

Media Release



Monday, 24 January 2022

EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2022

Locals supporting locals receive Australia Day commendations from Council

Over a dozen Adelaide Hills locals have been recognised with awards this Australia Day at a ceremony held in Stirling.

“It is always an honour to celebrate the otherwise unsung contributions of our community members,” said Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom.

“Our award winners are always surprised to learn of their nomination, which is testament to their humble efforts, but we are delighted to shine a light on the important impact their support has on their community.”

Adelaide Hills Council’s Citizen of the Year 2022 has been awarded to a couple; a rare decision for what is typically an individual award.

Graeme and Jess Jones of Bradbury have been quietly supporting their neighbours in their recovery from the 2021 Cherry Gardens Fire.

“In a true team effort, Graeme and Jess have worked in their community to help with property clean up, mental health support, and acting as representatives with support agencies,” said Mayor Wisdom.

“It was the inescapable fact that this couple worked in support of each other to make themselves available to the community that led Council to present a rare joint award.”

The Young Citizen of the Year Award 2022 was presented to 18 year old Aldgate local, Chantelle Wuttke, whose charitable volunteer work and passionate commitment to the wellbeing of her school community made her a stand out nominee.

“Chantelle’s commitment to fostering a positive school culture across new campuses is a remarkable achievement for any individual, let alone someone so young,” said Mayor Wisdom.

“The social awareness and natural empathy that Chantelle has demonstrated will undoubtedly serve her well throughout her life.”

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Finally, Lobethal's inaugural Gardening Festival has taken out the Community Event of the Year 2022, in recognition of a huge collaborative effort of passionate locals wanting to provide a focus for the recovering community.

This brand new event, which brought together multiple environmental agencies and local households, was established to promote wellbeing through gardening and an appreciation of nature.

"The Lobethal Gardening Festival was a hugely successful event held in times when community events have become especially difficult to coordinate safely," said Mayor Wisdom.

"The event committee, formed beneath the Lobethal Commerce Association, are incredibly deserving of this accolade and we hope to see their event continue and grow into the future."

An additional 10 Civic Awards were also presented to Adelaide Hills locals who demonstrated excellence in supporting or inspiring their communities through acts of selflessness and generosity.

These award winners were:

- Bill and Peg Chartres of Lobethal
- Chris Badenoch of Uraidla
- Elizabeth "Libby" Barber of Gumeracha
- Felicity Young of Gumeracha
- Michelle Kenley of Cudlee Creek
- Mikayla Schwarz of Lobethal
- Neil Shillabeer of Woodside
- SACWA Woodside Branch
- Tania McGregor of Crafers, and
- Thomas Shillabeer of Aldgate.

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