



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**22 February 2022**

**Connect @ Gunning Station project signals new opportunities for the Southern Tablelands**

Southern Tablelands Arts is working with Transport for NSW and the Gunning community to make the disused spaces at Gunning Train Station available for arts and cultural purposes.

Gunning Station is still a working station for NSW TrainLink customers with daily XPT services, but the historic Station building itself has been unmanned for some time.

Once open in mid 2022, **Connect @ Gunning Station** is set to become a mecca for cultural experiences and opportunities and an arts hub within the Upper Lachlan region. Expect exhibitions, heritage displays, programs, events, workshops, community meetings and gatherings.

Transport for NSW is leading the project to restore the historic Gunning station buildings. It has been a careful and painstaking process to restore the heritage buildings to bring them back to life for the community. The Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) is also a key stakeholder and supporter of the project. Work is progressing on site with the restoration anticipated to be completed in May.

Southern Tablelands Arts is the peak body coordinating arts and cultural development in the region. They are part of the statewide network of Regional Arts Development Organisations supported by the NSW Government.

Susan Brindle, President of Southern Tablelands Arts said “Having the **Connect@Gunning Station** spaces available will provide wonderful opportunities to present artistic experiences to a regional audience and enhance the benefits of participating in arts and cultural activities for people in our region.”

Leslie Bush, President of the Gunning and District Historical Society said “The Gunning & District Historical Society are delighted that the buildings will be made available for community and cultural uses, we look forward to continuing work with Transport for NSW and Southern Tablelands Arts to present our heritage to the community.”

The Gunning Arts Festival committee will stage the inaugural exhibition to be held at **Connect@Gunning Station**. Margarita Georgiadis, Artistic Director for the Festival said, “SnapWrite’ Exhibition will be a photo story exhibition encapsulating the beauty of living in the Southern Tablelands region. The committee is inviting members of the community to submit photos that capture the essence of the region together with a few sentences about what the photo means to them.

For more information about **Connect@Gunning Station** with links to the Gunning and District Historical Society and SnapWrite please visit the STA website.

<https://www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au/connect-gunning-station/>

[www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au](http://www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au)

Southern Tablelands Arts acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands where we create, work and live. We recognise the strength and capacity of Aboriginal people and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We are part of the RADO Network, assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW. Our contributing local councils are Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Upper Lachlan Shire, Wingecarribee Shire, Wollondilly Shire and Yass Valley.



Connect@ Gunning Station – excited local officials, community members, STA representatives and Transport for NSW staff.

From left to Right: Graham Dyer President of the Gunning District Association, Colleen Worthy GM Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Clr John Stafford, Michelle Storey STA, Wendy Tuckerman Member for Goulburn, Rose Marin STA, Andrew Killingsworth TfNSW, Mike Coley Gunning Focus Group and Clr John Searl.

**End**

**Available for further comment:**

Rose Marin Executive Director of Southern Tablelands Arts on 0456 606 666

Southern Tablelands Arts is the peak arts and cultural agency for the Southern Tablelands region through its investment in and development of meaningful arts and cultural development programs and services.