

MEDIA RELEASE

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Country Arts Support Program opens the door for local projects



Arts OutWest is encouraging local community groups with arts projects in mind to apply for the 2015 round of Country Arts Support Program funding.

The State Government's annual Country Arts Support Program (CASP) provides small grants to arts and community organisations in regional NSW for local arts projects.

Applications for 2015 funding close October 1, 2014.

"The funds are a valuable way to kick start exciting local, on-the-ground arts projects," says Arts OutWest Executive Officer Tracey Callinan.

"This long running funding program is about giving regional people access to a diverse range of arts programs, driven locally by the community," says Ms Callinan.

CASP grants are for small amounts of money - up to \$3000 - and are available primarily to cover professional artist's fees, travel and accommodation.

Projects funded in 2014 included community music workshops and guest performers for the folk@canowindra events; chamber music workshops and a concert for Forbes Town Band and music workshops with Lithgow Town Band; an Aboriginal art making project with two professional artists for Bathurst Families Day; welding workshops for women with sculptor Harrie Fasher in Oberon; bringing internationally recognised visual arts expert Jumaadi to Cowra for a history symposium; Canbeltos community choir workshops in Bathurst and Orange; a watercolour painting workshop in Lake Cargelligo; a photography workshop in Trundle; and funds to assist a group of dedicated quilters to design a quilt depicting Quandialla for the village's centenary this October.

Groups that have applied for past funds include town bands, arts groups and arts councils through to progress associations, agricultural show societies, RSL sub-branches and community service organisations. The funding is open to all incorporated associations. Unincorporated groups or collectives of artists are allowed to find a local organisation to auspice their funding.

Groups in Central West NSW region wishing to apply for the funding should read the guidelines carefully and *must* discuss their project with Arts OutWest before submitting an application.

The Country Arts Support Program of Regional Arts NSW is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

How to apply

Download the funding criteria from <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp/> and contact Arts OutWest on 02 6338 4657 or email artsoutwest@csu.edu.au

Image 1: CASP funded life drawing workshops hosted by the Lachlan Arts Council. The tutor was Marilyn Rice from Bathurst. Photo: Karen Tooth. Image 2: CASP funded women's welding workshop in Oberon with sculptor, organised by Friends of Oberon Library. Photo: Emma Hill, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery.