

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 6 December 2017

CRITICAL ACCLAIM FROM SA ARTS COMMUNITY CAPS OFF METEORIC YEAR FOR COONALPYN

Creating Coonalpyn scooped one of the State's most prestigious arts awards on Saturday night - [Arts South Australia's](#) Ruby Award for 'Regional or Community Impact Project under \$100,000'.

The award caps off an incredible year for the small agricultural community, which has been cast into the spotlight of the world's media since a 30 metre high mural, commissioned by the Coorong District Council and created by Brisbane artist Guido van Helten, was completed in March 2017.

Arts South Australia's Ruby Awards recognise the best of the State's arts and culture, and Coorong District Council Director Community & Corporate, Nat Traeger said the win cemented Coonalpyn's standing as a significant and serious player in the arts world.

"It's hard to believe that this time last year, the Viterra silos in Coonalpyn still stood bare," Ms Traeger said.

"And now, Creating Coonalpyn is being recognised alongside some of the most esteemed artists, works and festivals in South Australia.

"This project began as a leap of faith to reinvigorate one of our small but important rural communities and this recognition by our arts community is a credit to the community members who trusted and contributed to Council's vision."



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The Ruby Award will be added to a growing collection of remarkable accolades for Creating Coonalpyn, including winner of the Arts Animates category in the prestigious 2017 National Local Government Awards, and Mainstreet SA's best main street winner for 2017.

This week, Council will unveil the sixth and final piece in the epic public art installation that is Creating Coonalpyn - an incredible 11 metre-long mosaic mural depicting iconic Mallee images.

You can find out more about Creating Coonalpyn here <https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/creatingcoonalpyn>.

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