

CLUBS & COMMUNITY AWARDS

Clubs & Community Awards (C&C 2019)

Disability, Welfare & Social Inclusion

Wauchope Community@3



dRLYMOvW

Entrant details

Position Name | General Manager

Entry details

Club Name | Wauchope Country Club

1. Provide an outline of your program/project that addresses each of the aspects noted to the right:

Every Monday from 3pm Wauchope Country Club, with the help of some awesome volunteers, provides a free BBQ to anyone who wishes to attend. Initially this program was intended to provide meals for homeless people but we quickly realised there were others in the community who would benefit from it. Along with a number of homeless regulars, we now frequently see families and school children using the service, along with older people and those in the community who are lonely and just want some company.

In addition to a meal, anyone who wants to can use our shower facilities and take advantage of fresh towels and hygiene products supplied by the club and through donations. The "Orange Sky" Laundry Van (a mobile laundromat that was established to provide free laundry services to people in need) also attends every Monday, enabling people who may not otherwise have access to clean clothing to have their clothes washed and dried while they have a meal.

Wauchope Community@3 now receives donations of food and other items from across the community, enabling the ongoing supply of food and hygiene parcels to those who need them. There is also a decent library of books available which is very popular.

One of the highlights of Wauchope Community@3 is Christmas lunch. This is provided free of charge on Christmas Day, meaning that a potentially lonely day for homeless people and those without family nearby has become a day to look forward to and celebrate. Wauchope Country Club and others donate toys and gifts to ensure that disadvantaged children also get a visit from Santa.

At Easter this year a staff member of Wauchope Country Club donated a massive Easter Egg to Wauchope Community@3 and volunteers running the day where overwhelmed by the excited response of the children in attendance, some of whom believed that the Easter Bunny wouldn't visit them this year.

Although we are very proud to support Wauchope Community@3 and will continue to do so, we can no longer take the credit for it. Its ongoing success and popularity is thanks largely to a group of outstanding volunteers. In particular, Victoria Fox (herself also homeless until recently) works tirelessly collecting and organising donations, chefs and volunteers and never lets anyone miss out on what they need.

If this stuff doesn't make being a club manager worthwhile to people then I'd say they're missing the point...

2. Provide an insight into why this program/project was supported by the club/individual.

It was an easy decision for Wauchope Country Club to support Wauchope Community@3. We were initially approached by a man who had been involved in a similar community BBQ in another community and wanted to see something similar in Wauchope. He and others opened our eyes to how many seriously disadvantaged and homeless people are living in Wauchope. They are barely noticeable as you walk down the street however there is a far larger population of homeless than any of us knew was living in the community.

In addition, we knew we had the right facilities including showers, a good BBQ and a suitable space to host the event so there is little impact on the club's ordinary business but an enormous impact for people in need.

We take our community obligation very seriously and there are any number of fundraising, charity and community events at the club each year. It made perfect sense to us to support Wauchope Community@3 and if there was ever any doubt it was gone as soon as we saw the number and diversity of people needing and using the free service.

3. Provide a brief summary of the support that your club/individual provided to this program/project.

Initially Wauchope Country Club was heavily involved in Wauchope Community@3. For the first 6 weeks the President and GM together did the cooking and the club made cash and food donations to ensure there was enough to go around. In the early stages we also provided advice and assistance in obtaining charity status as well as in the formation of a committee and organisation of volunteers.

Today we still provide some financial support where needed, as well as the ongoing use of the club's facilities, including around 6m2 of permanent and secure storage space, linen for bathing, gas, a BBQ and power and water for the Laundry. We have donation tins on the bar and often receive cash and food donations from members and staff. Like most clubs we have meat raffles every Friday night and members who have had some good luck will frequently donate their surplus trays to Wauchope Community@3. We routinely store prizes in the cool room for patrons so any Friday night prizes not collected by Monday morning are also donated.

Thanks to the effort of volunteers and the generosity of the Wauchope community, Wauchope Community@3's reliance on financial contributions from the club has gradually become less.

4. Provide a summary of the outcomes this program/project achieved and how the club's/individual's contribution helped in this success. Where possible, please quantify your response.

The outcomes for local people that Wauchope Community@3 has achieved have far exceeded the club's expectations. We had no idea of the size of the homeless community and now see many of these people regularly engaging in social activity and taking advantage of our facilities. Just as significantly, Seeing young families and school children benefit is particularly rewarding, especially when there's Easter eggs involved!

Wauchope Community@3 has linked a number of community groups including the Wauchope Community centre, Rotary and others and has helped the club build relationships with like-minded stakeholders in our community. In addition, Wauchope Community@3 has provided a number of volunteers with a meaningful way to make a practical contribution to people's lives and has seen many new friendships and support networks formed. Many of the volunteers have come from disadvantaged backgrounds themselves and there is a true sense of community among both the volunteers and the people who use the service.

5. Provide a summary of how the community responded to the project. Please provide examples to support your answer.

The Wauchope Community's response to Wauchope Community@3 has been outstanding. As already mentioned, the generosity of donations has ensured that there's enough to go around and that people have access to essentials including food, hygiene and friendship. As well as individuals, a number of charity and community groups have become involved and support is now coming from every corner of Wauchope.

In addition to goods, the engagement of volunteers has been excellent. Our membership is highly supportive of Wauchope Community@3 and will staunchly defend it against occasional critics who ask why a club would care about homeless and disadvantaged people with no money to spend? The joy of being a community based, not for profit organisation is the privilege of being able to help those who need it most, then measuring success based on community outcomes rather than financial returns.

A number of club members with no particular connection to Wauchope Community@3 have also become volunteers, expressing their satisfaction at finding a meaningful way to contribute other than by joining large charities like Lions and Rotary. In summary, I believe the community response to Wauchope Community@3 has been overwhelmingly positive, as has the impact on those people using the service.

6. Add your credits here:

Credit to Victoria Fox. Victoria has been involved in Wauchope Community@3 from the outset and has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the benefit of those who attend. Victoria has also successfully registered Wauchope Community@3 with ASIC and has obtained an ABN and charity status for it.

Victoria also arranged fold out business cards that include a range of emergency, counselling and community services phone numbers that she hands out.

Entry submitted by Caleb Rose, General Manager of Wauchope Country Club.

You are encouraged to credit all members of the team that contributed to this entry.

Please be sure to spell names correctly and get titles correct.

You may also use this space to credit any contributing organisations. Email addresses are not required but may be used to arrange delivery of award certificates.

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We have read the Terms &



Conditions of the awards and agree

We declare that the information presented in this entry, is to the best of our knowledge, accurate and true in every respect

| ✓

We confirm that the nomination/submission has been approved by the Club President or Secretary Manager

| ✓

Name of President/Secretary Manager

| Caleb Rose

Title

| General Manager

Date

| 2019-05-09

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