

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday 10 December 2024  
CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

**Item:** 19.1

**Responsible Officer:** Gary Lewis  
Director Corporate Services

**Subject:** Citizen of the Year 2025 Recommendations

**For:** Decision

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**1. Citizen of the Year 2025 Recommendations – Exclusion of the Public**

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except:

- Chief Executive Officer, Greg Georgopoulos
- Director Corporate Services, Gary Lewis
- Director Community and Development, Jess Charlton
- Director Environment and Infrastructure, David Waters
- Executive Governance Officer, Zoë Gill
- Minute Secretary

be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 19.2: (Citizen of the Year 2025 Recommendations) in confidence.

The Council is satisfied that it is necessary that the public, with the exception of Council staff in attendance as specified above, be excluded to enable Council to consider the report at the meeting on the following grounds:

Section 90(3)(o) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to reveal award recipient information before a special event.

Accordingly, on this basis the principle that meetings of the Council should be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential.

## **2. Citizen of the Year Awards 2025 Recommendations – Confidential Item**

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise Council of the recommendations for Citizen of the Year and Civic Awards
- Enable Council to confer the applicable awards.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Council resolves:**

- 1. That the report be received and noted.**
- 2. To confer Des Chabrel of Oakbank with the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award**
- 3. To confer Rhonda Merrilyn Loechel of Birdwood and Deanne Hanchant-Nichols of Uraidla with 2025 Citizen of the Year Award Commendations.**
- 4. To confer the Adelaide Hills Garden Affair with the 2025 Community Event of the Year Award.**
- 5. To confer the LIGHT UP & GROW: Electrifying Tales Shaping Community Life in Mount Torrens with 2025 Event of the Year Commendations.**
- 6. To confer Civic Awards to:**
  - a. Heather Hartley of Charleston**
  - b. Brenton Heinrich of Woodside**
  - c. Pam Heinrich of Woodside**
  - d. Kylie Holt of Gumeracha**
  - e. Walter Moors (known as Corry) of Woodside**
  - f. Mell Penno of Gumeracha**
  - g. Dr Mary Retallack**
  - h. Tim Schapel of Summertown**
  - i. Tanya Schroeder of Ashton**
  - j. Paul Sinkinson of City of Charles Sturt**
  - k. Sandra Veitch of Uraidla**
  - l. Lesley Walker of Aldgate**
  - m. Shirley Warner of Houghton**
  - n. Stirling Community Shop Inc (Opportunity Shop) of Stirling (Group)**
  - o. Charleston Emergency Response and Recovery Group of Charleston (Group)**
  - p. Gumeracha Fifth Sunday Market (Group)**

- q. SA Medieval Fair (Group)
  - r. Lions Hearing Dog Open Day (Group)
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## 1. BACKGROUND

Local Citizen of the Year Awards are conferred by local councils as part of the national awards scheme coordinated by the National Australia Day Council (NADC) and local branches.

The Awards recognise outstanding contributions to the local community by local Australians. For many years the Adelaide Hills Council has conferred the following awards on Australia Day:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year Commendation(s)
- Civic Awards

The Citizen and Young Citizen (under 30 years of age) of the Year Awards recognise outstanding individual achievements and contributions to the local community, while the Community Event of the Year Award recognises collaborative accomplishment. Council is able to award joint recipients and commendations in these categories.

The Civic Award category, which is not part of the NADC scheme, provides Council with the opportunity to recognise individuals or groups who may not be given one of the major awards, but who are considered to warrant recognition, nonetheless. The Council has discretion as to how many Civic Awards are conferred and it has typically awarded multiple each year.

In accordance with resolution 270/17 that Council made on 14 November 2017, nominations are assessed by staff with recommendations made for the Council's consideration.

## 2. ANALYSIS

### ➤ Strategic Management Plan/Functional Strategy/Council Policy Alignment

*Strategic Plan 2024 – Your place, your space*

Goal CW2 Enrich, empower and support connected communities

Objective CW2.2 Support community groups and community-led initiatives that achieve wellbeing outcomes

The annual awards are an opportunity for Council to recognise and celebrate members of the Adelaide Hills community who are volunteering their time, skills, and expertise to benefit the wellbeing of the wider district.

➤ **Legal Implications**

*Section 74 – General conflicts of interest* of the Act set out the provisions regarding General Conflicts of Interest. In considering a General Conflict of Interest (COI), an impartial, fair-minded person might consider that the Council Member’s private interests might result in the Member acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty. If a Council Member believes that they may have a General COI, they should consider declaring the interest and acting in accordance with s75B – Dealing with general conflicts of interest.

*Section 75 – Material conflicts of interest* of the Act set out the provisions regarding Material Conflicts of Interest. In considering a Material Conflict of Interest (COI), a member of a council has a material conflict of interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting of the council if a class of persons as defined in s75(1)(a-l) in the Act would gain a benefit, or suffer a loss, (whether directly or indirectly and whether of a personal or pecuniary nature) depending on the outcome of the consideration of the matter at the meeting. If a Council Member believes that they may have a Material COI, they should consider declaring the interest and acting in accordance with s75C – Dealing with material conflicts of interest.

➤ **Risk Management Implications**

The recognition of community achievement and sacrifice through the Citizen of the Year Awards program will assist in mitigating the risk of:

*Failure to provide for the wellbeing and interests of the community (through an outlet for formal recognition of community leaders) leading to negative attitudes towards Council in the community, disengaged community members and possible reduction in volunteerism.*

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
High (2A)	Low (2E)	Low

The residual risk takes into consideration the current practice of making annual awards and assumes continued Council support of these awards.

A number of other initiatives also contribute to mitigating this risk.

➤ **Financial and Resource Implications**

Citizen of the Year Awards are supported by the Australia Day Council of South Australia (ADCSA). Financial and human resources surrounding the events to support these awards are included in the operating budget.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

Conferring awards creates a sense of civic pride in personal and group achievement. It encourages others to take similar steps in providing selfless community service.

➤ **Sustainability Implications**

Not applicable.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation conducted in the development of the report**

In accordance with the decision made at the Special Council Meeting on 14 November 2017, recommendations have been made by a panel of staff members, convened by the Manager Communications, Engagement, and Events.

Consultation on the development of this report was as follows:

<i>Council Committees:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Council Workshops:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Advisory Groups:</i>	Not applicable
<i>External Agencies:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Community:</i>	While the community is not consulted on the recipients of the awards, the community is the primary source of nominations.

➤ **Additional Analysis**

Nominations for the Awards were sought from the community through promotions in Council’s communication channels of eNewsletters, social media, website, libraries and community centres, and direct emails encouraging community groups to promote the nomination period to their networks. Nominations for the 2024 Awards closed on Friday 17 November 2024.

The panel of staff members convened to evaluate the nominations and make recommendations contained in this report comprised the following:

Jennifer Blake – Manager Communications, Engagement, and Events (Convenor)  
Ty Allen – Club Sport Officer  
Julie Wilhelm – Regional Positive Ageing Project Officer  
Penelope Starling – Communications Officer - Communications, Engagement, and Events

The panel evaluated nominations for Citizen and Young Citizen of the year against the criteria recommended by ADCSA, which were:

- Contribution to the community
- Scope of impact on the Adelaide Hills
- Inspirational role model.

Likewise, the Community Event of the Year nominations were evaluated against the following criteria:

- The quality of the event
- The scope of impact the event has on the local government area
- The event’s contribution to the community.

A summary of the recommendations is provided in **Appendix 1**. Those nominees not recommended for awards have been removed to protect the dignity and privacy of those individuals (who it is assumed are not aware of their nominations).

Des Chabrel is recommended as Citizen of the Year, but two other citizens are highly recommended for commendations in this category with the panel finding all three nominees to be highly deserving of recognition.

### Citizen of the Year: Des Chabrel

Des Chabrel, of Oakbank has been nominated for his contributions to the local and wider community for numerous years.

Des has given back to his community through volunteering as a Secretary and Committee member at Tribe Triathlon for over 12 years and as part of the Charleston Park Run group.

Over the last 13 years he has volunteered for Technical Aids, where he modifies bikes for people with a disability, ensuring they meet the unique needs of the individual and enhances their mobility and independence.

This year he flew to Darwin and Alice Springs to help families with providing/adapting bikes for children with disabilities. He meets with the local families and works out ways that he can re-design bikes so that children can ride. He then customises the bikes to enable children so they can enjoy riding. For example, he adapted a bike for a child to ride that had no arms.

He also volunteers at Bike S.M every week repairing old and/or stolen bikes to send to the children on the APY Lands.

He has volunteered in numerous other roles at Adelaide Harriers Athletics Club, Masters Athletics Events, and City to Bay events.

Des has definitely demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life. He often opens up his home for local families that can't get to town for assessments.

In the past he has also mentored children in maths to help them succeed in the schooling.

Des regularly participates in Parkrun and has completed two world marathons encouraging people of all ages that you are never too old to do anything.

The panel believe Des has made a significant contribution to the Adelaide hills community and beyond. He is an outstanding and inspirational role model.

### Citizen of the Year Commendation: Deanne Hanchant-Nichols

Deanne contributes to the community in many ways and is a founding member of the Uraidla and Districts South Australian Country Women's Association (SACWA). She has been instrumental in organizing and making thousands of poppies for wreaths for the five local war memorials and a beautiful poppy shower for the Uraidla ANZAC Ceremony. She is currently working on a Horse Blanket covered in poppies for the Australian War Animals Memorial/ANZAC Day Parade in Adelaide.

Such was her dedication that the first year the Poppy Shower was put up the night before, she slept in the car next to it to ensure its safety.

Uraidla group, leading yarnning circles for community, being involved in YES campaign to support allies, Imagine Uraidla, tracks and trails group, Uraidla Show - Convenor Vegetables for several years.

Deanne has contributed to many groups to help Reconciliation across the Adelaide Hills, sharing knowledge of the local Aboriginal history.

Deanne is a member of the Adelaide Hills Reconciliation Working Group (Adelaide Hills Council and Mt Barker Council), providing feedback for both council's RAPs. She wrote the Aboriginal history of our region for Council's Innovate RAP and website and contributed her knowledge to the Stirling Library Lawn group and Fabrik.

She always makes herself available to Council for advice and general knowledge. Deanne provides Acknowledgement of Country for numerous events in the community including Uraidla Show, Sustainability Fair, Home School Group, Pioneer Women's Walk, and the English Ale.

Deanne provides cultural knowledge sessions for students and staff of Uraidla Kindy and Public School, and Bridgewater Kindy and Public School. This includes history of the area, plant and animal knowledge, language sessions.

#### Citizen of the Year Commendation: Rhonda Merrilyn Loechel

Rhonda is an active and involved Birdwood citizen over many years within the local community and beyond. She taught Sunday School at the Birdwood Uniting Church and actively supports Birdwood Primary school, assisting at the School's Major Fund Raiser, Farm Day by baking for the cake stall, providing sheep for shearing and lambs for bottle feeding. She liaises with schools to identify children whose needs are not met at home to offer targeted assistance and, if required, cares for children when parents are unable to do so.

Rhonda provides transport for residents to emergency dental, medical and optical appointments where public transport is unsuitable.

Over the years, Rhonda has provided care for 12 young aboriginal children from Elcho Island ensuring they receive education and are integrated into the local community. One still remains with her in South Australia and is currently employed.

Under the leadership of Rhonda, these students have been accepted into the community via sporting clubs, presentations of cultural songs and dance. This has resulted in the community being very understanding and accepting other of cultures and embracing others who have different beliefs and cultures. Strong relationships continue to exist., Rhonda organises the Birdwood Food Pantry which provides food to the disadvantaged to help them survive in hard times. This is now a Community Pantry involving all local churches, service clubs, and schools who collected food items.

Rhonda established collection points at various shops and businesses and says it's exciting to see previous receivers of assistance become donors to the pantry.

The Pantry distributed over 50 food parcels in the months of August/September and will distribute up to 30 food hampers at Christmas.

Rhonda also selects clothing from the Op SHOP and delivers it to needy people.

#### Young Citizen of the Year: no recipient recommended

There was only one nomination for Young Citizen of the Year and this nomination did not meet the criteria.

Community Event of the Year: Adelaide Hills Garden Affair

This year, the panel were delighted by the diverse event nominations and feel two of the nominations deserve to be recognised in the Event of the Year category. One as Event of the Year and the other to receive a commendation.

The Event of the Year is to be awarded to the **Adelaide Hills Garden Affair (AHGA)**.

AHGA was conceived by a small group of volunteers who wanted to create a unique Adelaide Hills gardening event that attracted over 2000 visitors. The main focus of AHGA was to provide an event where people interested in horticulture, gardening and conservation could meet and share ideas. It also provided different agencies, business and individuals an opportunity to come together and make new links and discuss the importance of horticulture in the Adelaide Hills.

The event featured local vendors, businesses, NFP Agencies, and most importantly local garden clubs to showcase a distinct Adelaide Hills style.

The event was held in the beautiful grounds of Stangate House, giving the National Trust property significant publicity.

Over 60 vendors traded at the event, with most reporting that their trading was good to exceptional. Many attendees also went on to shop and explore in the local villages. Some businesses also offered vouchers that could be used later, and many people subsequently returned to the hills.

Two local NFP Agencies ran stalls and were able to raise significant funds to be used on local community projects.

AHGA was featured in numerous magazine articles and established a relationship with The Courier newspaper who sponsored the event with three full pages of promotional material and an editorial. ABC radio also promoted AHGA in the weeks leading up to the event and broadcasted from Stangate House on the day.

The panel believe this event has had a wonderful impact on the Adelaide Hills, not just on the day but with the relationships developed through the event.

Community Event of the Year Commendation: LIGHT UP & GROW: Electrifying Tales Shaping Community Life in Mount Torrens event.

The LIGHT UP & GROW: Electrifying Tales Shaping Community Life in Mount Torrens was nominated for its exceptional role in celebrating and preserving the town's rich history with electricity, while fostering community pride and engagement.

Held as part of South Australia's History Festival 2024 and presented by Mount Torrens & Districts Community Association Incorporated (MTDCA), this interactive exhibition illustrated the transformative power of electricity in Mount Torrens, from life before electrification to the advancements that followed its arrival in 1926. The exhibition featured displays, personal stories, and hands-on experiences, engaging residents and visitors in a meaningful exploration of the town's past. Contributions from Mount Torrens Christian School (MTCS) and local residents enriched the exhibition, making it a truly community-driven effort that emphasised local heritage and inspired appreciation for both historical and contemporary infrastructure initiatives.



The show reflects who the town is and showcases the many values, skills and contributions peri urban Australia provides for the metropolitan majority. It is a unique learning environment providing those who visit tangible examples of both the struggle and the prosperity experienced by producers, farmers and Australians working on the land.

The exhibition played a significant role in enhancing community life by fostering local pride, encouraging participation, and strengthening connections across generations so attendees were able to connect with Mount Torrens' heritage on a personal level. MTCS provided an educational display on electricity generation methods, allowing both children and adults to gain a deeper understanding of electricity's role in daily life. The exhibition's interactive elements, like vintage Bakelite telephones and the transition from hand tools to electrical appliances, engaged attendees of all ages and fostered shared reflections on how technology has shaped everyday life.

The exhibit inspired community discussions about ongoing infrastructure improvements, like the goal of undergrounding power lines, connecting Mount Torrens' historical evolution to its future aspirations.

LIGHT UP & GROW received widespread interest and commendation from a broad audience, demonstrating its significance beyond the immediate community. The exhibition attracted a diverse group of visitors, including residents from nearby areas, history enthusiasts drawn by the History Festival, and passers-by from the Amy Gillett Bikeway.

The panel believe that Light Up & Grow highlights the value of community-focused events in preserving local history and fostering a shared sense of identity which is why it has been recommended for a commendation.

Both the Adelaide Hills Gardening Affair and LIGHT UP & GROW: Electrifying Tales Shaping Community Life in Mount Torrens are community led events that bring a positive impact to our area.

#### Civic Awards

14 individuals and five groups are recommended to receive Civic Awards (see the recommendation for the full list of 18). These include a number of people who were nominated for Citizen of the Year or Event of the Year.

Civic Award recipients have been selected for a variety of reasons including outstanding contributions to their communities, creating connections and a sense of belonging, bringing events to life, and inspiring others in their community. All of our recommended civic award recommendations go above and beyond and show true service to our community.

In conferring the Awards, the Council should consider the following factors:

- Individual recipients (for Citizen and Young Citizen) must be Australian Citizens, and their contributions should affect the Adelaide Hills Council district (they do not have to reside in the district),
- The Young Citizen of the Year must be under 30 years of age on Australia Day,
- Outstanding contribution to the community and inspirational achievements must be evident.

The panel considers each of the recommended recipients to meet these factors where applicable.

Awards will be presented by the Deputy Mayor, or another Council Member at a Council supported Australia Day event of the recipients' choice. Should a recipient prefer to receive their award on another day, arrangements will be made accordingly.

Recipients of the major awards will be forwarded to the Australia Day Council of South Australia for consideration in the State Awards, presented by the Governor of South Australia.

### **3. OPTIONS**

Council must determine which individuals and/or groups, if any, should receive Citizen of the Year Awards. The Council is not obliged to confer each award; to preserve the integrity of the awards it should only do so where genuine merit has been established.

The staff panel assigned to assess the Citizen of the Year Awards nominations was formed to allow time to properly consider each nomination and establish worthy award recipients. Its recommendations should therefore be strongly considered.

### **4. APPENDIX**

(1) Recommended Recipients for Citizen of the Year Awards 2025

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# **Appendix 1**

*Recommended recipients for Citizen of the Year  
Awards 2025*

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**2025 Citizen of the Year Awards – Recommended recipients for Council consideration – Confidential**

Nominee name	Reason for nomination, as stated by nominator(s)	Panel recommendation
Des Chabrel	<p>Des Chabrel of Oakbank has been nominated for his contributions to the local and wider community for numerous years.</p> <p>Des has given back to his community through volunteering as a Secretary and Committee member at Tribe Triathlon for over 12 years and as part of the Charleston Park Run group.</p> <p>Over the last 13 years he has volunteered for Technical Aids, where he modifies bikes for people with a disability, ensuring they meet the unique needs of the individual and enhances their mobility and independence.</p> <p>This year he flew to Darwin and Alice Springs to help families with providing/adapting bikes for children with disabilities. He meets with the local families and works out ways that he can re-design bikes so that children can ride. He then customises the bikes to enable children so they can enjoy riding. For example, he adapted a bike for a child to ride that had no arms.</p> <p>He also volunteers at Bike S.M every week repairing old and/or stolen bikes to send to the children on the APY Lands.</p> <p>He has volunteered in numerous other roles at Adelaide Harriers Athletics Club, Masters Athletics Events, and City to Bay events.</p> <p>Des has definitely demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life. He often opens up his home for local families that can't get to town for assessments.</p> <p>In the past he has also mentored children in maths to help them succeed in the schooling.</p> <p>Des regularly participates in Parkrun and has completed two world marathons encouraging people of all ages that you are never too old to do anything.</p>	Citizen of the Year

	<p>The panel believe Des has made a significant contribution to the Adelaide hills community and beyond. He is an outstanding and inspirational role model.</p>	
<p>Deanne Hanchant - Nichols</p>	<p>Deanne contributes to the community in many ways and is a founding member of the Uraidla and Districts South Australian Country Women’s Association (SACWA). She has been instrumental in organizing and making thousands of poppies for wreaths for the five local war memorials and a beautiful poppy shower for the Uraidla ANZAC Ceremony. She is currently working on a Horse Blanket covered in poppies for the Australian War Animals Memorial/ANZAC Day Parade in Adelaide.</p> <p>Such was her dedication that the first year the Poppy Shower was put up the night before, she slept in the car next to it to ensure its safety.</p> <p>Uraidla group, leading yarning circles for community, being involved in YES campaign to support allies, Imagine Uraidla, tracks and trails group, Uraidla Show - Convenor Vegetables for several years.</p> <p>Deanne has contributed to many groups to help Reconciliation across the Adelaide Hills, sharing knowledge of the local Aboriginal history.</p> <p>Deanne is a member of the Adelaide Hills Reconciliation Working Group (Adelaide Hills Council and Mt Barker Council), providing feedback for both council's RAPs. She wrote the Aboriginal history of our region for Council’s Innovate RAP and website and contributed her knowledge to the Stirling Library Lawn group and Fabrik.</p> <p>She always makes herself available to Council for advice and general knowledge. Deanne provides Acknowledgement of Country for numerous events in the community including Uraidla Show, Sustainability Fair, Home School Group, Pioneer Women's Walk, and the English Ale.</p> <p>Deanne provides cultural knowledge sessions for students and staff of Uraidla Kindy and Public School, and Bridgewater Kindy and Public School. This includes history of the area, plant and animal knowledge, language sessions.</p>	<p>Commendation: Citizen of the Year</p>

<p>Rhonda Merrilyn-Loechel</p>	<p>Rhonda is an active and involved Birdwood citizen over many years within the local community and beyond. She taught Sunday School at the Birdwood Uniting Church and actively supports Birdwood Primary school, assisting at the School's Major Fund Raiser, Farm Day by baking for the cake stall, providing sheep for shearing and lambs for bottle feeding. She liaises with schools to identify children whose needs are not met at home to offer targeted assistance and, if required, cares for children when parents are unable to do so.</p> <p>Rhonda provides transport for residents to emergency dental, medical and optical appointments where public transport is unsuitable.</p> <p>Over the years, Rhonda has provided care for 12 young aboriginal children from Elcho Island ensuring they receive education and are integrated into the local community. One still remains with her in South Australia and is currently employed.</p> <p>Under the leadership of Rhonda, these students have been accepted into the community via sporting clubs, presentations of cultural songs and dance. This has resulted in the community being very understanding and accepting other of cultures and embracing others who have different beliefs and cultures Strong relationships continue to exist.,</p> <p>Rhonda organises the Birdwood Food Pantry which provides food to the disadvantaged to help them survive in hard times. This is now a Community Pantry involving all local churches, service clubs, and schools who collected food items.</p> <p>Rhonda established collection points at various shops and businesses and says it's exciting to see previous receivers of assistance become donors to the pantry.</p> <p>The Pantry distributed over 50 food parcels in the months of August/September and will distribute up to 30 food hampers at Christmas.</p> <p>Rhonda also selects clothing from the Op SHOP and delivers it to needy people.</p>	<p>Commendation: Citizen of the Year</p>
	<p>No recommended recipient this year</p>	<p>Young Citizen of the Year</p>

<p>Adelaide Hills Garden Affair</p>	<p>This year, the panel were delighted by the diverse event nominations and feel two of the nominations deserve to be recognised in the Event of the Year category. One as Event of the Year and the other to receive a commendation.</p> <p>The Event of the Year is to be awarded to the <b>Adelaide Hills Garden Affair (AHGA)</b>.</p> <p>AHGA was conceived by a small group of volunteers who wanted to create a unique Adelaide Hills gardening event that attracted over 2000 visitors. The main focus of AHGA was to provide an event where people interested in horticulture, gardening and conservation could meet and share ideas. It also provided different agencies, business and individuals an opportunity to come together and make new links and discuss the importance of horticulture in the Adelaide Hills.</p> <p>The event featured local vendors, businesses, NFP Agencies, and most importantly local garden clubs to showcase a distinct Adelaide Hills style.</p> <p>The event was held in the beautiful grounds of Stangate House, giving the National Trust property significant publicity.</p> <p>Over 60 vendors traded at the event, with most reporting that their trading was good to exceptional. Many attendees also went on to shop and explore in the local villages. Some businesses also offered vouchers that could be used later, and many people subsequently returned to the hills.</p> <p>Two local NFP Agencies ran stalls and were able to raise significant funds to be used on local community projects.</p> <p>AHGA was featured in numerous magazine articles and established a relationship with The Courier newspaper who sponsored the event with three full pages of promotional material and an editorial. ABC radio also promoted AHGA in the weeks leading up to the event and broadcasted from Stangate House on the day.</p> <p>The panel believe this event has had a wonderful impact on the Adelaide Hills, not just on the day but with the relationships developed through the event.</p>	<p>Community Event of the Year</p>
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<p>LIGHT UP &amp; GROW: Electrifying Tales Shaping Community Life in Mount Torrens</p>	<p>The LIGHT UP &amp; GROW: Electrifying Tales Shaping Community Life in Mount Torrens was nominated for its exceptional role in celebrating and preserving the town’s rich history with electricity, while fostering community pride and engagement.</p> <p>Held as part of South Australia’s History Festival 2024 and presented by Mount Torrens &amp; Districts Community Association Incorporated (MTDCA), this interactive exhibition illustrated the transformative power of electricity in Mount Torrens, from life before electrification to the advancements that followed its arrival in 1926. The exhibition featured displays, personal stories, and hands-on experiences, engaging residents and visitors in a meaningful exploration of the town’s past. Contributions from Mount Torrens Christian School (MTCS) and local residents enriched the exhibition, making it a truly community-driven effort that emphasised local heritage and inspired appreciation for both historical and contemporary infrastructure initiatives.</p> <p>The show reflects who the town is and showcases the many values, skills and contributions peri urban Australia provides for the metropolitan majority. It is a unique learning environment providing those who visit tangible examples of both the struggle and the prosperity experienced by producers, farmers and Australians working on the land.</p> <p>The exhibition played a significant role in enhancing community life by fostering local pride, encouraging participation, and strengthening connections across generations so attendees were able to connect with Mount Torrens’ heritage on a personal level. MTCS provided an educational display on electricity generation methods, allowing both children and adults to gain a deeper understanding of electricity’s role in daily life. The exhibition’s interactive elements, like vintage Bakelite telephones and the transition from hand tools to electrical appliances, engaged attendees of all ages and fostered shared reflections on how technology has shaped everyday life.</p> <p>The exhibit inspired community discussions about ongoing infrastructure improvements, like the goal of undergrounding power lines, connecting Mount Torrens’ historical evolution to its future aspirations.</p>	<p>Commendation: Community Event of the Year</p>



	<p>LIGHT UP &amp; GROW received widespread interest and commendation from a broad audience, demonstrating its significance beyond the immediate community. The exhibition attracted a diverse group of visitors, including residents from nearby areas, history enthusiasts drawn by the History Festival, and passers-by from the Amy Gillett Bikeway.</p> <p>The panel believe that Light Up &amp; Grow highlights the value of community-focused events in preserving local history and fostering a shared sense of identity which is why it has been recommended for a commendation.</p> <p>Both the Adelaide Hills Gardening Affair and LIGHT UP &amp; GROW: Electrifying Tales Shaping Community Life in Mount Torrens are community led events that bring a positive impact to our area.</p>	
Heather Hartley	<p>Heather is an amazing person. Each Friday she collects donations for the local domestic violence shelter, the homeless and the many families she personally supports with goods and food. Heather is also a passionate animal lover and rescues dogs, providing them with a loving forever home.</p> <p>Heather is out on the road every week collecting donations of food, clothing and other goods to help support those who are struggling in these difficult times. Heather has had to overcome her own challenges in life, and is known to be a wonderful example of a caring and compassionate person who gives back to the community</p>	Civic Award
Brenton Heinrich	<p>Brenton lives in Woodside and has been a Lion Member Of The Lions Club Of Onkaparinga for 29 years. He has been President three times.</p> <p>Brenton currently volunteers many hours picking up and delivering goods Friday and Saturday mornings for The Lions Shed at Woodside, except when taking a holiday. He is also a member of The Hills Restoration Club and a member of the Men's Shed Lobethal, which is in the process of preparing to relocate to Lobethal.</p>	Civic Award
Pam Heinrich	<p>Pam is Brenton Heinrich's wife (also nominated above).</p>	Civic Award

	<p>Pam volunteers at The Lions Shed weekly alongside Brenton, is not a member of The Lions club, but spends many hours volunteering.</p> <p>Both Brenton and Pam deliver Meals on Wheels to recipients in the local area. Pam and Brenton are also involved with The Woodside walking group.</p>	
Kylie Holt	<p>Kylie has contributed on ANZAC day making thousands of ANZAC biscuits to raise money for the Anzac appeal. Kylie has also been in the CFS for many years. Whilst in the CFS Kylie has dedicated time to coaching and supporting the next generation of young fire-fighters.</p> <p>Kylie has dedicated to ensuring there is a positive relationship between the Gumeracha CFS and the community. Frequently organising community events to make the community more familiar with the CFS.</p> <p>Kylie has also found charities such as the ANZAC appeal to help them raise money as a community. Kylie has been ensuring that everyone in the community get an equal chance.</p>	Civic Award
Walter (Corry) Moors	<p>For the past 13 years, Corry has been an active and well-respected member of the Lions Club of Onkaparinga Incorporated. Corry was inducted on the 9th January 2012 by Past District Governor Garth Beckwith and from the start he was keen to serve as a Lion in an active manner and to make positive contributions to the local community.</p> <p>The year Corry joined Lions he volunteered to be the Lions Club representative on the Woodside Recreation Ground Committee. He has held that position continuously since then. Between 2014 and 2024 Walter has held numerous leadership positions at the Club, including Club President twice for a total of 4 years, 1st Vice President for 3 years, Shed Coordinator for 5 years, Membership Director for 2 years, Social Chair and Club Director.</p> <p>During his three-year term as President from 2020 - 2023, Corry guided the Lions Club forward in the aftermath of the 2019 December bush fires and during the challenges of the COVID pandemic. His leadership ensured that the Lions Shed at Woodside continued to be in a position to assist free of charge the many local residents whose lives continued to be affected months later by the fires. Incoming donations were donated back to community members in need and access to emergency grants through the Australian Lions Foundations continued under his presidency.</p>	Civic Award

	<p>The Lions woodlot off South Ridge Road at Woodside was severely burnt during the fires and Corry led the recovery phase of this longstanding fundraising activity. As the activity and busyness of the Lions Shed and other Lions activities expanded beyond the capacity of Lions members, Corry oversaw the successful handover of the Lions Woodside Community Market to another service club, Rotary, so that members could continue to meet the needs of community members at the Shed.</p> <p>In addition to his leadership roles, Corry has initiated three major Lions projects since 2018, all aimed at the development of youth in our community. The first one, known as the Lions Ring A Ding Ding (RADD) Project focuses on teaching young children the importance of using a bell on their bikes when approaching walkers, especially when on the local Amy Gillett Bikeway. Corry organised education sessions at 5 local primary schools where 700 bicycle bells were given free to all students. This project continues to provide 100 free bells each year to children participating in the Discover, Play, Bikeway event at Woody trails.</p> <p>In 2023, Corry initiated and sought funding for the Lions ROAR Talent Tour that brought together local youth leaders and youth musicians across the Adelaide Hills and gave new life to local community halls. Auditions were held for two age groups (11-17 and 18-25) over three nights at Oakbank, Woodside and Lobethal community halls and culminated in a grand finale in December 2023. Thanks to Corry's vision and forethought, this event has been described as the most significant initiative for the original live youth music scene in the Hills in more than two decades. Corry is in the midst of organising a second event, this time for Adelaide Hills youth country music contestants.</p> <p>The third project came about this year when Corry became aware of the work of the Adelaide Hills Young Carers Network based at Woodside. Still in its early stages, Corry has met with the Network's Coordinator to identify how the Lions Club can provide assistance to this group of young carers and ensure that they have some fun times as a reprieve from their caring roles.</p>	
Mell Penno	<p>Since taking ownership of The Big Rocking Horse over 12 months ago, Mell has carried out an amazing transformation of the venue. This has allowed her to employ more locals, widen the activities offered at the site, and most importantly, she has really put Gumeracha on the map.</p> <p>In School Holidays and on weekends The Big Rocking Horse car park is overflowing given its popularity now that various renovations and improvements have been undertaken to the site (including a new</p>	Civic Award

	<p>mini-golf area). In addition, Mell has kept entry fees very low to ensure that it is an affordable day for all the Hills (and beyond!) community.</p> <p>Due to the marked increase in visitation to the Big Rocking Horse, this in turn increases visitation in the Main Street of Gumeracha. There has been a lot more buzz around the town on weekends with the newly refurbished Rocking Horse site, and people often visit the other businesses in Gumeracha following a visit to the Rocking Horse.</p> <p>Mell is a Public Relations and Media extraordinaire! (included in the nomination were multiple examples of publicity that Mel has been involved with) This helps to promote the Gumeracha and Torrens Valley area and encourage more visitation to the area.</p> <p>Under Mell's ownership, The Big Rocking Horse has become much more than a business - it's an integral part of the community. This can be seen with her being one of the largest employers of young people in the Torrens Valley area, when the Gumeracha General Store unexpectedly shut down she started providing lunches for the local school and staple items like milk for locals, and despite suffering major stock and equipment losses in early September 2024, she fought on, brought in food trucks to keep visitation of the Big Rocking Horse going and found the funds to re-establish the Cafe.</p> <p>Through the expansion of the Big Rocking Horse under Mell's leadership, including new animal park features and a new mini-golf course, Mell is assisting to provide more free/low-cost leisure activities for locals too.</p> <p>Mell is also a valued member of the Torrens Valley Lions Club, and she is one of the lead community members who help assist with Gumeracha Fifth Sunday Market, which is an important event in Gumeracha. Again, the volunteer work that Mell does ensures funds are raised for an important organisation (Torrens Valley Lions Club), whilst also helping to promote the Gumeracha and Torrens Valley area.</p>	
Dr Mary Retallack	Dr Retallack has worked tirelessly in the wine community over nearly 30 years to share practical agroecological solutions for growers so they can grow the resilience of their wine growing enterprises and the regional communities in which they live throughout Australia.	Civic Award

	<p>She founded and has volunteered much of her time to develop and share the EcoVineyards program with the broader community, including school children in her local community.</p> <p>She volunteers her time as a member of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) Viticulture Commission, Enviro and Protec groups, The Australian and New Zealand Grapegrower and Winemaker Journal editorial panel, and as a mentor to many women in the wine community.</p> <p>Female viticulturists make up less than 10% of the team and this number is in decline. Mary is a strong advocate and role model to encourage other women into non-traditional roles and has volunteered her time to speak to women throughout Australia.</p> <p>Mary is an ambassador for PIRSA's Women Influencing Agribusiness and Regions, and Great Wine Capitals Knowledge Exchange initiatives and is a Stepping into Leadership program mentor and SA Ag Careers Hub Ambassador.</p>	
Tim Schapel	<p>Tim has served as a trustee on the committee of The Uraidla District Soldiers Memorial Park Incorporated (UDSMP) since 1979, holding the positions of secretary for more than ten years, president for a further eight years and vice-president for several years during that time.</p> <p>He has also been an active member of the Uraidla Football Club and Uraidla Cricket Club management committees.</p> <p>He has been the unofficial volunteer groundsman of the UDSMP for the last thirty to forty years, doing most of the mowing of the Uraidla oval and surrounds during that time, as well as managing the mowing equipment and fuel requirements of the park.</p> <p>Being an electrician by trade, Tim has designed and installed sports lighting for the Uraidla Districts Football Club, the Uraidla Netball and Tennis Club, the Summertown Netball and Tennis Club and the Uraidla Bowling Club many times during the past forty years. Tim has sourced and installed many other electrical meters and systems for these clubs also.</p>	Civic Award

	<p>Tim's contribution to the UDSMP has been outstanding, both as a manager negotiating relationships with Adelaide Hills Council, all the sporting clubs involved, and as a tireless hands-on volunteer, ever available to ensure the park was at its best at all times.</p>	
Tanya Schroeder	<p>Tanya purchased the Ashton Post Office over 6 years ago and opened a small cafe in the shop which quickly became a community meeting spot.</p> <p>She also started to improve the visual amenity of the Ashton township undertaking landscaping around the road intersection and the local hall. She later purchased the former General Store which reopened on 3 March 2023 as The Cherry Bomb Cafe offering a congenial meeting place, good food using local produce.</p> <p>Her initiatives have brought new life to the town and actively promotes the local cherry industry. Significantly, she employs local young people, uses local fresh produce and other goods.</p> <p>Tanya is an enthusiastic and motivated person. Her cafe has attracted customers from far and wide as well as local residents. The town has a new lease of life and community thanks to her initiatives and input. She has made an invaluable contribution to her community and this part of the Adelaide Hills. The cafe has become a destination for food lovers and has been a boost for the local economy.</p> <p>In addition to the cafe and the landscaping work she has undertaken, she has been a driver behind the annual Ashton Christmas Party held at the Ashton Oval. This event attracts people from beyond the immediate area and has brought people together, many for the first time as many people live in the area but have had little to do with other residents. A sense of community is re-emerging.</p> <p>The Cherry Bomb Cafe has gained wide media and social media acclaim and Ashton has found itself a busy township, back on the visitor's map.</p>	Civic Award
Paul Sinkinson	<p>Paul has for many years has put on a light show at his parent's home, 20 Townsend Street, Mount Torrens during the Christmas season.</p> <p>He commenced with a small display of just lights, but now it has grown into a wonderful display with moving items inside the house as well as outside, snow machine and plus Father Xmas.</p> <p>Paul returns each year to arrange this wonderful display, which takes 2-3 weeks to put together.</p>	Civic Award

	<p>His display brings joy, excitement, and happiness to each year of all ages young and old. People wait some time for the display to be turned on each night, (having to wait for it to get dark) The community now have a bbq and carols night on the Heritage Reserve (which is opposite the display of Lights by Paul) and so this event is used to launch the opening of his lights on the same night.</p> <p>This display has encouraged many people over the years to come from the Adelaide Hills Council plus further afield as the word is spread, from Victor Harbour to Gawler just to name a few as well as oversea visitors.</p> <p>It brings people into the community from the 15 - 31 December. This display is done entirely by Paul at his own expense as he gets much enjoyment out of it for the children in particular and adults, but the children are his priority.</p>	
Sandra Veitch	<p>Sandra has been volunteering with The Hut Community Centre Aldgate for 24 years. During that time she has also been employed part time by The Hut as the Finance Officer.</p> <p>Sandra's commitment to her community extends through her many years of volunteering at The Stirling Book Shed where she has volunteered weekly to help sort, price books and help customers find that treasured book.</p> <p>After Sandra's retirement from paid work in 2021, she increased her volunteering to also extend to being on the Stirling Book Shed Committee, coordinating the rosters for both Stirling and Woodside Book Shed and participating in the Stirling Christmas Pageant.</p> <p>Sandra also volunteers assisting with the finances of the Bridgewater Social Club.</p> <p>Sandra has been raised in the hills and lived here all her life, with strong connections to many areas of the hills.</p> <p>Sandra is always willing to help out where she can, acknowledging that her skills in finance are a valuable asset to community groups. Her willingness to contribute more time to volunteering and</p>	Civic Award

	<p>helping others once she retired and had more time available is testament to her commitment to her community and her desire to support and enhance the projects she strongly believes in.</p>	
<p>Lesley Walker</p>	<p>Lesley Walker has a long history of supporting refugees, creating community awareness of their situations and their needs. She inspires compassion and willingness to help others by engaging other people in her work. Whether as donors of money, goods, or services, or as active visitors and supporters of individual refugees or refugee families, the people she involves gain a sense of purpose, make cross-cultural connections, and contribute to a sense of belonging in the community. The refugees feel validated to become who they are meant to be, and a more resilient community is woven as more people become donors or supporters and refugees themselves support newcomers.</p> <p>As one person has put it: “She has cared for individuals while still trying to effect societal changes which may help others in the future. If anyone can be a light bearer for other ordinary Australians, it is Lesley. She makes us proud to be Australian.”</p> <p>When working for Disability Services, Lesley’s motto was “empowering disempowered people”. She has carried this ideal into her personal life.</p> <p>Lesley Walker is concerned about the welfare of others, able to clearly articulate her opinions and arguments and has a positive influence in many communities. Her energy is unbelievable as she works tirelessly for many refugees, always in a voluntary capacity. She advocates for them with immigration officials and has worked pro bono for a migration agent. Her participation in local groups and support for national events help to make the community a better place for everyone.</p> <p>Her influence on Circles of Friends Australia (COFA) is particularly profound. Founded in May 2002 and Incorporated in 2013, COFA is a grassroots, non-political, network of people from all walks of life, who group together to welcome and assist refugees and asylum seekers who are establishing themselves in their new community, or still facing the challenges of detention. These groups are affiliated with the Australian Refugee Association and are registered charitable organisations.</p> <p>Lesley convenes three Circles of Friends (Numbers 13, 113 and 129) and is a member of Circle 7. Her work includes:</p>	<p>Civic Award</p>



- supporting the most disadvantaged members of the community; particularly in medical, legal, and financial arrangements
- ensuring basic needs are met; housing, food, clothing, transport, access to health services and education
- helping them to integrate into the community and the workforce; to become hopeful of building the good life possible in Adelaide
- assisting in fundraising that leads to the reuniting of families so that people can settle more securely in their new community, without anxiety about those family members still in dangerous situations.

Lesley travels miles across wider Adelaide and has continued to visit people transferred interstate to Detention Centres in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. Circle 7 assists her with finance so that she can continue to support many desperate people. She also gives very generously of her own money and helps with all the fundraising of the group.

When the Adelaide Hills Inverbrackie Centre was in operation, she was instrumental in setting up a system that allowed people wanting to visit the refugees to be linked to those wanting visits. According to the regulations, it was necessary for the detainees to actively invite a specific visitor, even though they knew no-one in Adelaide. Lesley has worked constantly to ensure every refugee and asylum seeker she has met in detention, together with their friends and families, experiences a welcome from the community, respectful interactions and begins to rediscover his or her dignity.

Just one example of the ripple effect of Lesley's work is encapsulated in this statement: "She introduced us to a number of refugees there, in particular, a Tamil Sri Lankan couple who had fled for their lives by boat. They had their first child whilst at Inverbrackie in the Adelaide Hills Council district and he, at ten years old, has become an Australian citizen. They are now a family of five living in Perth, W.A. We have kept in contact and regularly visited them and feel we have been of help in their continuing battle to be recognised as refugees. This would not have been possible without Lesley's critical role and her untiring efforts."

This is not an isolated instance. Lesley has been a stalwart supporter of refugee families from the time of their arrival in Australia. She supports them in every way possible. She has helped them to find affordable and appropriate rental accommodation, found grants to help with rent and living costs,

	<p>and been in constant contact with the families. Her warmth, mentoring and genuine care have helped many refugee families enormously and given them hope for the future.</p> <p>For the past three years, she has fund-raised and volunteered at the “Cultured” events at Four Oaks Farm, Littlehampton, including driving a refugee family from Enfield to and from the event.</p> <p>In addition, she sings with “Hot Gospel” an acapella choir that performs gratis at many fundraising events.</p> <p>In 2016, Lesley Walker was nominated for the Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Community Individual Award.</p> <p>She has been instrumental in obtaining recurrent funding for various Circles of Friends from the Suzanne Elliott Charitable Trust, ever since members of the Trust became aware of Lesley’s work with refugees.</p> <p>Lesley is invited regularly to speak to community groups throughout Adelaide, where she dispels ignorance, raises awareness, and assists in the creation and maintenance of support networks. Recently, she spoke eloquently on behalf of refugees at a fundraising dinner at the Olive Branch Cafe, Woodside.</p> <p>Feedback at one of the events included: “Lesley is a tower of strength. She is a humble person and while she tells the groups about the plight of those she meets she is very honest and we are all in awe of her. Lesley has a huge heart for those who are suffering and is an inspiration to all the members.”</p> <p>She is well-known throughout South Australia and is often telephoned for advice which is always to the point and willingly given</p>	
Shirley Warner	<p>Shirley has been the bedrock of Houghton Memorial Oval Committee for over 20 years. She joined the committee in 1993 and has held the position of Secretary and / or Treasurer since 1995!</p> <p>During this time Shirley has passionately advocated for the local Houghton oval space, meticulously created minutes, helped with busy bees, has provided leadership and guidance during her over 1000 hours of voluntary service. Through her dedication to the Houghton, Inglewood and Hermitage</p>	Civic Award

	<p>Memorial Oval, local people have a space to enjoy and soon a Community Hub to come together and foster community spirit and safety in times of disaster.</p> <p>Shirley has volunteered over 1000 hours of her time over 21 years of continuous service to the Houghton, Inglewood and Hermitage Oval Committee.</p>	
Stirling Community (Opp Shop)	<p>The Stirling Community Shop has made a huge impact on so many, and continues to, especially with palliative care and district nursing, the McGrath Breast Care nurse, local Cancer Support Group Pamper Day.</p> <p>The Opp Shop has donated nearly \$140,000 in the last financial year for Adelaide Hills groups that help people including local CFS, Adelaide Hills Council, Stirling Hospital, Mental Health, Riding for the Disabled and many more (list included)</p> <p>The Shop and its wonderful volunteers should be recognised for the hard work they put in to help our Community, as it is a not-for-profit association run entirely by Volunteers. All profits go to support district nursing, aged and disability care and our local Community, giving so much to so many, for 60+ years.</p> <p>The wonderful band of volunteers and the shop puts back into the Adelaide Hills Community and also gives the volunteers a purpose in life by helping each other.</p> <p>The Community Shop, previously RDNS Shop, was recognised in 1999 by the Adelaide Hills Council for the work for District Nursing in the Adelaide Hills.</p>	Civic Award
Charleston Emergency Response & Recovery Group of Charleston	<p>In response to the SA Government Independent Review, Cudlee Creek Fires, the Charleston Community Centre brought together community members to form the Charleston Emergency Response and Recovery Group (CERRG). This group provides oversight and direction to develop and instigate a community emergency response plan and provides ongoing funding and development opportunities for the Charleston community.</p> <p>It is a natural progression to formulate and create an active, ready emergency response facility and plan to support the community in the aftermath of the Cudlee Creek fire.</p>	Civic Award

The CERRG provide a coordinated approach to an emergency weather event that will improve resilience by empowering the community to take ownership to protect, plan and mitigate their exposure to extreme weather events like fire, flood, heat/cold events, or extended power outages.

CERRG Recovery Centre provides:

- a place for the community to gather for immediate and appropriate communication links to emergency and government agencies, families, other supporting agencies
- a source for personal communication for community residents to family, friends and others post event
- provides facilities for emergency response teams staging centre if required
- provides as safe place for the aged, disabled, and CALD groups who may need immediate support in an emergency
- electricity for use by the community and others for safety, communication and health
- clean potable water
- catering and provision of food, basic personal needs, baby items etc
- drop-off zone for stock and pet food provision
- kitchen and catering for community and emergency services personnel
- base for mental health support agencies if required
- parking and shelter for community and others in need
- limited first aid support
- temporary shelter / personal care facilities

In the last eighteen months CERRG have installed an A/V system, SkyLink satellite internet, roof HALO sprinkler system, 2 x 30K litres water tanks and a 54KvA generator, new carpark and outdoor seating, kitchen catering upgrade, electronic white board and printers, new meeting room facilities, CCTV, upgraded internal fire and safety electrical systems, external lighting upgrades, and three laptop computers. Planning has been comprehensive and built around providing immediate support for the community.

In October 2023 CERRG held a community planning session where they asked the community to be involved in a 'test load' operation that allowed for important insight to be discovered.

	<p>In the last six months, the CERRG team has provided extensive district information sharing and workshops to many other Adelaide Hills community groups, to support them in developing similar community emergency response centres. This has been widely adopted and supported by the Adelaide Hills Council's NEMA resilience team. The CERRG team has held many community education events, from Emergency First Aid to flood and fire workshops held in conjunction with other government agencies such as SAPOL, CFS, SES, and the Bureau of Meteorology.</p> <p>The CERRG team is innovative and resourceful, which is demonstrated in the successful grant applications (over \$250k), and in other ways, such as implementing an online recovery system, Recovers.org, which is based in the USA. This unique platform provides the recovery centre with the ability to match offers of assistance or donations, with requests for assistance. This can be done from anywhere, at any time. CERRG is the first recovery team to use this system in SA.</p> <p>The Centre is also open for other emergency situations such as severe weather (heat waves or prolonged cold events) and for power outages more than two days. In September CERRG received a request from the Adelaide Hills Council to open the Centre during a prolonged power outage due to severe storm activity. The Centre provided power access to communities in the wider district.</p> <p>The CERRG team has been recognised by the Australian Institute for Disaster Management Community Award 2023. This award was announced by the SA Governor, and an achievement proudly accepted. The CERRG team has also been part of the National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA) who have supported the team, and the work is currently showcased on their website as a community in action. During community response practice sessions, NEMA filmed these sessions to exemplify what a small community can do to provide support and recovery post-emergency.</p>	
Gumeracha Fifth Sunday Market	<p>Through the ongoing successful operation of the Gumeracha Fifth Sunday Market by the Torrens Valley Lions Club, the event has brought much social and economic benefit to Gumeracha and surrounds. In addition, it provides a fundraising stream for the Torrens Valley Lions Club, who in turn spend this on various civic and cultural projects within the broader Gumeracha area.</p> <p>Through investing a lot of time and many volunteer hours, the Torrens Valley Lions Club has ensured that this event at Gumeracha is successful, well attended and sustainable. Given the event attracts up</p>	Civic Award

	<p>to 100 stalls and a few thousand visitors each market day, it's one of the largest regular markets in the Adelaide Hills area - and it's 100% volunteer run and managed.</p> <p>4 Markets are planned for 2025, which shows the ongoing success and viability of the market, with the market often being completely booked out for stallholders due to its success.</p> <p>This Market continues to provide vibrancy, economic and social benefit to the township of Gumeracha and surrounding districts. It provides a unique event for locals to attend, and brings in many visitors and stallholders, who not only spend money at local businesses on market day, but also re-visit the area to attend attractions that they are made aware of following their visit to Gumeracha (e.g. Big Rocking Horse, wineries, walking trails, cherry farms etc).</p> <p>The Torrens Valley Lions Club, who organise the event, put in many hours of pre-planning each market, managing the registrations, promoting the market and ensure the site layout is user friendly and logical each market day. In addition, numerous volunteers from the Lions Club attend from dawn on Market Day in order to set up the event and ensure a fun and safe day is had by all.</p>	
SA Medieval Fair	<p>The SA Medieval Fair has connected and supported both the local Paracombe and Adelaide Hills Communities and the state's medieval communities.</p> <p>The fair strives to continue to provide a positive financial and supportive network which will benefit the community for many years to come. Last May the event attracted over 12,000 people to the area.</p> <p>The Fair continues to grow and achieve its role as a significant part in the community and making it a better place to live and work.</p> <p>The SA Medieval Fair's contribution to the local Paracombe and surrounding Adelaide Hills Region has provided local community groups, business and services providers with additional income and has additionally provided a promotional forum to showcase the tourism opportunities within the Adelaide Hills Areas.</p> <p>The fair has raised the profile for providing and delivering an outstanding "Living history experience" to those who attend and participate every year with a strong "Family Friendly" contribution.</p>	Civic Award

	<p>The Event Management Team provide an expert and dedicated community and corporate resource which delivers a successful and supportive event and improves the financial and tourism objectives of the local Adelaide Hills Region overall.</p>	
<p>Lions Hearing Dog Open Day</p>	<p>Australian Lions Hearing Dogs have been providing Hearing Assistance Dogs free of charge, since 1982 to deaf and hard-of-hearing Australians. In April 2024, we celebrated the delivery of our 700th Hearing Assistance Dog with the annual Open Day.</p> <p>This year the event was a huge success and the biggest one yet. This event allows Lions Hearing Dogs to continue to open their doors to the public.</p>	<p>Civic Award</p>

**3. Citizen of the Year Awards 2025 Recommendations – Duration of Confidentiality**

Subject to the CEO, or his delegate, disclosing information or any document (in whole or in part) for the purpose of implementing Council’s decision(s) in this matter (which may include disclosure to media outlets to aid in achieving reporting timelines for publication; and disclosure to award recipients and their nominators, families and friends) in the performance of the duties and responsibilities of office, Council, having considered Agenda Item 18.2 in confidence under sections 90(2) and 90(3)(o) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, resolves that an order be made under the provisions of sections 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* to retain the Items in confidence as detailed in the Duration of Confidentiality Table below:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Duration of Confidentiality NB: Item to be reviewed every 12 months if not released</b>
Report	25 January 2025
Related Attachments	25 January 2025
Minutes	25 January 2025
Other	Nil

The Australia Day Council allows recipient information to be disclosed from 22 January. Pursuant to section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council delegates the power to revoke the confidentiality order either partially or in full to the Chief Executive Officer.