

## MEDIA RELEASE

2 December 2016

### Thirteen regional WA artists & organisations receive federal funding

*Thirteen regional Western Australian arts projects have been awarded a total of \$189,758 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, managed in Western Australia by Country Arts WA.*

Projects will be delivered in regional and very remote Western Australian locations in the Kimberley, South-West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt, Goldfields-Esperance, Mid-West and Pilbara regions of WA.

A total of six projects will be supported through the Project Fund: five community based projects providing opportunities for communities to develop skills, broaden audiences and build cultural networks alongside professional artists and arts organisations; and one individual, supporting their engagement with the community in the development of a new performance work.

Seven projects spanning dance, visual arts, circus and comedy will be supported through the Showcase Fund, allowing high-quality artworks to be presented at the 2017 State Regional Arts Conference.

“The projects funded in this round cover seven of the nine Western Australian regions, and highlight the diverse and unique nature of the Western Australia regional arts industry” said Paul MacPhail, CEO of Country Arts WA. “It is wonderful to see arts organisations and regional artists seeking to engage new sectors of their communities and broaden their audiences—this is evident in Annette Carmichael’s dance project with local men and Cummins Theatre’s focus on capturing children’s views and perspectives.”

“This was a very competitive round and due to the limitation of funding available, many deserving projects were unable to be funded this time. The hard work of all applicants and their ongoing commitment to their arts practice is to be commended, and congratulations are extended to those successful applications which met the criteria to a very high degree.” stated Acting Chair of the Regional Arts Fund panel Sonya Dye.

The Regional Arts Fund is one way the Australian Government supports regional artists and arts organisations to develop their artistic practice and produce works and experiences to benefit their local communities. The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and its member organisations which includes Country Arts WA.

Country Arts WA offers a variety of funding programs to support regional arts projects across Western Australia. For more information visit [www.countryartswa.asn.au](http://www.countryartswa.asn.au) or call regional freecall 1800 811 883.

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*Country Arts WA receives core funding from the State Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts in association with Lotterywest*



**Australian Government**  
**Regional Arts Fund**

# SUPPORT MATERIAL

## SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

### PROJECT FUND

**Ngarluma Yinjibarndi Foundation Ltd |\$26,467**

**Pilbara**

***Minurwarnigu Wanya-barrigu Digital Media Project***

The Minurwarnigu (Learning) Wanya-barrigu (Listening) Project aims to engage young people in exploring and producing story, through both dance and media. Through a partnership with BigHart, the project will provide opportunities for young people to create connections across different generations in the Roebourne community and will work towards producing video that captures a fusion of contemporary and traditional music sounds with movement. It will be delivered as series of recording, dance, and film training workshops, focusing on professional development and extending the skills learned during previous projects.

**Shire of Kondinin |\$11,200**

**Wheatbelt**

***Community Public Art Metal Sculpture Project***

The project will engage professional sculptor and artist Len Zuks to run a one week sculpture workshop at the Kondinin Men's Shed, with support from two local arts workers. An introductory session will be followed by a drop-in arrangement where participants can work at their own pace over the course of the week. Len will guide and teach participants to create a metal life-size sporting figure to be installed in the grounds of the Kondinin Community Recreation Centre. The finished sculptures will become public art and will be entered in the 2017 Kondinin Art Exhibition.

**Cummins Theatre |\$10,700**

**Wheatbelt**

***Small Voices***

The Small Voices Project will engage professional community artist Alex Desebrock to allow those in the Merredin community who have the smallest voices—children-- to be heard by a wider audience. Through a series of multi-disciplinary arts workshops with visiting and local artists, participants will explore their thoughts for the future, and how they see their world. The project will culminate in a public exhibition of work which will be accessible to the greater community in a variety of local venues, and aims to start discussions about what it means to be a part of the Merredin community today and into the future.

**Annette Carmichael |\$14,419**

**Great Southern**

***The Beauty Index***

The Beauty Index is a new dance work facilitated by Denmark (WA) Choreographer/Director Annette Carmichael. The work will see Annette collaborate with her community in the Great Southern and with local artists to develop a site-specific dance performance that will investigate the utility of beauty within a world dominated by unpredictable violence and acts of terrorism. How does the creative power of humanity respond? The project will engage men in workshop activities and result in a season presented as part of the local festival *Brave New Works*.

**Warmun Art Centre | \$25,000****Kimberley*****2017 Wreck Project—Tura New Music Residency Program***

Warmun Art Centre will partner with Tura New Music to deliver a 3-week residency with artist Jon Rose, who will work with local artists and community members in developing a site-specific music installation concept titled *WRECK*. The project will explore the potent symbolism of the car wreck in the outback landscape and in an Indigenous cultural context. The artist will collaborate with community in locating and stringing up an old car wreck to be played at a performance in the community. Recorded by local photographer/filmmaker, the performance will include stories of wrecks and oral histories of the area.

**Creative Corner Inc | \$18,850****South West*****Emergence Creative Festival***

The Emergence Creative Festival is an annual conference and festival held in the Margaret River region in March. The event links the South West creative industries and provides a platform for creative minds to come together to network, develop skills and share ideas. The event showcases the region's best emerging talents from art, design, animation, photography, film and music, and offers professional development and employment opportunities with real business outcomes in the community. The program will include the *Creative Crawl* community event and the artist professional development *Co Lab Workshops*.

**SHOWCASE FUND****The Comedy Emporium | \$15,000****Mid-West*****Regional Comedy Gala***

The Comedy Emporium will produce and present a showcase of work at the 2017 State Regional Arts Conference which has been facilitated and created by Julian Canny and his team, from artists located in the Midwest, Peel and Southwest regions of Western Australia. The show will feature a diverse range of people from a wide age range. Additionally, Julian Canny will present at the Conference on the independent producer business model he has developed through The Comedy Emporium and inspire delegates to apply this to their own regional communities.

**Southern Forest Arts | \$4,480****South West*****Rising From the Ashes***

Artworkers from Southern Forest Arts will join professional visual artist Kim Perrier in a multi-artform presentation of the multi-faceted approach Southern Forest Arts took to assist the Northcliffe and Windy Harbour communities in using creativity to recover from the trauma of the 2016 Northcliffe Bushfire. The presentation will feature images, poetry, music and sculpture, and will explore the projects involved in the creative recovery—the Community Fire Gathering, the After the Burn and Out of the Ashes exhibitions, the touring exhibition, the After the Burn publication, and the Rising From the Ashes sculptural commission by Kim Perrier.

**Pare Randall | \$15,000****Goldfields-Esperance*****Silent Volumes***

Silent Volumes was a dance work commissioned by AusdanceWA and performed in 2015 as part of Future Landins. The work is a sensory exploration of existence in a world where cultural borders merge. It tackles the questions of how we transform a new country from the unfamiliar into a place of 'belonging', and how we maintain our heritage while we calling a new place 'home'. The work explores Wangatha and Maori culture to search for a place to connect and share. The original work will be remounted with new and original dancers to be showcased at the State Regional Arts Conference.

**Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation | \$12,410****Mid-West*****Our Stories Through Stitches***

Yamaji Art will create a series of artworks using natural fibres and natural dyes woven onto natural materials such as wood and rocks to form an installation showcasing the culture and stories unique to the Midwest/Yamaji region. The materials will be gathered from local sites in and around Geraldton and other Mid-West locations such as Mullewa, and the final artworks will be brought to the 2017 State Regional Arts Conference for exhibition.

**Theatre Kimberley | \$15,000****Kimberley*****Sand Fly to Mandurah***

Senior members of Theatre Kimberley's youth circus group Sandfly Circus will travel to the 2017 State Regional Arts Conference to perform a show and participate in Conference activities. In addition to this, 5 award-winning costumes from Theatre Kimberley's Worn Art event will be exhibited at the Conference as either a static display or a wearable art performance.

**Paula Fletcher | \$6,232****Goldfields-Esperance*****Heartwalk: Art in the heart of the Kalgoorlie CBD***

The coordinator of Kalgoorlie's public mural project *Heartwalk*, Paula Fletcher, will attend the 2017 State Regional Arts Conference and present a professionally made video showcasing the project. The 2-year public art project seeks to revitalise the Kalgoorlie CBD through the installation of professionally curated, high quality painted murals in May 2017 and 2018. More than 40 local, indigenous and West Australian professional artists will be contracted to create high quality murals. The summary of the first year of *Heartwalk* will be presented at the 2017 State Regional Arts Conference.

**Annette Carmichael | \$15,000****Great Southern*****The Beauty Index Delegate Experience***

*The Beauty Index: Men* is a community dance work that explores Great Southern men's response to the rise of terrorism in the world. Delegates attending the 2017 State Regional Arts Conference will be invited to experience the creative processes used inside this project, and together with a small group of male project participants perform a short work at the conference. Both men and women attending the conference can participate and perform in the final outcome.

## **About Country Arts WA**

Country Arts WA is one of Western Australia's leading arts organisations. As an independent, not-for-profit, membership based organisation, our role is to build creativity, capacity and connection in and around regional communities to further develop Western Australia's regional arts sector.

We deliver funding and touring programs to regional Western Australia under a highly effective devolved structure and support for an extensive arts volunteer network. We work with all nine regions and advocate successfully for increased investment to ensure arts and culture is woven into the fabric of life in every regional community in Western Australia.

[www.countryartswa.asn.au](http://www.countryartswa.asn.au)