

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

6 July 2012

Attention: News Editor

Warmer welcome at Mitchell House

Mount Barker's home of the arts is offering a warmer welcome to artists, guests and community members.

Mitchell House is the base of the Plantagenet Arts Council, which gained Royalties for Regions funding of \$7000 through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) to help upgrade the centre's kitchen and toilet facilities.

Arts Council President Trish Powell said groups that used the centre were thrilled with the improvements.

"Four or five groups use Mitchell House each week," Mrs Powell said.

"We had huge problems previously because it is an old house and the kitchen was not up to standard.

"The fact that we now have a decent-looking kitchen makes a huge difference to the various groups.

"In the long run it could help to attract more users to Mitchell House," Mrs Powell said.

The kitchen refurbishment included new cupboards and benchtops, floor coverings and water heater, and the disabled toilet was painted.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the Mitchell House improvements illustrated the broad scope of the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme (RGS).

"Improving the kitchen and other facilities at Mitchell House was a small endeavour measured against the scale of some of the major RGS projects," Mr Manning said.

"However, these small improvements can make a big difference to the groups involved, helping them to sustain active membership and to continue offering programs that strengthen the local community."

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