



Renmark Paringa Council

Media Statement

DATE: 17 December 2020

2021 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Renmark Paringa Mayor Neil Martinson today announced Renmark Paringa Council's 2021 Australia Day Award Winners.

"I have great pride in officially announcing to the community the recipients of Renmark Paringa Council's 2021 Australia Day Awards. The award winners are all valued members of our community and are well respected. They have been involved in a considerable range of community and sporting groups, organisations and events. On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate the award winners for the voluntary work they have given to our community over many years and look forward to presenting them with their awards at Council's Australia Day celebrations that will be held on Tuesday 26 January 2021 at the Renmark Club." Mayor Martinson said.

Citizen of the Year Award – Ivan Smith of Renmark

Ivan has made an ongoing contribution to our town, our region, our state over the past thirty plus years. He continues to contribute to the Riverland Dinghy Club and is an essential part of their ability to hold race events at the safety level that is required. One of Ivan's greatest achievements and most valuable assets is his ability to 'just get on with the job'. Working with Ivan you are immediately struck with his ability, calmness and knowledge of radio communications. What you are not aware of is his history - his huge involvement with a wide variety of clubs and community groups.

Ivan is an integral part of the Dinghy Club Volunteer Group. He has been involved in race day communications for Riverland Dinghy Club events for over 30 years. Race day communications is an extremely demanding task and one that requires a high skill set, ability to focus and complete dedication to the task at hand.

He undertakes an enormous amount of volunteer hours for the dinghy club outside of race days. Ivan maintains the dinghy club radio communications equipment, the tower and solar supply. He is continually seeking to improve on areas of communication to enable the club to secure and maintain a reliable radio network at events. Ivan was instrumental in encouraging the club to upgrade its radio communications system. He volunteered numerous hours so that the club's radios could operate on a dedicated channel protecting the line of communications on race day.

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Ivan has also volunteered with other community organisations. He commenced with the Renmark Fire Brigade in 1981. In 1982, Renmark won the Country Fire Brigade annual competition. Ivan was awarded the BR Hardy Country Fireman of the Year in 1983 and 1984. During his time in the fire brigade Ivan became aware of the lack of reliable communications from the station to the firemen attending incidents. From an early age Ivan had made morse code and crystal sets. He started in earnest his dedication to improve the communications. With the help of the late Mr John Ruston, his knowledge of the workings of radios developed to the highly skilled operations that are in use today.

Ivan was involved in the Variety Club of SA. In 1990 he commenced attending bashes and competed in 24 bashes and 13 4WD challenges raising funds along the way. Ivan set up a network of communications including satellite phones to ensure safe and reliable communications between the cars, officials and also in the case of an emergency the RFDS. These systems and programs are still in use today.

Ivan has been recognised over the years with several awards as a result of his volunteering with a number of clubs and organisations, locally, regionally, intra state and interstate.

- His most recent award was the Codan Award (Codan Communications) for his contribution and long service to communications by the Governor General in Adelaide.
- Ivan was recognised for his outstanding contribution to the Riverland Dinghy Club at the Championship Series Dinner in 2018.
- He was presented with the National Medal in May 2018. The National Medal is Australia's most awarded civilian medal and recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.
- SES Long Service medal in June 2017 as a result of his involvement with SES over a number of years.
- Received the Ministerial Commendation in November 2014. The Ministerial Commendation is awarded for 'meritorious or courageous action' to recognise significant effort, braver or service.

Ivan's contribution to the community of the Renmark Paringa area indicates many aspects the Citizen of the Year Award represents, and Council is pleased to name him as the Renmark Paringa Council 2021 Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

Community Event of the Year Award – Renmark Riverland Rose Festival 2020

The Renmark Riverland Rose Festival saw over 1700 people attend the Rose Fair, along with over 900 attending the floral display in the Renmark Institute and hundreds attending local open gardens. 130 tickets sold for the Rose Auction Dinner

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and a sold-out Rosie lunch rounded out the COVID restricted festival.

Without the hard work and incredible support of the Riverland community, this year's Renmark Riverland Rose Festival would not have been possible.

The Committee was a mixed and community-based collaboration with a small group of 9 people. There were growing challenges with a pandemic causing major new and unprecedented restrictions. The sheer determination of the committee to host a successful event in the most unsettling of times – amidst a pandemic – was a wonderful achievement.

Faced with the backdrop of COVID-19 restrictions and regulations the organising committee had to first assess each component of the event and make sure they could be included in the overall package and be COVID-19 safe.

In addition, the following also highlights the importance of the event:

- Mr Michael Keelan officially opened the festival.
- Introduction of an auction at the gala dinner.
- Initial discussions held with other towns regarding the integration of more gardens into 2021.
- Discussions on an expanded Ambassador project to develop our young leaders.
- Initial contact with the World Federation of Rose Societies to provide a pre-Convention tour. Renmark Riverland Rose Festival 2022 will be the week leading into a World Federation event with Renmark cementing itself a pre-Convention host event.

For these reasons the Renmark Riverland Rose Festival 2020 has been awarded the Renmark Paringa Council 2021 Australia Day Community Event of the Year.

Community Services Award – Beverley O'Loughlin

For over forty years of her lifetime in the Renmark Paringa district, Bev O'Loughlin has selflessly (and with humility) devoted a high level of personal time and effort to supporting numerous community groups.

These groups have included:

- Renmark Netball and Junior Netball Clubs
- Renmark Basketball Association
- Renmark Rovers Football Club
- Renmark Hockey Club
- Riverland SAPSASA
- Renmark Bowling Club
- Renmark Independent Living Op Shop

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- Renmark Meals on Wheels
- Renmark Legacy Group

Bev has touched the lives of thousands of people by extending help to children and their families above and beyond the call of duty. No act was too small, too big, too onerous, or too tedious that it would deter her from taking the extra step to help others.

For these and many more reasons Beverley O'Loughlin has been awarded the Renmark Paringa Council 2021 Australia Day Community Services Award.

Community Services Award – Rosslyn (Rozz) Dyer

Rozz has been volunteering for nearly 40 years in the Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup areas. Her services have included:

- Renmark Scouts including Scouts Leader in the early 1990's.
- Chaffey Theatre – from the early 1980's and still current today the voluntary work Rozz has carried out has included bar work, ushering and being a COVID-19 marshal.
- Renmark Meals on Wheels – Rozz has volunteered in many roles such as kitchen supervisor, coordinator, cook, meal deliveries and chairperson of the Renmark Meals on Wheels committee (a role that she has carried out for over 10 years).

For these and many more reasons Rosslyn Dyer has been awarded the Renmark Paringa Council 2021 Australia Day Community Services Award.

The awards will be presented at Renmark Paringa Council's Australia Day Celebrations to be held at the Renmark Club on Tuesday 26 January 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this event will be a ticketed event. Further announcements will be made with regards to ticketing details – please refer to Council's website.

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