



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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ARTS FUNDING FOR OUR REGIONS

Arts Minister Peter Garrett has announced a cultural boost to regional communities across Australia, with more than \$750,000 to be provided to 61 new arts projects under the Regional Arts Fund.

“Across the nation we are lucky enough to enjoy a really vibrant and diverse range of festivals, events, performances and other artistic enterprises that are world-class.

“Besides providing an opportunity for the enjoyment of artworks and other cultural experiences, Regional Arts funding also provides a welcome boost to local economies .”

The Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund is delivered by the peak regional arts organisation in each state, and by government arts departments in the territories.

“The projects chosen for funding will benefit communities in a variety of ways,” Minister Garrett said.

“For example, it can have a real educational benefit like the Wollondilly River project in Goulburn in southern New South Wales, where children will be involved in sculpting works sited in water, and learn about the environment.”

Two vital themes for the regions, the value of young people and the value of water, are reflected in many of the funded projects.

Some highlights from the projects funded:

- In Casino, northern New South Wales, the 2009 Casino Beef Week festival and parade will showcase the results of community workshops in circus skills, drumming and fabric art.
- A regional tour of young people’s theatre through Queensland, with La Luna Youth Arts scripting and staging works based on Shakespearian text.
- In an outer regional area of South Australia, a mosaic artist will help the Clayton Bay community create a public lookout over a fragile wetland, telling the public about the value of our waters.
- A public visual arts program in Launceston, Tasmania, will have young and emerging graphic designers and visual artists create and install lightboxes throughout the central business district.

See the Regional Arts Australia website www.regionalarts.com.au