



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT RECEIVES HERITAGE AND CULTURAL AWARD

The Project Zone has been awarded a Heritage and Cultural Award at the 2023 NSW Tidy Town Award as a result of their partnership program with the Wellington Caves Complex and Dubbo Regional Council (DRC).

The Digging Deep Time program delivers a whole-of-community project involving Wellington's schools in producing content and sharing stories related to Wellington's local megafauna.

Project Zone partnered with Dubbo Regional Council and the Wellington Caves Complex in 2022 with further partnership organisations including Flinders University, Wellington Public School, Wellington High School and St Mary's Catholic School.

"DRC is proud to partner with organisations such as Project Zone to further better our community, in this case through the education of our Wellington students on some of the history of their community," Dubbo Regional Council Mayor Mathew Dickerson said.

The project provided young people with the opportunity to learn new transferable employability and vocational skills, opening new pathways into vocational outcomes in tourism, palaeontology, museums and galleries, and curatorial/research professions.

“This recognition stands as a significant testament to the excellence of our collective efforts in highlighting the importance of Megafauna in the Wellington region,” Project Zone Creative Director Vince Lovecchio said.

“We hope this accolade will pave the way for additional support in advancing its future development,” Mr Lovecchio said.

Outputs of the project include a mixture of short films and documentaries focussing on the significance of megafauna in Wellington.

These include documentary accounts of the resource, historical re-enactments of significant events in the megafauna story, the Wiradjuri Elders’ and their local, traditional stories, and tourism-oriented promotional films.

The short films and artworks will be showcased state-wide as part of a live streaming event broadcast directly from the Wellington Caves Complex to schools around NSW on 7 December 2023.

The Digging Deep Time project forms part of a larger megafauna initiative planned for the town and region, centred around education, culture, employment, and tourism.

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