

REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA TURNS 80

HELP US IMAGINE THE NEXT 80 YEARS OF REGIONAL ARTS IN AUSTRALIA

In 2023, Regional Arts Australia is celebrating 80 years since being established in 1943 as the Council for the Encouragement of Music.

In 1943 our founder Miss Dorothy Helmrich, affectionately known as Dot, envisaged a nation where people living in regional, rural, and remote Australia could contribute, participate, and enjoy the arts on equal level to those living in metropolitan areas.

“I can’t separate the arts from life ... they are the same”
– Miss Dorothy Helmrich OBE, founder Regional Arts Australia
formerly Council for the Encouragement of Music

For 80 years, Regional Arts Australia has been facilitating opportunities, increasing access, maintaining collaborative relationships, and providing timely support to celebrate Australian stories across art forms and across landscapes.

We continue to deliver the Regional Arts Fund on behalf of the Australia Government, deliver short- and long-term professional development and capacity building programs, and provide research-based advocacy across and on behalf of our networks.

TO CELEBRATE THE 80TH YEAR, AS THE LONGEST CONTINUALLY EXISTING ARTS ORGANISATION OF ITS KIND IN AUSTRALIA, REGIONAL ARTS AUSTRALIA IS LAUNCHING TWO AMBITIOUS NEW OPPORTUNITIES:

1. [Pledge a Dot](#) is a fundraising initiative to secure the future of Regional Arts Australia. The campaign seeks to raise \$1 million to increase core capacity in the delivery of support for arts in regional Australia.
2. Sponsor a [Regional Artist Residency](#) is a new strategic program providing income for 80 artists in year-long community-based residencies across regional Australia.

QUOTES

“Now, more than ever, creative individuals and organisations in regional and remote Australia have the capacity to contribute to finding solutions to the big challenges around climate, well-being and prosperity. In its 80th year, RAA remains dedicated to supporting the rich and diverse voices of these creative, cultural and community ecosystems that are key to building a sustainable and fair future for everyone living on this land.”

– Dr Simon Spain, Chair, Regional Arts Australia

"RAA has a critical role in contemporary regional culture, to facilitate ideas and engage across the creative and artistic sector and to open doors and join the dots. In my daily work I am often reminded how diverse and extraordinary creative practice is. I am privileged to work side by side so many colleagues in an organisation that at its heart supports artistic practice and creative engagement in regional Australia. How amazing we can mark 80 years as we look towards the next decades."

- Ros Abercrombie, Executive Director, Regional Arts Australia

LINKS

Campaign link: pledgeadot.raisely.com

More information regionalarts.com.au/about/80-years

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