



## **Water Industry Operators Association announce the Kwatye Cultural Recognition Award winner for 2021**

The cultural recognition award is an annual award for Water Industry Operators Association (WIOA) individual members to recognise an initiative involving cultural or diversity and inclusion-based activities within a project and/or community in which they serve.

The winner/s have made an outstanding contribution to supporting diversity and fostering inclusion in the workplace or community. The award focuses on those who have gone above and beyond to further inclusion, connection, and belonging for co-workers, community members, and people from disadvantaged and marginalised groups. 'Kwatye' means water to the aboriginal Arrernte people from the Northern Territory. For many people in Australia, water is a resource more precious than gold and why TRILITY proudly sponsors this award.

Jason Van Der Heyden from Wannon Water and Troy Lovett, Emily Falla, and Craig Kelson are the winners of the 2021 Kwatye Cultural Recognition Award for their project titled:

### **The Heywood Water Tower – Indigenous War Memorial Mural.**

For many years the Heywood community and Indigenous elders have spoken of the achievement and sacrifice made by the Gunditjmara servicemen and women and how they could honour their heroic efforts. Their vision can now be brought to life by applying a large-scale mural on the locally recognised Heywood Water Tower. The mural will proudly acknowledge the commitment of our Gunditjmara servicemen and women's commitment while serving as a conversation piece that unites our community.

This project will contribute positive steps toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the community.

The project included truth-telling and education; supporting a national conversation around the recognition of Indigenous servicemen and women, and honouring their service and achievements, Community empowerment; providing a place for the community to honour and heal together, and acknowledgment; the recognition of the many Gunditjmara servicemen and women who have made significant contributions and sacrifice for their country.

Located at the gateway to the Budj Bim World Heritage-listed Landscape, the project creates the opportunity to extend a growing Great South Coast Arts Trail and Silo Art Trail. The sacrifice exhibited by Heywood's Indigenous servicemen and women is recognised within the armed forces and in their proud community, with Gunditjmara men and women serving our nation since the first World War.

Amongst those are four Lovett brothers who served Australia in both the first and second World Wars and returned home alive. In total, 21 Lovett family members have served in the Australian Defence Force since the First World War. The four brothers have now come to symbolise the commitment and determination of our Gunditjmara servicemen and women.