

Gannawarra Sporting Club Dinner

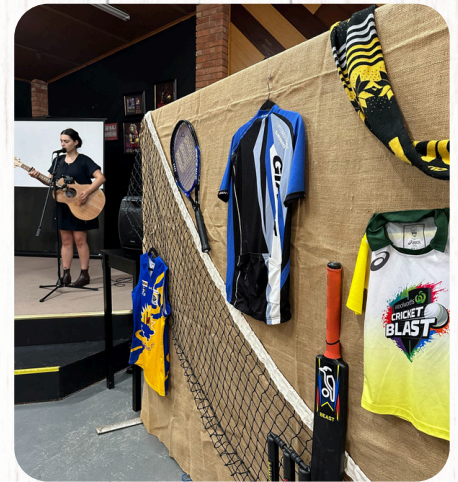
With Brad McEwan

Background

The October-December 2022 floods impacted communities across the Gannawarra Shire. Sporting club volunteers from across Gannawarra played a vital role in supporting the wider community during the emergency, and this support has continued throughout recovery. Providing an opportunity for Gannawarra's sporting clubs to come together to connect and acknowledge their contribution was identified as a priority. Brad McEwan, former sports presenter, 10 News First and host of Network 10's Sports Tonight, was chosen as an appropriate speaker to complement the evening event. Brad is currently a Beyond Blue Ambassador and a resilience and leadership trainer. Brad has connections locally having grown up in Lockington and has family and friends impacted by the Rochester floods. The event focused on the role of volunteers in communities during times of crisis and the importance of sport and recreation clubs as the fabric of small communities. The evening, held at the K-Bar function centre, Kerang on 15 February 2024, was made possible through partnerships and funding support from Northern District Community Health, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Murray Primary Health Network, and Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program.

Event aims

- To bring Gannawarra sporting clubs and volunteers together to relax and network.
- Provide an opportunity for attendees to hear the from a professional speaker with small town connection.
- To communicate the importance volunteers and sports clubs have in small communities.
- To support and reinforce the value sporting groups have in times of crisis.
- Support a local hospitality business and a local musician.



What did the event deliver?

- 71 attendees
- 10 different sporting clubs were represented
- Mayor Ross Stanton was the Master of Ceremonies
- Brad McEwan, Resilience and Leadership trainer presented on the importance of community sport and connection of volunteers.
- Live entertainment was provided by Chloe Calleja
- Kbar Function Centre catered for a 2 course dinner
- Venue was decorated in sport theme
- 2 x \$125 Sportspower Vouchers and 3 sports drink bottles were given away as lucky door prizes.
- 30 attendees responded to the post event survey.

This activity is supported by funding from Murray PHN through the Australian Government's PHN Program



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What did the event achieve?

- 74% of survey respondents said the event definitely gave them the opportunity to connect positively with others
- 87% of respondents said Brad McEwan was an engaging and informative speaker
- 90% of survey participants said the evening definitely gave them the opportunity to reflect positively on the role of volunteers in the community
- 100% of respondents said that the evening allowed them to definitely or somewhat gain some tips on positive volunteer engagement and support
- 84% of survey respondents would definitely recommend evenings such as this one to their family, friends and colleagues in the future.
- Economic benefit to a local hospitality business and local musician.

Feedback

- Brad was an engaging speaker, with a focus on being kind, which was refreshing, especially for a sports night. The meal was delicious and the venue was ideal.
- Great evening and well done to the team organising the event and Brad was on point. The venue was great and the meals were good. Only comment, not a negative though is we need to improve our audio-visual equipment eg. holding the microphone against the projector. Not a negative but something we need to invest in for future events
- Was a very nice night Brad was engaging and I enjoyed his honesty and perspectives
- Congratulations on a great evening!!! ... but potentially running a 'club speed dating' session to meet different people. We ... didn't really have an opportunity to mingle during the night. ... Even a line in the speech saying we have representation from 'Macorna F&N, Murrabit F&N etc' and making the groups wave/cheer? All in all it was a great night!! thank you!
- What a fantastic night - definitely need more of these. Great opportunity to come together as a community. Thank you very much.



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Community Social Media Posts:



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