West.

There are theatre workshops in Kandos, Forbes, Wellington, Condobolin and Parkes. There's hip hop dance in Blayney, stencil art and design in Grenfell, and very exciting documentary and short film making programs in both Portland and Bathurst.

The ArtStart program in Orange will team up the organisers of the [Freshly Plucked](http://www.freshlyplucked.com.au) and Rock Up music events with industry mentors and professional development.

"The ArtStart program has linked up a whole range of organisations, both arts focussed and youth focussed. In Parkes, for example, we've teamed up with Parkes Musical and Dramatic Society and Bathurst Theatre Company to give young people stage-craft skills like voice projection, working with lighting and sound and working on a stage. These kind of skills can be used in local productions, but are also great skills to have in any kind of job that requires communicating, public speaking or leading a team," said ArtStart Coordinator Zoe Rodwell.

Find details on local projects at the NSW ArtStart website: www.artstart.com.au or if you are on Facebook, come and join the group '[ArtStart – Central West NSW](https://www.facebook.com/ArtStart-Central-West-NSW)'.

List of ArtStart projects in the Central West

www.artsoutwest.org.au

The following ArtStart projects are planned for the July 2009 school holidays. Workshops are open to young people aged 12-24 years (check age restrictions when booking). Some workshops require a small materials/ attendance fee. Bookings required for all workshops.

Friday nights	Weekly Drama workshops. At Wellington PCYC.	Wellington
Starts July 10	Contact Lisa Austen, Wellington PCYC 6845 2590.	
Mon July 13- Wed July 15	Short film/ documentary making with Adrian Symes. In conjunction with Local Stages at BMEC. Held at BMEC and Charles Sturt University media centre. \$60 for three days, includes lunch. Contact Kylie Shead 6333 6144.	Bathurst
Mon July 13- Wed July 15	Drama workshops led by Sarah Parson and CSU Theatre/ media students. At Condobolin Community Centre & Goanna Manor. Contact Western Plains Regional Development 6895 3301.	Condobolin
Tues July 14 & Wed July 15	Stencil art workshop and Grenfell Community Centre. Contact 6343 1881.	Grenfell
Thur July 16 & Fri July 17	Drama workshop. At Forbes Town Hall. Thursday: Year 12 HSC drama students Friday: Year 7-11 aged students Contact 6850 2354	Forbes
Tues July 21- Thur July 23	Short Filmmaking with Adrian Symes. At Portland Youth Centre. Contact Rosy Ward 6355 5750.	Portland
Mon July 20- Thur July 23	Drama and theatre craft with Sarah Parsons. For ages 14-17. In conjunction with Parkes M&D Society. Workshops for younger students at the same time, with Bathurst Theatre Company. Registration \$5. (<i>Workshop full</i>) Contact Belinda McGrath at Parkes Shire Council.	Parkes
Mon July 20, Thr July 23, Fri July 24	Hip Hop dance workshop. Contact Blayney Leisure Centre 6368 2544. Registration \$5 for all three days.	Blayney
Mon July 20, Wed July 22, Fri July 24	Drama workshops with the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) and community mentors. Supported by ATYP, Barnardos and the Country Arts Support Program (CASP). Contact Kandos Youth Activity Centre 6379 6621.	Kandos

Contact Arts OutWest 6338 4657 or email zrodwell@yahoo.com.au for more information.