

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Wednesday 16 May 2018

GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL PROJECT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Electorate of Mallee's Gannawarra Shire Council has won an award at the 2018 National Awards for Local Government for its work delivering a range of arts programs to the region's smaller and more isolated communities.

Federal Member for Mallee Andrew Broad said the Gannawarra Shire Council has won the *Arts Animates – excellence in building vibrant and resilient communities* category which recognises councils creating opportunities and embracing diversity and social inclusion through celebrating art and culture in their communities.

"The project drew on local enthusiasm, dynamic community leadership and the availability of several small but unique halls to produce successful arts programs," he said.

"Through this project the shire council has delivered an outstanding program of arts events in very small communities with populations ranging from 168 in Leitchville to 3,893 in the Kerang district.

By fostering increased interest and involvement in the arts in smaller, more remote communities, this initiative has succeeded in bringing all residents of the shire closer."

Gannawarra Shire Council Mayor Brian Gibson said that it was a great honour for Council to win the *Arts Animates – excellence in building vibrant and resilient communities* category of the national awards.

"Small communities right across the Gannawarra Shire have embraced the opportunity to be involved in art and culture," he said.

"Council's Arts and Culture Officer, Kirsty Orr has been partnering with our small communities to host a range of theatre productions. This has been a fantastic way of facilitating partnerships within and between communities and has really added life to a lot of our smaller venues."

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“Council aims to continue to develop interest in arts and culture across its communities to further foster community partnerships, confidence and community pride.”

As one of the 10 category winners in the *2018 National Awards for Local Government*, Gannawarra Shire Council is now in line to win the *2018 National Award for Excellence in Local Government*.

The winner of the National Award for Excellence will be announced at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly Dinner in Canberra on Tuesday, 19 June 2018.

The *National Awards for Local Government* celebrate achievements of local councils in providing communities with innovative and resourceful solutions that make a meaningful difference.

Full list of category winners and highly commended projects:

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