



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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CELEBRATING COMMUNITY WITH FESTIVALS AUSTRALIA

Thirty-seven festivals around Australia will share in more than \$497,000 under the latest round of Festivals Australia funding announced today by Arts Minister, Peter Garrett.

“Community festivals are a great way to bring people together to celebrate local community and culture,” Mr Garrett said.

“This funding, through the Festivals Australia program, recognises the importance of these events in encouraging creativity and in providing a boost to local economies, with many festivals drawing visitors from far and wide.”

Highlights from the current round include:

- ‘Quorn Lights UP’ at the Flinders Ranges Bush Festival in Quorn, South Australia—drawing and painting workshops for school children and the general public will result in illustrations and animations that will be used to wrap significant buildings in the town.
- ‘Voices and Songs of the Otways 2009’ at the Apollo Bay Music Festival in Apollo Bay, Victoria—professional practitioners will lead weekend songwriting workshops in folk, country and roots genres, leading to an all-in performance.
- ‘Darwin's Evolution’ at the Snap it Up! Festival in Darwin, Northern Territory—a series of workshops for young people investigating the evolution of 'our town' with images, installations and short performances.

Festivals Australia is an Australian Government funding program which provides funding for arts-based projects that enhance the cultural program of regional and community festivals.

The closing date for the next round of Festivals Australia funding is 15 February 2009. www.arts.gov.au/festivals



Australian Government

Festivals Australia

Festivals Australia

Funding recipients—Round 27 November 2008

NEW SOUTH WALES

Forbes Shire Council

Funding: \$7990

It was a GREAT night at the Forbes Heritage Festival

The project will produce a linked workshop/dance/concert presentation which will add content that is both region-specific and in danger of being lost. The project will explore, feature and create an awareness of the area's strong tradition of music, poetry, dance, song and folklore. It will be a themed concert, performance and dance featuring traditional songs, music and unique dances, a local community choir, a folk band and sound excerpts from the National Library collection.

Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism Assn Inc

Funding: \$6856

Walk and Talk—Indigenous Storytelling and Workshops at the Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism (Braidwood)

Uncle Max Harrison, a Yuin elder, and Caroline Josephs, a practising artist, writer, educator, storyteller and researcher, will conduct storytelling walks and accompanying workshops during the festival. The workshops will involve sharing stories of the Yuin Nation, in order to deepen the connection to and understanding of the land. Open workshops will be held with local schools while adult festival goers will be invited to participate in a walk and talk at the festival.

River of Art Committee

Funding: \$8200

River of Art—Banners Project at the *River of Art 2009* festival (Moruya)

Through a program of workshops, young people are designing and producing a series of banners for the festival and as an ongoing promotional tool for future festivals. An exhibition of the works produced will also be on show.

Festival of Temora Committee

Funding: \$5400

Sculptures by the Lake at the Festival of Temora

A local sculptor will hold workshops in the community in the lead-up to the festival. He will work with a number of community groups to construct sculptures depicting Temora's heritage which will then be displayed at Lake Centenary, around the proposed bike and walking track. Community groups include schoolchildren, the Men's Shed, Lake Centenary Management Committee, Sports Council and Arts Council.

The sculptures will help beautify the walking trail and provide a cultural element for the community to enjoy.

Uralla Arts Council Inc**Funding: \$12 000**

For *The Meeting Place—Uralla* at the Get Off Your Arts Festival, Uralla

The project will explore the theme of the local Aboriginal town name of Uralla, which means 'meeting place', by creating an outdoor theatre, sound and light show to engage locals into telling their own stories of Uralla. Local visual artists, choirs, musicians and children will be supported by the technical and artistic expertise of visiting artists. Projections onto buildings will comprise mixed media which will form a back drop to a Commedia-dell-Arte inspired outdoor theatre performance with large-scale puppetry and live actors, soundscapes, spoken word and both live and recorded original music.

Snowy River Arts**Funding: \$17 400**

For *Park Your Arts* at the Lake Light Sculpture, Jindabyne

The project will see the creation of four sculptural seats in a variety of media reflecting the local environment and will be installed along the public pathway on the foreshore of Lake Jindabyne. Two artists will build and design the seats in workshops collaborating with two targeted community groups (youth and seniors). An additional two artists will design their seats prior to the festival and build the seat in situ during the festival.

Tamworth Regional Council**Funding: \$14 980**

For *Black Out* at the Youthie at the Tamworth Country Music Festival

The project will create a dedicated venue to showcase local and visiting Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander artistic talent. Indigenous soloists and bands featuring Aboriginal musicians will perform on a rostered basis each day. Soloists will have access to backing musicians. There will also be industry-related workshops including songwriting, demo recording and video clip making. The focus will be on the artistic and cultural experience for both performers and patrons. High profile Aboriginal country music artists have been engaged to mentor new Indigenous artists through workshop opportunities and informal contact.

Bundeena Maianbar Art of Living Festival Incorporated**Funding: \$13 400**

For *Bridging the Gap* with music and art at the Bundeena Maianbar Art of Living Festival

The project aims to highlight participants' creative side in music and sculpture. The choir will present 'train the trainer' workshops in which community members will learn several parts of a new song written by a local musician for the festival, with the theme 'Bridging the Gap'. These participants will then teach the parts to people attending the festival. Other local artists will lead workshops in simple sculptural installation. The sculptures will be made of natural objects fashioned in such a way as to disintegrate naturally.

NORTHERN TERRITORY**Darwin Community Arts Inc****Funding: \$10 000**

For Retta Dixon Home Commemoration at the Bagot Cultural Gathering

The Retta Dixon Home was a facility for Aboriginal children that were subjects of the 'stolen generations' trial. The project will see former residents tell their stories in person, on camera or both. A minimum of 20 recordings will be made in four half day recording sessions. The video recordings will be edited into short pieces and set up in an installation in one of the buildings of the home. Those wishing to tell their stories 'live' will do so at the cultural gathering itself.

Nightcliff Arts Music and Culture Inc**Funding: \$8450**

For Seabreeze Youth Component at the Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival (Nightcliff)

As part of The Big Day the Seabreeze Youth Component will be a stage programmed, designed and operated by young people with the majority of artists engaged being young as well. Three artistic groups will work together to create a vibrant, new, youth driven component.

Corrugated Iron Youth Arts Inc**Funding: \$8550**

For Darwin's Evolution at the *Snap It Up!* festival (Nightcliff)

The project is a series of workshops for young people aged 8-15 that will investigate the evolution of 'our town' by creating images, an installation or short performances for the festival. They will comprise physical and visual results that will be installed during the festival in a variety of spaces or performed as part of lunchtime concerts. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the ideas, add to an installation or create a performance during a workshop.

QUEENSLAND**Noosa Regional Gallery****Funding: \$6550**

For *Journeys Over Water* at the Floating Land festival (Tewantin)

Sculptor Terry Summers will work with school children to create four boats, each reflecting the history of Lake Cootharaba. The boats, made of recycled cardboard, will tell the stories of the use of the lake by the Indigenous community, the first white settlement, the story of Elisa Fraser and the contemporary use of the lake with the sailing club, windsurfers and fishermen.

Outback Festival Inc Funding: \$10 000

For *Steel Vibrations* at the Outback Festival (Winton)

The project involves performances and workshops featuring the music of the Caribbean Arts Company. The workshops will provide information on the origins, making and history of the steel drum as well as introducing new percussion skills to participants.

Woodgate Beach Tourism Assoc Inc**Funding: \$5050.00**

For *Celebrating Our Heritage Through Music, Dance and Verse* at the Woodgate Beach Easter Fair (Woodgate Beach)

The project will link the Celtic heritage and Australian pioneering culture of the area through appearances by the Celtic Band, 'Slainte', as well as local highland dancers performing both Scottish and Irish dance. Scrub Turkey and Bones and Co will play Australian bush instruments while performing traditional Australian music. The Bundaberg Bush Poets will recite Australian bush verse.

Supporting People in Respite & Lifestyle Inc (SPIRAL)**Funding: \$6430**

For the *Community Inclusion* ceramic mosaic at the Celebration of Abilities Day 2008 (Nambour)

A ceramic tile mural will be created by participants in a series of workshops prior to the festival to express their ideas of community engagement. Each tile will encapsulate a particular activity and when complete will be brought on stage to act as the backdrop to a variety of performances. Choreographed movements will relate to each tile.

Moreton Bay Regional Council**Funding: \$35 000**

Inter-regional Youth Project (Strathpine)

For *Primates—beyond your wildest dreams*, an original rock fable at the Q150 Celebrations RADF

An original performing arts work focusing on themes identified as youth concerns will be produced. The work will examine the nature of contemporary existence and what it means to be young Queenslanders at the time of the state's sesquicentennial. The project will be developed in Nambour and performed in both Nambour and Redcliffe.

Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Cultural Centre

Funding: \$18 800

For the *Rainbow Serpent* fire and dance creation at the Caring for Country Corroboree (Townsville)

The project will use contemporary fire techniques to tell the creation story of the Nywaigi clan. With the consent of Nywaigi elders, 300 local Indigenous and non-Indigenous school children will learn the traditional dances of the story. The dances will then be combined with fire and contemporary production elements to recreate this Dreamtime story.

Cooloola Community Arts Council

Funding: \$20 040

For *Seedpod* at the Mary River Festival (Gympie)

The project is a sculptural light pageant and will be the finale of the festival. The theme, Seedpod, relates to the pod bearing plant species that grows on the bank of the Mary River. Workshops will be held in the lead up to the festival, resulting in 30 seedpods of varying sizes and shapes installed randomly at the open air site. There will also be a series of large sculptural seedpods suspended in the air. These colourful moving sculptural pieces will be illuminated during the evening for the sculptural light pageant. The presentation will see small children performing to choreographed movements with musical accompaniment from percussive instruments made from seedpods.

Toowoomba City Council

Funding: \$25 000

For *Avant Garden 2009* at the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers (Toowoomba)

Avant Garden will place ephemeral public art in Toowoomba's public parks and gardens with concept designs and maquettes on exhibition at Toowoomba Regional Gallery. It will be a creative response to the severe water shortage in the area. Garden beds left vacant will be transformed by artists into ephemeral works of art for the duration of the festival with artists asked to consider the recycling of materials as an integral part of the project.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Port MacDonnell & District Tourist Association Inc.

Funding: \$9375

For Bayside Festival's Ocean Zoo at the Port MacDonnell Bayside Festival (Port Macdonnell)

The Nylon Zoo is a choreographed, ocean-themed participatory event with participants as dancers and performers. In this interactive storytelling event children and parents will enter a giant inflatable storytelling theatre. Activities include workshops creating air sculptures, storytelling in the inflatable theatre, costume parade and Animaze, a colourful interactive explorational experience consisting of a multi-coloured dome, discovery tunnels and a crawling web.

Frances Folk Gathering

Funding: \$10 130

For *Folkational Therapy* at the Frances Folk Gathering (Brighton)

Folkational Therapy is designed to inspire the mind, body and spirit of participants through performances which will enable singer and folklorist, Dave de Hugar, to share his body of work. Young Celtic group, Celtaclismic, will provide a musical feast for the body to be energised through dance and movement, while Martin Pearson, folk singer/satirist/stand-up comedian/raconteur will raise the spirits through laughter as well as through prose and verse.

Leafy Sea Dragon Festival

Funding: \$5835

For the Leafy Sea Dragon Festival Country Carnival at the The Leafy Sea Dragon Festival (Yankalilla)

The project will introduce and showcase acoustic country music. Band The Cowtippers will present and mentor this genre of music to a growing local community of acoustic musicians and the broader community. They will perform in their own right before holding three workshops, each working on the same song, which will be rehearsed together before being performed as part of the main evening concert.

Flinders Ranges Tourist Assoc Inc

Funding: \$7950

For *Quorn Lights Up* at the Flinders Ranges Bush Festival (Quorn)

The project will incorporate workshops for school children and the general public in drawing and painting. The finished pieces will be used to wrap significant buildings with site-specific illustrations and animations. They will use video projection to light the town's significant public buildings over the nights of the festival.

Belalie Arts Society Inc

Funding: \$20 000

For The Crows: Bangari Kunma'Rindma Project—stage 3 at the Bundaleer Forest Weekend Event (Jamestown)

A women's duo, The Crows, from the Ngadjuri people, have been invited to engage their community to give the traditional Welcome to Country to begin the festival. They will also perform their new ceremonial piece, Bangari Kunma' Rindma (ancestral country—shaking out dust), a women's ceremony open to all festival goers. It will reclaim and heal the country, honouring the connections and culture as well as the passing of knowledge in an act of local reconciliation. The ceremonial performance will be a blend of ritual, storytelling, dance and song using both traditional and contemporary modes of expression created with the North Adelaide Nunga community.

TASMANIA

Festivale Inc

Funding: \$2500

For The Amazing Sculpture Trail at Festivale (Launceston)

The project will be a new youth arts initiative involving artist Ross Byers who specialises in large scale cardboard sculptures. The artist will fashion cardboard sculptures to form a sculpture trail at the festival. Children will be invited to participate in the decoration of the existing sculptures and the creation of new ones.

Playwriting Australia

Funding: \$35 000

For Regional and Touring program at the National Play Festival (Newtown)

The project will take the festival beyond Hobart and into Launceston.

A condensed transfer season of presentations including background briefings will introduce local audiences to the creative teams, concepts and contexts of the showcased plays, script surgeries with local playwrights and nationally acclaimed playwrights, a young writers studio and a mobile community playwright project. Locals will be invited to create a scene in a new play to be performed at the conclusion of the tour.

VICTORIA

Southern Grampians Shire Council

Funding: \$12 000

For *Sacred Voices & Worldly Noises*—a tectonic tone poem at the Southern Grampians Promenade of Sacred Music (Hamilton)

A new piece of choral music set to the inspirational thoughts of the local community about growing up and living in a regional town will be created. The project will involve widespread participation from schools in the region in the hope of engaging a new sector of the community with the festival. Local schools and music departments will be encouraged to involve gifted musical students as singers in the Choir.

Mount Beauty Music Muster Inc

Funding: \$12 000

For *Classic Cocktail* at the Mount Beauty Music Festival

The project will add a new classical element to the festival with five separate groups featuring strings, brass, percussion, opera and a mixed ensemble who will perform across three separate venues. They will hold workshops with local musicians and interact with local schools, exposing the youth of the community to new cultural experiences.

City of Casey

Funding: \$11 650

For Marnebek Puppetry Community Arts Project at the Casey Kids Carnival (Narre Warren)

The project will provide an opportunity for a community-driven and created puppetry performance. Two artists will work with a disadvantaged group of children selected from within the community for a series of workshops in which the children will design and create their own puppets and develop a performance outcome for presentation at the festival. This project seeks to attract children with intellectual disabilities, a group that previously had been under-represented, and make the carnival as inclusive of the whole community as possible.

A Taste of Tatura Food and Wine Festival Inc

Funding: \$9000

For Taste of Tatura artists in residence at the A Taste of Tatura Festival

An artist will work with schools and community groups in the lead up to the festival. The theme will be to encourage people to think about what things make living in the area great. It provides a chance to refocus people's minds on the positive and away from the ongoing drought.

Gasworks Arts Inc

Funding: \$12 000

For *Block Party* at the Art of Difference Festival 2009 (AOD 2009) (Albert Park)

Block Party is a large scale event staged, performed and presented by artists who are deaf or disabled. It will feature a disco, theatre, live music, circus, film, fashion and karaoke. Participants will be invited to experience a specially curated menu of short performance works, short films and spontaneous acts of artistic expression from deaf and disabled artists.

Mildura Arts Festival Inc

Funding: \$8000

For *Murray Darling Palimpsest* at the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival

A collaboration between a visual artist, filmmaker and dancer will result in a major visual arts installation. The project will engage the community in a dialogue that incorporates regional and national issues of sustainability. It will focus on the local regions of the Mallee, Sea Lake and Sunset National Park and will bring together multi-media with traditional arts mediums and dance.

State Coal Mine-Rescue Station Arts Inc

Funding: \$7200

For The Pit Pony Project at The SCM-Rescue Station Arts Community Festival (Wonthaggi)

The project will be the creation of a public art piece, a pit pony, depicting the towns strong links with the mines. Workshops will include writing and illustrating 'Little Chap' books, working with natural fibres and recycled materials and using natural dyes; all with a pit pony theme. Local artists will work with key creative personnel to create the public art, while workshops participants will be able to make a small scale replica of a pit pony as a momento of the project.

Gorgeous Voices Festival

Funding: \$21 000

For Uncommon Divas at the Gorgeous Voices Festival (Castlemaine)

The project will be held in four stages to develop the artistic skills of local singers and to enhance community involvement from groups not usually involved in the festival. Masterclasses, community workshops and festival workshop will bring together different streams of participants and will culminate in a free public performance.

Shepparton Arts Festival Inc

Funding: \$26 000

For New Horizons community event at the 2009 SheppARTon Festival

The theme of the project is 'people coming together in a time of difficulty' and symbolises the power of the multicultural community in the face of challenges that are hard to deal with as individuals. Workshops will be held before the festival to cover the five elements of the final performance. Music, sculpture, lighting, pyrotechnics and performance will come together for the final piece: to battle the menace symbolised and eventually overcome it, transforming the sculpture into a windmill to symbolise new hope, new stability, new power, new water and becoming a productive 'New Horizon'.

Apollo Bay Music Festival Inc

Funding: \$25 000

For Voices and Songs of the Otways 2009 at the 17th annual Apollo Bay Music Festival

The project will be songwriting workshops in folk, country and roots genres, culminating in a performance at the festival. A series of 10 weekend workshops led by qualified practitioners will see participants learning how to write and perform songs in their chosen genre. The workshops will culminate in free public performances in which the professional artists will perform alongside their students.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

City of Mandurah

Funding: \$22 900

For *Trans-cube-ation* at the Stretch Festival

The project will explore the issues associated with climate change and consumerism through creative artworks involving 300kg cubes of condensed, recycled materials. The finished pieces will be integrated on and around the cubes. Artists will work with a community group or other artists to present their work next to a grove of trees. The trees will be wrapped in newspaper cuttings recounting local stories and providing a link between living trees, wood chips and recycling paper.