



## South East Arts Media Release

For immediate release

### Screen Industry to grow in the region

South East Arts (SEA) has secured \$20,000 from Screen NSW to support screen industry development in the south east. The funding support comes from Screen NSW as part of \$160,000 worth of grants across 14 projects supporting the State's screen industry.

Acting Chief Executive of Screen NSW, Ms Grainne Brunson, said "Screen NSW is strongly committed to developing our State's screen industry through supporting the professional development of screen practitioners and providing audiences with new opportunities to engage with quality screen content."

SEA General Manager, Andrew Gray said the funding enables the organisation to further implement the first year of their recently launched three-year regional screen industry strategy, also recently developed with support of Screen NSW.

"Our goal is to build the capacity of screen professionals within the region, which in turn puts the south east on the industry radar. The first part of the strategy has already kicked off, we have developed an active network of industry professionals, an online resources database and have begun a series of professional development events."

The SEA Screen Industry Network gathered in Bega on 30 October to discuss career and film making in a regional context with Shirley Barrett, film director, screen writer and author. Shirley's credits include *Offspring*, *Love My Way*, *A Place to Call Home* and *Love Serenade*.

Bringing film and television productions to the south east is a key element of SEA's strategy. SEA recently ran a Screen Locations workshop in Jindabyne to help local photographers understand the requirements for location scouting and increase the presence of locations in the south east on Screen NSW's Reel Scout website. A further workshop will be run in Bega on 19 November with professional locations manager Colin McDougall whose credits include *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *The Code* and *Packed to the Rafters*.

Matt Carroll from Screen NSW explained the considerable benefits from location shooting of film, television and photographic productions in regional areas: "In October this year, an international fashion house used the high country, around Thredbo, as the location for their 2016 catalogue shoot. There is an immediate

economic impact from this type of location work, bringing crews and talent to the region – using local resources. There is also the future tourism benefit, as a landscape becomes known and recognised worldwide”.

Mr Gray asks, “If you are working in the screen industry, are seeking professional development in the field or can provide a service to the industry within the region, please get in touch with South East Arts.”

Next week, the SEA Screen Industry Advisory Committee will meet for the first time, in Bega, with a view to overseeing the first year of the strategy and the staging of a the SEA Screen Summit in the region in 2016. The committee consists of key players in the regional and national scene and includes Sydney Film Festival CEO Leigh Small, writer/director David Batty, filmmaker Lou Glover, producer Hiromi Matsuoko and cross-media specialist Bill Brown.

More information on the SEA Screen Industry Strategy can be found at [www.southeastarts.org.au](http://www.southeastarts.org.au) or contact SEA on 64920711.