



For immediate release

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## Portland artist rewarded for cultural development work

Six artists, arts workers, organisations and volunteers were recognised for their work in creating, delivering and presenting cultural activity in regional Victoria at Regional Arts Victoria's biennial symposium in Lakes Entrance on Saturday 5 May 2007.

Portland artist Carmel Wallace received the Contemporary Cultural Development Award to acknowledge innovation in engaging participants and audiences for community cultural activities.

The RAVE Award panel noted that Carmel's work on the *Great South West Arts Walk* demonstrated breadth and excellence in concept development and project execution in a regional location. The Great South West Arts Walk involved nine artists, selected for their affinity with the natural environment, to walk the 250km Great South West-Walk in March 2006. Attracting the participation of a diverse cross-section of individuals and groups within the community, from the arts and non-arts sectors, Carmel has worked through the arts to stimulate broad conversation about wider social issues.

Carmel's work has been selected for national exhibitions including The Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW. She is represented by Gallery 101 in Melbourne where she has had a number of solo exhibitions. Her work has been acquired by a number of collections including the National Gallery of Australia and the State Library of Victoria.

"We congratulate all the RAVE Award winners. Without the work of these people we would not have the vibrant, connected art communities we see in Victoria today." said Director of Regional Arts Victoria, Lindy Bartholomew. "Regional Arts Victoria is pleased to present these new awards which reflect the activities and objectives of organisations and individuals who deliver arts and cultural activities in regional Victoria."

RAV is well-regarded for its leadership within the arts sector in Victoria and is acknowledged as one of the state's 12 major cultural institutions. It is proud of its reputation as a contemporary, inventive and responsive organisation working with vision, passion and flair and with a strong understanding of the challenges and aspirations of the communities in regional Victoria.

Since 1990 RAV has awarded certificates of recognition acknowledging outstanding dedication and service to the arts in communities across Victoria. To date over 80 people have been nominated by their local arts group and received an award, including actress and singer Anne Phelan and the Bell Shakespeare Company.

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