

## 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, Sara Taghaode and Emma Dean (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, 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



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

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

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