

Media Release

Ms Danielle Green MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Sport

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria



Friday, 29 April 2022

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST BOOK TRADING FAIR RETURNS

Visitors and locals will be able to enjoy a weekend of books and storytelling as the famous Booktown Festival returns to Clunes this month.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria Danielle Green today launched the Clunes Booktown Festival in western Victoria - one of more than 70 grant recipients backed by funding through the Andrews Labor Government's \$1 million *Regional Community Events Fund*.

The Fund supports community groups, local councils and small-scale event organisers with grants up to \$25,000 for small-scale events and festivals held across the state.

Returning for the first time since 2019, the Clunes Booktown Festival kicks off on 30 April and runs until 1 May 2022. The festival features Australia's largest collection of rare, out of print and collectable books for sale, showcased in and around the main street in Clunes.

The festival also features writers talks, storytelling sessions and live entertainment to celebrate reading and writing.

Booktown was first held in 2007 and attracts thousands of visitors each year, along with more than 50 specialist book traders. Not-for-profit organisation Creative Clunes operates the festival and aims to engage with communities through books and storytelling.

The *Regional Community Events Fund* is part of the Labor Government's targeted support for local communities to come together safely to help Victoria recover from the pandemic and come back stronger than ever. The Fund is administered by Visit Victoria, which is well-connected to regional-based event organisers.

The *Regional Community Events Fund* complements the \$20 million *Regional Events Fund*, a commitment to bring blockbuster events to Victoria's regions as part of the \$633 million *Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan*. For more information visit rdv.vic.gov.au/rcef

Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria Danielle Green

"I am excited to see Clunes Booktown Festival return this year because it will attract more visitors to this great little town and support local businesses."

"We are backing regional events like this one to encourage more Victorians to explore more of our state."