

# Australian Day Towns Awards Program 2023 - Submission Form

Response ID:2 Data

## 1. Before we begin, we'd like to know more about you!

---

### 1. State or Territory

VIC

---

### 2. Finalist Organisation (name in full)

Shire of Strathbogie

---

### 3. What is the population of your city or town?

3,508

---

### 4. What local government area (council) is your town in?

Strathbogie Shire

---

### 5. Confirmation of Local Government approval to submit

I confirm that the Mayor/CEO/GM of the Local Government listed above has been made aware of this submission

---

### 6. If you have an organisation or program logo, please upload a copy

Acceptable file types: eps, ai, png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf

[SSC\\_Council\\_Logo\\_RGB\\_Screen.png](#)

---

### 7. Please provide a hero image for your town (files larger than 1MB please)

Acceptable file types: eps, ai, png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf

For examples of previous hero images please see the photos alongside each finalist at

<https://www.sustainablecommunities.com.au/2022-awards/2022-finalists/>

---

### 8. Please provide a brief description for your town (25 words max)

e.g. *King Island in Bass Strait was settled, in the main, by soldier settlers after both World Wars. It has an economic basis of beef, crays and cheese with tourism and mining.*

For more examples visit <https://www.sustainablecommunities.com.au/2022-awards/2022-finalists/>

Euroa is truly special. Situated at the base of the Strathbogie Ranges, it's a township of passionate people, majestic buildings, stunning landscapes and meandering waterways.

---

### 9. Primary Contact Person

Name : Cr Laura Binks

Role : Mayor

Phone : 0437906687

Email : [laura.binks@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:laura.binks@strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

---

### 10. Media Contact Person (if different from above)

Name : Tara Whitsed

Role : Media & Communications Officer

Phone : 0447 712 121

Email : Tara.Whitsed@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

11.

**Are you Social? We want to connect with you!**

Twitter : <https://www.instagram.com/strathbogieshirecouncil/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/StrathbogieShireCouncil>

LinkedIn : <https://www.linkedin.com/company/strathbogie-shire/mycompany/>

12.

**Please list your local newspaper(s) (it would be very helpful if you can provide their social media tags)**

Euroa Gazette

(03) 5795 3041

[editor@euroa-gazette.com.au](mailto:editor@euroa-gazette.com.au)

<https://www.euroagazette.com.au/>

<https://twitter.com/euroagazette?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/euroagazette/>

<https://www.instagram.com/theeuroagazette/?hl=en>

13.

**Please list your local radio station(s) (it would be very helpful if you can provide their social media tags)**

ABC Shepparton

<https://www.abc.net.au/shepparton>

(03) 5820 4011

ABC Goulburn Murray

<https://www.abc.net.au/goulburnmurray>

(02) 6049 2011

Seymour FM

<https://www.seymourfm.au/>

(03) 5792 1039

One FM (Shepparton)

<https://fm985.com.au/>

(03) 5831 3131

14. Do you have some helping hands?

How many hours on average do they work per week? : 615

How many volunteers have worked on the projects in your submission? : 259

### 3. Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention

#### 15. Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention

***This award recognises innovation and achievements in litter prevention or reduction through education, effective litter management or behaviour change. It is for projects or programs that reduce or prevent litter and could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design (max 500 words)***

## Strathbogie Shire Council Waste Education

Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to supporting Waste Education in the region. The employment and support of the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education Officer is part of a collaborative project between Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire Councils.

The three councils came together in 2018 to provide a regional approach to waste and resource recovery education.

The project was a finalist for the 'Community Engagement Success of the Year Award' in the 2022 Waste Innovation & Recycling Awards.

In 2022 Strathbogie Shire residents had access to seven Waste Wise Workshops through this collaboration. This included three face-to-face events in partnership with Goulburn Valley Libraries and four online events. Attendance at these workshops was high with the Euroa Library event being close to capacity!

In January 2023 Strathbogie Shire Council hosted two free Family Fun Days focusing on waste and recycling education. This was a collaboration between the Waste and Sustainability Department, Community and Culture department and the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education Officer.

Activities on offer included:

- Recycled Textile Workshop: making cat and dog toys from recycled materials (7+years)
- Worm Farming: meet a worm and learn how to look after worms at home (4+years)
- Community Craft: get creative with recycled materials (all ages)
- GV water's Toilet Lucky Dip: learn what should and shouldn't be flushed (4+years)
- GV water's Choose Tap Water: design your own reusable mug (all ages)

All our waste education events have helped to build a community of confident recyclers who are happy and willing to share their recycling and waste avoidance knowledge with their local community.

Our collaborative approach to waste education alongside our three-bin system, waste wise events policy and network of transfer stations has proven to help us achieve some fantastic waste management results.

In 2020 Strathbogie was ranked third in Victoria for the highest rates of landfill diversion by Sustainability Victoria, diverting 68.6% of all kerbside waste from landfill.

In addition to our wonderful diversion rate, Strathbogie Shire is known for low contamination rates in both the Yellow (recycling) and Green (food and garden organics) bins.

Contamination in our Green Bin has fallen from 3.06% in July 2019 to just 1.07% in July 2022. Over the last 12 months contamination has dropped below 1% on several occasions.

The Goulburn Valley kerbside bin audit confirmed a recycling bin contamination rate of 12% in Strathbogie Shire. This figure was the lowest compared to all other municipalities in the Goulburn Valley region that participated in the audit.

These measures are great evidence that our residents are confident when it comes to waste management and are consistently doing the right thing.

"It is a pleasure to talk about waste with residents in Strathbogie Shire. People are proud of their waste knowledge and hungry

to learn even more and do their bit to protect our environment!"

Attached: SSC\_Regional Waste Education Plan.pdf

News Article

---

**16. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[SSC\\_Regional\\_Waste\\_Education\\_Plan\\_sml.pdf](#)

[Waste\\_wise\\_EG\\_20211208.pdf](#)

---

**17. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[20230123\\_Family\\_Fun\\_Day\\_Euroa\\_2\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[20230123\\_Family\\_Fun\\_Day\\_Euroa\\_3\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[20230213\\_Market\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

---

**4. Resource Recovery and Waste Management**

**18. Resource Recovery and Waste Management**

**This award recognises innovation and achievements in recycling or waste reduction including initiatives that conserve resources or recover and re-use materials.**

***(max 500 words)***

Bowerbird Op Shop

Euroa's Bowerbird Op Shop opened in September 2008 to raise much needed funds for Euroa Health's hospital and aged care facility.

The Bowerbird Op Shop's 31 volunteers give more than 300 hours of time each week and their hard work has raised over two million dollars.

Funds have been put towards the construction of GraniteHill, purchase of new x-ray and ultrasound equipment, new hospital beds and much more.

The Bowerbird team are responsible for a vast redistribution program of donated goods and cover all bases when it comes to sustainability.

There's no limit to innovation by this hard-working volunteer group ensuring that unwanted goods do not end up in landfill. The knowledge and skill sharing between volunteers for finding recycling solutions and championing new programs is endless. Current programs in place include;

- Prescription glasses go to the pharmacy, collected by Rotary, and sent to people in need.
- Hearing aids go to Hearing Australia for repurposing and reuse.
- Baby goods and clothing are donated to the Caroline Chisholm Foundation in Shepparton supporting families in need.
- Individuals facing hardship can attend the shop and the team ensure they leave with their individual requirements met such as a warm coat in winter.
- Unsaleable CDs, DVDs, VHS, cassette tapes and pens/markers are taken to Officeworks for recycling.
- Cardboard and paper is sorted into recycling bins.
- Plastics are put in the local kerbside recycling bins.

- Metal and E-waste are taken to the local transfer station for recycling.
- Batteries are removed from toys and other items, checked for charge level, and either reused or taken to a local battery collection point.
- An agreement with the local IGA who collect up to half a cubic meter of soft plastics each week.
- Up to 800kg a fortnight of clothing, linen and accessories diverted from landfill.
- Old tools that would otherwise go to metal waste are restored for sale.
- Watches are refitted with new batteries and sold.
- Unsaleable items, including furniture, are broken down and any saleable components are sold.
- Local wildlife carers benefit from sleeping bags and quilts for pouches and porta cots for wildlife.
- Cuttings from community members' gardens are donated.
- Students from Euroa Secondary College use unsaleable clothing and linen, upcycling them into various items.
- Picture frames are given to preschools for children to decorate and use as presents.
- Crafty bits and pieces including ribbon, beads, lamp shades and damaged crockery go to a local who creates artworks with NDIS clients.

The Op Shop's volunteers assist with the occasional sorting and cleaning out of deceased estates or homes of people entering care. They also aid in times of need, like the recent 2022 flood, by providing clothing and furnishings to community members.

Op Shops are among the first lines of defence against reducing landfill and Euroa's Bowerbird Op Shop is excelling when it comes to community spirit while engaging incredibly sustainable practices.

## 19. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[BowerbirdOpShop\\_\\_EuroaGazette\\_20210512.pdf](#)

[BowerbirdOpShop\\_\\_EuroaGazette\\_20160330.pdf](#)

## 20. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[BowerbirdOpShop\\_1\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[BowerbirdOpShop\\_2\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[BowerbirdOpShop\\_3\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[BowerbirdOpShop\\_4\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

## 5. Heritage and Culture

### 21. Heritage and Culture

***This award recognises outstanding commitment to the conservation and celebration of a community's indigenous and non-indigenous heritage and culture (max 500 words)***

Euroa's Labour Day Tennis Tournament was a one in three in with a chance of being named Australia's top tournament, and it came out on top!

The event won the most outstanding professional tournament category in the Newcombe Medal, Australian Tennis Awards, 2022.

Euroa Lawn Tennis Club (ELTC) president Bob Furphy was ecstatic about the award.

"This is a brilliant achievement for our small town. We have been doing this for a long time and we're really proud of the tournament we put on each year.

"While we know it's a great event, it's just so nice to have it recognised more widely."

Mr Furphy and his wife Gayle (tournament manager) have been involved in running the annual event for more than 25 years.

"This recognises a lot of blood, sweat and tears from many people over many years. I am so grateful to the tournament army

which turns up year after year," he said.

The Labour Day Tournament, held for the 92nd time in March this year, closed entries just 20 minutes after opening to the public.

"The tournament is very popular with teams and players knowing they have to get in quickly to secure entry," Mr Furphy said.

"Players appreciate that we run a professional tournament and keep to a tight schedule."

The criteria for the award stated the event must offer a complete package of on and off court activities, a high standard of player amenities, a positive tournament atmosphere and engagement from sponsors, the community and local media.

Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley said the awards provided an opportunity to recognise the efforts of professional players alongside the grassroots tennis community.

"Tennis clubs, volunteers, officials, coaches, schools and junior rising stars of the game remain at the very heart and soul of tennis in Australia and their efforts are commendable," he said.

"To be part of the Newcombe Medal, Australian Tennis Awards is a wonderful honour and I congratulate the Euroa Labour Day Tournament."

The tournament was named most outstanding tournament at the Tennis Victoria Awards in October.

Attached:

News Articles and award posters

---

## 22. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[Tennis\\_EG\\_20221221.pdf](#)

[Tennis\\_EG\\_20221102.pdf](#)

---

## 23. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[Tennis\\_1\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[Tennis\\_2\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[Tennis\\_3\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[Tennis\\_4\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

---

## 6. Young Legends

### 24. Young Legends

***This award recognises achievements by an individual or group/s of young people (under 25) who have demonstrated significant commitment to the environment and/or have made significant contributions to any of the other categories.***

Strathbogie Icetranaughts (FReeZA Program)

Strathbogie Shire's Youth FReeZA crew the Icetranaughts are making an impact in their local communities.

Every Monday afternoon the crew of 26 young people, aged between 12 and 25 years, come together to plan events and programs for the community.

The FReeZA Program provides State Government funding to offer six events to the local community each year.

In 2022, the Icetranaughts smashed this goal, providing entertainment at, or hosting, 21 incredible events for all ages to enjoy.

The events included the Summer Splash Pool parties held at every swimming pool in Strathbogie Shire, youth music events,

Battle of the Bands, Youth Arts and Music Festival, North East Skate Park Series, the Winter Wonderland Festival held over four days in Nagambie and Euroa.

The crew volunteered doing sound for the Euroa Carols by Candlelight, set up a youth stage at the Australian National Show and Shine and supported community groups and other opportunities across the Shire.

More recently, the crew are coming together to provide entertainment at a special local Connor Robert Dawes Foundation fundraiser for children with brain cancer at The Euroa Gym.

As a result of all their hard work over the year in creating 21 events, the young people have also gone on to improve their own individual skills and passion for their musical journey, heading to Melbourne and recording a compilation CD at Empire Studios as a part of the national multimedia project Kool Skools.

The project culminated in an showcase awards night and members of Strathbogie Shire Council's FReeZA crew received the following acknowledgements:

- Best Rock Track by Bad Ibis
- Special Award for Best Rock Track by Inversion
- Nominated for Best Rock Track, Roll With It by Bad Ibis and Sun by Inversion
- Nominated for Best Pop Punk Track – Blame by YNOT
- Nominated for Best Music Program – Strathbogie Shire Council
- Nominated for Best Male Vocal – Alex Russell and Mason Rae Green

All events hosted by the Ictranaughts are sustainable and managed to minimise waste and other disposables.

No water bottles or drinks are served, except for hot drinks, and ice-cold water is always available to fill up your drink bottles. If young people do not have a drink bottle, they are gifted one. All signage and decor are reusable so there is no need for extra bins or extra waste.

The events are also always shade conscious and held in a safe space, which allows the young people to feel welcome and safe.

Videos:

<https://youtu.be/7KwqmoXqHRw>

Attached:

Event Poster

---

**25. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[KoolSkools\\_CDLaunchPoster.jpg](#)

---

**26. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[KoolSkools\\_Awards\\_Bad\\_Ibis\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[KoolSkools\\_CDLaunch\\_1\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[KoolSkools\\_CDLaunch\\_2\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[KoolSkools\\_YNOTBand\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

---

## 7. Environmental Sustainability – Energy

---

### 27. Environmental Sustainability – Energy

***This award recognises leadership and innovation in energy conservation and management in the face of a changing environment.***

Energy Euroa - Future Energy Innovation – Premier's Sustainability Award 2022

Euroa sits on the edge of the power grid in northeast Victoria.

Conventional fossil fuel power has been subject to frequent 'brown-outs'.

Energy insecurity impacts the whole community and limits economic opportunity and sustainable growth at a time when the 'move to the bush' offers extraordinary opportunities to build sustainable, climate resilient and affordable communities.

The Euroa Microgrid Demonstration Initiative (EMDI) turns conventional edge-of-the-grid challenges into clean energy opportunities.

The EMDI began in 2019 and concluded in 2022. Euroa Environment Group (EEG) partnered included MondoPower, AusNetServices and DEECA (formally DELWP) to deliver a project which went on to win the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Award in 2022.

Renters, businesses and the Euroa community drove the uptake of:

- clean, affordable, and secure energy
- innovative renewable energy technology, and
- energy related behaviour change.

Four clean energy challenges are addressed:

1. Split incentives - six studio apartment tenants now have clean solar power. To power these six apartments EEG renegotiated the grant contract to shift funds for a more equitable outcome. Un-invoiced community consultation funds of \$45,000 were redeployed to install a solar pergola for tenants.

2. Economics at the local scale – six small diverse local businesses virtually share cheap clean power. Large rooftop solar arrays were installed. Different business models and power users all benefit - Euroa Timber; Brady and Kibble Logistics; Saville's Hardware; Mawsons Bakery; Euroa Printers; and Tehan George Lawyers. Five of the six businesses received batteries.

3. Measuring to manage - 20 homeowners can audit and manage their power use. Homeowners with solar arrays had energy monitoring devices called Ubis installed. They now track their energy production and use.

4. Local job creation. EMDI was installed by a local electrician partnering with and learning from MondoPower's energy engineers.

EMDI provides power across the socio-economic spectrum for small business, homeowners, and renters. Each of the participants has enjoyed more affordable power. The businesses have calculated reductions in their power bills of between 20-30 per cent. The tenants above the bakery are also experiencing marked reductions in their power bills.

EMDI participants are all producing solar power which is being channeled into the grid, effectively shared via power partnership agreements.

Sustainable townships are places where communities collaborate and share ideas, technology, and insights. Euroa community members previously embraced solar installations as individuals (Strathbogie Bulk Buy).



EMDI expanded our ambition to generate commitment to a collaborative effort. EMDI brings sustainability champions, businesspeople, householders and tenants together to promote the more efficient use of energy and to showcase the opportunities which arise as a function of collaboration with technical experts and partners such as MondoPower.

EMDI succeeded because the proposal was localised to the township and managed for local community benefit. EMDI shows how climate action has been embraced by the Euroa community.

Victorian Government Video: <https://youtu.be/NwY1COOnSMHw>

Attached:

Event poster and news articles

---

## 28. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[EuroaEnergyInformationEvening.pdf](#)

[Solar\\_EG\\_20190904.pdf](#)

---

## 29. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[EuroaEnergy\\_1\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[EuroaEnergy\\_2\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[EuroaEnergy\\_3\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[EuroaEnergy\\_4\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

---

## 8. Environmental Sustainability – Water

### 30. Environmental Sustainability – Water

***This award recognises leadership and innovation in water conservation and management for the future.***

The Greening Euroa Project is an innovative community driven project that will use recycled water to irrigate public green spaces during the summer months.

The project came to fruition after the township's water supply had dried out in the most recent drought. Euroa's potable water supply had to be trucked in and the resulting water restrictions saw the town's green spaces and sporting grounds turn brown, hard and uninviting.

Community members identified the under-utilised resource from the sewage treatment plant on the edge of town as a potential source of recycled water that could be used to green Euroa's open spaces, sporting fields and school grounds.

A collaborative approach was embraced which has seen a strong working partnership between Goulburn Valley Water, Strathogie Shire Council, schools, sporting clubs and other potential end users.

The proposal is the first of its kind in Victoria. It's climate smart, cost efficient and community inspired.

For the Euroa township, the Greening Euroa Project will keep our school ovals, sporting fields, parks and gardens green in the dry summer months.

It will use recycled water to irrigate our public green spaces, something we know is essential to our community's health and wellbeing during times of drought. Having cooling green spaces not only improves our physical wellbeing as we can play sport

and be active in these areas, it also improves the mental wellbeing of our community and all who visit.

The Greening Euroa committee has spent the past three years developing the Greening Euroa plan that will tap into the excess water from the Euroa Wastewater Treatment Plan.

With the support of Goulburn Valley Water, this wastewater will then be safely upgraded from Class C to Class B, before being piped underground to storage tanks throughout the township.

The Greening Euroa Project is a win for everyone – community, children, and the environment.

The committee, with the support of Strathbogie Shire Council, is working hard to share the potential benefits with State and Federal governments. They are actively advocating for sufficient funding to be able to build this drought-resilient infrastructure.

For more information and to watch a short video about the project, visit <https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/environment/greening-euroa/>

Attached:

Advocacy Ask, Social Media Tile, and News Articles

---

### 31. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[GreeningEuroa\\_EuroaGazette\\_20210602.pdf](#)

[GreeningEuroa\\_AdvocacyAsk.pdf](#)

---

### 32. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[GreeningEuroa\\_MemorialOvalWatering\\_300dpi.JPG](#)

[GreeningEuroa\\_PurpleStandpipe\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[GreeningEuroa\\_Map.png](#)

[GreeningEuroa\\_FriendliesOval\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

---

## 9. Environmental Sustainability – Natural Environment Management

### 33. Environmental Sustainability – Natural Environment Management

***This award recognises the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment (including waterways, flora, fauna, corridors, roadsides and recreation areas)***

Euroa Arboretum - Restoring a Grassy Woodland - Premier's Sustainability Award 2022

The Euroa Arboretum has an incredible story transforming from a degraded grassy woodland to a functioning ecosystem.

The 27 hectares of land had a history of sheep grazing since the 1840's and more recently was a VicRoads depot during the construction of the Hume Freeway bypass until 1992.

When it became Euroa Arboretum, the grounds were dominated by four introduced grasses with a scattering of trees. The dedicated team at Euroa Arboretum looked to Taungurung Traditional Owners to learn collaboratively how to manage the grassland.

They worked for several years on weed control, using an ancient Furphy Spike Roller and, currently, an aerator to create soil

niches reminiscent of long absent burrowing native animals.

This disturbance and lack of weed competition has led to successful germination of pea species from their seedbank, including the threatened Euroa Guinea Flower. Approximately 60 species of daisies, grasses, lilies and peas have been re-established.

This careful management is slowly seeing a return of grassland diversity and structure, increasing the biodiversity of insects, reptiles and birds. There is a thriving population of vulnerable Diamond Firetail Finches, plenty of skinks and a growing population of Eastern Barred Dragons. Sugar and Squirrel Gliders can be found in old trees or nest boxes.

A focus of the grassland work includes trialling techniques that can be replicated at larger scales and with low costs requirements. However, the methods used are not short term and do take time to implement to allow careful weed control. Working alongside of Taungurung Traditional Owners, they are reminded to work on long term timeframes using careful observation and timely management interventions.

Developing the Euroa Arboretum grassland has been a series of evolving partnerships. Originally, they had assistance from Dr Paul Gibson Roy and Greening Australia. John Delpratt, Melbourne University has long been an advisor and grassland enthusiast.

Phil Hawkey, CFA and Uncle Shane Monk, Taungurung Elder, became involved early on and assisted with small cool burns.

Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network partner with the Arboretum and have assisted in promoting our work through various field days. Funding through state government grants and ongoing support from Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority have allowed them to implement larger patches of grassland sowing. Most recently, they were approached by Melbourne University to be a site for the release of the endangered Matchstick Grasshopper.

Bush Kinder for five-year-olds from Euroa and Violet Town visit monthly and enjoy learning about the flowers and insects of the grassland. They help collect seed and grow their own wildflowers.

Gardening clubs, U3A groups, Landcare groups and school groups visit the grassland during the main flowering season, and many assist with seed harvesting.

Grassland sowing is a time of celebration the team encourage young and old volunteers to help sow the grasslands again.

Our community is proud of our beautiful Euroa Arboretum grassland.

Videos:

<https://youtu.be/OROgGGHuC1I>

<https://youtu.be/L9UIA1HK5OY>

<http://euroaarboretum.com.au/euroa-arboretum-video-channel/>

Events Archive:

<http://euroaarboretum.com.au/archives/>

Attached:

Recent event posters, strategic plan and news articles

---

### **34. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[EuroaArboretum\\_\\_ConnectingRuralWomenEvent.jpg](#)

[EuroaArboretum\\_CountryNews\\_20221004.JPG](#)

---

### **35. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[EuroaArboretum\\_Nursary\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[EuroaArboretum\\_Planting\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[EuroaArboretum\\_Regen\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[EuroaArboretum\\_TLaWC\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

## 10. Environmental Communication & Engagement

---

### 36. Environmental Communication & Engagement

***This award recognises outstanding achievements in raising awareness in environmental sustainability, leading to empowerment and behavior change amongst the target audience. Open to projects from both formal and informal educational institutions egg community groups, business, childcare centres etc***

Strathbogie Ranges Conservation –Fungi Festival.

Strathbogie Ranges Conservation (SRC) was formed in early 2011 and has been going strong ever since. SRC works with a variety of partners (landholders, groups, agencies, etc) to tackle all sorts of conservation, biodiversity, and land management issues, but is focusing on the most threatened ecosystems in the Ranges, including our precious wetlands (springsoaks & bogs), rocky outcrops and high conservation value forests.

In 2018 SRC held its first ever Fungi Festival which saw natural historian and environmental photographer Alison Pouliot coming to the region to share her enthusiasm and immense knowledge with the community.

The festival has continued every year since with 2019 seeing the introduction of an accompanying art, cultural and food festival all orbiting around the theme of fungi.

SRC has worked with local and visiting artists and local school students in combining science with artist projects from a gorgeous series of gift cards to whimsical sculptural installations and in 2021 hosting Festival of Fungi's opening event "Bioluminescence", a fungi filled projection festival that took a small country town by storm.

For the first time, Euroa's storefronts, post office and red gums was set ablaze with fungi themed projections. Slow motion videos, in field footage and fungi closeups illuminated Euroa institutions in dancing technicolour lights. The Euroa Library, Burton's IGA, The Already Read Bookshop all played host to the weird and wonderful digital creations, as well as artwork by the many local schoolchildren in attendance.

The inclusion of working with children from the primary schools and the high school creates multiple opportunities for the young people of the town to learn about the importance of the natural environment, and specially about the role fungi play in our ecosystem. Using art as a tool of communication allows the children to share their learnings with our diverse community in a creative, accessible way furthering awareness about the natural environment and sustainability.

This annual event is a huge success, combining education about the importance of the mycelium and fungi world, artistic exploration, expression and play, fabulous dining events and a sense of awe and wonder at the natural beauty we live amongst here in Euroa and the Strathbogie Ranges.

Videos:

Little Projector Bioluminescence 2021 video: <https://vimeo.com/611586004>

Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Fungi Festival 2022 video: <https://vimeo.com/771924156>

SRC videos: <https://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/videos/>

Blog posts:

<https://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/fungal-adventure-in-the-strathbogie-forest-2/>  
<https://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/slow-mushrooming-2021/>  
<https://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/fungi-workshop-with-alison-pouliot-festival-of-fungi-2021/>  
<https://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/bioluminescence-festival-of-fungi-21/>  
<http://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/fungi-festival-local-fungal-curiosities-workshop-with-alison-pouliot/>  
<http://www.strathbogieranges.org.au/fungimap-how-to-use-a-fungi-app-with-dr-sapphire-mcmullan-fisher/>

Attached:

Event poster and news articles

---

### 37. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[FungiFestival\\_BioluminescencePoster.jpg](#)

[FungiFestival\\_\\_EuroaGazette\\_20210512.pdf](#)

---

### 38. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[FungiFestival\\_BioluminescenceAusPost\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[FungiFestival\\_BioluminescenceIGA\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[FungiFestival\\_LocalFungi\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[FungiFestival\\_Workshop\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

---

## 11. Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest Award

### 39. Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest Award

***This award recognises initiatives for the health and well-being of a community. (e.g. programs and interest groups for various age groups including sporting facilities, community gardens, cycling/walking trails, fitness programs, men's sheds, lifestyle programs etc) building a strong, healthy vibrant and accessible community.***

My Future Academy

In 2017, Euroa local Jimmy Ivill saw a need to address the stigma around mental health, particularly in regional and rural communities.

Armed with the core value that early childhood is a pivotal time for young people to be building confidence, Jimmy created mental health initiative My Future Academy.

The initiative was a way to include Euroa's young people, community organisations, sporting clubs and wider population in programs and events as well as provide a platform to share information and create awareness of mental health.

In 2022, My Future Academy grew from a volunteer-based model to successfully becoming a Blueearth affiliate.

The change meant that Jimmy took on My Future Academy as a full-time role, adding two permanent staff members who implement the Active School's Program within schools all over Victoria and New South Wales.

The Active School's program aims to get kids moving in a positive way but have fun at the same time by being inclusive and having engaging, well-trained coaches and staff.

Sports activities can be quite overwhelming for some kids, so the program is aimed at being inclusive to all ages and abilities, including teachers, adults and the wider community.

My Future Academy has recently worked with NDIS participants in the local community to create greater social connections, recreation and health and wellbeing outcomes. This has provided a fantastic opportunity to work with diverse young people and create great working relationships to ensure positive outcomes.

As we all know the COVID-19 pandemic took a huge toll on many aspects of life and was an incredibly challenging time for young people.

Not only did our children suffer from missing school, but they also missed being social and active due to the strict regulations of lockdowns.

Childhood is a time when building confidence with social bonds and physical activity should be at the forefront of everything kids do.

Unfortunately COVID-19 was detrimental for some kids when it came to building or maintaining those skills.

It was during the re-opening of Victoria following the lockdowns, when some schools could still not host the Active School's program, Jimmy created a program to ensure children were getting back into physical and social activities.

The after-school program My Future Academy Spartans was created targeting kids aged 3-12 years with the aim to create a safe space to explore movement in an inclusive environment in the great outdoors.

The results of My Future Academy Spartans have been fantastic and it has grown to begin to be implemented in other local government areas including Wangaratta with the hope to offer more locations in the future.

My Future Academy has had incredible support from the community over the years.

The program's aim is to continue to provide communities across Victoria with a positive space to deliver programs and events to create happier and healthier people.

Video:

<https://www.strathbogiestory.com/stories#/jimmy/>

Attached:

Event poster and news articles

---

#### **40. Please upload any supporting documentation relating to the above category**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, mov, doc, docx, xls, xlsx.**

[MyFutureAcademyEventPoster.jpg](#)

[My\\_Future\\_Academy\\_EG\\_20210505.pdf](#)

---

#### **41. Please upload up to four high resolution photographs relating to the above category that may be used for Awards Program promotions and media**

**Acceptable file types: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf. Please include both landscape and portrait formats and ensure files are minimum 1MB each.**

[MyFutureAcademy\\_Class1\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[MyFutureAcademy\\_Class2\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[MyFutureAcademy\\_CyclingMtWombat\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

[MyFutureAcademy\\_JimmyInstructing\\_300dpi.jpg](#)

## 12. Thank You!

---

### **New Send Email**

Feb 21, 2023 22:57:50 Success: Email Sent to: veronica@revolveservices.com.au

---

### **New Send Email**

Feb 21, 2023 22:57:50 Success: Email Sent to: laura.binks@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

---