

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 23 February 2016

Country Arts Support Program 2016: Seven new arts projects funded across the Central West

Seven local groups will share \$16,872 in funding for small arts projects.

Arts OutWest has announced the seven successful local projects in the 2016 round of the Country Arts Support Program.

Across the NSW Central West there was again a strong demand for the NSW government's annual grants program with 15 community organisations requesting \$38,885 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. CASP funding is coordinated in the Central West by regional arts development organisation Arts OutWest.

Funded projects in 2016 will be spread across the region and include:

- A burlesque theatre production in Hill End
- Drama workshops at Bathurst Family Fun Day, and others in Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo
- A weaving workshop for women in the Oberon area
- Music workshops in Lithgow to develop new members of Lithgow City Band
- Young people learning stilt walking, character development, roving street theatre techniques and costume creation for Halloween in Lithgow
- Workshops to make a pop up musical in the Orange area

"These seven 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 Officer Tracey Callinan said.

Bringing these seven funded projects to life will be around 50 local volunteers contributing more than 800 volunteer hours. The projects will also make use of in-kind goods and services from local councils, businesses and community groups. It's estimated that for the \$16,872 CASP investment in the region this year an additional \$22,000 of in-kind support will be attached to these projects as donated goods, services or volunteer hours.

"Whilst demand continues to be high, CASP is still an accessible funding source for regional communities. This is a program we really encourage people to consider for the future," 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.

Applications for the 2017 round of CASP will close later in 2016.

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

More about CASP at: www.regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp.html

Projects funded in 2016 through the Country Arts Support Program: NSW Central West region

Bathurst Child and Family Network – Hearing children’s voices

Children of various ages & backgrounds will participate in a drama workshop and performance, facilitated by the artist, on Saturday 21st May 2016 at the Bathurst Family Fun Day from 11am – 2pm. The performance will highlight the benefits of hearing children’s voices to strengthen our community. Location: Bathurst. Funding: \$2,800

Friends of Oberon Library (FOOLS) – Women Weavers of the West

Back by popular demand with a new creative twist, the 2016 Women Weavers of the West workshop will build on the success of previous Women of the West arts workshops held in Oberon. Lead by sculptural basket maker Harriet Goodall, local women will explore the intersection of craft, art and design to create woven objects of textural beauty from plant materials and decaying farm detritus. Location: Oberon. Funding: \$1,980

Hill End Arts Council – Life and times of Bernard Otto Holtermann

Hill End Arts Council inc in partnership with Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre and National Parks and Wildlife Service wish to put on a Burlesque theatre production called The life and times of Bernard Otto Holtermann at the heritage Royal Hall, Hill End. The performance would encompass 5 professional performers and 2 fine artists. Location: Hill End. Funding: \$2,650

Lachlan Arts Council – Drama in the Bush

We are going to have a professional partnership with Sarah Parsons who is director of OutBack Theatre for Young People in Deniliquin NSW. This will take place with the Youth Services and Amateur Drama groups from Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin in March 2016. We will have 2 days initially of a masterclass and then a further two days later when the drama groups are creating a performance. Location: Condobolin. Funding: \$3,000

Lithgow City Band Inc – Restoration and Development

This project is to help fund the conduct of music workshops leading to performance for beginning or returning musicians to develop their musical skills and become permanent members of Lithgow City Band. Location: Lithgow. Funding: \$1,950

Lithgow City Council – The Towering Terrors Project

A 12 week multi faceted course run by local performance artists, focusing on creating roving characters for the Lithgow Halloween Festival in 2016. Youth participants will learn stilt walking, character development, roving street theatre techniques and costume creation. They will go on to perform their work as part of the 2016 festival as well as taking these skills away to use in other contexts. Location: Lithgow. Funding: \$2,795

Spring Hill P&C – Pop-Up Musical

Author and scriptwriter Paul Stafford teams with songwriter/composer/arranger Miles Wright to deliver a series of workshops in Spring Hill Public and Canobolas High Schools to scaffold and model the creative process of script and song writing, with the student collaboration creating an original new musical. Workshops will be developed on-site in 2016. Location: Spring Hill. Funding \$1,697.

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