

Monday 5 December 2011

## Indigo Shire Council wins the John Jago Good Governance Award

Indigo Shire Council has won an award for its *Indigo 2030* project, which takes a long-term strategic view of what the shire may look like in the year 2030.

The John Jago Good Governance Award is awarded annually to a member council of the Victorian Local Governance Association or community group whose governance and leadership practices have led to improved public participation in decision-making. The award was announced in Melbourne last Thursday 1 December.

Indigo Mayor Cr Larry Goldsworthy said Indigo Council liked to do things a bit differently and approached the *Indigo 2030* project in a creative and innovative way, which resulted in about 700 responses in a variety of mediums.

"We enlisted the help of more than 70 residents in having a series of community conversations right across the shire. We made this pretty simple – people could just record a conversation they had with their neighbour or they could include the topic in a meeting of a group they belonged to," Cr Goldsworthy said.

"We ran art and story competitions and had over 150 entries from all ages in both of these, and entries from all 15 schools in our shire. The entries in the art competitions came from both established artists and 'amateurs'. We recruited a local artist to make artistic pieces of work as prizes in the various competitions.

"We mailed a reply paid postcard to every resident for them to put their vision in words or a drawing on the reverse side and had a great response. We had an art exhibition in November in the Yackandandah Public Hall showcasing the conversations, short stories, artworks and postcards. The exhibition then moved to Rutherglen and we had great feedback on both occasions.

"Still to come is a song. A professional local entertainer is working with our young people to develop a song about the 2030 project. And the outcomes of the project will be recorded in a film and we have a director working with our young people on this."

A meeting of the 'community conversation champions' in November pulled all the information together into major themes and this will form the basis of a corporate document that will go to Council then back out to the community for their comment.

Cr Goldsworthy was full of praise for the staff who drove the project. "The award is well deserved. It had a fantastic response from the community from all age groups and demographics. Their aspirations will set us up for the future and help drive the direction of the Council," Cr Goldsworthy said.

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