

Media Release



19 January 2023

EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2022

Citizen of the Year Award recipients 2023

More than a dozen Adelaide Hills locals have been recognised with awards this Australia Day at ceremonies held across the Hills.

“This year the Awards focus is Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. Our community has really embraced this theme with so many wonderful and worthy recipients,” said Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom.

“We encouraged people to share stories of citizens who serve others in the community. Now we pay our respects and share in celebrating those stories of the unsung heroes in the Adelaide Hills who contribute so selflessly and make our community so special.”

Natash Hortle of Woodside, has been awarded the Adelaide Hills Council Citizen of the Year 2023.

Natasha contributes to the community in many ways, including bushfire recovery, community events, sports clubs, fundraising, as well as the school and kindergarten community.

“The ongoing personal effort and care that Natasha shows for those in her community that need support is outstanding and her impact is undeniable,” said Mayor Wisdom.

“She has built strong relationships, provided both physical and emotion support to those affected by the 2019 bushfires and dedicated time to raise a significant amount of funds for Cancer research. She is a more than worthy recipient.”

The Young Citizen of the Year Award 2023 was presented to 27 year old Woodside local, Jasmin Scott, whose voluntary work has contributed to the Lobethal Bushfire Recovery Centre and the wonderful return of the Light of Lobethal festival.

“Jasmin has cared for the Lobethal community during its recovery from the 2019 bushfires and has invested a significant amount of time bringing to life the Valley of Praise Christmas Maze as part of the Lights of Lobethal festival,” said Mayor Wisdom.

“Her innovative, imaginative and compassionate approach has inspired others to become volunteers and she sets a fantastic example of service to others of all ages.”

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Adelaide Hills Council official

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Finally, the annual English Ale Festival has been recognised as the stand out Community Event of the Year 2023.

Running for 22 years, the festival brings over 1000 people to the region each year. In true community spirit the voluntary committee engage local people and businesses in planning and executing this unique event that showcases the Adelaide Hills.

“The English Ale Festival has grown from strength to strength and brings together people from near and far,” said Mayor Wisdom.

“The commitment to supporting and partnering with Hills businesses, as well as and encouraging visitors to stay and experience the Adelaide Hills is a priceless asset thanks to the event committee. We hope to see their event continue to grow into the future.”

An additional 12 Civic Awards were also presented to Adelaide Hills locals who have made an outstanding contribution to their community and made an impact through acts of kindness and generosity.

These award winners were:

Tracy Goodwin
Ray Grivell
Merrilyn Hannaford
Ross Kealley
Donald Kevin Herrmann
John Odea
Robert Riggs
Mitchell Smyth
Brenda Stenhouse
Doreen Thomas
Oakbank Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee
Stirling Meals on Wheels

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