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Wagga shines as council takes out prestigious award

By **MICHELLE WEBSTER**

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WAGGA City Council has picked up a prestigious award at the 2009 Australasian Reporting Awards held in Melbourne last week.

Taking out a bronze award in the Report of the Year category, the council was recognised for its high standards of financial reporting.

Wagga mayor Kerry Pascoe attended the presentation dinner at Melbourne's Crown Towers Hotel, and accepted the honour on behalf of the council.

He said it was a proud occasion for Wagga City Council and he was thrilled to pick up the honour.

"We were up against some major councils in our category, so it's a great achievement for us to pick up this award," he said.

"This is Wagga Wagga City Council's first time to enter these prestigious

awards and I am extremely proud of our achievement.

"These awards give us a great chance to benchmark against others while striving to achieve excellence in reporting to our community."

With entries from major corporations such as BHP Billiton, Mr Pascoe said entering the awards and attending the ceremony had been an opportune way to spread Wagga's good name.

"Being able to receive the award on behalf of council at the ceremony provided an excellent opportunity to showcase Wagga's commitment to good annual reporting as part of ensuring transparency and accountability in the public sector," he said.

The award criteria are based on world's best practice in annual reporting and are updated regularly to respond to changing expectations and statutory requirements.