

Community Engagement for SHEDS

The SHEDS touring team brings extensive experience in education, facilitation and community engagement, with more than 10 years' experience working across schools, regional communities, adult learning, creative participation and performance settings.

A post-show Q&A with the artists is included with every performance.

SHEDS offers a range of flexible community engagement opportunities that can be tailored to local audiences, venues and regional priorities. These include creative workshops, media workshops and pop-up performances

1. Creative Workshops

a. Songwriting & Music Creation

Interactive workshops exploring rhythm, storytelling and music-making inspired by the sounds, stories and atmosphere of the shearing shed. Suitable for local music groups, bands, individuals, schools, choirs or in conjunction with any other organised groups/collaborators. Can be tailored as introductory creative sessions, collaborative workshops, or residency-style developments.

b. Playing in a Band/ Performance Collaboration

An opportunity for local musicians, school bands or community ensembles (including local musical repertory clubs) to engage directly with the project.

Options may include:

- Local pre-show performances
- collaborative performances
- side-by-side learning experiences
- mentorship with professional artists

Ideal for:

- school music programs
- community bands
- repertory clubs / musical organisations
- youth music organisations

This creates local ownership and strengthens audience connection.

c. School incursions & Regional Residencies

SHEDS can be accompanied by school workshops, artist talks or longer regional residencies. We are well aware that many schools in the regions don't have existing music teachers in place, some not even on the radar for the future. With this in mind, longer

residencies can be negotiated to allow incursions into the schools to allow some teaching/mentoring and hands-on experiences in music-making, storytelling, creative mentorship, performance demonstrations and hands-on instrument experiences.

d. Storytelling & Media Workshop 1 - Podcasting & Documentary Audio Storytelling with Leith Alexander

Led by regional filmmaker and storyteller Leith Alexander, this practical workshop introduces participants to audio storytelling and documentary-making using accessible tools. It includes a presentation about Leith's journey and regional podcasting work.

Participants explore:

- storytelling through sound
- interviewing and listening skills
- recording quality audio using phones or simple devices
- capturing atmosphere and environmental sound
- structuring compelling short stories
- creating audio works connected to community and place

Format: 2 hour practical workshop \$450

Suitable for: schools, youth groups, community organisations, regional storytellers, agricultural communities

e. Storytelling & Media Workshop 2 - Documentary Photography & Visual Storytelling with Leith Alexander

A workshop exploring photography as storytelling, observation and documentation of everyday regional life.

Topics may include:

- visual storytelling
- finding stories in local communities
- creative observation
- documentary practice
- developing artistic voice
- creating authentic regional narratives

Format options: 60–90 minute artist talk / presentation \$350

Optional 2 hour session if cameras available for practical work \$400

Suitable for schools, community participants, youth creatives and local storytellers.

2. Community Activations & Pop-Up Performances

Site Activation Opportunities

This is an opportunity for communities that take the project on a tour to activate a space that they think is pertinent to the Performance /Production. An example would be a large shearing shed or undercover saleyards. This would include local groups to provide food and operate a bar with proceeds going to them. This reaches further into the community and emphasising the experience more

Potential locations include:

- shearing sheds
- undercover saleyards
- agricultural colleges
- town squares
- community halls
- outdoor regional spaces

These activations can create broader community participation opportunities, including partnerships with:

- local farming organisations
- community groups
- volunteer organisations
- food vendors
- fundraising groups

This creates a larger event experience around the performance while strengthening local ownership.

Inclusive Community Engagement

SHEDS can offer adapted popup performances.

- Agricultural colleges (with a local shearing contractor/shearing conducting a talk with VET teachers).
- aged care communities
- seniors groups
- adult disability groups
- school-aged disability groups
- low-sensory or accessible participation contexts

Formats may include:

- artist talks
- hands-on instrument exploration
- adapted workshops
- As well as a popup performance

Tailored Engagement

We welcome conversations with presenters about bespoke engagement programs aligned with local priorities, communities and partnerships. Options may range from single workshops to multi-day residencies and cross-sector collaborations.