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

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What did the event achieve?

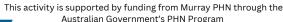
- 74% of survey respondents said the event definitely gave them the opportunity to connect positively with others
- 87% of respondents said Brad McEwan was an engaging and informative speaker
- 90% of survey participants said the evening definitely gave them the opportunity to reflect positively on the 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.



















Gannawarra porting Club Dinner

Community Social Media Posts:

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Kerang Football / Netball club Tracy Roberts · 1 h · 🕢

Thanks Gannawarra Shire Council for putting on this

Thanks KBar & Function Room for our awesome meal Thanks to #bradmcewan for his amazing lecture 💗 We as a club have a extremely important role, not just within ourselves but our community too. We are one team that are volunteering our time, experience, sporting knowledge and just our pure passion to see our kids (both big and small) to get the best out of our club, wether it be footy or netball @ @

To get the best out of what our club does and offer, we need to work as a team - please read quote on photo. This should be our ultimate goal within our club GO BLUES - let's have a rippa 2024 season

#kindiscool @







7:11

Wandella Football Netball Club



Tonight Leigh, Georga, Brooke and Kellie attended an absolute fantastic Gannawarra Sporting Club Dinner with Brad McEwan.

Reflecting on tonight's enlightening presentation by Brad, we're compelled to delve deeper into the essence of community and the profound impact of sport on our lives. At the core of it all is the simple truth: everything we have is because of people. Without them, we have nothing. It's a powerful reminder that in times of crisis, it's the collective spirit of volunteers that uplifts and sustains our communities.

From extending a helping hand to sharing burdens, the essence of community lies in the simple acts of caring kindness. As the saying goes, 'a problem shared is a problem halved.' Tonight taught us that it's not about chasing perfection, but fostering genuine connections that fill our souls and give us purpose.

One key takeaway resonates deeply: it's not a sacrifice to contribute to our community or sporting clubs; it's a conscious choice. Whether it's volunteering in the canteen, cleaning the clubrooms or scoring a game of netball, every action contributes to the vibrant tapestry of community life. These choices create lifelong connections and friendships that enrich our lives in profound ways.

Let's not underestimate the transformative power of communities, especially sporting communities like Wandella. They have the ability to change lives, shape destinies, and foster a sense of belonging that transcends boundaries. So, as we continue on our journey, let's embrace these choices and celebrate the incredible impact of the Wandella FNC community on our collective well-being. Together, we can truly make a difference.

Thank you to the Gannawarra Shire Council and Brad McEwan for a brilliant night.

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