



Arts OutWest | Promoting, facilitating, educating and advocating for arts and cultural development for Central West NSW

MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday November 4

Marcus Westbury guest speaker in Bathurst

**How can we use arts and culture to make our communities and our town spaces more vibrant?
How can we re-think our use of space?**

Creator of the **Renew Newcastle** project, **Marcus Westbury**, will be guest speaker at an Arts OutWest **public talk in Bathurst** on **Wednesday November 18**. Marcus will share insights of his own experience of using art to rejuvenate an urban space.

Marcus Westbury is a broadcaster, writer, media maker and festival director. Marcus was the writer and presenter of *Not Quite Art* on ABC1, founder of Newcastle's *This Is Not Art* festival and Artistic Director of Melbourne's *Next Wave Festival*.

Marcus has been invited to talk about Renew Newcastle, a low budget, not-for-profit, DIY urban renewal scheme that has brokered access to 25 empty buildings for creative enterprises, artists and cultural projects across Newcastle.

Renew Newcastle has attracted interest from around the world. It has been described as "a smart, inspired way to deal with unused spaces that might otherwise be left to ruin" (Inside Out), "the transformation of the city centre" (Newcastle Herald) and "an incredible success... both to assist the business community in the area while simultaneously [giving] a boost to local artists and designers" (ABC TV). Could something similar work here in the Central West?

The event, part of an ongoing series on Creative Industries development, hosted by Arts OutWest, will also be a networking night for arts and cultural people from across the region. Anyone with an interest in arts, urban planning or community development is encouraged to attend.

"Marcus is one of the most engaging and leading thinkers in this area," said Arts OutWest executive officer Tracey Callinan. "Projects like Renew Newcastle link well to the ideas people in the region are exploring right now. We're excited to have Marcus come to the Central West and share his experience."

Marcus will also run a workshop during the afternoon on Wednesday November 18 in Bathurst. This is specifically targeted at groups who are currently working to develop artist spaces or cultural centres in their towns.

Arts OutWest is the regional arts board of Central West NSW.

When: 7pm, Wednesday November 18
Where: The Carrington, 99 Keppel Street Bathurst
Cost: Donation at the door
Contact: Arts OutWest 02 6338 4657 / artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

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Media interviews with Mr Westbury possible in person on the afternoon of Wednesday November 18, in Bathurst; and by phone Monday November 16 and Tuesday November 17.

Contact Arts OutWest Communications Officer, Maryanne Jaques 02 6338 4657 / artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

Read more about Marcus Westbury at www.marcuswestbury.net
Image of Mr Westbury available.