

## **Cowra arts stories kick off regional program**

Arts OutWest kicked off a season of regional arts networking nights in Cowra on Wednesday June 4 with enlightening presentations by five local creatives.

“I think we can safely say that our first Winter Arts Networking Night in Cowra was a success,” Arts OutWest executive officer Tracey Callinan.

“The format was a new experiment for us. We used the PechaKucha 20x20 concept, where each speaker had 20 images, projected onto a screen, and 20 seconds to talk about each image. It’s amazing what people can tell you in six minutes forty seconds,” Ms Callinan said.

Presenters were Phoebe Cowdery, who gave an overview of The Corridor Project near Wyangala Dam and their busy schedule of artistic and education activities; Cheryl McAllister from Cowra High School who spoke about the successes of Wagambirra dance group (and received a rousing second round of applause for her tireless work); Photographer and new Cowra Regional Art Gallery officer Brooke Lennon who shared a very personal photo essay on her home town of Captains Flat; Wattamondara sculptor Ken Hutchinson who explained some of his recent stone, metal and found object sculptures, including ephemeral works created at local landmarks; and Cowra writer and performer Rebecca Foster who told the crowd “writing saved my life” before reading a lively extract from her brand new novel ‘The Completion Course’.

The presentations were sparkling, fun and well received. Around 30 locals made it along to the night at Cowra Services Club, where Arts OutWest had put on after-work finger food. It was also a chance for some Cowra people to meet for the first time and make connections with local art groups.

Cowra general manager Paul Devery, who attended the event, praised it as “a short, sharp, enlightening and enjoyable way to finish off a day.” And said he was looking forward to the next one and to “learning more about the talent we have in the area.”

There was interest amongst those present in holding another similar night sometime in the future.

Arts OutWest’s next Winter Arts Networking Nights will be held in Bathurst on Wednesday June 11 (5pm at Webb & Co Bar) and Lithgow on Wednesday June 18 (5pm at Eskbank House Museum) followed by events in Orange (July 16), Wellington (July 30), Forbes (August 6), Grenfell (August 20) Oberon (August 26) and Canowindra (August 27).

To RSVP for any of the upcoming events email [artsoutwest@csu.edu.au](mailto:artsoutwest@csu.edu.au) or call Arts OutWest on 6338 4657.

Video of the presentations will be available soon at [www.facebook.com/artsoutwest](http://www.facebook.com/artsoutwest)