

## **Arts OutWest Condobolin road trip and meeting showcases the Lachlan Shire**

People came from right across the Central West to experience arts and culture of the Lachlan Shire and participate in the Arts OutWest annual general meeting. More than 40 people travelled to Condobolin on Sunday 25 May for Arts OutWest's first ever community road trip.

A bus and fleet of cars brought in guests from Lithgow, Oberon, Bathurst, Grenfell, Wellington, Forbes, Parkes, Bogan Gate, Peak Hill, Molong and Lake Cargelligo.

The tour took in Utes in the Paddock at Ootha, with a talk by Utes founder Jana Pickles; an exhibition of art by Lachlan Arts Council members at the Condobolin Community Centre; and a tour of the Wiradjuri Study Centre. Guests also enjoyed lunch put on by the Lachlan Arts Council and the very short Arts OutWest annual general meeting at the community centre.

Many in the crowd - which included art gallery directors and volunteers, members of local arts councils and arts groups, performers and artists - were visiting Condobolin for the first time. All were impressed by both the cultural offerings in the area and the warm welcome given by Condobolin locals.

Lachlan Shire Mayor Des Manwaring welcomed guests to the meeting and spoke of the importance of cultural activity in the region.

Arts OutWest executive officer Tracey Callinan highlighted the work of the organisation in 2013 including projects and development in Aboriginal arts, arts and health and the creative industries. The Lachlan Shire has been a focus area for the federally funded Spread the Word Aboriginal arts and health project with hip hop, dance and belly casting activities held throughout the last 18 months in Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin. Aboriginal artists from the region have also had work shown and sold in the new regional Kew-Y-Ahn Aboriginal Art Gallery at Hartley, a joint project between Arts OutWest and National Parks.

Lachlan Arts Council president and long serving Arts OutWest board member, Heather Blackley, spoke also about the Spread the Word project dance workshops, ran in partnership between Arts OutWest and the arts council. Aboriginal dancer and choreographer Jo Clancy taught new routines to young Condobolin dancers, and shared advice with them about staying healthy. The dancers then performed at the opening of the Lachlan Arts Council art exhibition on Friday night, May 23. Jo Clancy has a six year relationship with Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo through Arts OutWest and Lachlan Arts Council.

Arts OutWest is the regional art organisation for the NSW Central West, supported by the state government through Arts NSW and by the 12 contributing local government areas of Bathurst Region, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin and Wellington.

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

More photos from the day at [www.facebook.com/artsoutwest](https://www.facebook.com/artsoutwest)