



# Renmark Paringa Council

## Media Statement

**DATE: 9 December 2022**

### *2023 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED*

Renmark Paringa Mayor Peter Hunter has today announced Renmark Paringa Council's 2023 Australia Day Award Winners.

"I have pleasure in officially announcing the recipients of Renmark Paringa Council's Australia Day Awards for 2023 and congratulate the recipients for their commitment to enhancing our community life. We appreciate their active citizenship within our community through the extensive voluntary work they have contributed. I proudly look forward to presenting the recipients with their awards at Council's Australia Day celebrations on Thursday 26 January at the Renmark Club." Said Mayor Hunter.

#### **Citizen of the Year Award – Ian Tolley of Renmark**

Ian Tolley was born in Renmark and attended the local primary and high school before studying civil engineering and surveying at Adelaide University however his passion for horticulture led him back to Renmark.

In 1970 Ian was elected chairperson of the Renmark High School governing body and spent many hours and years planning the 'new' high school in the location that it currently sits. Ian was also instrumental in developing the local TAFE and Chaffey Theatre complexes which created a centralised education complex.

Ian was the chairman of the Renmark Agricultural Bureau, instigated the Riverland Gadget Day which showcased 'inventions' by the local horticultural and agricultural farmers. He was a founding member of the Renmark Lions Club, founding member of the Australian region of the International Plant Propagators Society and was joint founder and Patron of the International Society of Citrus Nurserymen.

Ian instigated and developed micro-budding techniques for citrus, and led the field working out how to grow citrus under cover in containers - both techniques are now widely adopted both locally, nationally and internationally. Ian is recognised internationally as a specialist in nursery production technology and orchard planting and management. Ian has written or co-written three books, Common sense Citrus; Citrus - A Gardeners Guide (First published in 1999) and Citrus for Everyone.

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Ian has been recognised with numerous awards and honours over the past 60 years, including:

- one of the first Australian to be awarded the Churchill Fellowship - for horticulture.
- Life Member of the Agricultural Bureau of SA.
- Australian Nurseryman's Assoc Award of Merit - for 'services education and propagation'.
- International Plant Propagators Society - Australian Award of Honour.
- Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community, horticulture and particularly the citrus industry in 1995.
- International Plant Propagators Society Award of Merit for 'services in dissemination of horticultural knowledge' - first award ever given outside the USA.
- Life membership award by the Rare Fruits Society of SA - for 'services to the Society'.
- Awarded life membership Fellows Assoc of SA for 'services to the Association'.

Ian's contribution to the community of the Renmark Paringa area is highly supportive of all aspects which the Citizen of the Year Award represents, and Council is pleased to name him as the Renmark Paringa Council 2023 Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

## **Young Citizen of the Year Award – Nathan Woodrow of Renmark**

At the age of 16, owner and CEO, Nathan Woodrow, started his business 'Ryde Clothing' that has become the "brand of the Riverland" and has found a distinct place in the retail landscape of the Riverland, South Australia, Australia and beyond. Recognising that brand is about community, Nathan is committed to serving the people the business engages by offering more value to its community than what it receives via any one financial transaction.

Nathan has incorporated the skills, knowledge and capacity of the broader Ryde team to offer opportunities for personal and professional growth to the community.

Nathan is a regular contributor to regional and state discussions via platforms such as the Jane Eliza Development Community Advisory Board and the Murraylands and Riverland Plan Interest Panel (via RDA). Nathan is also a regular contributor on local radio where he speaks on business and issues impacting young entrepreneurs in regional SA.

In 2022 Generation Inspired 2 was released across Australia. In this documentary, Nathan was profiled along with two other young Australians with powerful stories. The purpose of the documentary is to inspire young people to understand that challenges are not permanent and that amazing outcomes can be achieved in the face of adversity: Nathan continues to preach this message in his many talks at schools and public speaking events.

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Nathan also hosts a range of unpublicised events through Ryde, such as Ryde Book Club, which brings members of the Ryde Community together to grow literary appreciation and connectedness amongst the community.

In 2022, Nathan, and Ryde, were nominated as a finalist in the South Australian Community Achievement Awards (Awards Australia Small Business Award) and were announced winners in early December. Nathan and Ryde is also a Stage 3 Finalist in the Telstra Best of Business Awards.

Nathan's contribution to the community of Renmark Paringa shows him to be a worthy recipient, representing all requirements of the Young Citizen of the Year Award. Council is pleased to name him as the Renmark Paringa Council 2023 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year.

## **Community Event of the Year Award – Renmark Rowing Club Inc 2022 Wharf to Woolshed Long Row**

The Renmark Rowing Club Wharf to Woolshed Long Row was held on 25 June 2022, the fifth annual Long Row that has been delivered by the Renmark Rowing Club. This event brings together rowers from all over South Australia and other crews that travel from Victoria and the ACT to enjoy a 36 km upstream row from Renmark to the Woolshed Brewery where they are greeted and cheered on by supporters and locals who watch the finishing crews from the Balcony at the Brewery.

In 2022 the Club hosted 148 participants from eleven rowing clubs. The event has grown from 40 participants in its first year in 2017 (with eleven crews), to 99 participants in 2021, and 148 participants (32 crews) in 2022, plus seven support tinnies and crews. The event is suitable for rowers of different abilities, from novice to elite. It is popular both as an "adventure row", and for its timing in Winter (being held on the Saturday closest to the winter solstice).

To run the Long Row event successfully and safely, many members and other volunteers donated their time including: the Renmark Rowing Club's Long Row organising committee; the 7 volunteer support boat drivers; the 8 on-the-ground crew who managed the rest areas/ morning tea locations, plus the 8 volunteers who baked many items and donated local fruit for the morning tea stops. The Club relies on the ongoing commitment and unwavering support of its organising committee, other members, and community supporters to ensure this event is successful and that all participants have a safe and memorable time while on, and off, the water in Renmark.

The Renmark Rowing Club is 102 years old. It has operated through difficult times over the years and remains an important social and sporting Club for all its members. The Club encourages membership of people from all ages and backgrounds, and actively supports them to increase their fitness through rowing and

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their social connectedness through Club activities. The Club has 115 members who range in age from 12 years to 93 years.

By delivering this event each year over the last 5 years, (except for Covid closure in 2020), the Rowing Club has raised the profile of rowing as a sport in the community, as well as providing opportunities for people to be involved through volunteering at the event. The participants who come from local Riverland Clubs, Interstate, Adelaide metropolitan, and other regional SA clubs, enjoy being on the river (many have never rowed on the River Murray), and seeing the natural splendour of the river and its environment. The event enhances tourism to the area with many participants coming back on repeated visits.

For these reasons, the Renmark Rowing Club Inc 2022 Wharf to Woolshed Long Row has been awarded the Renmark Paringa Council 2023 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 Thursday 26 January 2023. 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 Peter Hunter, phone 0492 162 964.**

**Contact Details for the winners are:**

Ian Tolley - 0438 080 729.

Nathan Woodrow - 0425 084 311.

Renmark Rowing Club Inc 2022 Wharf to Woolshed Long Row – Tony Townsend (Club President) 0408 856 011.