



2016 Finalists – Arts & Culture

AGA Club Germania **Sharing Arts & Culture, the German Way**

AGA Club Germania has this year been recognised for the way in which its annual Oktoberfest event celebrates German culture while bringing together the local community. The event has grown a large deal over the past three years with approximately five thousand people flocking to the Wollongong region for the three-day festival offering “a taste of Germany” with four bars stocked with imported European Beverages, several food stalls offering European meals and treats, rides for kids, a massive 2000m² ‘Beer hall tent’, markets, local dance groups and live entertainment including a traditional German Om-Pah-Pah band. At the set up cost of around \$200,000 and 10 months of planning, this festival is much-loved and one of the biggest events on the Illawarra calendar.

Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club **Song Writing Workshop & Showcase**

The aim of this exciting workshop was for local students from eight schools interested in performance and music to showcase their talent. The program was run using the experience of veteran songwriters Alan Roy Scott and Liz Scott. Overall eight original songs were crafted, with two performed live at the Songwriters Showcase at the Club’s auditorium, and beamed live via the internet and radio to 30,000 listeners worldwide. The eight songs will be mastered and burned to a CD, with copies to be distributed at each school.

Corrimal RSL Memorial Club **Corrimal RSL at the Heart of Corrimal**

Corrimal RSL Memorial Club is nominated for being the Platinum sponsor of the annual free, family event, ‘Spring into Corrimal’. ‘Spring into Corrimal’ is the largest one-day free, family festival in Regional NSW. Over 50,000 people attended the event in 2015. The event brings together a myriad of local and visiting people and organisations contributing to market stalls, international food fair, street performers, stage performers,

community information hubs, rides, exhibitions and the ever popular grand parade. During the event the Corrimal Citizen of the Year Award is also announced.

NSW Harness Racing Club **Living History**

During WWI, the NSW Harness Racing Club was used as a makeshift army camp to train troopers in the Australian Light Horse from 1916. Since 2014, the Club has commemorated its involvement and the men and horses that trained on its soil with a Beersheba Day breakfast and commemorative service. Under the guidance and financial support of New South Wales Harness Racing Club, the 7th Light Horse Regiment Menangle Historical Troop was formed. The troop conducts educational presentations for schools, service clubs and community groups. The Club’s aim is to have a troop that is available to parade for local events, Anzac Day, Australia Day as well as race meetings free of charge for the community.

Penrith RSL Club **The Centenary of Anzacs**

Penrith RSL Club has been announced as finalist for their efforts to pay tribute to Australian troops and for keeping the memory of our ANZACs and their sacrifices alive. Some of the Club’s initiatives include playing a crucial part in a documentary about a highly secretive defence force known as the Australian Z Special Unit, their support for the *Homes for Heroes* charity to help veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and bringing Poppy Park at the Penrith City Festival to life.

Seaforth Bowling Club **Seaforth Bowling Club Cabarets**

Seaforth Bowling Club has been recognised for its innovative music program, encouraging all members of the community to participate in the Club’s Cabaret Show, held every three months. The show provides a stepping stone for aspiring young, talented performers



who are looking for a career within the music industry. Recognising that disadvantaged people within the community may be able to afford tickets to such shows, the Club provides complimentary tickets for Stewart House and residents of Sunnyfield at Allambie Heights. The Club also sponsors an annual Bear Cottage Charity Cabaret which has so far raised in excess of \$65,000 for the children's hospice.

Stockton Bowling Club **Stockton's Community Christmas Tree**

Stockton Bowling Club has been announced as a finalist in recognition of the big difference it made to the lives of people in the community over the festive season, spreading the 'Christmas cheer' with a giant lit-up tree using the Norfolk Pines at the rear of the Club. With over 380 meters of lights, the effect of the tree was immediate and a resounding success in the community. The Club also organised a 'Carols by Candle Light' for the community to celebrate together.

The Albury Club **Peter Smithwick, Artism Exhibition**

The Albury Club is a finalist for its submission featuring the story behind the much-anticipated art exhibition –

Artism – by local graphic artist Peter Smithwick. Peter, a well-known local graphic artist was diagnosed 10 years ago with lymphoma cancer. After a seemingly successful battle, a third bout was identified and the race was on for Peter and his family to pull together a dream of an exhibition of his work. With the assistance and tireless work of family and friends, Albury Picture Framers and the availability of the Club to display the work, Peters' dream was realised. Artism was displayed for over two weeks locals and staff spending many hours with pleasure in showing people through and arranging orders. Less than seven weeks later Peter lost his battle surrounded by family and friends.

Tradies **Art for All**

Tradies has been announced as a finalist for its sponsorship of the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, a partnership that encourages and supports emerging artists in the local area. Tradies has offered to provide \$60,000 in prize money for the biennial Art On Paper Award (\$20,000 every two years) and \$10,000 to start an art therapy program to for dementia patients - Art Engage Dementia. In addition to providing prize money, Tradies assisted in promoting the awards via its Facebook page, Twitter account, Instagram account and website.
