



Media Release

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Riverland art students to be invited to participate in Rose Festival

The Renmark Rose Festival has received yet another major boost with the announcement this week that it will get an additional \$9,415 grant from ArtsSA to fund an outdoor art exhibition by local artists during this year's Rose Week.

It is the third grant to be received by the Festival in less than three weeks.

The first (\$4,970) was to fund the co-ordination and stage the inaugural Renmark Rose Festival Sculpture Exhibition and to engage a professional artist to work with the community to create a permanent public sculpture for the township of Renmark.

Announced by Mr Steve Grieve, chairman of Country Arts SA, the latest grant will be to fund the development of 12 - 3D sculptures by students and local artists for display during the Rose Festival.

Mr Grieve said that expressions of interest will be sought from 12 local artists, including students from four Riverland High Schools, to submit sculptural pieces for exhibition in a special area at Rustons Roses, the home of the National Rose Collection of Australia.

In addition the Minister of Tourism, the Hon Jane Lomax Smith, has also granted an additional \$2,000 for the marketing and promotion of the event.

Chairman of the Renmark Rose Festival, Mrs Helen Slade, said the funding for the two projects was a major boost for the Rose Festival, which was celebrating its 13th year.

"The Renmark Rose Festival is Renmark's signature event and was growing in stature each year," she said.

"The Festival has previously supported local arts and craft groups to display their works, however, the aim of this project is to introduce a major art focus into the

Festival programme. This will keep the Festival dynamic and encourage more of the community to become actively involved in the programme.

“Current 3D artists in the region will have an opportunity to showcase their work and 2D artists have the opportunity to expand their skill. In addition it will provide a new arts focus for the community as an audience, by increasing general awareness and appreciation of sculpture and public art.”

Mrs Slade said that part of the funding would be used to secure the services of a curator to provide knowledge and guidance required to stage an art exhibition at this level and of this type.

“This will to ensure high quality exhibition and inject a bigger and long term focus into the festival program and allow for artists at different levels to be involved

“Through the collaboration of students, businesses and general community the activity will promote greater community awareness, appreciation of and participation in this artist activity.

“We have decided to stage the exhibition at Rustons Rose Gardens which has high “people traffic” throughout the festival. We feel roses and the arts complement each other as, more specifically, do gardens and sculpture.

“We believe that as well as attracting the targeted audience of rose and art lovers it will also attract an incidental audience.

“The introduction of this additional component to the Festival will allow the event to attract new sponsors as well as maintain our existing sponsorship base,” Mrs Slade said.

“Our committee is also currently negotiating with the Renmark Paringa Council for them to acquire a permanent piece from the exhibition to be housed at the newly built Council offices.

“The contribution of both these public artworks to the township is also the beginning of a proposed public arts trail in Renmark. The Rose Festival Committee aims to continue with this programme each year and hopes to donate a piece of public art yearly to the public arts trail.” Mrs Slade said.

The exhibition will be officially opened to the public on Friday October 19. The launch event will include a “regional produce” dinner and be part of the popular Riverland Renaissance – Food and Wine Festival.

For further information please call Anne Ruston on 08 858 66191 or 0419 806 116.