

MEDIA RELEASE



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Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Hay Awarded TQUAL Grant of \$82,500

Hay Shire Council has been successful in its application for funding of \$82,500.00 from the Federal Government for the further development of the Bidgee Riverside Cultural Trail development in the Sandy Point/Bushy Bend Reserve.

The Australian Minister for Tourism, Martin Ferguson AM MP recently announced the successful applicants for 2011 TQUAL Grants— Tourism Quality Projects. There were 117 grants awarded to help lift the quality and variety of Australia's tourism experiences, with a total value of approximately \$8.5 million.

Hay's Bidgee Riverside Cultural Trail project will provide:

- A riverside walking trail with majestic views of the Murrumbidgee River.
- A cycle path through the trail.
- Linkages to Hay's other attractions.
- Context to works already undertaken in the precinct, linking existing sculptural installations, camp grounds, indigenous murals and environmental works within the precinct.
- Interpretation of the environmental, cultural and historical development of the area.
- Rest areas in the form of functional sculptural seating which will double as interpretive devices.
- An opportunity to alert visitors to other recreational opportunities associated with the river-fishing, kayaking, bird watching etc.

"The need for the project has been documented in a number of ways and the priority to further develop access and provide appropriate interpretation is referenced in many local and regional plans from a community economic development, tourism and environmental perspective. It also supports regional themes associated with The Long Paddock Touring Route and Riverina Regional Tourism's Murrumbidgee Access Trail", said Allen Dwyer, General Manager, Hay Shire Council.

"New investment in just one tourism project can generate flow-on benefits to all of our small businesses in the Shire and region, whether they're directly involved in the industry or part of the wider business community", said Mr Dwyer.

Hay Shire Council will deliver the project, in consultation with key partners, local and regional tourism interests and the Hay community.

The project is planned with a collaborative, whole of community approach and involves the development of an advisory group representing tourism, heritage, cultural and environmental interests.

Hay Shire Council play an active role in tourism development within the Shire and as the trustee for the reserve in question is responsible for undertaking maintenance in the area. The project provides additional access and product to an existing recreational precinct within the township of Hay.

The Federal Tourism grant of \$82,500 is to be matched by Council funding of \$82,500 which has been in the Council's budget for the past three years. An in-kind contribution of \$39,000 is also provided by Council.

There is plenty to do and see all year round in the Hay, check the website www.hay.nsw.gov.au and make the most of your time in the Hay Shire.

September Events throughout the Riverina

Event name	Town	Date	Contact details
Bald Archy Exhibition	Deniliquin	2 – 25 September	1800 650 712
Yanco Agricultural High School Art Exhibition	Yanco	2 - 4 September	Lauren Gregor 0269511500
Dog on the Tuckerbox Spring Fair	Gundagai	3 September	0414 824 254
Dunera Day at Hay	Hay	3 September	02 6993 2161
Narrandera Show & Lee Kernaghan Concert	Narrandera	3 September	Narrandera VIC 02 6959 1766
Temora Aviation Museum Aircraft Showcase Day	Temora	3 & 17 September	02 6977 1088
Fathers Day Expo & Market in Pretty Pine	Pretty Pine	3 September	03 5882 3554
Barmedman Show & Beaut Ute Competition	Barmedman	3 – 4 September	0448 766 280
West Wyalong Show	West Wyalong	6 - 7 September	02 6972 2078
Wagga Wagga Jazz & Blues Festival	Wagga Wagga	9 - 11 September	02 6925 1795
Yellow Tail Griffith Jockey Club Races	Griffith	10 September	0407 973170
Annual Hay Show	Hay	10 - 11 September	02 6993 1630
Turning Wave Festival	Gundagai	14 - 18 September	02 9489 2780
Jerilderie Gold Cup Races	Jerilderie	17 September	03 5886 1333
Ardlethan Agricultural Show	Ardlethan	17 September	02 6978 2374
Merriwagga Spring Fair	Merriwagga	17 September	02 6965 4484

Concert of best loved Operatic and Broadway favorites	Morundah	17 September	02 69597414
Hillston Show	Hillston	24 September	02 6967 2703
40 th Year Celebrations at Pioneer Park, Griffith	Griffith	24 September	02 6962 4196 PO Box 79 West Wyalong NSW 2671 M: 0427 630 349 P: 02 6347 6262
Lockhart Show	Lockhart	25 September	02 69205459 F: 02 6347 6266 naturally@riverinatourism.com.au www.visitriverina.com.au
Wagga Wagga Show	Wagga Wagga	29 – 30 September	02 6925 2180
The Deni Play on the Plains Festival and World Record Ute Muster	Deniliquin	30 September – 1 October	03 5881 3388
Murrumbidgee Sheepdog Championships	Narrandera	30 September - 3 October	02 6959 1944

For further details on any of these festivals and events across the Riverina or for details on attractions and leisure activities throughout the Riverina Region visit the Riverina Regional Tourism website at www.visitriverina.com.au

— ENDS —

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This activity/campaign was supported by the NSW Government through Tourism NSW and its Regional Tourism Partnership Funding Program