

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 20 December 2022
CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 18.2

Responsible Officer: Jennifer Blake
Manager Communication, Engagement and Events
Community Capacity

Subject: Citizen of the Year 2023 Recommendations

For: Decision

1. Citizen of the Year 2023 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:

- Acting Chief Executive Officer, David Waters
- Acting Director Community Capacity, Rebecca Shepherd
- Director Corporate Services, Terry Crackett
- Director Development & Regulatory Services, Natalie Armstrong
- Acting Director Infrastructure & Operations, David Collins
- Executive Manager Governance & Performance, Lachlan Miller
- Governance & Risk Coordinator, Steven Watson
- Minute Secretary, Pam Williams

be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 18.2: (Citizen of the Year 2023 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 2023 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. That Council confer the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award on Natasha Hortle of Woodside.**
- 3. That Council confer the 2023 Young Citizen of the Year Award on Jasmin Scott of Woodside.**
- 4. That Council confer the 2023 Community Event of the Year Award on the 2022 English Ale Festival.**

That Civic Awards (12) be presented to:

- a. Doreen Thomas of Aldgate**
 - b. Tracy Goodwin of Aldgate**
 - c. Ray Grivell of Balhannah**
 - d. John Odea of Gumeracha**
 - e. Robert Riggs of Uraidla**
 - f. Donald Kevin Herrmann of Lobethal**
 - g. Merrilyn Hannaford of Uraidla**
 - h. Mitchell Smyth of Gumeracha**
 - i. Ross Kealley of Crafers West**
 - j. Meals on Wheels of Stirling**
 - k. Brenda Stenhouse of Houghton**
 - l. Oakbank Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee.**
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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 (1)
- Young Citizen of the Year (1)
- Community Event of the Year (1)
- Civic Awards (as many as determined by Council)

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.

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 2020-24 – A brighter future

Goal Community Wellbeing

Objective C3 A community that grows together

Priority C3.2 Support volunteering both organisationally and in the community as an essential element in delivering community outcomes and building wellbeing.

The annual awards presented on Australia Day 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 such as these 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 encouraged community groups to promote the nomination period to their networks. Nominations for the 2022 Awards closed on Friday 18 November 2022

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)
Mark de Lange – Community Development Officer Youth and Recreation
Meridee Jensen – Sport & Recreation Planner - Trails, Open Space
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).

Citizen of the Year

Natasha (Tash) Hortle of Woodside has been nominated for the Citizen of the Year award for her incredible support to the community through many initiatives, such as events, bushfire response and recovery support, sporting clubs, education, and fundraising.

Despite having to evacuate herself, Tash supported many families who were affected by the most recent bushfires. She checked (physically) on families, spent time in the hospital with victims, and provided crèche support so that there would be a familiar face caring for

children. She also assisted with bushfire recovery by cleaning up fences and fallen trees, and checking on livestock. Not only has she provided practical support, she has continued to provide invaluable emotional support, often knowing when a cuppa and a chat is needed.

She is very connected with the Woodside Pre-school, having been a parent, Governing Council member, and becoming a staff member. During the school holidays she cares for the kindy and its animals and plants.

One of Tash's special gifts is the work she does with children with additional needs. She's constantly building her own knowledge, training staff, and working closely and supportively with parents. Tash began a voluntary music and movement class for children under five and their parents.

After losing her father to cancer two years ago she was motivated to make a difference to others who are impacted by cancer. She organised a successful 'Biggest Morning Tea', and also arranged a team to enter the Relay for Life in Balhannah. Her team, 'Giddy Up Girls', were one of 14 teams who took part in the event, raising \$23,000. The total raised at the event was \$73,585.

Tash is a well-known person and an outstanding asset to Woodside and the Adelaide Hills community. The panel consider Tash's efforts to be an outstanding example of someone making a difference, highly inspirational, and worthy of being awarded the Citizen of the Year award.

Young Citizen of the Year

Jasmin Scott of Woodside, (27) is an active contributor to the Lobethal Community, volunteering in a number of key organisations within the village.

She played a key role in coordinating information and social media as part of the Lobethal Bushfire Recovery Centre in the aftermath of the 2019 Bushfires.

She contributes to the Lights of Lobethal Committee and has invested significant time as the creator and organiser of the Valley of Praise Christmas Maze. The Maze is a free initiative that takes families on a tour of the Lights Festival, provides a gift bag, and a magical festive experience for 1000 children annually.

Jasmin's commitment to volunteering, her innovation and imaginative approach, and her compassion have inspired others to join her in a volunteer capacity.

The panel felt that Jasmin has dedicated herself to the service of others, is an inspirational role model for young people and would be an exceptional Young Citizen of the Year.

Community Event of the Year

The English Ale event in Mylor has been a long standing and unique event that attracts over 1000 people to the Adelaide Hills each year.

The event is produced on a voluntary basis, with the organisers working with many different groups, committees and organisations to produce the event. This includes tourism operators, local committees, businesses, the Adelaide Hill Council, and residents of the area.

As well as the Mylor Oval and Sherry Park, this event mobilises the memorial hall which hosts dancing, food, drinks and a concert which is always a sellout show.

The committee engages Adelaide Hills based suppliers where possible, from booking toilets and signage, to food vendors. They have also partnered with local small business accommodation providers to encourage visitors from other areas to extend their stay and experience more of the Adelaide Hills.

The community led venture has also worked with Adelaide Hills Tourism and secured a regional event grant from the South Australian Tourism Commission.

Aside from the event, that attracts many visitors, the committee also conduct their planning meetings and have a meal at the Aldgate Pump hotel to support the local business.

The panel believe this is a well organised event that brings both the local community together and many visitors to the region.

Civic Awards

Twelve people are recommended to receive Civic Awards. These include a number of people who were nominated for Citizen of the Year. Civic Award recipients have been selected for a variety of reasons including outstanding contributions to their communities over a period of time, going above and beyond the expectations of normal community volunteering and the example they provide for others.

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 Mayor or another Council Member at an Australia Day event of the recipients' choice (Stirling, Mylor, Uraidla, Woodside, or Gumeracha). Should a recipient prefer to receive their award on another day, arrangements will be made accordingly.

Recipients of the three 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 2023

Appendix 1

*Recommended recipients for Citizen of the Year
Awards 2023*

2023 Citizen of the Year Awards – Recommended recipients for Council consideration – confidential

Nominee name	Reason for nomination, as stated by nominator(s)	Panel recommendation
<p>Natasha Hortle</p>	<p>Natasha Hortle (Tash) has been involved in family and community events, including bushfires, sports clubs, local schools, kindergarten, the Tour Down Under, Christmas Pageant and Parades.</p> <p>After the bushfires, Tash checked (physically) on every family enrolled at school from the past year and coming year. She kept other staff members informed so they were able to support affected families. She also worked a crèche to support the affected families with a familiar face caring for their children. This in addition to all the support she provided to other member of the community after she herself had to evacuate and support family members</p> <p>One family who lost everything and with a badly burnt husband had Tash at the hospital that night and there not just in the days after, but the months and years to follow. Tash with a band of volunteers helped clean up fences, fallen trees, checking on livestock etc. She was always checking with the recovery centre to keep everyone up to date. Although she may not have realised, she provided great emotional support and there were times when things were overwhelming, Tash always seem to know when a cuppa and a chat was needed. This was not the only family Tash was there for, she looked out for many in the community, providing support and still does today.</p> <p>She began her relationship with Woodside Pre-school as a parent with two boys, then joined the Governing Council and became a staff member. She filled in many roles at the Pre-school including Early Childhood, lunch care, supervising pre-school support, administration officer, finance officer, coordinator, and mentor for new staff. During school holidays she takes care of the kindy, dropping in on most days to check on the animals and yards, liaise with builders, gardeners, etc and watering plants.</p> <p>One of Tash’s special gifts is the work she does with children with additional needs – always building her own knowledge, training staff, working closely and supportively with parents. Tash started up a voluntary music and movement class for children under five and their parents. She always planned great days for the children with lots of art and craft and outside adventure. Tash has a strong relationship with every pre-school or occasional care family, from their first contact with the site she</p>	<p>Citizen of the Year</p>

	<p>makes sure she knows all the parents and children and engages with them throughout their time there, supporting them in any way she can.</p> <p>Tash lost her father, former Adelaide Hills Councillor Bill Gale, to cancer two years ago and this motivated her to do her best to make a difference to those in the future who are impacted by cancer. Tash organised a fundraiser for 'Biggest Morning Tea' for Woodside, she showed slides and photos of the community's involvement in the different social and sports events. It was a great success and wonderful to see people coming together to acknowledge the different events they were involved in. She organised a group of ladies called 'Giddy Up Girls' to enter the Relay for Life beginning on Saturday 2pm and finished at 9am on Sunday. The walk was around the Johnson Memorial Oval at Balhannah, 14 teams took part and raised \$73,585 of that \$23,000 was raised by Tash's team which was a great effort.</p> <p>Tash is a very popular person and an asset to Woodside and local areas.</p>	
Jasmin Scott (27yrs)	<p>Jasmin is an active contributor to the Lobethal Community, volunteering in a number of key organisations within the village.</p> <p>She played a key role in coordinating information and social media as part of the Lobethal Bushfire Recovery Centre in the aftermath of the 2019 Bushfires.</p> <p>She is also a member of the Lights of Lobethal Committee and has invested significant time as the creator and organiser of the Valley of Praise Christmas Maze. The Maze is a free initiative for participants which takes children and their parents on a tour of the Lights Festival and provides a gift bag and magical festive experience for 1000 children annually.</p>	Young Citizen of the Year
English Ale Festival (Adrienne Piggot)	<p>Tireless devotion in staging a unique event for the Adelaide Hills over the last 22 years, drawing over 1000 people to the local community every year. Adrienne pulls this event together on a completely voluntary basis.</p>	Community Event of the Year
Doreen Thomas	<p>Doreen Thomas is a long-standing and exemplary member of the Adelaide Hills communities having participated in a wide range of organisation which relate to parenting, children's education, children's and adult sport, service organisations such as the Adelaide Hill's Agricultural Bureau, Probis and the Stirling sub-branch of the returned services league.</p>	Civic Award

	In all of these fields of community life, Doreen has contributed whole heartedly - always reliable, constructive, tactful, encouraging of others. While willing to contribute to common goals, Doreen has never sought the limelight or public recognition, exemplifying the qualities of citizenship.	
Tracy Goodwin	<p>Tracy is currently the coach of the Hills Under 17 representative side and coordinator of the Hills representative program.</p> <p>She is a committee member of the Hills Netball Association and Aldgate Netball Club and is a life member of both organisations following almost 20 years of service as a coach and administrator.</p>	Civic Award
Ray Grivell	<p>Ray is a member of the Johnson Memorial Oval Committee Balhannah and is a constant presence volunteering his time to contributing to making the oval the best recreational space in the Adelaide Hills.</p> <p>His approachable manner allows people to bring concerns and issues to his attention, ensuring they will be attended to promptly.</p> <p>He is open to ideas and suggestions from members of the community, contributing to the attractive ambience of the oval precinct.</p>	Civic Award
John Odea	<p>John has devoted many years to his local community both by committee involvements, and donating his time as a professional electrician.</p> <p>He is always contributing in any way he can, and this has been the case for all of his adult life.</p>	Civic Award
Robert Riggs	<p>Robert has lived in Uraidla for the past 10 years or so. During that time he has been the volunteer coordinator for the Red Shed, a community shed managed by the Adelaide Hills Council Summit Centre. He has provided exceptional leadership and technical expertise to the group at the Shed, after having owned and run an auto-electrical business in the Adelaide metropolitan area for many years.</p> <p>Due to his leadership the Red Shed has been a place for men and women from around the district to develop new trade skills through assisting with community projects, such as the planter boxes built for the main street of Uraidla and Uraidla Primary School, and school desks for Basket Range Primary School.</p>	Civic Award

	<p>Local people bring home items to the Shed for repairs, and participants at the Shed also bring their own items. The Shed has also been an important place for people to meet socially, and in some cases re-engage with the community after overcoming an illness or coping with a disability.</p> <p>Robert has developed an excellent rapport with the Adelaide Hills Council, especially staff at the Summit Centre, and continues to work hard with Council staff to ensure that the Shed is a safe and responsible work-place.</p> <p>Through his involvement with the committee of Imagine Uraidla, he has further strengthened ties between the local community and the Shed. For example, he has arranged to run a stall at the Uraidla Show over a number of years, which has been very successful in allowing local people to interact with and see some of the work carried out at the Shed.</p> <p>Several years ago the Shed also provided a stall in the main street, during the running of the Tour Down Under when it passed through Uraidla.</p> <p>Through his extensive knowledge of the automotive industry he is always happy to help people with minor vehicle repairs.</p> <p>What he has achieved is in fact an inspiration to the whole community.</p>	
Donald Kevin Herrmann	<p>Donald has been a volunteer and leader for nearly 70 years - president of Youth/Church groups in early 1950/60s.</p> <p>Leadership positions at Woodside Lutheran Church.</p> <p>Member and fire control officer at Lobethal CFS 1975 and president for 11 years.</p> <p>Member of Lobethal Community Hall Committee and Chairperson since 1995 - a position he still holds.</p> <p>Community bus driver, 2022 - continuing.</p>	Civic Award
Merrilyn Hannaford	Merrilyn is a much loved and lynch pin of our Community.	Civic Award

	<p>Amongst many things, Merrilyn is the catering coordinator for our CFS group of 10 brigades and was one of the instigators in organising food packs for each unit.</p> <p>She has given her time generously to our community over many years including in her role in the upgrading of the Uraidla Primary School and involvement in both the Uraidla and Summertown Netball Clubs.</p> <p>Merrilyn has been offering Family Day Care services for some 35 years in Uraidla. This has meant that she has been a surrogate mother to many families' children over the years.</p>	
Mitchell Smyth	<p>Mitchell has been an active member of the Adelaide Hills Relay for life committee for the past 2 years.</p> <p>He takes an active part in relaying through the night as a participant but also attends meetings helping to organise the event itself.</p>	Civic Award
Ross Kealley	<p>Ross is a very active volunteer within his local community. He has been involved as a volunteer at The Hut Community Centre for the past 4 years and works in multiple roles. He is dedicated to the Bookshed in Stirling where he works one day per week and has also served on the committee.</p> <p>He is also very active as a driver on the community bus, which is part of the Commonwealth Home Support program and offers shopping and social outings to seniors who are transport limited.</p> <p>Ross also is always happy to help out on the BBQ at community events and has recently taken on the role of coordinating the floats for the Stirling Community Christmas Pageant.</p> <p>Ross also helps with The Hut food pantry by collecting excess food from local businesses.</p> <p>Along with his extensive volunteer roles at The Hut Community Centre, Ross also volunteers by collecting Mission Bags which are then sent overseas and volunteers as the Stirling Community Op Shop one day per week.</p>	Civic Award
Stirling Meals on Wheels	<p>Stirling MOW has been serving the community with a hot meal and welfare check for over 50 years a very dedicated group that love helping people in need.</p> <p>We never stopped cooking and delivering we worked through COVID and bushfires and floods and storms we go many kilometres throughout the hills.</p>	Civic Award

<p>Brenda Stenhouse</p>	<p>Brenda is one of the primary organisers of the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services at the Houghton, Inglewood and Hermitage Memorial Park. This includes the correspondence co-ordinator and liaison with the Adelaide Hills Council.</p> <p>She has been an active member of the Houghton, Inglewood and Hermitage Memorial Park management committee for over 10 years, donating her valuable time and expertise in safety, media and communications. Brenda makes herself available to attend to oval matters needing attendance at all times.</p> <p>Brenda works over and above in the local community, by volunteering her time to attend to the weeding and landscaping around the Remembrance Wall and Plaza throughout the entire year. This time consuming task ensures all that visit the memorial see it in a pleasing condition.</p> <p>She also organised the construction of a book exchange library through a local men's group and ensures this community asset is always stocked and ready for use.</p>	<p>Civic Award</p>
<p>Oakbank Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee (Anthony Herve)</p>	<p>The revitalization of the Oakbank Soldiers Memorial Hall over the last 3 years the Hall under its new committee has become the centre of community activity.</p>	<p>Civic Award</p>

3. Citizen of the Year Awards 2023 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:

Item	Duration of Confidentiality NB: Item to be reviewed every 12 months if not released
Report	26 January 2023
Related Attachments	26 January 2023
Minutes	26 January 2023
Other	Nil

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.