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### **Heritage Trail App shortlisted in National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards**

Central Darling Shire Council has welcomed news that the *Central Darling Heritage Trail App* has been shortlisted in two categories for the 2024 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards. The app is shortlisted in the Education & Interpretation and Events, Exhibitions & Tours categories.

Central Darling Shire Council General Manager Greg Hill said it was wonderful recognition with the Central Darling Heritage Trail App being named on a list with extremely high calibre entries in a year where a record number of entries were received.

“To be shortlisted in the prestigious National Trust Heritage Awards is an outstanding outcome for everyone involved in the project. It is also valuable recognition for our communities. From the very start this project relied on collaboration with local communities,” Mr Hill said.

Building the app, which features two guided walking tours and four guided driving tours, was a mammoth task. User testing of the prototype was carried out at the end of 2022 and the app was officially launched in Wilcannia, in partnership with the local community, in April 2023. The app, which is free to download, brings to life the unique history of the Central Darling Shire in an engaging and innovative way.

The Central Darling Heritage Trail app is designed to encourage tourists to visit the towns of Wilcannia, White Cliffs, and Menindee by showcasing the interesting stories and heritage buildings of each town. It also signposts local tours and encourages visitors to join these, promoting a healthy local economy.

The Heritage Trail App was made possible thanks to \$150,000 in funding from the Far Southwest Joint Organisation. Council commissioned Heritage Specialists Dr Bernadette Drabsch and Ben Churcher and the team from The University of Newcastle Dr Simone O’Callaghan, Dr Ben Matthews and third-year creative industries university students.

“Special mention must go to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to produce this outstanding tourism experience,” Mr Hill said.

The winners will be announced on Friday 17 May at a function in Sydney.

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