

(AD Summit Highlights Launch speech. Running currently approx 8-9 mins)

## (Introduction)

Hello everyone. I'm very happy today to be on Wongai land, in my hometown of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, to invite you to join us to step across the edge, get a piece of the action & return with a vision of the arts.

Every two years the Regional Arts Australia Summit offers us all a moment to pause, a time to think on sustainability, on futures and to share our successes. This year we will meet in the red dust, wildflowers and desert rockholes of outback Western Australia.

In 2014 the Summit is called Arts & Edges. Australians thrive on the edges of our country, but many of us also live and work away from the coastal fringe, in our nation's heart. This idea - What is at the centre? What is at the edges? And what are the possibilities? - is at the core of Arts & Edges.

At the edge of anything - oceans, cultures - we find things changing, things merging and some things staying the same. In Arts & Edges this idea is explored by three topics: Fulcrum, Flux and Flow.

A **fulcrum** is the point on which a lever pivots. This is about current realities for regional communities, the solid ground we stand on as we reach for the future. It's about how to leverage an idea in reality and raise bridges across divides.

**Flux** refers to the many significant changes which are happening in our towns and communities. Things are uncertain, moving, and change is the only constant. We ask: What is happening? And what are the possibilities?

**Flow** is about the movement of things; people, culture and information. It is a hopeful topic - a chance to think in terms of rivers, streams and changes over time. Creative people across the country keep on finding ways to thrive.

To spark up the fire of these ideas we have invited leading artists, thinkers and community innovators to share their approaches and work with us, and I am delighted to be able to announce our program highlights.

## (Opening Spectacular)

To start us off, the opening Spectacular will be directed by the wonderful Theaker von Ziarno of Carnarvon.

This will include an Aboriginal welcome, food theatre with Don Hancey, musical performances and opportunities for meeting people. Right away we will be part of a rich and distinct experience.

## (Keynotes)

Our Keynotes are an inspiring mix of leaders with diverse practice and deep specialties.

Brian Ritchie, Curator of Hobart's edgy annual contemporary music festival, MONA FOMA, will be a keynote at Arts & Edges. Brian will invigorate us with his first-hand account of the arts boosting Tasmania as a world-class cultural destination.

Yes

Our special guests from Jogjakarta, Iwan Effendi and Maria Tri Sulistyani of Papermoon Theater lead one of Indonesia's new-school arts companies, known for taking on hot topics about conflict and inclusion to encourage regional engagement and cross-cultural dialogue.

Our international guests Mella Jaarsma and Nindityo Adipornomo founded Cemeti Art House in Indonesia. They work extending the role of creative professionals in society. For them, art is not only about producing objects to show but to make art in which the public takes an active part.

Our amazing keynote Genevieve Grieves is a Koori woman from NSW. Her work includes film-making for SBS' First Australians and Lead Curator of Bunjilaka - the Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Museum Victoria. Gen's work shaping complex stories is leading our Australian storytelling today.

And we can soar with one of Australia's best directors, Lindy Hume, from Opera Queensland, an advocate of international leadership and excellence in regional arts, who is recognised for fresh interpretations of organisations including the Sydney Festival and Perth International Arts Festival.

Beyond the Keynotes, we are putting together an unforgettable experience for you. The program of Arts & Edges is all in easy walk, so you and your friends can get around independently and safely with a variety of mobilities.

### **(Aboriginal Arts & Culture)**

Aboriginal arts and cultures are with us all the way, from the welcome to Country to the closing ceremony. Highlights include Dahlia (Dalisa) Pigram of Marrugeku, Western Desert Kidney Health Project, Sand Tracks, talks by Indigenous leaders and an Aboriginal art market. Gary Cooper is the Aboriginal creative producer.

Showcasing work from regional WA is a focus. We are proud to announce that we will be featuring a work by DADAA which builds connection in WA FIFO-connected communities.

Titled FIVE includes epic digital work by Craig Walsh, sculpture by Hiromi Tango, Alex Mickle and Nicole Mickle.

### **(Hyperlocal Showcase)**

Arts & Edges has partnered with Artgold to support three home-grown Kalgoorlie-Boulder hyperlocal projects.

The Burning, a creative history with WA's Black Swan Theatre and Stage Left theatre of Boulder.

Fossick's Art2Go is a twilight market, featuring local art and craft works for sale.

and

Under A Red Sky is a musical-visual experience from the red heart of Australia, by Lynn Hazelton, Lorrae Coffin and Ange Leech.

---

We are showcasing work from right across WA.

From the tropical north comes Gudirr Gudirr, by Murrageku and Stalker with Dahlia (Dalisa) Pigrim, named for the Broome shorebird which calls at the turning of the tide.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre presents Farm, a rural story celebrating running through the fields and doing 'bombies' into the dam.

Solace + Yearning by Annette Carmichael explores our longing to connect to the natural world and our history in this land.

From the central desert comes woodworking and weaving from Tjuntjuntjara and a pumping music and media hub from Wilurarra Creative.

Gascoyne physical theatre sends us flying with whale sharks and other circus delights, whilst Arts Narrogin shares a WILD installation of textile flowers.

And from right here in Kalgoorlie-Boulder comes sumptuous vintage musical theatre by the Goldfields Repertory Club.

---

As well as great art, there are lots of different ways to be inspired and experience new ideas:

### **(Arts Practice Power Up)**

Got an arts emergency? What about an arts fitness plan? Come and get 'triaged' into the right support for you and see your Arts Practice get Powered Up! A one-stop-shop for all your burning questions. Find that special advice from specialist experts.

### **(Make & Do)**

We have asked people right across Australia: What would you like people to make & do with you? They have responded with workshops, excursions and more activities. Make & Do is about doing stuff: making and breaking things, crafting, moving and experiencing, tasting and touching.

## **(Panels)**

We will be discussing ideas and case-studies about regional arts from right across the country through a series of panels and Sum-It-Up 20X20 Sessions. These are opportunities to sink your teeth into ideas and stories.

## **(Special Agents)**

For people who want to program rather than be programmed, a team of Special Agents will also enable anyone with a topic and a convenor to present their Summit session.

## **(Open Summit)**

On the Saturday we are presenting a public arts and cultural festival, open and accessible to everyone including you. Meet the people of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Goldfields, you can even join the final scene of filming KBVID - an epic lip-sync video by local movers and shakers.

## **(Eat & Drink)**

It's a lot to take in isn't it? Don't worry, throughout the Summit; Arts & Edges food masters will be making all of our food, local and fresh from the air, lands, seas and fires of WA. We know the arts sector marches on their stomachs.

## **(Journeys & Tracks)**

Before and after Arts & Edges there are chance-of-a-lifetime voyages. Ride the rails, smell the wildflowers, feel a salt lake under your feet at the Gormley's, hear the desert finches, taste the tucker and smell thunderclouds on the vast horizons. This is a chance to experience Big Sky Australia.

## **(Conclusion and wrap-up)**

I'm happy invite you to join us, to step across the edge, get a piece of the action & return with a vision of the arts.

Come for the illuminating keynotes the space to think and the people to meet. You will be surprised by the elegance of the place, inspired by the power and diversity of Australian regional arts, boosted by the opportunities to make connections and you will feel recharged for the next two years.

Take a moment to pause, to share our successes and to think on the future. Come to Arts & Edges to become part of the future of arts and culture in regional Australia.