

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Monday, 11 September 2017 (9am)



HEARTY RECOGNITION FOR COORONG'S HEALTHY HABITS

Two decades of commitment to the health of its community has seen the Coorong District Council recognised as a State leader by Australia's leading health organisation.

The Council has been named winner of the **2017 Heart Foundation South Australia Local Government Award** (for Councils with Populations under 10,000) and the Heart Foundation presented the prestigious accolade during celebrations yesterday at its TWENTY event (to mark the anniversary of the Council's amalgamation in 1997).

Key features of the Council's nomination included the *Coorong Healthy Highways* (CHH) initiative and the *Active Recreation For All* program.

CHH has partnered with more than 20 local businesses to create healthy menu items along its remote highways; while the *Active Recreation* project is a strategic infrastructure program driven by the former OPAL team, focused on developing recreation facilities in all townships.

Coorong District Council Mayor Neville Jaensch said the Council had long recognised its responsibility to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents through education, capacity building and direct infrastructure projects.

"We've worked hard to make the Coorong the healthy heartbeat of South Australia," Mayor Jaensch says.

"With limited resources, we've taken an innovative approach, given that many of our residents live remotely with limited access to fresh food options or recreational spaces.

"We now have a range of programs where even our smallest food outlets are proactively providing healthier options; and facility upgrades or environmental changes which encourage people to get out and move more.

"We have a range of new playgrounds, walking and cycling trails, sports facilities and mobile play equipment that our communities can use free of charge at any time.

"When you add it all up, the change in our community in recent years has been quite remarkable, so this recognition is very much deserved.

"We would like to acknowledge the work of the former OPAL staff, who were absolutely integral to this outcome, and who helped Council understand the link between physical health, mental health and social wellbeing.

Postal Address:

PO Box 399
TAILEM BEND SA 5260
Email: council@coorong.sa.gov.au
Web: www.coorong.sa.gov.au

Coorong Civic Centre

95 – 101 Railway Terrace
TAILEM BEND SA 5260
Phone: 1300 785 277
Fax: 08 8572 3822

Meningie Information Hub

49 Princes Highway
MENINGIE SA 5264

Tintinara Customer Service Centre

37 Becker Terrace
TINTINARA SA 5266

“It’s largely because of the OPAL partnership with Council that we have been able to implement multi-generational initiatives to foster healthy communities.”



Heart Foundation SA Director of Health Rachel McKay said the Awards recognised the outstanding achievements of local governments in the continuing fight against heart disease – the single biggest killer of Australian men and women

“Coorong won this award due to strong evidence of health being considered in a range of council strategies, plans and policies. A stand out initiative was the *Coorong Healthy Highways* project,” Ms Rachel McKay says.

“Recent evaluation of the Highways’ project demonstrated improved public and community health and education outcomes. This is a sustainable program that could be rolled out nationally across all our highways. The Coorong District Council is now in the running to be recognised at national level by the Heart Foundation later this year.”

The win comes in a stellar year for the Coorong District Council, which continues to scoop major national and state awards for a range of community initiatives.

Key healthy initiatives, contributing to the award win include:

- Coorong Healthy Highways
- Coonalpyn ‘Hoopinator’ multi-sport facility
- Murray Coorong Trail
- Nature playground projects in Meningie, Peake, Sherlock and Tintinara
- Tintinara Disc Golf Park
- Mayor’s pedometer challenge
- Coorong Suicide Prevention Network
- Portable resources include:
 - A mobile BMX/skate ramp
 - Imagination playground
 - Geocaching kits for community loan
 - Giant games, sports library, portable disc golf basket, giant fruit costumes and smoothie bike available for free community loan

MEDIA PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

Please note, this award will be announced during Councils TWENTY launch event, details below.

WHEN: Sunday, 10 September 2017, 2-5pm
WHERE: Coorong Gallery, Coorong Civic Centre, Tailem Bend
WHAT: High Tea & Aperitifs, guest speakers, panel, commemorative plaque unveiling, music.

- ENDS -

Contact:

Nat Traeger
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE
Phone: 1300 785 277 | E: ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au

Postal Address:

PO Box 399
TAILEM BEND SA 5260
Email: council@coorong.sa.gov.au
Web: www.coorong.sa.gov.au

Coorong Civic Centre

95 – 101 Railway Terrace
TAILEM BEND SA 5260
Phone: 1300 785 277
Fax: 08 8572 3822

Meningie Information Hub

49 Princes Highway
MENINGIE SA 5264

Tintinara Customer Service Centre

37 Becker Terrace
TINTINARA SA 5266