



Local Government
Professionals
AUSTRALIA SA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA, SA

23RD ANNUAL
LEADERSHIP
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
AND COLLABORATION FINALISTS

23RD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Award Finalists EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

THANKS TO



P: 08 8226 8800 | **E:** enquiries@dhs.sa.gov.au | **W:** www.dhs.sa.gov.au

City of Holdfast Bay Signal Fires Team - Signal Fires: A Revival of Culture

For the first time in over 150 years, on Proclamation Day 2023 and in collaboration with Kurna Elders, the Kurna Firesticks team, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), the City of Holdfast Bay hosted a revival of Kurna knowledge and culture with the inaugural Signal Fires event. Three fires were lit by Kurna along the Gulf St Vincent, from Kingston Park to Brighton, a cultural practice that would have occurred in 1836 as the tall ships sailed along the Gulf, eventually arriving in Glenelg. Kurna and the Holdfast Bay community were all invited to attend and participate in the event.

The City of Holdfast Bay has worked collaboratively with the Kurna Nation over a four-year period to expand the inclusivity and focus of Proclamation Day, which marks the colonisation of South Australia in 1836. Together, the goal is to bring to the attention of their community the dual narratives of this day. In doing so, Council aims to provide further knowledge, truth-telling and education around colonisation and Aboriginal histories.

Long-term, the Signal Fires Event will be an annual offering on Proclamation Day in collaboration with the Kurna Nation. Delivery of this inaugural event marks the beginning of a wider strategy to include other southern Councils and communities, with the hope that the revival of culture through the practice of signal fires will stretch along the coast of South Australia. In doing so, Council and the Kurna Nation hope to encourage others to join this reconciliation journey, ultimately bridging gaps in the current divide between white Australia and Aboriginal communities, fostering a greater appreciation of the value of everyone's culture, story, and truth.

Overwhelming feedback from Kurna demonstrated how powerful the event was for them and how empowered they had felt to have been given the space and resource to talk about and demonstrate culture on their own terms.

Contact:

Adrian Hill

Manager of Community Safety, City of Holdfast Bay

P: 0417 802 931 | **E:** ahill@holdfast.sa.gov.au

23RD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Award Finalists EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

THANKS TO



P: 08 8226 8800 | **E:** enquiries@dhs.sa.gov.au | **W:** www.dhs.sa.gov.au

City of Victor Harbor Community and Development Team - Muwerang Mosaic Project

Through the passion and contributions of many, a large-scale, a high-quality art piece is now permanently and proudly displayed on Bay Road, Victor Harbor.

The Muwerang Mosaic is the City of Victor Harbor's largest collaborative public art project to date, made possible by the support of 50 volunteers, two artists, five benefactors, six venue providers, Council Members and numerous Council staff.

Over four years, concept planning, development and installation of the 36-metre-long artwork was undertaken. At the project's completion, the mosaic was installed on a previously plain balustrade, reducing instances of graffiti and showcasing a culturally significant art piece to motorists and pedestrians passing by. It was celebrated with a vibrant official opening event.

Ultimately, the Muwerang Mosaic is much more than tiles on a wall or beautification to Council's infrastructure. In fact, the project evolved over time to have an even deeper meaning that it originally set out to have. Now, in addition to sharing an important Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri dreamtime story, it represents a journey of collaboration, community, and commitment.

As pedestrians walk along the balustrade and connect with the mosaic, they can dive deeper into the meaning of the art via QR codes placed above each section. The QR codes link to a dedicated website page which was created by a volunteer and details the dreamtime story, as told by Cedric Varcoe.

The project has showcased the power and value of community partnerships in the delivery of a significant public art project and each day has the power to deepen the community's knowledge about the region's history, encouraging a greater understanding of First Nations places and people.

Contact:

Mia Stocks

Arts and Culture Facilitator, City of Victor Harbor

P: 0487 059 400 | **E:** mstocks@victor.sa.gov.au

23RD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Award Finalists EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

THANKS TO



P: 08 8226 8800 | **E:** enquiries@dhs.sa.gov.au | **W:** www.dhs.sa.gov.au

District Council of Orroroo Carrieton - Making a Splash for Health and Longevity Project

The Making a Splash for Health and Longevity project by the District Council of Orroroo Carrieton exemplifies a commitment to community well-being and underscores the importance of community engagement in successful project delivery. Originating from one individual's passion for swimming, the initiative has evolved into a comprehensive effort to provide equal access to the local pool for individuals over 60 in the mid north of South Australia.

Through strategic initiatives such as purchasing gradual entry steps, thermal mats, providing free Strength for Life Aqua classes, collaborating with key stakeholders and employing effective community engagement strategies, Council have helped to achieve a more healthy, connected and empowered community.

A critical factor contributing to the project's success was effective stakeholder engagement. The DCOC collaborated with key partners, including the Orroroo Health Service, Yorke and Northern Local Health Network Allied Health Team, Goyder's Line Medical, Council on the Ageing SA, and, notably, the local community. This collaborative approach not only yielded tangible results but also established a model for community-driven success that can be emulated in other regions.

As the project continues its 'trial' phase, the District Council of Orroroo Carrieton envisions its long-term sustainability. This project sets a positive example of how a grassroots initiative, supported by effective collaboration, can have a lasting impact on the health and vitality of a community.

The impact of the project has been noteworthy, with a remarkable 400% increase in attendance at morning lap swimming sessions, increased participation in structured aqua activities and positive feedback received relating to increased social activity of this demographic, boosting social connectedness.

Contact:

Lisa Slade

Grants Officer, District Council of Orroroo Carrieton

P: 08 8658 1260 | **E:** lisa.slade@orroroo.sa.gov.au