



# Renmark Paringa Council

Media Release

DATE: 20 December 2023

## **Renmark Paringa Council announce Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards 2024**

Renmark Paringa Council are proud to announce the recipients of the prestigious Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards for 2024.

These awards acknowledge individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Renmark Paringa community and who embody the spirit of Australia Day.

The recipients of the 2024 Australian Day Citizen of the Year Awards are:

### **Citizen of the Year – Alan Coulter**

*Alan and his wife Lois moved to Renmark in 1976 and since then he has dedicated his life to helping others through rehabilitation, injury prevention, fitness, coaching, teaching, and mentoring.*

*Alan has made a significant difference in the lives of others through his working career in rehabilitation. He has helped many people recover from physical injury arising from sport, vehicle accidents, falls, joint fatigue, and those suffering from medical conditions. Many people in the community have benefited from his knowledge, heartfelt application, and tireless care over many decades.*

*Throughout his time in Renmark, he has spent a tremendous amount of time working with sporting groups to improve their fitness and reduce the risk of injury. He has worked closely with the Renmark Rovers Football Club freely over 45 years and has been a pivotal factor in their improved fitness and work ethic. Along with the Renmark Rovers, Alan has also worked closely with the Renmark Netball Club, Renmark Rowing Club, Renmark Swimming Club, and various local schools.*

*Alan was also instrumental in the development of the Renmark Recreation Centre which was renamed in his honour to the Alan Coulter Recreation Centre. His involvement meant people could attend the centre to improve their fitness in a safe environment and attend rehabilitation centres in a heated pool. His standard of care has always been exemplary, and he displays a deep level of care to all those he helps.*

### **Community Event of the Year – Renmark's Christmas Pageant**

*After a 5+ year hiatus, the Renmark Christmas Pageant made an exciting comeback in 2023. A dedicated group of community members volunteered their time to re-establish the Renmark Christmas Celebrations Committee Inc and deliver a*



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## *Christmas Pageant in Renmark.*

*The Renmark Christmas Pageant took place on Friday 1 December 2023 in the Renmark Town Centre and had an impressive turnout with thousands of people in attendance from across the Riverland.*

*Along with the much anticipated parade, the event also featured attractions and games, an animal farm, Santa's Cave, face painting, roaming clowns, food trucks and a fireworks display to finish.*

*The passion, time and commitment displayed by the Renmark Christmas Celebration Committee Inc is something to be recognised and celebrated. Their hard work meant that a wonderful community event was delivered and enjoyed by the community. The event was a great way to kick off the festive season and brought joy to many children.*

## **Award for Active Citizenship - Ann Ryan**

*Ann is a dedicated volunteer who is well known for her contributions at the National Trust Olivewood Historic Homestead and Museum as well as Cammies Antiques in Paringa and the Renmark Hotel Museum.*

*Earlier in her life, Ann also volunteered her time to go to the Hermannsburg Missionary in the Northern Territory and the Buddhist Orphanage in Sri Lanka.*

*Ann has also volunteered her time helping many other community organisations including the Chaffey Community Centre and she is a current member of the Bookmark Creek Action Group.*

*Along with volunteering, Ann has fundraised and donated to community organisations and projects to improve and enhance the quality of life of residents in our community. These include the Renmark Palliative Care Unit, Dementia Research, Renmark Hotel Museum and Olivewood Historic Homestead and Museum.*

*Ann's dedication to volunteering and helping others less fortunate is a sign of her caring nature. Her passion for preserving and showcasing our local history is something that will benefit our community for many generations to come.*

## **Award for Active Citizenship - Grant Schwartzkopff**

*Grant has been a dedicated community photographer for many years taking photos at various sporting and local community events. This involves him attending many sporting competitions and events almost every weekend of the year, which he always does with a smile on his face.*



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*Grant was instrumental in capturing photos of the recent River Murray Flood, his efforts to travel across the region were significant as he captured images from the beginning of the flood up until the peak. This was a huge task and vital to documenting the town's history which will serve for future generations to come.*

*More recently Grant volunteered his time towards the Renmark Christmas Pageant where he took photos of children with Santa in Santa's Cave. Grant volunteered hours of his time and took approximately 1200 photos of children with Santa.*

*Grant was recently crowned The Advertisers best photographer of 2023 which he won against many candidates across South Australia.*

*Grant always ensures his photos are posted online, available to family, friends and organisations to view free of charge. This gesture ensures that these memories are shared within the community and promoted across our local media outlets. The time that Grant spends providing this much appreciated service to the community is remarkable and one to be recognised.*

The recipients will be honoured at an Australia Day Celebration held at Jarrett Memorial Gardens, Renmark on Friday 26 January 2024 where they will be presented with their awards in front of the community, family, and friends.

The Australia Day Celebration will include a free community breakfast from 8am with the awards and citizenship ceremony to follow at 9am.

Mayor Peter Hunter said, 'the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards are a tribute to those who have made significant contributions to our community.'

'We encourage the community to attend the Australia Day Celebrations to join us in honouring and celebrating the award recipients. The celebration serves as a meaningful occasion to reflect on the values that underpin the Renmark Paringa community and to recognise those who have gone above and beyond.'

Further details about the awards and celebration can be found on the Council's website: [Australia Day Awards and Celebrations](#)

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