

4.1 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS

REPORT AUTHOR: Coordinator, Events & Marketing
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
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FILE REFERENCE: qA129520
ATTACHMENTS: A - G

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the nominations which have been received for the 2024 Australia Day Awards to the Council for the Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Council, in association with the *Australia Day Council of South Australia* invites nominations from the community for the Local Australia Day Citizen, the Young Citizen and the Community Event of the Year Awards, as well as a new category Award for Active Citizenship.

Promotion of the Awards has been undertaken via the Council's electronic newsletter, *Your NPSP*, the Council's website, social media platforms and through promotional materials located at Council facilities (ie the Norwood Town Hall and Libraries).

In addition, the promotional material and nomination forms, were forwarded to community groups, Volunteers and educational organisations.

The Council has received six (6) nominations for the 2024 Australia Day Awards.

RELEVANT POLICIES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The relevant Outcomes and Objectives in City Plan 2030 are:

Outcome 1 Social Equity

Objective 1.3. An engaged and participating community.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

The Australia Day Awards provide recognition to citizens and groups who have given freely of their time, efforts and abilities to promote the wellbeing of the community. The Awards also provide a means of celebration of the achievements of the nominee's and to enhance the Australia Day celebrations.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**
Elected Members were advised of the opening of nominations via a memorandum dated 5 June 2023 and 1 September 2023 from the Coordinator, Events & Marketing.
- **Community**
Not Applicable.
- **Staff**
Not Applicable.
- **Other Agencies**
Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

The Australia Day Awards are presented annually to local citizens who are considered to have made outstanding contributions to the community.

A list of all Local Australia Day Award winners since 1999 has been prepared for the Council's information and a copy of this document is contained within **Attachment A**.

The Council has received two (2) nominations for the 2024 Citizen of the Year Award:

- Mr Ravi Hammond (**Attachment B**); and
- Ms Jane Durbridge (**Attachment C**).

The Council has received two (2) nominations for the 2024 Young Citizen of the Year Award:

- Mr Ethan Jiunn-Yow Chen (**Attachment D**); and
- Ms Abbey Wilkinson (**Attachment E**).

The Council has received two (2) nominations for the 2024 Community Event of the Year:

- One Planet Market (**Attachment F**); and
- Kaurna Cultural Ceremony (**Attachment G**).

The Council did not receive any nominations for the Award for Active Citizenship.

The number of nominations which have been received for the 2024 Awards is higher than in previous years. Additional marketing and word-of-mouth promotion throughout the community may have contributed to the number of nominations received.

Award Criteria

The selection criteria for the *Citizen* and *Young Citizen of the Year* when considering an application is as follows:

- to be eligible, the person must be an Australian citizen;
- to be eligible, the person must be an Australian citizen under 30 years of age on January 26, 2022;
- the significance of the contribution to the community;
- an inspirational role model for the Australian community; and
- the scope of impact the individual's contribution has on the local government area.

Other factors to be considered include:

- personal, academic and professional achievements;
- demonstrated leadership, innovation and creativity;
- degree of difficulty and sacrifices made; and
- nature and length of activity or service.

The criteria when considering an application for *Community Event of the Year* is set out below:

- Who was the event for, what was its objective and did the event achieve these objectives?
- How many people attended or benefited from the community event?
- What impact did it have on the group/audience for whom it was held?
- Did the event have any other positive impacts for the community that it did not necessarily aim to achieve?
- Did the event receive any positive commendations from members of the community?
- Was there an environmental advantage?
- How was the event funded? Was it a not-for-profit event or was it planned to have a financial advantage?
- Did the organiser or organising body, work alone or as a team?
- Did the event involve broad community participation? And
- To be eligible, the person or group must be Australian Citizens.

There is however, no requirement or obligation on the Council to confer an Award if nominations are not worthy of an Award.

OPTIONS

Option One

The Council can confer the Award to the nominee, who the Council determines as meeting the criteria as set out by the Australia Day Council of South Australia.

Option Two

The Council can determine not to confer Awards as part of the 2024 Australia Day celebrations.

CONCLUSION

It is important to note that the Council does not have to confer Awards if the Council is not convinced that the nominations meet the criteria.

The Council's Australia Day celebrations will still feature a Citizenship Ceremony and therefore the event can proceed as planned, albeit without the Awards component.

COMMENTS

To assist the Council, a model recommendation for Recommendation 2 is set out below.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present, be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

- (o) information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award;

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

RECOMMENDATION 2

1. That be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2024 Citizen of the Year Award.
2. That be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2024 Young Citizen of the Year Award.
3. That be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2024 Community Event of the Year Award.
4. That the successful Award recipient and their family and friends be invited to accept the Australia Day Award at the Council's Australia Day Event to be held on 26 January 2024.

or

That the Council determines not to award an Award as part of the 2024 Australia Day Celebrations.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report, discussion, and minutes be kept confidential until 26 January 2024.

Cr Granozio moved:

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present [Chief Executive Officer; General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs; General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment; General Manager, Infrastructure & Major Projects; Chief Financial Officer and Executive Assistant, Governance & Civic Affairs], be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

- (o) information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award;*

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

Seconded by Cr Callisto and carried unanimously.

Cr Holfeld declared a perceived conflict of interest in this matter on the basis that he has worked with Mr Ravi Hammond in the past. Cr Holfeld advised that he would remain in the meeting and take part in the discussion regarding this matter.

Cr Clutterham moved:

*That **Mr Ravi Hammond** be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2024 Citizen of the Year Award.*

Seconded by Cr Robinson and carried unanimously.

Cr Mex moved:

*That **Ms Abbey Wilkinson** be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2024 Young Citizen of the Year Award.*

Seconded by Cr Holfeld and carried unanimously.

Cr Mex declared a conflict of interest in this matter, as she is a Member of the Kensington Residents Association and left the meeting at 8.02pm.

Cr Callisto declared a perceived conflict of interest in this matter on the basis that he is associated with the Kensington Residents Association. Cr Callisto advised that he would remain in the meeting and take part in the discussion regarding this matter.

Cr Piggott moved:

*That **Kaurna Cultural Ceremony** be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2024 Community Event of the Year Award.*

Seconded by Cr Clutterham and carried unanimously.

Cr Piggott moved:

That the successful Award recipient and their family and friends be invited to accept the Australia Day Award at the Council's Australia Day Event to be held on 26 January 2024.

Seconded by Cr Holfeld and carried unanimously.

Cr Mex returned to the meeting at 8.06pm.

Cr Sims left the meeting at 8.06pm.

Cr Clutterham moved:

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the report, discussion, and minutes be kept confidential until 26 January 2024.

Seconded by Cr Piggott and carried unanimously.

Attachment A

2024 Australia Day Award Nominations

City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
175 The Parade, Norwood SA 5067

Telephone 8366 4555
Facsimile 8332 6338
Email townhall@npsp.sa.gov.au
Website www.npsp.sa.gov.au



City of
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Australia Day Award Recipients

Year	Citizen of the Year	Young Citizen	Active Citizen	Community Event	Commendations
1999	Crystal Young	Josephine Sexton		Argent Uniting Church 150 Anniversary	Nil
2000	Mavis O'Connor	Christopher Hunt		Devitt Avenue Primary School	Ray Curson Daryl Jones Mary McDonald Mary Harford
2001	Enid Berry	Megan Boundy		Journey of Healing: A Service of Reconciliation Parade Area Clergy	Darren Andrews
2002	Rino Grotto	Erin Symons		Nil	Barbara Rogers Peg Richards
2003	Nan Hamra	Jonathon Gill		Nil	Pam Whittle Eileen Williams
2004	Meg Siostrom Bruce Raymond	Nil		Combined Christmas Endeavours of the Christian Churches	Alby South
2005	Bruce Lee	Mathew Cowdrey Efpraxia Stasi		Nil	Elsie Butler-Nixon

Year	Citizen of the Year	Young Citizen	Active Citizen	Community Event	Commendations
2006	Adrienne Earl	Gemma Weedall		Payneham City Concert Band ANZAC Day Concert	Nil
2007	James Dunk	Scott Murray		Disability Arts Party	Nil
2008	Patrick Byrt	Hayley Prentice		South Australian Miniature Enthusiasts 22 nd Annual Festival	Nil
2009	Kingsley Turner	Riley Ingham		Concert at the Kiln – Organised by Susan Wilson	Nil
2010	George Karatassas	Louise Anne Hutchinson		Nil	Nil
2011	Beth Mylius	Nil		Nil	Nil
2012	Margaret (Peggy) Knoblauch	Stephanie O'Connor		Nil	Nil
2013	Jeff and Jean Baulch	Nil		Nil	Nil
2014	Barry Skinner	Nil		Nil	Nil
2015	Raphael Denis (Ray) Gleeson	Nil		Nil	Nil
2016	Brian Essery	Nil		Nil	Nil
2017	Victor Baltutis	Nil		Hillbilly Hoot Radio Program	Nil
2018	Ian Rohde	Nil		Nil	Nil

Attachment B

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2024 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Ravi Hammond

Award Category: Citizen of the Year
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Age: [REDACTED]
Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes
Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

Ravi's dedication to nurturing the next generation of tech talent goes beyond mere participation; he has actively enhanced the fabric of community life and epitomised the spirit of active citizenship. Ravi's journey is marked by impressive milestones, such as securing third place globally in the NASA Space Robotics Challenge and interning at several top tech companies such as Google and Microsoft. However, his most significant contribution stems from his relentless dedication to empowering computer science students across Australia, particularly in Adelaide. Since 2019, Ravi has been touching the lives of hundreds of students annually, demystifying the world of tech and opening doors that many found impassable.

In 2020, Ravi founded "Ravi's Study Program" (RSP), a beacon of hope and practical support for aspiring tech professionals. This entirely free, annual bootcamp is ingeniously designed to train programming students to excel in coding interviews, a critical hurdle when seeking roles in prestigious tech companies. Ravi's approach doesn't just involve guidance regarding technical skills; it's about building confidence, community, and opportunities for real-world success.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

The impact of RSP is quantifiable: in just three years, it has graduated 131 students, leading to over 200 job offers from industry giants like Google, Amazon, Jane Street, Palantir, Atlassian, and more. Remarkably, 75 of these were positions within big-tech, an achievement that underscores the program's efficacy and Ravi's commitment.

While Ravi's initiative has garnered immense gratitude from his students, it's his altruistic approach that deserves acclaim. He has not sought profit or fame; instead, he invested his time, skills, and personal funds to uplift others. His work is a labour of love, an act of genuine community service that has yet to receive the broader recognition it truly deserves. This is demonstrated through the countless hours he pours into students at an individual level. He builds long-term relationships with his students and supports them in their forward endeavours in any way he can. I can certainly attest to this, being someone who's benefited from the millions of written and spoken words of advice he's handed to me over the past four years.

Through this program, he has built a community of students who have blossomed from Ravi's guidance, and are now volunteering in masses to support the program and other like-minded students in general, giving back to students in the years below them. This attitude stemmed from Ravi's altruism. Ravi is widely considered the most influential person in the University of Adelaide in particular.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

Recently, Ravi has founded RSP as a not-for-profit charity. He's aiming to take the program to the national level, since it's a program that is already being recognised by top universities across Australia because of the success it has brought Adelaide university students. Because of Ravi, the University of Adelaide in particular has propelled from being a relatively unknown name in Australia's big tech company offices to now being tied with University of New South Wales for the most multinational interns produced from a university, a feat that would have been virtually impossible without his dedicated involvement.

It's not just Australia that's had the privilege of accessing this program, but his altruism has been noticed sporadically across the globe from students in England, America, Pakistan, India, and more.

Referee**Name:** Cheryl Pope**Email:** [REDACTED]**Phone:** [REDACTED]**What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?**

University Professor

What can the referee comment on?

Ravi's dedication, talent, expertise, and his love and dedication to his students and his community.

Written Reference

Dear selection committee members,

I am writing in support of the nomination put forward by Shaun Namal Gunawardane nominating Ravi Hammond for the Australian of the Year award. Ravi is an inspirational role model having overcome struggles in finding his own path in life to becoming a leader and mentor to many others.

I have known Ravi since he started at the University of Adelaide as an undergraduate engineering student. Ravi is a person who has certainly found success, leading the team representing Australia in the Mars Rover challenge, interning in the top companies across the world, studying in a top machine learning institute --he could take his talent wherever he desired - but Ravi is also a person who has a passion for enabling and mentoring others. He gives very generously of his time to help others reach what can seem unattainable goals. He welcomed undergraduate students into the Mars Rover team, when it would have been easier to just work with experienced professionals. The Ravi Study Program he created, and offers for free, has helped many Australians to succeed at gaining internships at the most competitive software engineering companies (e.g. Google, Atlassian, Microsoft, etc). He has made a significant impact on the lives of not only those who go through the program but many more Australians through the experience and knowledge they bring back.

One of the traits that has always impressed me about Ravi is that despite his many successes, he has always remained humble with a true desire to lift others up. Australia and our budding Australian scientists are truly lucky to have him, and he is very deserving of this award.

Yours,

Dr Cheryl Pope, Senior Lecturer

Nominator**Name:** Shaun Gunawardane**Email:** [REDACTED]**Phone:** [REDACTED]**Address:** [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Attachment C

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2024 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Jane Durbridge

Award Category: Citizen of the Year
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Age: [REDACTED]
Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes
Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

Jane has made an extraordinary contribution to Adelaide's arts sector through years of dedicated volunteer work. Jane has volunteered at the Adelaide Film Festival for the past six years (since 2017); for WOMAD for the past 7 years (since 2016); and for the Festival of Arts - primarily as a volunteer for Writers Week - for the past 11 years (since 2012). All of these festivals know they can rely on Jane's participation to help deliver their annual programs. Jane has also been a foster carer for greyhounds and the RSPCA SA. In 2022, she fostered three dogs, saving them from destruction.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

Jane's years of voluntary work have helped ensure that festivals such as WOMAD and Writers Week continue to function. The creative arts enrich our lives, contribute to our mental health and wellbeing, help us to understand each other - and contribute to the economy. Without volunteers such as Jane, arts festival would struggle to exist. She's given joyously and selflessly, and her years of unswerving dedication mean that festivals know they can rely on her. Her active citizenship takes place on top of her work at Flinders University, in a marketing role.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

No. Jane's work has not been recognised thus far.

Referee

Name: Michelle Prak
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

Friend

What can the referee comment on?

Jane's years of volunteering in the arts sector.

Written Reference

It is my pleasure to provide a written reference in support of the nomination of Jane Durbridge for a Citizen of the Year award.

I have known Jane since 2009, initially through corporate networking groups until eventually forming the friendship we have today.

Over time, I've witnessed Jane's extraordinary voluntary contribution to Adelaide's arts sector, which has not yet been recognised.

Jane has volunteered at the Adelaide Film Festival for the past six years (since 2017); for WOMAD for the past 7 years (since 2016); and for the Festival of Art – primarily as a volunteer for Writers Week – for the past 11 years (since 2012).

Each year, these festivals know they can rely on Jane to help deliver their annual programs. As well as her volunteerism in the arts, Jane is a passionate animal lover and has contributed to the community in that capacity. In 2022, she fostered three dogs.

In her professional life, Jane works in marketing and communications, primarily in health communications. Her current role at Flinders University centres on 'end of life essentials'.

In South Australia, we are well aware of the value and importance of the arts. We're proud of the contribution that our festivals make to our wellbeing, our economy, and to placing Adelaide on the international stage. Jane's years of voluntary work have helped ensure these festivals continue to thrive, and I wholeheartedly commend this active citizenship to you.

Yours

Michelle Prak

FPRIA

Nominator

Name: Michelle Prak

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Released

Attachment D

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2024 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Mr Ethan Jiunn-Yow Chen

Award Category: Young Citizen of the Year
Name: Ethan Jiunn-Yow Chen
Age: [REDACTED]
Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes
Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

My nominee has contributed to the community in various ways, such as leading a group of year 7-11 students to fundraise for the Seeing Eye Dogs, created a basketball club (Courtside Champs) that helps disadvantaged children learn the fundamentals of basketball without any fees.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

Ethan was disadvantaged as a child so it was always a chip on his shoulder-that he had to work harder than any other child to achieve the same results. He decided to help disadvantaged children achieve their sporting dreams by opening his very own club, and had volunteers from his school.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

He has been awarded a service-learning award at his school.

Referee

Name: David Hankin
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

Mentor

What can the referee comment on?

Nominee's character-presence in the community. (particularly in creating a basketball club for disadvantaged children and creating opportunities for the to attend free basketball camp)

Nominator

Name: David Hankin
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Attachment E

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2024 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Abbey Wilkinson

Award Category: Young Citizen of the Year
 Name: Abbey Wilkinson
 Age: ■
 Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes
 Address: Norwood, South Australia 5067

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

Abbey is an inspiring community leader, demonstrating remarkable mentorship abilities and a commendable capacity for driving positive change whenever she recognises its necessity.

Each year, 12 young people, from ages 14-18 are selected to be members of the South Australian Youth Forum (SAYF). After the program, Forum members are invited to continue with the next year's members as mentors and become part of the Executive Team. This is an opportunity for young people to have a chance to be leaders in their community and enhance their skills through mentoring the new members.

Abbey was selected to be a South Australian Youth Forum member in 2022 and progressed to become an Executive member and mentor for the Forum in 2023.

The Annual Report is the main goal of the Forum and includes meeting discussions, models of engagement and data collection from surveys. Additionally, each Forum member has an opportunity to write on an issue that they are passionate about / have personal experience with. The members are cited for their work and together, as a Forum, we decide upon recommendations for each issue.

At the end of the year, the Forum members meet with Ministers, Politicians, Community Leaders, Local Government and Businesses to present the findings from the report and to educate the decision-makers on their role to enact certain changes.

In 2022, Abbey contributed her passion, commitment and dedication to youth empowerment to help present the SA Youth Forum Annual Report to:

- Ministers for Human Services, Women, Child Protection, Domestic Violence Prevention, Business and Commerce, Transport and Arts, Education
- Shadow Minister for Youth and Communities
- 15 State Members of Parliament
- 6 Federal Members of Parliament
- 17 Local Councils
- 5 Academics from Universities across Australia
- Local Government Association of Youth Development
- Southern Youth Development Network
- Commissioner for Young People and Children
- Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
- Green Adelaide

Abbey has helped lead the Forum in 2023 and, as such, has become a co-author for the 2023 SA Youth Forum Annual Report. The Forum is excited to meet with the Minister for Human Services, Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for Youth in December 2023.

In addition to Abbey's work with the Forum, she was also elected as a year 12 Prefect by her peers and has contributed countless hours and service to making her school community increasingly healthier for the wellbeing of her fellow students.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

By becoming an Executive member in 2023, Abbey has demonstrated active citizenship through mentoring the new young people selected for the Forum's program. This has been through:

- Organising regular mentoring meetings with Forum members to help them prepare for the monthly SA Youth Forum meetings.
- Providing regular check-ins with Forum members about how they are managing school and other commitments.
- Sharing appropriate opportunities available for the Forum members to become involved with.

In addition to Abbey's mentorship, she also established the Gender Inequality sub-committee of the Forum which conducted a research project into young peoples' experiences with gender inequality at school. The group recognised tangible recommendations for the findings from the project. The Forum was invited to meet in the Town Hall in May 2023, where they officially published the data from this research project.

Abbey has actively collaborated with SA Power Networks as a youth representative, offering valuable insights into their Regulatory Reset 2025–2030 Plan. Additionally, she has contributed to the development of the Department of Human Services' new Youth Action Plan and played a pivotal role in the Uniting Communities #UnlockingLoneliness campaign. In these endeavours, Abbey effectively represented the voices of young people, providing insightful evaluations to enhance the impact and effectiveness of these initiatives.

In Abbey's term on the SAYF, she has worked closely with the Department of Human Services (DHS) on their new coercive control campaign, The See the Signs Campaign. Abbey worked on both stage 1 in 2022 and stage 2 in 2023 of this campaign. She provided excellent feedback to the Department about improving the campaign to ensure more relatable impacts on the lives of young people who see it.

Lately, Abbey was a selected SAYF Executive member to work in partnership with the Department of Human Services to commence a research project on coercive control and young people. Despite this being a challenging research project, Abbey showed diligence and leadership in how she worked with the SAYF team and the young people involved, as well as responsibly liaising with DHS. This project is significant in gaining an understanding of young peoples' awareness of coercive control and shaping the direction of the See the Signs Campaign stage 3.

In the last few months, the SAYF has commenced a partnership with Flinders University to collect world-first data on how loneliness affects young people. This is a super exciting opportunity and Abbey has volunteered many hours to be part of co-designing the process of academic research collection. Abbey and the Forum are excited to continue this project into 2024 after recently receiving a grant to explore this topic further.

Overall, Abbey embodies kindness, determination, respect, and passion as a dedicated citizen and community leader. Despite being only 18, she remains unwavering in her commitment to amplifying the voices of young people, actively working towards ensuring their perspectives are heard and valued in decision-making arenas.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

Abbey has been acknowledged by receiving a Premier's Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Community and a Volunteering SA Award for being a Community Changemaker.

Referee

Name: Amber Brock-Fabel

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

Professional

What can the referee comment on?

Abbey's involvement with the South Australian Youth Forum.

Nominator

Name: Amber Brock-Fabel

Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Released

Attachment F

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2024 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - One Planet Market

Award Category: Community Event of the Year
Name: One Planet Market
Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes
Address: Payneham Community Centre, 374 Payneham Road, Payneham SA 5070

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

The One Planet Market is a valuable part of the community. Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the month it brings together local gardeners, craftspeople and micro business owners to sell, trade and offer advice on all sorts of sustainability issues. The Repair Cafe is helping to reduce waste going to landfill by empowering people to mend their items rather than discard them. The regular workshops are free and educate the community on sustainability topics such as gardening, cooking, food preservation, mending, nature and many others. As a place to come and meet like-minded people it is a wonderful opportunity for networking and connection.

www.facebook.com/01planet/

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

By bringing community together this market offers the opportunity to enhance all market-goers lives via education and connection. It's very culturally diverse and very friendly and welcoming. All staff (including the info desk, the coffee/tea stand, the workshop coordinator, the repair cafe) are volunteers and very dedicated to their roles in helping community learn and improve.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

n/a

Referee

Name: Bibi Medved
Phone: [REDACTED]
What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?
 Coordinator

What can the referee comment on?

Organisation, commitments and success

Nominator

Name: Rachel Burchett
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

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2024 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Kurna Cultural Ceremony

Award Category: Community Event of the Year
Name: Kurna Cultural Ceremony, Kensington Residents' Association Inc
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Age: Contact: Roger Bryson, President
Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes
Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

How has the event contributed to the community?

The Kurna Cultural Ceremony was organised by the Kensington Residents Association on 9 July 2023 and held in Borthwick Park, which is nestled in the suburb of Kensington along Second Creek.

The event attracted over 100 residents from across the district. The purpose of the event was to engage Kurna leaders to collaborate with the community, in order to honour deep time culture, language, wisdom and knowledge of the country where we live.

Borthwick Park is located on an ancient place known as Karra Yerta (river red gums along the creek). Kurna People lived around the creek, gathering for ceremony and cultural activities for many thousands of years. Historic sources describe the original landscape of the eastern plains as: "...a magnificent gum forest with an undergrowth of Kangaroo Grass so high that people travelling between Adelaide and Kensington lost their way."

The first Anglican Bishop of the Province of South Australia; Augustus Short, recorded that he had seen as many as 300 Aboriginal people assembled "in the heart of Kensington" for a ceremonial gathering at the bend of Second Creek, which is now part of Borthwick Park.

The event guided by Kurna leaders, included ceremony, singing, dancing, storytelling, and cultural education around bush foods, native animals and medicinal plants. The importance of belonging and feeling deeply connected to the places we live is important for all of us. Experiencing Kurna culture enriched the attendee's sense of connection to place, and built civic pride, trust and connection to each other which strengthened wellbeing and sense of belonging.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

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Local residents, especially young people and families, expressed interest in understanding and honouring the local Kurna culture and stories. The Kurna Cultural Ceremony helped deepen respect for each other and reinforce the importance of being part of a compassionate community in an ancient place. It encouraged people to take greater responsibility in caring for the environment and make choices in their own lives that contribute to replenishing the earth's fragile resources in small ways.

This event will catalyse future cultural activity and learning and demonstrate how local communities can lead and benefit from genuine, heartfelt reconciliation. The Borthwick Park biodiversity project will continue to play a critical role in regularly bringing volunteers of all ages and the broader community together to progress future cultural and environmental activity.

Ngaityalya (thankyou)

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

This event has not yet been officially recognised elsewhere.

How will the project link participants in ongoing ways to stay involved in community life after the project is over?

It is difficult to predict the unique and ongoing value of developing a genuine and trusted relationship between the Kurna and local communities, but it is anticipated that this event will catalyse future cultural activity and learning and demonstrate how local communities can lead and benefit from genuine, heartfelt reconciliation.

The Borthwick Park Biodiversity Project will continue to play a critical role in regularly bringing volunteers of all ages and the broader community together to progress future cultural and environmental activity. It is anticipated that information shared with the local community by Kurna Leaders about plants, animals and cultural activity linked to Second Creek will be included in permanent signage in Borthwick Park for future visitors to experience. The project will reinforce and amplify the unique biodiverse park environment as a place of outdoor learning for the local kindergarten and schools.

The event may also inspire other neighbouring communities to undertake similar projects which will further enrich the capability and resilience of the greater Adelaide area as we endure and adapt to the impacts of climate change and other environmental challenges, guided by ancient wisdom.

Referee

Name: Hon Reggie Martin MLC

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

Member of Legislative Council

What can the referee comment on?

The Hon Reggie Martin attended the event, and his written reference is attached.

Written Reference

To Whom it may concern

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of attending a ceremony at Borthwick Park in Kensington. This event was organised by the Kensington Residents Association (KRA) and centred around connecting the local community to the culture of the Kurna people.

Borthwick Park is an amazing space that has been lovingly cared for and transformed into a native wonderland over the past 14 years. The volunteers from the KRA and the Borthwick Park Biodiversity Project have spent countless hours creating a haven in the suburbs for native plant life and animal species.

As part of this project, the KRA has been interested in learning more about, and connecting with, the traditional owners of the land.

The ceremony in question was a smoking ceremony conducted by two Kurna elders, and directly involved a large number of local residents and others who wanted to experience the spiritual connection to the land. It was a very moving ceremony, well attended, inclusive and enjoyed by people of all ages. At the conclusion of the ceremony, attendees stayed and enjoyed a smorgasbord of food prepared by the local volunteers, including a number of dishes utilising native and traditional foods. This breaking of bread gave people the opportunity to discuss their experience and to make new friends and build stronger community ties.

It was my pleasure to attend this ceremony, and I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of this event as the Community Event of the Year.

Yours sincerely

Reggie Martin MLC

Member of the Legislative Council

Testimonials from Kurna Cultural Ceremony – July 9, 2023

'I feel very privileged as the person chosen to plant a commemorative tree with Kurna Elder Jack Kanya Buckskin. The lunch and afternoon tea, with all the native ingredients was delicious (I couldn't wait to get the recipes) and the effort by all involved was reflected in how smoothly the event ran. But the significance of the event was in the smoking ceremony, in knowing that this land has been cleansed and reclaimed. The way people, of all cultures and backgrounds, gathered as a community on this land, under the big Karra trees, to acknowledge the traditional owners and celebrate this magnificent culture, Kurna culture, it was powerful to say the least.'

Olivia Godsmark (15)

'The Borthwick Park Kaurna Cultural Ceremony in July was a positive, respectful experience. The hearts and imaginations of both the young and old community members present were captured as they listened and watched the indigenous leaders moving through the park carrying the smouldering log. Smoking ceremonies are an ancient practice designed for strengthening, healing and renewal.' **Doriano Lopresto**

'I just wanted to thank the KRA for organising the wonderful Welcome to Country event. Jack Buckskin and Steve Warrior performed a very moving Welcome and smoking ceremony, as well as providing interesting information about the area and Kaurna culture and language. I was amazed at how the smoke from the plant they used was actually quite pleasant to breathe, and not noxious at all! And then there was such an amazing spread of delicious goodies to eat, accompanied by bush tea. There seem to be some excellent cooks among your volunteers!'

Mel Smith

'Having the opportunity to spend time with Jack Kanya Buckskin and Steven Warrior in Borthwick Park was an experience like no other. I came away feeling more educated, and with a much stronger connection to the place that I have lived and grown in over the last 16 years. Borthwick Park is, to me, a changed place.'

Karloskar Hall

Nominator

Name: Roger Bryson

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Released