

Annual Grants funding announced for 49 recipients

Wagga Wagga City Council has supported 49 community led events, projects and programs through its 2025/26 Annual Grants Program.

At its Ordinary Meeting last night, Council endorsed allocating \$234,610.57 in funding across 10 grant categories including various events, along with youth-led, environmental, cultural, and sporting initiatives.

The Annual Grants Program this year attracted 94 applications in the following 10 categories: Community Programs & Projects; Recreational & Community Facilities; Neighbourhood & Rural Villages; Rural Halls; Arts, Culture & Creative Industries; Local Heritage; Events; Environment; Youth Programs & Projects; and Small Business.

Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Councillor Dallas Tout said the program's funding priorities continued to focus on areas within the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area that have high levels of social and community disadvantage.

"Many of our local community organisations, clubs, and businesses continue to feel the impacts of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis being experienced across the country," Cr Tout said.

"This is reflected in the large number of applications received by Council for the 2025/26 program, with most of the funding categories oversubscribed.

"It highlights how important it is for Council to continue to provide support across the entire community, from our city and suburbs to our villages and rural areas.

"The program enables us to support a diverse range of projects and initiatives that directly benefit our community, contributing to cultural life, improving community infrastructure and community wellbeing, which all help to foster a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant community."

The successful applicants for 2025/26 covered a wide range of projects and initiatives, including a Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo and the provision of lights and seating at Oura Skate Park, to a project supporting food relief efforts in Wagga Wagga through increased access to food supplies for local agencies.

"We are pleased to be able to provide this support to the 49 successful applicants, who will be delivering these programs and initiatives to the community," Cr Tout said.

"We look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition over the coming 12 months."

The Annual Grants Program is part of Council's commitment to developing a vibrant, growing and sustainable community in line with the visions of the *Wagga Wagga 2050 – Community Strategic Plan*.

2023/24 Annual Grants Program Recipients

EVENTS – \$56,000

Women In Business Wagga Wagga Inc – \$5,000

Annual key speaker event as part of this organisation's initiatives to inspire, educate, and empower women in the community.

Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Inc.– \$3,726.57

For the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Bookfair.

Wagga City Rugby Club Inc.– \$7,500

Wagga City Rugby Club's 75th Anniversary Multicultural Day 2026.

Bidgee Strawberries & Cream (K Cashen & M Cashen) – \$7,500

A new seasonal family-friendly event to celebrate the start of the strawberry picking season.

Ian Whitney (auspiced by Eastern Riverina Arts Inc.) – \$5,175

The Wagga Weekender Music Festival celebrating contemporary Australian music in April 2026, featuring 36 artists.

Wagga Wagga and District Football Trust (The Trustee) – \$7,500

Australian Women's Football Match in Wagga Wagga between two teams from the Australian Women's Football Competition - Melbourne Victory and Canberra United.

Fishing for Kyan Inc. – \$5,580.88

Community Fishing Day event to raise funds for The Brain Foundation (aneurysm research) and programs for the youth of Wagga Wagga.

Joel Hornby (Omnia Inclusive Employment Solutions Ltd) – \$6,017.55

Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo to bring together more than 40 stallholders from around Wagga Wagga and surrounds.

Active Farmers Ltd – \$5,000

Active Farmers 'Run for Resilience' is a challenging, fun, and family friendly event providing inspiration and motivation for local and surrounding communities to keep active.

Dindima Aboriginal Football Club Inc – \$3,000

The Dindima 9's Knockout rugby league event held annually on the Australia Day long weekend.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & PROJECTS – \$30,000

The Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust for and on behalf of St Aidan's Presbyterian Church Wagga Wagga – \$4,000

Update of venue toilet facilities to make them accessible for people with disabilities.

NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) – \$7,500

Program to engage newly arrived women from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds to access culturally appropriate and structured swimming and water safety classes, trauma-informed yoga, and mindfulness sessions.

Riverina Woodworkers Club Inc – \$3,907

Improve the club's shed footprint to better utilise existing equipment.

Wagga Wagga Burmese Christian Church Music Program – \$1,564

To purchase musical equipment.

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga – \$5,529

Support the growth of the Wagga Wagga Multicultural World Cup event with the addition of a women's tournament.

Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare – \$7,500

Enhance food relief efforts in Wagga Wagga through increased access to food supplies for local agencies.

RECREATIONAL & COMMUNITY FACILITIES – \$30,000**Wagga City Wanderers Football Club Inc. – \$921**

Canteen renovation to upgrade efficiency and provide a more appropriate surface for food preparation.

Wagga Wagga City Cats Cricket Club Inc. – \$4,110

Additional cricket pitch to accommodate the junior program.

Oura Progress Association Inc. – \$4,331

Oura Skate Park enhancements through provision of lights and seating.

Wagga Wagga Junior Rugby League Inc. – \$3,681

Extension of fencing at Parramore Park to fully enclose the facility.

Wagga Disc Golf Inc. – \$6,320

Installation of a beginner-friendly, 12 basket disc golf course, with scope to develop intermediate / competition level layouts at Rawlings Reserve.

Turvey Park Girl Guide Support Group (Girl Guides Assoc. of NSW Inc.) – \$1,292

To purchase equipment to improve the security and use of the Guide Hall.

Shaw Street Children's Centre Inc. – \$3,680

Replacement of wooden doors with a door that meets all fire safety regulations.

Playgroup NSW Ltd – \$4,265

Ngurra Hub backyard upgrade project.

Wagga Wagga Athletics & Little Athletics Club Inc. – \$1,400

Purchase and install reverse cycle split system air conditioning.

YOUTH PROGRAMS & PROJECTS – \$15,000

Southern Sports Academy (Regional Academies of Sport Ltd) – \$4,295

Indigenous Talent Identification Day to identify, support, and elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes aged 13–17 years.

Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga Inc. – \$4,910

Youth Circular Lids Initiative bringing like-minded youth together to form a cohesive community.

Heaps Decent Ltd – \$5,795

The Queer Studio, a transformative performance program for trans and queer teens (aged 13-19 years).

NEIGHBOURHOOD & RURAL VILLAGES – \$25,333**Ladysmith P & C Committee (Ladysmith Memorial Hall Land Manager Inc.) – \$4,000**

'Flow for Life: Gentle Movement for Inner Vitality' program to improve wellbeing and community engagement.

Playgroup NSW Limited – \$7,500

A First Nations Early Childhood Expo, dedicated to supporting the unique needs of Aboriginal children and their families.

Wagga Wagga Society of the Holy Child Jesus (auspiced by Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga) – \$6,000

The Sinulog Festival: A Philippine Barrio Fiesta is a fusion of the Philippine Street festival and the world-famous Sinulog Festival.

Chin Community of Wagga Wagga (auspiced by Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga) – \$4,737

Purchase of catering equipment and sound equipment to provide the community with the ability to independently host events and celebrations.

Defence Shed Wagga Wagga Inc. – \$3,096

Purchase and installation of shelving, tool storage, and first aid supplies to support the safe and functional setup of a new community workshop.

RURAL HALLS – \$25,000**Euberta Public Hall Manager Inc – \$2,350**

Replacement and repair of kitchen sink plumbing.

Country Women's Association of NSW Inc. (Tarcutta Branch) – \$8,240

Update of kitchen.

Humula Citizens Sports Club Ltd – \$10,000

Replacement of carpet in the main bar and pool table area.

Mangoplah Public Hall Land Manager Inc. – \$4,410

Replacement of kitchen lino.

ARTS, CULTURE & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES – \$25,510

The Art Factory (Riverina Community College Ltd) – \$4,194

To hold 'On the Move', a series of 12 inclusive printmaking workshops designed to create welcoming, friendly, and creative spaces in aged care facilities and childcare centres.

Arthur Wicks (auspiced by Eastern Riverina Arts Inc.) – \$5,500

The Andromeda Series project to install a series of new painted objects in the TAFE Gallery 43.

Wagga Wagga Community Band (Wagga Wagga Brass Band Inc.) – \$1,923

For equipment required for use by Band members at performances and practice sessions.

Brittany Hefren (auspiced by Eastern Riverina Arts Inc.) – \$6,633

To support Wonder Seekers, a 12-week project that commissions four local artists from diverse disciplines (writing, photography, illustration, and poetry).

Wagga Wagga Art Society Inc.– \$1,428

A workshop offering participants a practical introduction to the techniques and visual language of the Impressionist art movement.

Riverina Conservatorium of Music Ltd– \$5,832

Purchase of Removeable Staging for use on and off site by the RCM and its partners, for the benefit of the City of Wagga Wagga.

ENVIRONMENT – \$5,000

Currawananna Forest First Nations, Allies, Advocates, Friends, and Landcare Group Inc. – \$5,000

A ceremonial cultural burn in Currawananna State Forest and revegetation of the area, offering wider community participation in a Walk on Country / Return to Country.

LOCAL HERITAGE – \$7,500

Madeline Clark – \$7,500

Repairs to the façade of Kyeamba Station main building.

SMALL BUSINESS – \$15,267.57

Rewild Water Kefir (L.R Pearce & H.R Tait) – \$3,345.20

To purchase equipment to support growth and sustainability of the business.

Killer Pies (Roseleigh Manor Pty Ltd) – \$7,000

To purchase equipment to enhance commercial kitchen facilities.

Vortex Entertainment (Vortex Assets Pty Ltd) – \$3,230

To purchase equipment to enhance customer experience.

Pearl Home Care Murrumbidgee (Watts Good Pty Ltd) – \$1,692.37

Upgrade of clinic room with essential clinical equipment to support the expansion of allied health and nursing services.

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Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of \$277.1 million.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina, and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds, and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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