



'engaging our communities'

The Walgett Shire Grants Newsletter

October 2025 Issue Six

Closing Soon

Responsible Wood Community Grants Program

Responsible Wood and our certificate holders are committed to supporting sustainable Australian forests and their communities. We believe communities are stronger, healthier, and happier when they can connect, understand, access, and enjoy their local forests. Through the Responsible Wood Community Grants Program, we help regional and rural communities deliver local forest-based projects that strengthen the connection between people and forests.

Through the Responsible Wood Community Grants Program, regional and rural communities can access \$2,000 to \$15,000 in funding to support local forest-based projects that benefit both their communities and the forests they rely on.

For further information:

<https://www.responsiblewood.org.au/what-we-do/our-collective-impact/community-grants-program/>

National Mentoring Initiative

The National Mentoring Initiative is a flexible, 12-month virtual program designed to build leadership through connection and learning. It builds the confidence to prepare for, adapt to and support your community in times of change.

Delivered online over 12 months from February 2026, this initiative pairs mentors and mentees from across rural, regional and remote Australia. Together, participants build confidence, clarity and capability – not just for their own goals, but for the resilience of their communities.

For further information:

<https://rural-leaders.org.au/national-mentoring-program-drought-initiative/>

The Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund

The ACIF provides funding for community cricket facility projects, with a focus on growing participation and promoting accessibility and inclusivity. The objectives of the ACIF are to:

- Improve the quantity, quality, innovation and consistency of cricket infrastructure across all levels of community cricket
- Support the development of community cricket facilities that contribute to the delivery of Australian Cricket's strategic priorities (e.g. supporting the attraction and retention of 5–12-year-old participants)
- Support cricket facility development in areas of demand, particularly areas of significant participation and population growth
- Create inclusive and accessible environments for cricket participants and the broader community
- Collaborate with all levels of government and funding partners to invest in strategic infrastructure priorities.

Closing 12th November. For further information:

<https://www.cricketnsw.com.au/grants/acif>

Opening Soon

The Crown Reserves Improvement Fund

The Crown Reserves Improvement Fund supports Crown land managers by providing funding for repairs, maintenance and improvements on Crown reserves. The funding aims to benefit the community, boost our economy and contribute to the cultural, sporting and recreational life of NSW. For further information:

<https://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/reserve-manager/finance/crown-reserves-improvement-fund#:~:text=The%20Crown%20Reserves%20Improvement%20Fund,and%20recreational%20life%20of%20NSW.>

Clubgrants Category 3 Fund

The Clubgrants Category 3 Fund is managed by the Office of Responsible Gambling and funds infrastructure grants for arts and culture, community, disaster readiness, and sport and recreation. Applications open 24th November

For further information:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/clubgrants-category-3-fund>



Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover program supports communities in remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to implement initiatives that prevent and prepare for future climate related impacts, or recover from existing disasters in the medium to long-term timeframe, generally one to ten years after the disaster. Grants up to \$25,000 are available for a broad range of initiatives.

For further information:

<https://frrr.org.au/funding/src-prepare-recover/>

Safe Shooting Program

The Safe Shooting Program aims to enhance sport shooting facilities across New South Wales in order to provide safe, inclusive and accessible shooting environments for local communities. Up to \$800,000 is available in 2025/26 to support safe shooting facilities across NSW with grants of \$10,000-\$50,000 available.

For further information:

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/safe-shooting-program#:~:text=The%20Safe%20Shooting%20Program%20provides%20grants%20between%20%2410%2C000,that%20are%20approved%20by%20the%20NSW%20Firearms%20Registry.>

2026 Westfield Local Heroes Program

Know someone making a positive impact in your local community? Nominate them now for the 2026 Westfield Local Heroes Program. Nominating your Westfield Local Hero is one small act that can have a big impact.

They feel valued by your recognition and they are in with the chance to be rewarded with \$20,000 or \$5,000 grants for the organisation or group they represent. Westfield Local Heroes alumni also tell us the program helps grow their brand awareness and broadens their community and professional networks.

For further information:

<https://www.westfield.com.au/local-heroes>

Strategic Opportunities Program

The Strategic Opportunities Program supports innovative projects designed to strengthen the NSW screen and digital games industries. Projects that demonstrate alignment with the strategic priorities in the NSW Screen & Digital Games Strategy (2025-2027) will be highly valued during the assessment process.

For further information:

<https://www.screen.nsw.gov.au/funding-support/strategic-opportunities>

Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. There are two tiers of Small & Vital funding available.

Small grants up to \$10,000 are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions, with a preference for smaller communities (populations less than 15,000). The timeframe to deliver these projects is up to 12 months.

For further information:

<https://frrr.org.au/funding/src-small-vital/>

Tertiary Access Payment

The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) is a one off payment of up to \$5,000. It's to help eligible students with the cost of moving to study. This is for study after you've finished year 12 or equivalent.

If you are a student from outer regional, remote, or very remote areas you can apply for up to \$5,000 to relocate to participate in tertiary education in your first year of study.

For further information:

<https://www.education.gov.au/tertiary-access-payment>

First Nations Tourism Mentoring Program

The FNTMP can support you to grow your tourism business by connecting you with expert advice, tailored learning and access to culturally respectful industry specialists. If you are a First Nations tourism business and you have aspirations to grow, the FNTMP will give you access to free one-on-one mentoring, delivered in a way which suits your needs.

The FNTMP can support you to grow your tourism business by: connecting you with industry professionals who can provide free, one-on-one advice; and culturally respectful support; providing access to a suite of learning supports and resources developed for and tailored to the First Nations tourism sector.

For further information:

<https://www.fntmp.com.au/s/mentee>

Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students

Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students (BSIS) provides financial support for eligible students boarding away from home or residential fees to access education. Scholarships are available for students in Years 7 to 12 who are disadvantaged by a low family income and geographical isolation.

For further information:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/referral/boarding-scholarships-for-isolated-students-bsis>

Public Library Infrastructure Grants

Public Library Infrastructure Grants are for projects that will assist NSW councils to improve public library infrastructure, including buildings and information technology systems.

For further information:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/public-library-infrastructure-grants-2025-26>

AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant fosters growth and development in women involved in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses, and communities.

For further information:

<https://agrifutures.com.au/opportunities/acceleration-grant/>

Saluting Their Service Grants

The objective of the program is to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel who served in wars, conflicts and peace operations, including National Service personnel, and their families.

For further information:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about/overview/consultations-and-grants/grants-and-bursaries/saluting-their-service-commemorative-grants-program>

National Pies for Local Legends

Any registered Australian community group, sporting club or not-for-profit organisation can apply. National Pies will award a grant of \$1,000 each month over for 12 months, beginning in March 2025. National Pies will also award a major grant of \$10,000 at the end of the program.

Whether you need new boots for your footy club, art supplies for your painting group, a special trip funded, or something else entirely – tell us how we can help!

For further information:

<https://tasmanianbakeries.com.au/local-legends/>

Real Jobs, Real Wages program

The Real Jobs, Real Wages program helps employers grow and diversify their workforce. Talk to us about your recruitment needs. We can work with employers, and our network of employment services providers, to help businesses support people with greater challenges into secure work. Funding of up to \$15,000 available.

For further information

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/real-jobs-real-wages>

Country Education Foundation Grants

The Country Education Foundation provides financial assistance and support to local youth to help them achieve their post high school education, training and vocation aspirations.

Grants are available to local youth who have lived and/or attended school in a CEF region for the majority of their high school years. The 2026 Local Student Grant applications are open now. For further information:

<https://cef.org.au/our-grants/>

The Environmental Education Program

The Environmental Education program aims to:

- drive change in people's behaviour and practices to improve on-ground environmental outcomes and
- build people's skills to deliver environmental outcomes.

The program funds projects that:

- work with their target audience to co-design and pilot engagement strategies
- create effective strategic partnerships that strengthen project outcomes
- measure and demonstrate the impact of their project activities.

For further information:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/nsw-environmental-trust/grants-available/environmental-education>

RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant

The Royal Agricultural Society Foundation (RASf) is offering opportunities for community-minded people to be awarded up to \$25,000 in funding for community projects in their local area. Previously funding has gone to projects including air-conditioning in the local hall to portable yard panels for the showground or a pop-up gazebo, satisfying community needs and benefiting many.

Taking part is easy:

- Identify a need in your rural NSW community
- Partner with a local community organisation
- Create a project plan for your initiative

For further information:

<https://www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation/grants/ras-foundation-community-futures-grant/>

Regional Night-Time Economy Program

The Regional Night-Time Economy Program is an integrated capacity-building and funding program. The purpose of the Program is to encourage local business collaboration and support the development of vibrant night-time economies in regional NSW.

For further information:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8Bregional-night-time-economy-program%E2%80%8B>

High Impact Partnership Round 2 Grants

The High Impact Partnership Round 2 grants focus on emissions reduction and increased sequestration in the primary industries and land sector, with an emphasis on immediate implementation. All funded projects will explore ways to deliver additional benefits alongside carbon abatement.

The second round of High Impact Partnership grants aim to build a cohort of leaders to spearhead change in the primary industries and land sector. Grantees will be organisations or land managers that are active in the sector, have a vision and commitment to act on climate change, and are willing to co-invest with the NSW Government to deliver on their commitments.

For further information:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/high-impact-partnership-grants-round-2>

Grant News

During September extremely successful workshops were held at both the Lightning Ridge Sportsground and Carinda to develop long term strategic plans to support future grant applications. The development of strategic plans for both communities is well advanced. We thank everyone who participated.



Grant Writing Tips and Tricks

Read the guidelines, double check eligibility, proof read your application

Most grant funding programs will be oversubscribed by up to two thirds. The people responsible for assessing the applications will seek to cut down on their work load by checking each application firstly to see if it is eligible and secondly if any mistakes have been made during the preparation of the application.

If there is a mistake if you are lucky, they will contact you seeking clarification, if you are unlucky, they will just rule your application ineligible. A simple way to avoid this is to read the guide lines carefully as well as getting one to two other people to proof read your application before you submit.

Contact

For help and advice on grants and grant funding please feel free to contact Councils Grants Specialist Andrew Rawsthorne on 0428256299 or arawsthorne@walgett.nsw.gov.au