

Sustainable Communities 2021-22.

Winner case study: Kimba



Sustainable Communities is all about telling a community's story, getting people together to help their local towns, schools and businesses and to be proud of what they have achieved. Sharing achievements is the focus of the Sustainable Community awards, so that initiatives can have ripple effects to more areas of Australia and beyond.

During 2021-22 we saw community projects affected by the impacts of COVID-19 so the applications to the program were particularly impressive. Many initiatives focussed on social connectivity and wellbeing, potentially as a response to these challenges at the time.

The 2021-22 winner was **The District Council of Kimba in collaboration with 'Our Town.'**

The District of Kimba is located 465km northwest of Adelaide in the Eyre Peninsula and is the gateway to the Gawler Ranges. With a population of just over 1000, the main industry is farming with some innovative practices being trialled and adopted by locals. Regional development has embraced collaboration with a community solar station, solar on public infrastructure, recycling joint agreements and primary industry innovation projects.

Submitted initiatives include:

- Upgrades to a popular free recreation reserve/camping site. The reserve has been open to self-contained camping since 2013 and a coin operated shower & RV dumping



point was added to support tourism. A new amenity block and a repurposed building acts as a camp kitchen and the area has been beautified with drought tolerant natives watered with local and grey water. All this has reduced roadside camping which was a significant challenge and lost opportunity. All work was informed and supported by community engagement.

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- The 'Building community & business capacity project' included the appointment of an Economic Development Manager. Their role has a focus on economic, social and environmental sustainability structured on nature-based experiences for social, physical and mental benefits. The role also supports small businesses with an extensive Business Enhancement & Retention Review being undertaken.
- Agricultural sector education in the region supports innovation and leadership in environmental sustainability, including the involvement and up-skilling of local youth. The local sector is known for R&D, notably for deep tillage soil carbon projects. They monitor weather data and use soil moisture probe information for farming use. This supports water efficiency as well as supporting fire management and spray schedules. They also support innovative ideas such as growing unique ancient grains, sustainably regenerating landscapes, restoring biodiversity and improving soil health for human health.

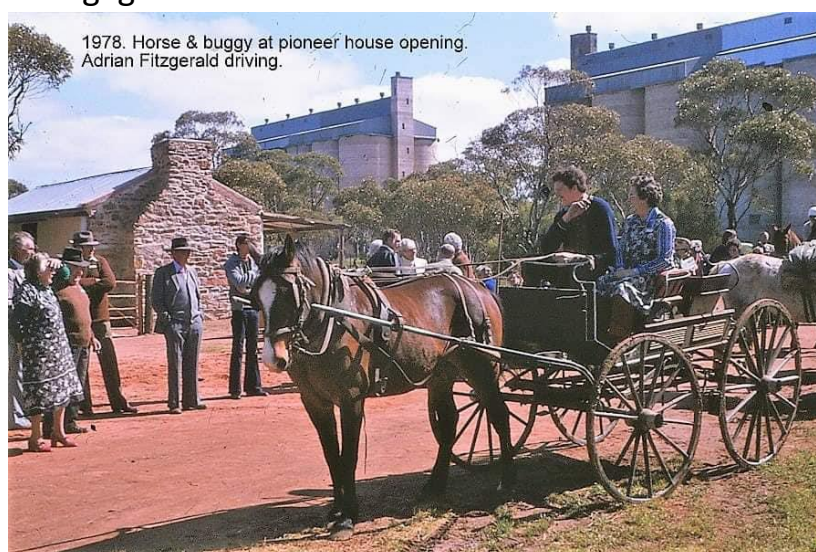
An educational framework consists of events & workshops, regional trips, seminars and walks to engage stakeholders.



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- The 'Our Town' health & wellbeing project, informed by Fay Fuller's research into rural mental health community events and workshops. There is now a dedicated position working exclusively on reconciliation within the project, benefitting the whole community.
- The Kimba & Gawler Ranges Historical Museum expansion now offers hands-on experiences to educate and engage tourists and locals alike.
- Youth & Leadership is a hallmark for Kimba as they are known for having youth engaged in industry for triple bottom line sustainable agriculture. Council and the Kimba school student forum are collaborating to enable future leaders. This includes mentoring future leaders, supporting education and initiatives.
- Community collaboration for waste & recycling has seen improved resource management in public spaces and the broader rural environment.



For a relatively small town to initiate and deliver such a diversity of large-scale community projects is a major achievement and an award well deserved. Congratulations Kimba, we hope you enjoy the recognition and prize of a community bench made from recycled materials.

If you'd like to learn more about the Kimba's initiatives, you can contact them directly: council@kimba.sa.gov.au (08) 8627 2026