

## MEDIA RELEASE

6 November 2019

### Seven Regional West Australian Artists and Organisations Receive Federal Funding

*Seven regional Western Australian arts and culture projects will receive an investment of more than \$127,669 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund; a funding initiative managed in Western Australia by Regional Arts WA.*

Spanning across four regions the funds will support four artists in their creative and professional development initiatives and three organisations in their community arts development projects. The applications received were peer-assessed by a Panel of regional arts and culture community leaders.

- **Rita Bush | \$7,802.50 | Great Southern**  
**Retrieve your Jeans:** *Retrieve Your Jeans* is a co-directed contemporary dance work. Rita Bush, with collaborator Cayleigh Davies, will work on the final stage of the creative development culminating in a performance season at Adelaide Fringe 2020.
- **Madelaine Dickie | \$14,602 | Gascoyne**  
**The Cost of Doing Good: A Biography of Wayne Bergman (working title):** Madelaine Dickie will undertake the research and creative development of a unique biography about the Kimberley Traditional Owner Wayne Bergmann.
- **Big Hart Inc | \$30,000 | Pilbara**  
**Punkaliyarra: Sister In Law Dreaming Story, Ngurin River Project:** A cultural transmission project that explores and shares deep and compelling creation stories told by senior Aboriginal women of the Pilbara with emerging young women leaders.
- **Diana McGirr | \$14,930 | South West**  
**Preserving Douglas Chambers' legacy - a pathway to professional growth:** This practice-based research project is the first stage in a creative development designed to refine and develop Diana's skills as an art historian-curator-researcher whilst preserving Douglas Chambers' artistic legacy by documenting his extensive studio archive.
- **Shire of Ashburton | \$30,000 | Pilbara**  
**Onslow Water Tanks Mural:** The Shire will engage artist Guido van Helten to work with the community in the development of a public artwork for the two Onslow Water Tanks.

- **Susan Findlay | \$13,734.68 | Great Southern**  
**About FACE International Concert and Development Tour:** Musical and Creative Director Susan Findlay will travel with three emerging leaders from the Great Southern region and the regional youth choir AboutFACE to Europe to participate in masterclasses with international artists and will direct a small series of concerts.
- **Hummingbird Promotions Inc. | \$16,600 | South West**  
**Capel Makers Trail:** A local makers and artisans trail that will run across two days from Saturday 28 March to Sunday 29 March 2020.

Regional Arts WA Chief Executive Officer Paul MacPhail says, “The Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund is crucial in supporting cultural development outcomes and social cohesion in regional, rural and remote WA.

“The diversity of projects and themes being explored has the potential for significant impact in regional communities and it was inspiring to see the number of quality projects being developed by individual artists and organisations in regional WA. This injection of \$127,669 will build markets on a statewide, national and international scale, whilst also supporting the development of local arts initiatives.”

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 Regional Arts WA.

The next round of the RAF Project Fund, for projects which begin after 1 July 2020, will open in January 2020. Applications close 6 March 2020. Apply online at [www.regionalartswa.org.au/funding/project-fund/](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au/funding/project-fund/).

End.

### **Media Contact**

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## **SUPPORT MATERIAL**

### **RAF Project Fund Recipients**

The Panel of peers would like to acknowledge the work of the applicants in developing and delivering the valuable arts activities they undertake in regional Western Australia. The competitiveness of the applications has made for difficult decision-making when recommending projects for funding, with the projects selected meeting the objectives of the fund to the highest degree.

#### **Rita Bush | \$7,802.50 | Great Southern**

##### **Retrieve your Jeans**

*Retrieve Your Jeans* is a co-directed contemporary dance work. Rita Bush, with collaborator Cayleigh Davies, will work on the final stage of the creative development culminating in a performance season at Adelaide Fringe 2020. The work will be performed by a cast of five female dancers, including Rita, and revolves around themes of belonging, nostalgia, and ordinary extraordinaries, tied together with the everyday icon: denim jeans.

#### **Madelaine Dickie | \$14,602 | Gascoyne**

##### **The Cost of Doing Good: A Biography of Wayne Bergman (working title)**

Madelaine Dickie will undertake the research and creative development of a unique biography about the Kimberley Traditional Owner Wayne Bergmann, on his request. Wayne is a Nyikina man, a former finalist in the Western Australian of the Year Awards and former chief executive of the Kimberley Land Council. The project will further develop Madelaine's skills as a writer.

#### **Big Hart Inc | \$30,000 | Pilbara**

##### **Punkaliyarra: Sister in Law Dreaming Story, Ngurin River Project**

*Punkaliyarra: Sister in Law Dreaming* is a cultural transmission project that explores and shares deep and compelling creation stories told by senior Aboriginal women of the Pilbara. In this intergenerational project, women Elders join high calibre artists and emerging young women leaders to create storytelling content, delving into the traditional knowledge and strength of Pilbara women, creating exquisite digital art that transmits their creation stories in powerful, contemporary ways.

#### **Diana McGirr | \$14,930 | South West**

##### **Preserving Douglas Chambers' legacy - a pathway to professional growth**

This practice-based research project is the first stage in a creative development designed to refine and develop Diana's skills as an art historian-curator-researcher whilst preserving Douglas Chambers' artistic legacy by documenting his extensive studio archive. This archive includes a large number of rarely-seen and uncatalogued paintings, drawings, prints, slides, sketchbooks and collages dating from the 1970s onwards. It represents a seminal period in Western Australia's art history.

#### **Shire of Ashburton | \$30,000 | Pilbara**

##### **Onslow Water Tanks Mural**

The Shire will engage artist Guido van Helten to work with the community in the development of a public artwork for the two Onslow Water Tanks. The artist will engage the community in the design stage to create a work that will reflect the town's unique history, sense of place and character.

**Susan Findlay | \$13,734.68 | Great Southern**

**About FACE International Concert and Development Tour**

Musical and Creative Director Susan Findlay will travel with three emerging leaders from the Great Southern region and the regional youth choir AboutFACE to Europe to participate in masterclasses with international artists and will direct a small series of concerts. This will provide an opportunity to undertake choral, performance and personal development that has the ability to raise regional Western Australian music directing and performance skills to an international level.

**Hummingbird Promotions Inc. | \$16,600 | South West**

**Capel Makers Trail**

*The Capel Makers Trail* is a local makers and artisans trail that will run across two days from Saturday 28 March to Sunday 29 March 2020. The Trail will bring artists and makers together in the heart of their community centres and will provide professional development.

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



**Australian Government**  
**Regional Arts Fund**

**About Regional Arts WA**

Regional Arts WA is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. We are an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation and are highly regarded within WA and nationally as an innovative, high value leader in the arts and in regional and community development.

Our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities - making WA a better place to live.

Regional Arts WA manages a variety of funding programs to support regional arts projects across Western Australia. For more information, visit [www.regionalartswa.org.au](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au) or call regional free call 1800 811 883.