

Friday 14 November 2025

## FORGET CANNES – WE’VE GOT THE ONE EYE FILM FESTIVAL

For some of us, being 17,200km away from Cannes is about as close as we’ll get to the French Riviera city and home to one of the world’s most prestigious film festivals. That said, there’s also a possibility that the Central West could be the starting point of that journey to a life of red carpet, canapes, Chandon, and cinematic greatness for one of our resident actors or filmmakers. And it might very well start from a short film screened at Dubbo’s very own, One Eye Film Festival.

2025 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year running for one of regional NSW’s largest community film festivals. In a world where most of us carry a mini filmmaking studio on us in the form of a mobile phone, the upcoming content creators of today may very well be the stars of tomorrow. One of these potential new up and comers is film director Lana McLaurin whose screenwork titled, *Dear Diary* is one of the 17 entries to be shown at the One Eye Film Festival 2025, on Saturday 22 November. It is the first time Lana’s work has been featured on the big screen.

Events like One Eye Film Festival give new content makers the platform to showcase their work. Sometimes, it is work they have learned to create from watching social media. “There’s a lot of resources out there that can really help with creating any form of content you want,” said Lana McLaurin. “Pretty much everyone wants to be an influencer nowadays. Even my mum is trying to be an influencer. Just watching reels can help you learn how to do creative editing techniques or learn how to do different shots and just get better at creating what you want to make.”

Lana and several of her friends collaborated to make *Dear Diary* with days and days of planning and rehearsing culminating in a film shoot lasting several hours to produce the short feature. “It was a long process, and it’s really encouraging to see that people who haven’t done anything within that industry can just pick it up and learn from YouTube or Instagram or whatever they find; just download a free app and create!”

The Australian Government’s new content quotas for streaming services like Netflix and Prime Video require at least 10 per cent of local expenditure or 7.5 per cent of local revenue to be spent on making Australian content. The move has been welcomed by industry as it opens new potential opportunities for filmmakers. Not all filmmakers are in the cities. There is a growing and healthy population of screen creatives right here in the Central West, in particular - Dubbo.

“Dubbo Filmmakers has always had an ambition to create Dubbo as a filmmaking city,” said Erifili Davis, Secretary and Treasurer of Dubbo Filmmakers. “We have great locations. We have tremendous talent both in front and behind the camera, and we’ve also been able to connect mainstream productions to that talent at different times.”

“Dubbo is not that far from Sydney, it’s less than an hour on a plane,” said Erifili Davis. “And just about everything is here, including fast internet, which is so important when you are dealing with media and data transfer. So, I think Dubbo has the opportunity to be the next great, filmmaking city in regional New South Wales.”

One of the region’s familiar faces behind the growing screen community is Daniel Rutter. With numerous credits to his name and an ever-growing work portfolio, Daniel has been making content across the region for nearly two decades. Two of his creations feature in this year’s One Eye Film Festival, and he’s encouraging others to ‘get out and create’. “Just grab the phone out of your pocket and get going. The simple camera app on the phone will get you going - just tell your story.”

It is some of those stories that will feature in a solid line-up of films being screened from 7:00pm at the Dubbo RSL Club on Saturday 22 November. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by visiting [www.dubbofilmmakers.com](http://www.dubbofilmmakers.com) – simply follow the links to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual, One Eye Film Festival 2025.

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