

MEDIA RELEASE

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Five Regional Western Australian Artists and Organisations Receive Federal Funding

The Australian Government will invest \$90,230 in regional Western Australian creative projects through the Regional Arts Fund; a funding initiative managed in Western Australia by Country Arts WA.

Creative projects will be delivered to strengthen regional and remote communities in the Gascoyne, Goldfields-Esperance, Great Southern, South West and Mid West regions of WA.

A total of five projects will be supported through the Regional Arts Fund, including two artists who will pursue unique professional and creative development opportunities in their respective art forms of theatre and visual arts, and three organisations which will deliver community-based projects providing opportunities for artists and communities to develop new work, new skills, build cultural networks and preserve language and stories.

Paul MacPhail, Country Arts WA's Executive Director, says "It is exciting to see the breadth and quality of projects that are generated from, and nurtured in, regional communities. In the last couple of years, the demand in WA for the Regional Arts Fund has grown by 29%, with a significant increase of individuals putting up their hands to develop and lead arts and culture projects".

A panel of arts and culture community leaders assessed the applications, Chair of the Regional Arts Fund WA Panel, Sonya Dye says, "I wish more people had the opportunity to sit on this panel because the diversity and quality of the applications we assess each round would amaze anyone with an interest in regional WA. The creativity, innovative thinking, wish to engage with and support our communities in meaningful ways and the desire to celebrate our regional places on display in this round was inspiring.

Funding constraints mean the panel has a very difficult task in that it is only able to recommend a fraction of the applications each round, despite there being an incredibly strong field of contenders and this was most certainly the case in this round. I would like to thank all the applicants for their efforts to deliver outstanding arts activities to regional WA and to my colleagues on the panel for their thoughtfulness and commitment to the regional arts and cultural sectors".

The Regional Arts Fund is one way the Australian Government supports regional artists and arts organisations to develop their artistic practice and produce works and experiences to benefit their local communities. The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and its member organisations which includes Country Arts WA.

The Project Fund is now accepting applications for projects which begin after 1 January 2020. Applications close 23 August. Apply now at www.countryartswa.asn.au/projectfund.

End.

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SUPPORT MATERIAL
PROJECT FUND SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Kuberan Muir | \$3,718 | Goldfields-Esperance

Walkatjurra & Black Square Arts Internship

Walkatjurra young future leader, Kuberan Muir, will participate in a two-week internship with Black Square Arts Director Justin Bishop at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in July 2019.

Bunbury Regional Theatre Inc. | \$18,235 | South West

BREC Artist Residency at Donnelly River Village

Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre will partner with Performing Lines and Albany Entertainment Centre to deliver a regional residency for 20 artists from the South West and Great Southern regions at Donnelly River Village, in November 2019, offering regional artists the opportunity to work with a range of highly skilled mentors from different arts practices to inform their project development. The 3-day, 2-night event provides a supportive, creative environment to test ideas, consider new collaborations and explore cross art form possibilities.

Annette Carmichael Projects | \$29,000 | Great Southern

Chorus

A new dance work created with women across the southern part of Western Australia as the final chapter in The Beauty Index Trilogy. *Chorus* will bring regional artists together with regional communities in Ravensthorpe, Albany, Denmark and Bunbury to develop a site-specific dance performance that explores the power of beauty to preserve our sense of humanity in the face of fear and calls for the end of violence against women. The project will engage women in workshop activities culminating in two site-specific performances.

Julian Canny | \$9,250 | Mid West

Creative Development

Geraldton-based creatives Julian Canny and Jody Quadrio of Euphorium Creative will undertake a 6-month mentorship with Perth-based artist Esther Longhurst, working through the development and performance of their own original work.

Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation | \$30,000 | Gascoyne

Wariyangga On Country

Wariyangga On Country captures the diverse knowledge of the sole remaining fluent Wariyangga speaker, Peter Salmon, in a collection of stories about flora, fauna, country, community and culture. The project will have two distinct phases; a trip to Wariyangga country with project staff, artists and other Wariyangga people to record Peter's extensive knowledge of these things and their importance to the maintenance and continuation of Wariyangga culture; and the interpretation of this information into accessible language resource books, video productions and an art exhibition.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia.



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund

About Country Arts WA

Established in 1994, Country Arts WA is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities.

Country Arts WA offers a variety of funding programs to support regional arts projects across Western Australia. For more information, visit **www.countryartswa.asn.au** or call regional free call 1800 811 883.