

Screen Australia and YouTube Australia announce Online Creators set to Skip Ahead

Wednesday 17 July 2024: Screen Australia and YouTube Australia have announced the four projects that will share in \$580,000 of production funding for the ninth instalment of the Skip Ahead Initiative. The recipients include brothers Lachlan and Austin Macfarlane (The Macfarlane Bros), comedian Jenny Tian (nomnomjenny), children's YouTube creators Amy Parry and Sara Taghaode (Rainbow Bop), and the team behind Esports content channel PWR.

The Skip Ahead recipients are attending a workshop this week, where they will develop their projects and hear from industry leaders and experts including acclaimed director Dr George Miller, comedian Jordan Raskopoulos, and scriptwriter Clare Atkins. Last year's recipient Lyanna Kea, behind [Life of Kea](#), will attend the workshop and share learnings from the program, and digital video strategists Changer Studios will also present a session on optimisation and building a YouTube presence.

First established in 2014, the Skip Ahead initiative aims to help storytellers with an existing audience on YouTube expand their creative ambitions. Since launching, Skip Ahead has supported 37 teams with over \$4.7 million to develop their skills and build their careers, with alumni including RackaRacka, Superwog, Wengie, Aunty Donna, Chloe Morello and Michael Shanks.

Head of Online and Games at Screen Australia, **Lee Naimo** said, "I'm so excited to support four very unique and distinctive projects this year across a diversity of genres, especially given Skip Ahead is pivotal in building the careers of so many prolific Australian creators."

"This is evident in the careers of its alumni with the RackaRacka filming their second feature off the back of their hugely successful debut feature *Talk To Me*, Michael Shanks working on a debut feature with Allison Brie and Dave Franco, and Aunty Donna continuing to build their production empire. This program doesn't just give teams the creative tools to make narrative content, it develops business acumen and sets them up to further expand their audience and impact on YouTube. It is wonderful to once again be partnering with YouTube to support exciting Australian talent."

Ed Miles, Director, YouTube Australia and New Zealand said, "YouTube is proud to continue our decade-long partnership with Screen Australia through the Skip Ahead initiative, which continues to empower the next generation of Australian creators. This year's four teams are a testament to the diversity and creativity thriving on YouTube, from hilarious comedies to heart-warming children's content. We're excited to see how these unique voices will captivate viewers across the world on YouTube, and further strengthen Australia's place as a hub for exceptional digital content."

The funded projects are:

- **PWR House - Making of Champion:** A 3 x 20-minute documentary profiling the explosive world of competitive gaming and content creation culture from the perspectives of some of Australia's biggest names in YouTube including Lachlan Power, *Fortnite* player Alex Richmond and influential figures like Kathleen Belsten 'Loserfruit' and other PWR creators. It is directed by Oliver Marshall and co-directed by Victoria Bush and produced by Clint Gough, Bryce Holloway and Kathleen Belsten, with Victoria Bush and YouTube creator Lachlan Power executive producing. The series will be released on the [PWR](#) YouTube channel.
- **Supermarket:** From comedians Jenny Tian and Patrick Golanco comes *Supermarket*, a 6 x 5-minute comedy series about an upper management supermarket employee acting as an undercover spy for their competitor, secretly rising through the ranks. When she is found out, she must escape the rage of both equally corrupt companies. The series is co-created by Tian and Golanco with Paige Wharehinga attached as producer. The series will be released on Jenny Tian's YouTube channel [nomnomjenny](#).
- **The Rainbow Bop Show:** A 6 x 5-minute live action series based on the YouTube channel Rainbow Bop. The all-puppet band members Stella, Sunny, Luna and Cloudia slide down their rainbow to earth to help kids having a "stormy day" and change their mood with music. Created by writer/director



Amy Parry and produced by Sara Taghaode the series will feature songs and storytelling. Emma Dean is attached as music director and song writer, and it will be released on the [Rainbow Bop](#) YouTube channel.

- ***The Worst That Could Happen***: A 6 x 5-minute anthology series where an ensemble of ordinary Gen-Zers are trapped in extraordinary supernatural situations which exploit their deepest anxieties. Written and directed by Lachlan and Austin Macfarlane, this set of cautionary tales, escapist adventures and thrilling mysteries humorously mix relatable issues with science fiction and horror. Skip Ahead alumni Rita Artmann ([Untrue Crime](#)) is attached as producer. The series will be produced by Haven't You Done Well Productions and will be released on the [Macfarlane Bros](#) YouTube channel.

SKIP AHEAD ALUMNI

Channel	Title	Funded
Lyanna Kea	Life of Kea	2023
Ella Watkins	You May Think I'm Joking (to be released)	2023
Fairbairn Films	Fairbairn in the City	2023
ArtSpear Entertainment	Untrue Crime	2023
Julian O'Shea	<i>Design Revolution</i> (to be released)	2023
Project One	Uncovering Street Dance: Australia	2023
Grouse House	Hot Department: Dark Web	2021
Looking Glass Universe	Quantum Experiments At Home	2021
Goodall & Gallagher	The Followers	2021
Saksham Magic	Unknown Filter	2021
Jenny Zhou	Celebration Nation	2020
Tibeas	Finding X	2020
Bush Tucker Bunjie	Long Black	2020
Beau Miles	Bad River: Adventure on Australia's Sickest Water	2020
Fishing the Wild	<i>Lord of the Macks</i> (to be released)	2020
Never Too Small	Small Footprint	2020
Neel Kolhatkar	Crossing the Line	2018
Fury Fingers	Love, Guns and Level Ups	2018
Piéra Forde	Nevernight	2018
Chloe Morello	YouTube Famous	2018
Van Vuuren Bros	Over and Out	2017
Study with Jess	Life of Jess	2017
Timtimfed	Rebooted	2017
Wengie	Parked	2017
Skit Box	Skit Box	2017
Superwog	The Superwog Show	2016
Charli's Crafty Kitchen	Crafty Kingdom	2016
RackaRacka	Stunt Gone Wrong (Live)	2016
BrainCraft	Mutant Menu	2016
The Roundabout Crew and Frenchy SungaAttack	The Australiana Hostel	2015



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

Aunty Donna	<u>1999</u>	2015
SketchShe	<u>Traffic Jam - The Musical</u>	2015
Draw with Jazza	<u>The Tale Teller</u>	2015
How to Cook That	<u>The Sweetest Thing</u>	2015
Axis of Awesome	<u>Axis All Areas</u>	2014
Mighty Car Mods	<u>Lend Us A Ride: Australia</u>	2014
Sexual Lobster	<u>Fernando's Legitimate Business Enterprise</u>	2014
Veritasium	<u>This Will Revolutionise Education</u>	2014
Neighbours	<u>Neighbours vs Zombies</u>	2014

ENDS

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