

MEDIA RELEASE

20 July 2021

Supporting Young Regional Artists to achieve the Next Level

Five young regional artists and arts workers across Western Australia will each receive up to \$7,500 to develop their careers through a Regional Arts WA's Next Level Regional Grant, presented by Healthway Drug Aware and supported by the State Government's Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program (RACIP).

Over the next 12 months, the five recipients will be supported to undertake a period of creative and professional development aimed at taking their arts careers to the Next Level.

These emerging players in the WA regional arts scene are Kimberley based filmmaker and artist Brooke Collard (25), South West based musician Codee-Lee Down (26), Goldfields-Esperance based sound and lighting technician Megan Lemon (24), Peel based arts worker and events manager Niamh Hurley (21), and Pilbara based visual artist and curator Rose Barton (25).

- **Brooke Collard** will collaborate with respected Noongar Elder Pop Koordah, in the development of a documentary which will contribute to an enhanced understanding of her own Noongar heritage and support her practice as a writer and producer to tell compelling and authentic stories from a First Nation's perspective.
- **Codee-Lee Down** will co-write two songs with US singer songwriter Katrina Burgoyne and work with a range of established WA based music professionals to build her capacity and skills in commercial and creative practice and will result in the launch of an EP. She will also undertake online training in digital media content development and distribution which will assist to raise her online profile.
- **Megan Lemon** will be mentored by Esperance based theatre technician Timothy Currie to build capacity, skills and knowledge in the operation of sound and lighting equipment to support performing arts presentation in a variety of multi-use venues and regional locations. She will also attend the 2022 Tech West conference to build networks within the WA tech sector.
- **Niamh Hurley** will develop and implement a music development program for young musicians and artists, building on her recent success in establishing new live music events in the Peel region. This grant will support her to establish herself as a young leader, build networks within the broader sector, and strengthen her knowledge and capacity to design and implement effective cultural development projects.

- **Rose Barton** will dedicate herself to expanding her practice into digital, sculptural and written forms through several mentorships with skilled regional artists and creatives, aiming to raise her online profile and create a body of work for her first solo exhibition scheduled for presentation at the Cossack Gallery, Pilbara.

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says ongoing support for young and emerging artists and arts workers is pivotal in creating long-term arts and culture careers in the regions.

“We are very excited to announce the five successful recipients of the Next Level Regional Grants. The grants will enable the recipients to develop their arts practice and build their networks in a way that suits their individual needs as an artist or arts worker.

“The continued investment in young people is vital for the future of the regional arts sector. We know long-term arts and culture careers takes commitment, passion and drive from individuals and grants, like Next Level Regional, will provide a springboard for these emerging artists and arts workers to jumpstart their careers in WA.”

Regional Arts WA Next Level Regional Grants are presented by Healthway; promoting the Drug Aware message and are supported by the RACIP, which is administered by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

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Media Contact

Weng-Si Cheang – Regional Arts WA Program Manager

P: 08 9200 6202 | Regional Freecall: 1800 811 883 | E: wcheang@regionalartswa.org.au

****To see full Next Level artists bios and statements, please see the Support Materials (next page).***

SUPPORT MATERIALS

Next Level Regional Grants Recipients Biographies

1. **Brooke Collard | Broome | \$7,500**

Brooke Woolcock currently works as a Production Assistant at the First Nations led media organisation, Goolarri Media in Broome. She is a writer and producer and has been successful in obtaining funding for multiple projects. Her documentary Aboriginal Warrior, produced in collaboration with kickboxing world champion Chris Collard was selected as a part of NITV's Our Stories initiative, which helps promote emerging First Nations film makers. Aboriginal Warrior has had a successful run at film festivals; Birrarangga, Cinefest Oz (Albany) and the St Kilda Film Festival.

2. **Codee-Lee Down | Eaton | \$7,500**

Codee-Lee Down is an emerging country music artist in Western Australia. She has had success as a singer-songwriter in the industry having won two Western Australian Music (WAM) song of the year awards and ten WA country music awards. She has performed at key events in Western Australia including the Dowerin Field Day, Fremantle Dockers game at Optus Stadium and The Boyup Brook Country Music Festival. She is working towards establishing myself as a country musician in WA by developing a quality product and online presence through recording and releasing an EP.

3. **Megan Lemon | Ravensthorpe | \$7,500**

Megan Lemon recently began working for regional arts organisation Rave About Arts to learn tech skills so that she can eventually run and manage the tech side of performances that tour to the Goldfields Esperance region. She has worked on various touring shows to the region already; Cameo Rascal, Oompah and with the Splash Test Dummies technician Chris Payne, supporting their tour to six towns. This grant will support her to develop her technical skills in lighting and sound design in order to coordinate the management and tech for future touring shows and this will complement her existing studies that she is undertaking to gain a Cert 4 in Leadership and Management.

4. **Niamh Hurley | Mandurah | \$7,500**

Niamh Hurley successfully launched her events business Ludic Events in the wake of COVID impacts in 2020, in an effort to stimulate a vibrant live music and arts and cultural scene in Mandurah and which supported, developed and created opportunities for local artists through mini festivals, gigs and creative and collaborative development projects. She has a vision to place Mandurah on the map as a live music destination for touring artists and bands.

5. **Rose Barton | Dampier | \$7,500**

Rosemary Barton is an emerging West Australian artist from Wardandi Boodja, currently living and working on Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi ngurra. Her multidisciplinary practice considers facets of connection and disconnection, spanning painting, textiles, installation, sculpture and digital art. Often process and participation based, her works invite tender contemplation and reflection of one's personal self and social self. Rose holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Western Australia. She has exhibited at various institutions across Western Australia, including at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. She has an established reputation as an arts coordinator, curator and educator focused on diversity, community and the regions. Rose is also currently completing her studies in psychology, which influences her personal creative practice thematics and her desire to bring positive social change through arts and culture.

About Regional Arts WA

Established in 1994, Regional 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. More at: www.regionalartswa.org.au

About Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program

Next Level Regional Grants are supported by the Departments of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries, and Primary Industries and Regional Development through the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program, and Regional Arts WA

The purpose of the program is to drive the creation of jobs, drive economic development and tourism and improve social cohesion by supporting the creative and cultural industries in regional Western Australia. Through strategic investments, the program aims to build capacity in the regions and contribute to liveability and vibrancy of regional communities.

About Healthway Drug Aware

For more information on the Drug Aware message please see the following website:
<https://drugaware.com.au>