

## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 7 November 2016

# Country Arts Support Program 2017: Six new arts projects funded across the Central West

Six local groups will share \$17,141 in funding for small arts projects.

Arts OutWest has announced the six successful local projects in the 2017 round of the Country Arts Support Program (CASP).

Across the NSW Central West there was again a strong demand for the NSW government's annual grants program with 21 community organisations requesting \$58,345 in funds. Applicants could apply for up to \$3000, with any not-for-profit group eligible.

CASP is a key regional arts funding program for NSW which provides support to employ artists in locally initiated arts and cultural projects. The aim is to provide access to arts activities for regional communities, to encourage communities to work together on cultural projects, to foster cultural diversity in the region and to ensure that regional and rural areas have an artistic voice.

Funded projects in 2017 will be spread across the region and include:

- Support for 'Fun Theatre for the Very Young' in Bathurst
- Developing a peace precinct in Parkes
- Community art workshops in Millthorpe
- Workshops celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Henry Lawson in Grenfell
- A commission of a history song in Forbes
- Aboriginal art based workshops for children in Bathurst.

"These six projects offer exciting opportunities to communities, arts makers and audiences in the region. They also provide employment opportunities to local artists and arts workers," Arts OutWest Executive Director Tracey Callinan said.

Bringing these six funded projects to life will be around 40 local volunteers contributing more than 600 volunteer hours. The projects will also make use of in-kind goods and services from local councils, businesses and community groups.

"There was such a great range of applications for 2017, the quality of applications coming for our region continues to get stronger each year, with many, many fantastic projects unable to be funded because the money only stretches so far," Ms Callinan said. "For those projects that missed out on funding we'll continue to talk with applicants about other ways Arts OutWest can support them to make their ideas a reality," Ms Callinan said.

Arts NSW's Country Arts Support Program is a devolved funding program administered by Regional Arts NSW and local regional arts organisations on behalf of the NSW Government. Applications are assessed locally by a panel.

Arts OutWest is the regional arts development organisation, servicing the 11 local government areas of Bathurst Region, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes and Weddin.

More about Arts OutWest: [www.artsoutwest.org.au](http://www.artsoutwest.org.au)

More about CASP at: [www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp.html](http://www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp.html)

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Photo opportunities are available with performers from Theatre for the Very Young in Bathurst. Please contact Arts OutWest on 6338 4657.

## Projects funded in 2017 through the Country Arts Support Program: NSW Central West region

### **Bathurst Child and Family Network – Children & Community: Celebrating Wiradyuri Culture**

\$2,141 for workshops led by local Wiradyuri artists. Children participating in the workshops will produce artworks illustrating the story of the platypus. Artworks will then be developed into electronic posters to be displayed throughout the community. Location: Bathurst.

### **The Rotary Club of Parkes Inc – Peace Precinct**

\$3,000 to construct a new peace precinct and art installation. The installation will consist of a carved sculpture by Aboriginal artists Scott Towney and Scott Turnbull. Local artist Sean Cassidy will coordinate the installation. Location: Parkes.

### **Bathurst Theatre Company Inc – Theatre for the Very Young**

\$3,000 to develop a community based project to introduce theatre and performance to local children aged 2-6 years old. Interactive performances will include songs, stories and short plays. Location: Bathurst.

### **Millthorpe Arts Collective – Millthorpe 2167: Looking 150 years into the Future**

\$3,000 to engage artists from the local Millthorpe community and surrounding villages in a range of creative workshops about the future of the region. Location: Millthorpe.

### **Weddin Shire Council – ‘Weddin Workshops Weekend’: Celebrate Henry Lawson’s 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

\$3,000 for visual arts and literature workshops over two days in Grenfell to celebrate Henry Lawson’s 150th birthday. Location: Grenfell.

### **Forbes Town and District Band – Commission of Forbes History Song**

\$3,000 to commission composer Tim Ferrier to write a song for the Band based on an event or person in Forbes’ history. The song will be premiered at the 2017 Kalari-Lachlan River Arts Festival. Location: Forbes.

The Country Arts Support Program is supported by Regional Arts NSW & the NSW Government.



This project is supported by Arts NSW’s Country Arts Support Program, a devolved funding program administered by Regional Arts NSW and local Regional Arts Boards on behalf of the NSW Government