



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Media Release

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Mount Barker reflects, respects and recognises on Australia Day 2023

Australia Day is a particularly important day to recognise the Peramangk Nation of this district, and Kurna and Ngarindjeri Nations.

Although this day marks the introduction of European settlement, it also acknowledges a strong commitment that we make to the Traditional Owners of the country.

Mount Barker District Council launched its Australia Day celebrations at Auchendarroch House with a citizenship ceremony to welcome twenty-five new Australians to the district, having migrated from eleven different countries, including South Africa, Peru, Germany, Philippines and Italy.

Mount Barker District Council Mayor David Leach said: “As a person born in another country and conferred Australian citizenship decades ago I am honoured to be able to preside over citizenship ceremonies in such an inclusive district as Mount Barker.”

Following the Australia Day citizenship ceremony, Mayor Leach officiated the local Citizen of the Year awards ceremony recognising the hard work put in by community members over the past year to run events, activities and programs within the Mount Barker district.

To finish the day the council invited everyone to the annual Australia Day Family Fun Day in the beautiful surrounds of Auchendarroch House.

The Australia Day Family Fun Day was a free occasion for all to enjoy and featured giant games, balloon artist, roaming clown, music, face painting, and free sausage sizzle from the Mount Barker Rotary Club.

“Australia Day is a time to reflect on the values, hard work and courage that makes this nation a safe, prosperous place where people are welcomed and their contribution is valued, Mayor Leach said.

2023 Australia Day award winners

Citizen of the Year

Kelly Northey

Contact: ✉ info@bamboobubby.com.au

Kelly has shown great resilience and determination to lead and rebuild her community after the 2019 Cuddly Creek bushfires.

After her own family were severely impacted by the fires, Kelly has championed multiple programs, events and activities at the Brukunga Hall to help improve the area.

She created and distributed community surveys and used the information collected to advocate for improved services, programs and facilities within her town. As well as this, Kelly has identified and been successful in obtaining funding from the Wellbeing SA “Strengthening Community Wellbeing after Bushfires” grant program to improve the town, including creating a community garden at the Brukunga hall.

Kelly manages the ‘Brukunga – Where the hells that?’ Facebook page, and keeps all the residents up to date with information by doing regular mail box drops.

Kelly would like to mention she could not have done any of this without the support from Katrina Warner.

“She (Katrina) has been by my side and we have worked together on absolutely every bit of it all” Kelly said.

Young Citizen of the Year

Mahayla Rose

Contact: ✉ mahayla.rose20@gmail.com ☎ 0405 013 217

Mahayla actively organises and runs community events to fundraise and raise awareness for brain cancer.

In October of 2022, Mahayla organised the Car and Motorcycle Show and Shine event which was held at the Mt Barker Showgrounds. This was by far Mahayla’s largest event, with an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 people attending on the day.

The charity events run by Mahayla bring the community together and in total, have raised \$15,300 for the Cure for Brain Cancer Foundation. She is greatly supported by

community recreation ground committees and local businesses, who participate in raising awareness and uniting the community in the process.

Award for Active Citizenship

Roger Gamble

Contact: ✉ rogill@bigpond.net.au ☎ 0400 929 484

Roger is a volunteer leader in his local area of Bluestone estate. He established a group of local residents to assist the council to improve the look of the Bluestone estate through strategic weed reduction and mulching in the railway creek waterway.

Roger also conducted a bird audit and used the data to attract native birds to the area by planting Australian flora in his backyard.

As a direct result of Roger's efforts, he has brought together and provided a social connection for the residents of the Bluestone area.

Community Event of the Year

Power of the Past

Contact: ✉ temple34@bigpond.com ☎ 0417 081 502

The Adelaide Hills Motor Restorers Club (AHMRC) maintains an extensive collection of machinery and stationary engines with a focus on items that were manufactured or used in the local area. A number of these manufacturers existed in Mount Barker and Hahndorf.

One of the objectives of the club is 'to foster the collection, restoration and use of historic vehicles, engines, machinery and other memorabilia.' These items are then displayed to the community via a range of events, however the main avenue is Power of the Past.

In 2022, Power of the Past provided an opportunity for in excess of 2,000 spectators to view items in operation. This event attracted many adults and children from near and far, with spectators travelling from Victoria to view the exhibited items.

Other community events AHMRC have participated in include the Mount Barker Christmas Pageant, the Mount Barker Show, Macclesfield Strawberry Fete and the Callington Show.

Community Event of the Year

Lions Bike Show

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The Battunga Country Lions Club have hosted the annual Lions Bike Show (formerly Macclesfield Classic Bike Show) since 2017.

Over the last five years, the Battunga Country Lions Club has raised \$69,000 through the event to support charities and those in need within the local community. What's more, the organisation ensures all stalls and food vendors on the day of the event are not for profit and are based locally in Macclesfield. The money raised from the event supports local sporting teams and the Macclesfield Mens Shed.

The Lions Bike show has had an overwhelming reach, with riders coming from the Riverland, Port Augusta and Victoria, and in 2023, will include international participants from Europe and America. The wide demographic places Macclesfield in the spotlight and allows the local economy and businesses to thrive.

Under the guidance of Battunga Country Lions Club , the Lions Bike Show has become an event that showcases what a dynamic community is capable of.

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