



# Renmark Paringa Council

## Media Statement

**DATE: 10 December 2021**

### *2022 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED*

Renmark Paringa Mayor Neil Martinson today announced Renmark Paringa Council's 2022 Australia Day Award Winners.

*"I have pleasure in officially announcing the recipients of Renmark Paringa Council's Australia Day Awards for 2022. As I'm sure you will all agree, the award winners are valued members of our community. Their service is spread out over a wide range of community and sporting groups, organisations and events. Council would like to congratulate the award winners for their commitment made to our community and I am looking forward to presenting the recipients with their awards at Council's Australia Day celebrations on Wednesday 26 January at the Renmark Club." Said Mayor Martinson.*

#### **Citizen of the Year Award – Lorna Taylor of Paringa**

Lorna Taylor has been a regular volunteer in the Renmark and Paringa communities her entire life. She has been described as a true community citizen – someone who contributes many hours of work behind the scenes to many committees and community groups.

Community groups that Lorna has been involved in has included:

- A regular volunteer at the Renmark Annual Show as a convenor.
- Member of the Renmark Junior Primary School committee and was heavily involved in the organisation of the annual fete.
- Being the parent of four children, Lorna has throughout the years been involved in many sporting events and regular helped as required such as in the canteen, driving duties, fundraising and time keeping.
- Lorna was involved in the decorating of the pink tractor, known locally as 'Betty Boop' that was used as a focus for Breast Cancer Research and in the 2018 Commonwealth Games Baton Relay.
- With a long time interest in floriculture, Lorna has helped with the many floral arrangements during Orange Week.
- In 1997, Lorna became a committee member of the Renmark Rose Festival and remains heavily involved in the re-named Riverland Rose and Garden Festival. She assists with organising open gardens around the Riverland, delivering signs and liaising with open garden participants, is a driving force of

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the very popular Institute display including storing all of the fittings etc at her home, making sure all equipment is delivered to the Institute each year, putting floral displays in place then packing up at the conclusion of the event.

- Coordinating the creation of floats for the Renmark Christmas Pageant.
- Assisting with the arrangement of the statue of David Ruston in the Jarrett Memorial Garden.

Lorna is a dedicated community member, that person who will always just 'get in and do it' when no one else is able to. She is the first person to put her hand up to help.

Lorna'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 her as the Renmark Paringa Council 2022 Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

## **Community Event of the Year Award – Renmark Rocks On**

Renmark Rocks On has been an annual event for the past 9 years, with the 10<sup>th</sup> year to be celebrated in March 2022. Since the early inception the event has grown in participants both local and visitors and has increased the number of events held over its duration.

The first gathering of 8 enthusiasts was held in November 2012 and 4 months later the first 'Renmark Rocks On' was held in March 2013 with 120 dancers on Friday and Saturday night at the Renmark Hotel.

The event has grown steadily with many additions over the years including:

- Local dance groups showcasing their talent at the markets.
- More market exhibitors each year.
- Visitors staying an extra night to attend the Club meet on Monday's.
- Addition of a farewell breakfast on Sunday for approx. 150-200 in 2015.
- In 2016 a second band was added on the Friday night.
- The following year in 2017 a second band was added on the Saturday night.
- Events at the Renmark Hotel and Renmark Club were both sold out on the Friday and Saturday nights in 2018.
- In 2019 they outgrew these 2 premises and moved to the Renmark Greek Hall to accommodate over 300 dances on both nights.
- In 2020 Thursday night dancing was added to the event for approx. 100.
- Although COVID restrictions were in place in 2021, all 3 nights still sold out with limits of 250 each night.

The market day has grown significantly with some local businesses joining in by dressing window displays and staff dressing in the 50s/60s traditional rock n roll outfits. Music is also played throughout the streets to add to the atmosphere in the lead up week.

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Prior to COVID, 3-4,000 locals and Riverlanders participating in the fun family day with display cars hitting a high of 160 vehicles in 2020.

For these reasons Renmark Rocks On has been awarded the Renmark Paringa Council 2022 Australia Day Community Event of the Year.

The awards will be presented at Renmark Paringa Council's Australia Day Celebrations to be held at the Renmark Club on Wednesday 26 January 2022. 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.

**Media inquiries in relation to this event can be directed to Mayor Neil Martinson, phone 0427 951 369.**

**Contact Details for the winners are:**

Lorna Taylor – 0438 835 183

Renmark Rocks On (Lyn Leuders) – 0417 854 968