



ESPERANCE COMMUNITY ARTS INC.

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Department of Culture and the Arts



MEDIA RELEASE: Esperance Community Arts Secures Triennial Funding

04 March 2014: Esperance Community Arts (ECA) has successfully secured \$129,888 (\$43,296 each year for three years) through Country Arts WA's Core Arts Fund 2014-16 to support its ongoing operations.

This funding follows another positive outcome with the Shire of Esperance confirming matching funding over the same time with half of the money given to The Cannery Arts Centre to facilitate the running of the centre.

Over the last two years ECA has actively partnered with over thirty local community groups including Skill Hire, Escare, The Cannery Arts Centre, Seniors Recreation Council, Disability Services Commission, Esperance Nyungar Aboriginal Corporation, BOICO, Nulsen Community Progress Association, Esperance Regional Forum and various other local arts groups and individuals.

ECA Chairperson Thuriyya Ibrahim said that ECA supports local artists and community groups and promotes arts activities.

"We feel it is really important to encourage participation in creative activities to nurture a sense of belonging and inclusion in the Esperance community.

"Our executive officer, Jane Mulcock, has worked hard in the last two years to grow our volunteer committee to 14 and to provide an affordable gallery space for local artists and community groups with a busy schedule of exhibitions booked for 2014.

"With the continuation of Country Arts WA's funding, ECA can continue to support community development and engagement through the arts through Pathway to the Arts," Ms Ibrahim said.

ECA also helps local organisations and individuals source funding to support their own arts initiatives, with a number of successful projects undertaken with ECA's help. The *Pound Pooches* project, an initiative of Shire ranger Heather Beswick, is an example of how ECA has helped turn an idea into reality.

Jessica Machin, CEO of Country Arts WA said "The Core Arts Fund is the cornerstone of success for regional arts organisations as it provides essential operational funding. Esperance Community Arts is the peak arts body for the Goldfields-Esperance region and this funding will ensure it can continue to foster strong community partnerships and provide an annual program of arts events for its community"

The Core Arts Fund is delivered by Country Arts WA through State Government funding from the Department of Culture and the Arts.

The grant comes with a condition that in 2014 a review of the structure of arts funding in Esperance is conducted. ECA will work closely with all parties to ensure arts funding is used to maximise benefit to the Esperance community.

For more information about the variety of programs run by ECA contact Jane Mulcock on 9072 1158 or admin@esperancecommunityarts.org.au.

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For more information or to organise a photo opportunity contact:

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Esperance Community Arts – Shop 8, Museum Village, 54 Dempster Street ESPERANCE

Opening hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am – 2pm, Wednesday: 1pm – 5pm, Market Days: 10am – 1pm