

December 2020

NEW ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITATOR APPOINTED IN BURRA

Since 1999, Country Arts SA has been partnering with local councils to bring Arts and Cultural Facilitator roles to regional South Australia in towns that have flourished under their creative expertise.

This month Country Arts SA with Regional Council of Goyder will appoint Yankunytjatjara artist and poet Ali Cobby Eckermann to the position of Art and Cultural Facilitator based in Burra. Ali was raised on Ngadjuri country at Hart, now living in Koolunga, where she established Australia's first Aboriginal Writers Retreat.

Ali holds a long love and respect for the Arts previously managing an Art Centre in the Simpson Desert and a graduate from Tauondi Aboriginal College in Visual Arts (photography). She studied creative writing at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in Alice Springs. Ali is the first Aboriginal Australian writer to attend the International Writing Program in Iowa USA receiving a Windham Campbell Award from Yale University in 2017.

Arts and Cultural Facilitators assist with the development of activities, projects and programs in consultation with local communities, arts and cultural groups and regional artists to build community capacity through arts and cultural funding opportunities, disseminating information about arts and cultural initiatives, building and sustaining networks and collaborating with relevant non arts sectors to assist cultural development outcomes.

Country Arts SA Chief Executive/Executive Producer Anthony Peluso said, "Arts and Cultural Facilitator partnerships open a whole new world for communities and local artists. Existing partnerships have resulted in new exhibitions, performances, projects, and cultural celebrations; more artists developing their practice and being connected statewide, with pathways opening up for young creatives and greater community engagement. We are delighted to have creative expert Ali Cobby Eckermann join us in this position with the Regional Council of Goyder. We can't wait to see what this connection delivers in 2021."

Regional Council of Goyder Chief Executive Officer David J Stevenson said, "We are thrilled to welcome Ali Cobby Eckermann to our team. As the Arts and Cultural Facilitator, Ali will be able to drive the ideas and vision of our community and advance our commitment to making a difference to how we engage and participate in the ongoing development of arts and culture in the Goyder region."

Eckermann's appointment is the fifth Country Arts SA Arts and Cultural Development Officer state-wide.

Media enquiries: Helene Sobolewski helene.sobolewski@countryarts.org.au (08) 8444 0429 / 0436 689 157 or
Diana Maschio diana.maschio@countryarts.org.au (08) 8444 0424