

Letters of Support for *The Creative Catalogue*

Lyndon Hallows, artist and facilitator (former contracted artist for Central West Tours)



28-10-21

To the RADF Grants Team,

I would like to express my support for Melinda Wells in her application for Concept Development funding through the Regional Arts Development Fund to manifest a project I believe will be of unique value to the cultural enrichment of the Sunshine Coast. I lend my trust to this project being of immeasurable worth, both in terms of historical documentation and in the enrichment of living and active artists.

I have come to know Melinda as an innovative and passionate collaborator, professional, and deeply warm human being. She has a naturally open charisma and ability to connect with everyone, regardless of their state of being, benefit, need or position. Through the numerous projects we have collaborated on together, she has been a surprisingly undaunted source of brilliance when things could have gone a "bit dull or actually disastrous".

We have worked together as artists on projects through RADF funding that I would be proud to claim as the most significant work I've ever done - under her inspirational motivation. When we arrived in central Queensland, specifically at multiple Outback Festivals in Winton and Blackall, she was the driver. Through her unyielding engagement with local youth burgeoning on otherwise 'weird and awkward' opportunities in the fields of music, performance and visual art, we delivered ways for regional communities to experience the true authenticity and talent of their young voices and collective expression. In all my experience, what Melinda was able to pull forward from the youth of regional communities was genuinely beautiful.

As a visual arts facilitator, I've never worked with a musician, performer and vocal instructor as versatile and able to cross boundaries as Melinda. In my experience with her, she never saw a difference in the vision or philosophy for the project 'at large' or let it be a limitation to our cumulative ability to give the community a wholeness. To be completely honest, her ideas for our visual art concepts went far and above her part of the contract we had. She is a true creative savant.

In this understanding, I cannot recommend anyone more than her to meet the regiment of criteria for her approval for this grant. Her passion is coupled with her intelligence and experience - and I know she would never undertake a project that she does not feel able to deliver upon, even if it may lead to a desire for further investigation. She will bind people and find pathways to valuable expression and communication that make the world feel more meaningful. And I would be dumbfounded if you do not find what I found; a person completely and utterly in love with the nature of the human story and it's unfolding pathways.

With kind regards,

Lyndon Hallows
LYNDON.HALLOWS@GMAIL.COM

LYNDONHALLOWS.COM



18 Quay St, Bundaberg Q 4670
PO Box 44, Bundaberg Q 4670
07 4153 1218



1 November 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Melinda Wells – The Creative Catalogue

Creative Regions supports the application by Melinda Wells to deliver the concept development project titled *'The Creative Catalogue'*.

Creative Regions is a multi-arts organisation committed to connecting communities and delivering creative experiences. In 2017, Creative Regions engaged Melinda to deliver *'Songbirds of Childers'*, a singer/songwriter program for residents of the Childers region. Fourteen women came together, shared intimate personal stories which were then created and performed publicly with national media coverage.

That project showcased Melinda's talents for project management, artist engagement, participant encouragement and support, execution and delivery on expected outcomes and a genuine interest in supporting emerging artists.

Since this project, Melinda has committed to study to improve these skills and we are delighted to be able to support her application which will put storytelling and music forefront, an extension of her past practice combined with her further education which residents of the Sunshine Coast area will greatly benefit from.

It is our experience that real legacy work is built by capturing the narratives and history of local community members and sharing these stories with the broader community in creative ways, establishing greater understanding and empathy of different sectors of our region, especially with seniors.

Creative Regions will provide project management support and advice in-kind to Melinda and her fellow applications to the value of \$1500.

Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact me by email: di@creativeregions.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dianne Wills'.

Dianne Wills
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Empower. Embrace. Experiment



29 October 2021

Ms Melinda Wells
Melinda.Wells@research.usc.edu.au
www.melindajnewells.com

Dear Melinda,

Re: Regional Arts Development Fund

I am delighted to provide this letter of support for your application to the Regional Arts Development Fund, which will facilitate the development of your creative concept in performative biographies.

Having worked with you on several public engagement and performance initiatives, including coordinating music afternoons at the Be/ComLink social enterprise café "Common Ground" in 2018 and 2019, it is exciting to see your experience in regional arts projects continuing to grow and diversify since you arrived on the Sunshine Coast and commenced your music degree here at USC four years ago.

Throughout your undergraduate studies, it was an asset to have you as a music teacher developing and delivering our popular community short courses – Ukes Alive! And also, Ukes Alive 2! Your commitment and skill in devising positive, locally-empowered creative programs is well demonstrated, and evidenced in our student feedback and ongoing participation.

I commend you on your creative work, research interests in professional development of creatives, and ongoing commitment and enthusiasm for the potential of regional arts. I have no hesitation in supporting your RADF application, which will pilot the concept of retaining important collective memories through performance, and build the social capital of a more connected and arts-engaged community for the Coast.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eva-Marie Seeto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr Eva-Marie Seeto
Director
Office of Engagement

Veronica Taylor, Child Protection Week Action Group

I support Melinda Wells in her application for Concept Development funding through the Regional Arts Development fund as she successfully assisted a Music Project for young people at risk with community agencies in Bundaberg in 2018, achieving the goals for the project as well as providing individual opportunities for the some of the young people involved.

Melinda Wells and her team of photographer and sound recording expert worked with Bundaberg Child Protection Week Action Group and young people from supporting community agencies to create a signature jingle for our CPWAG mascot, Sunny, during a five day workshop at Central Queensland University campus. As a member of CPWAG, it was a valuable learning experience working with Melinda who assisted us in applying for grants with her extensive knowledge in this area and then observing her organizational and engagement skills with both young people and supporting adults. Her wide network of contacts within the music industry and local community was also very useful. She has excellent planning abilities and evaluated daily to plan for the next day.

Melinda was able to share her musical talents with a wide range of young people in terms of their talent, abilities and emotional needs. She rapidly recognised each young persons' strengths so they were included in the an aspect of the project. I believe she would be able to do the same with an older group of participants and value their stories. It was a very rewarding week to watch the group learn and develop and take individual risks and make significant personal gains, as well as community agency staff developing links. The project also demonstrated the benefits of five consecutive days of creativity with a closing concert. Melinda and her team then attended the Annual Child Protection Week Dinner to showcase the jingle and other songs with a slideshow.

Melinda's personality allows her to engage with all age groups and she carefully chose her team members to supplement their effort. She recognises the value of presenting the result to the participants and their families and support staff.

I am confident Melinda Wells and her team would create a unique catalogue and performance which will be meaningful to participants and audience.

Majorie Blowers, Diversity and Inclusion, University of the Sunshine Coast

From: Marjorie Blowers <MBlowers@usc.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 1 November 2021 1:01 PM
To: Melinda Wells <Melinda.Wells@research.usc.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Hello from Melinda

To whom it may concern,

I support Melinda Wells in her application for Concept Development funding through the Regional Arts Development fund.

I have known Melinda for many years as a friend, colleague and employee. Her work and dedication to Diversity and Inclusion and using her creative skills to not only display this but also live it through music and lyrics is quite incredible. This multifaceted approach to educate individuals and communities about diversity and the importance of creating inclusive communities for all has left a lasting imprint on us at USC and also the greater community.

Melinda led a group of music students to write a song called No-one Stands Alone for our Diversity Week celebrations and a second song called We Sing One Song for the Sunshine Coast Multicultural Network as a theme song for Harmony Week 2019. Melinda has also led creative workshops as part of International Women's Day at USC Campuses, music jams and lyrical workshops for students and was stage host and MC for Sunshine Coast Pride Festival in 2019 (just to name a few).

I 100% support Melinda Wells in her application for Concept Development funding through the Regional Arts Development fund. It would be such as asset to the community.

Kindest Regards
Marjorie

Marjorie Blowers

My Pronouns are she/her/hers and or they/theirs/them [Learn about pronouns](#)

Diversity Officer
Community Engagement
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mblowers@usc.edu.au
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Working Days Monday Tuesday and Wednesday

Helen Dawson, Songbirds of Childers (former project participant)

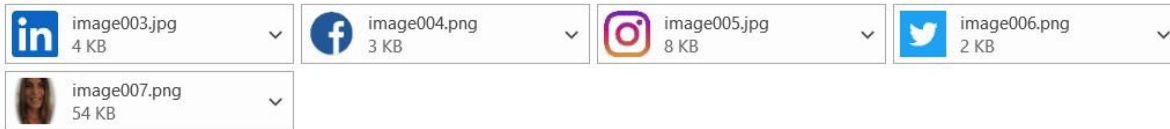


Helen Dawson <peacefulangel328@gmail.com>
To Melinda Wells

Reply Reply All Forward

Thu 28/10/2021 1:04 PM

Follow up. Start by Thursday, 28 October 2021. Due by Thursday, 28 October 2021.
You replied to this message on 28/10/2021 4:45 PM.



Hi Melinda, I am happy to do a support letter for you. See as follows..

To whom it may concern,

My name is Helen Dawson and I have had the pleasure of working with Melinda J Wells in a songwriting workshop in which she was the main facilitator. This workshop was based in Childers and was open to all singer songwriters in the area.

I went along not knowing what to expect at the time. Melinda made everybody feel welcome and comfortable with their abilities and the workshop was fun and exciting.

I gained so much knowledge and confidence with the experience, that I have continued to write songs and have performed some of these songs in the public forum.

If I did not do the workshop I would never of had the courage or ability to move forward.

The workshops for country and regional areas are greatly needed to give people the means to follow their dreams. Being from a country area you feel isolated and you don't know where or how to find others who are interested in the same things.

I am excited for Melinda and her quest to open up creative avenues that would not be available if it were not for grants to assist in these areas.

Thank you.
Helen Dawson

Derek Foster, musician and current PhD candidate USC Creative Industries

RE: Would you be willing to write me a support email?



Derek Fosters <bliblifosters@aapt.net.au>
To 'Melinda Wells'

Reply Reply All Forward

Mon 1/11/2021 5:22 AM

Melinda,
Here are some words..... I hope this is OK.

I support Melinda Wells in her application for Concept Development funding through the Regional Arts Development fund as I feel a project such as this is vital in providing intergenerational transference of knowledge of place and the wisdom gained from life experiences. It is also important in providing social affirmation of the contribution of our seniors for their role in constructing the communities we enjoy today.

I know Melinda in a professional capacity as a songwriter and performer and we work together as a performing duo to provide entertainment for a wide range of audiences on the Sunshine Coast, which includes a specific show for seniors. Melinda is extremely competent at managing our promotions and does the artwork and social media necessary to ensure our product is well represented and distributed.

Melinda has a warm and engaging personality and connects easily to our audiences. I feel she is well equipped both technically and personally to manage a project such as she is proposing.

Warm regards

Derek Foster

Musician, counsellor and PhD candidate at the University of Sunshine Coast.