

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE DATE

Friday 14 May 2021

Adnate is on the Tower

Internationally renowned street artist Adnate and his team will commence painting the Heywood water tower on Monday 17 of May.

Adnate's design for the iconic Indigenous war memorial mural includes the work of Gunditjmara man Tom Day using elements of his well-known work that was inspired by the World Heritage listed Budj Bim volcanic landscape and the traditional possum skin cloak.

Emerging local artist Levi Geebung has been selected as part of the team who will complete a 360-degree mural on the tower and will be mentored in large scale mural techniques by Adnate.

Through a seven-month consultation process the local community have agreed on the Gunditjmara tokens and ancestors to be included on the mural. Local landscape will form part of the mural background with eels and traditional eel baskets included.

Emily Falla, Project Lead says *"Through the medium of street art we recognise and celebrate the 1000s of Indigenous servicemen and women who served their country in the armed forces for 87 years before they were considered citizens of Australia in 1967."*

Troy Lovett, Project Co-Lead says *"The mural will celebrate all who have served by showcasing the stories of Leonard, Edward, Fredrick and Herbert Lovett who served in both World War I and World War II along with Reginal 'Reg' Saunders"*.

"Our project aims to encourage truth telling and support a national conversation with the broader community about the service history of all our Gunditjmara ancestors and to recognise and honour the ongoing service of Indigenous servicemen and women."

The volunteer project team who are all graduates of the 2020 Leadership Great South Coast Program have been supported to deliver this project for community by a Steering Committee made up of our project partners: Regional Development Victoria, Wannon Water, Gunditj Mirring Co Op, Glenelg Shire and Leadership Great South Coast,

To access the full community consultation report and more information about the project visit www.lgsc.org.au/projects. It is estimated that the artist team will take approx. two weeks to complete the mural from 17-28 May with landscaping of a reflective garden at the base of the tower to commence on 29 May.

For further information contact the Volunteer Project Leads:

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About the Project

Leadership Great South Coast (LGSC) is an annual Community Leadership Program (NFP) that develops emerging community leaders, providing the opportunity for Program participants to contribute to their community via community projects.

As an initiative of the 2020 LGSC Program, this project will create a large-scale mural on the Heywood water tower. This artwork will create conversations highlighting the significant sacrifices made by all our Gunditjmara service men and women, resulting in positive steps toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of our community.

This project is being delivered by four volunteer project team members who are graduates of the LGSC 2020 Program, they are supported by a Steering Committee of major stakeholders including: Wannon Water, Gunditj Mirring, Glenelg Shire, Regional Development Victoria, and Leadership Great South Coast.

Project Why: Sharing a national conversation around recognition of indigenous servicemen and women, honouring their service and achievements.

Project Aims

1. **Truth Telling.** Sharing their stories. By installing a mural that represents the voice of Indigenous service men and women we start the conversation.
2. **Education.** Supporting a National conversation. The mural will assist to educate community on the achievements, contributions and history of our Indigenous service men and women.
3. **Acknowledge.** Mural plaques will acknowledge and inform community about the significant contributions Indigenous service men and women made for a country they were not equal in.
4. **Empowering Community.** We aim to empower the community by establishing a place for them to celebrate, heal and honour all service men and women.
5. **Repurposing.** Use the Heywood water tower infrastructure to create a reflective mural that adds to a growing Great South Coast Arts Trail.
6. **Economic Benefit.** Increase tourist visitation and spending in Heywood and the broader Glenelg Shire, linking to the Silo Art Trail at the gateway to Budj Bim World Heritage listed landscape.

