

Annual Review 2023–2024



Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**South
Australia**

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australia Day Council of South Australia acknowledges the traditional country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and waters. We acknowledge they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples across the state and nation, where we collaborate and deliver our programs.

About Us

The Australia Day Council of South Australia (ADCSA) is an independent, non-government association that fosters community engagement and promotes inclusivity. As part of a national network of Australia Day Councils, we work collaboratively with community, business, government, and non-government sectors to celebrate and enhance Australia's national identity. Our work is driven by a commitment to acknowledging our past, embracing diversity, and encouraging active participation.

Our Purpose

ADCSA aims to build a socially cohesive society by celebrating our shared heritage and fostering inclusivity and unity. We promote equal opportunity and stimulate thought leadership to deepen understanding of Australia's national identity, emphasising reconciliation and celebrating diversity.

Our Vision

We envision a connected community of inspired leaders who contribute to Australia's future while upholding Australian values. By amplifying diverse national stories, including those of First Nations peoples and migrants, we strive to foster a thriving, unified nation. Our efforts are centred on reconciliation, celebrating unity, and addressing contemporary issues by bringing communities together.

Our Impact

ADCSA, in partnership with diverse stakeholders, drives significant cultural and social impact by:

- recognising and promoting active citizenship
- reimagining and honouring Australian identity
- providing thought leadership and fostering social inclusion
- inspiring future leaders and addressing contemporary social concerns
- enhancing sustainability across organisational, cultural, financial, and environmental dimensions.

Our collaborative efforts amplify voices, inspire change, and strengthen communities, shaping a more inclusive and cohesive Australia.



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Message from the Chair



This year has been another exciting and challenging time. As always, we highlight the great and often silent achievers and influencers who work tirelessly to make our State, Country, and often beyond a better place.

Throughout 2024, the Australia Day Council of South Australia has proudly celebrated the remarkable achievements and contributions of some exceptional South Australians from diverse backgrounds. Our year-round programs shine a light on the individuals whose dedication and sacrifices enrich our state's social and cultural fabric, demonstrating the profound impact they make each day.

In a time marked by economic uncertainty and global divisions, the work of the Australia Day Council of South Australia in highlighting those driving positive change and fostering a better Australia is more crucial than ever. By showcasing the efforts of these individuals, we aim to inspire reflection and action within our community to raise awareness of pressing issues among those in positions of power.

On behalf of the Australia Day Council of South Australia, I congratulate this year's state and national Australian of the Year recipients, many of whom we have been honoured to host across our many events and sponsorship engagement program/s.

At our Australian of the Year Luncheon, Professors Georgina Long AO and Richard Scolyer AO, our national 2024 Australian of the Year recipients, shared their groundbreaking melanoma immunotherapy advancements and emphasised the need for bold, scientifically driven innovation in cancer research.

In South Australia, 2024 Australian of the Year, Tim Jarvis AM, an adventurer, filmmaker, author, environmental scientist, and philanthropist, shared pragmatic solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss. His work with South Australia's Forktree Project restores degraded farmland to demonstrate the possibilities of land restoration and carbon offsetting.

SA's 2024 Senior Australian of the Year, Sister Meredith Evans, supports refugees, the homeless, and victims of domestic violence and incarceration. She also helps build homes for landmine victims in Cambodia with the Jesuit Refugee Service.

Our SA 2024 Young Australian of the Year, Tiahni Adamson, champions First Nations justice, integrates Indigenous knowledge into STEM, and advocates for climate action nationwide.

SA's 2024 Local Hero, Rachael Zaltron OAM, leads Backpacks 4 SA Kids, which provides essentials to over 86,000 children in crisis, including those affected by family violence and homelessness.

Our society relies heavily on incredible people like these who contribute selflessly, going above and beyond to make our great State and Australia a better place for all. The 2024 Australian of the Year recipients embody the essence of active citizenship and show us that by coming together and acting, we create positive change to build stronger, healthier, more compassionate, and vibrant communities.

We are very grateful to our Patron, Her Excellency, The Honorable Frances Adamson, AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mr. Rod Buntten for their ongoing involvement and support throughout the year.

Our organisation depends on the support and leadership of many individuals. Thank you to our valued partners, corporate members, sponsors, and members. With your support, we can expand our programs and ensure a broader impact across the state. Our dedicated Board and the ADCSA Team work tirelessly to advance ADCSA's mission.

The nominators, nominees, finalists, and recipients of our awards highlight the importance of those who serve as beacons of hope and act as catalysts for positive change. Without that nomination or leadership, we wouldn't be able to acknowledge and elevate the health, social and environmental causes that we do.

Thank you all for celebrating and amplifying with us the work of these amazing award recipients and the many other inspiring South Australians we recognise throughout the year. We are already looking forward to another exciting year ahead.

Michelle Cox
Chair



2024 South Australian – Australian of the Year Awards:
Debra Tribe ABC Broadcaster, Tiahni Adamson 2024 Young Australian of the Year and Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia.

Message from the CEO



Reflecting on this year's accomplishments fills me with immense pride in what we have achieved together. Our values, rooted in the shared promise of our nation, remain the cornerstone of our organisation, guiding our mission to nurture thriving, connected communities led by inspiring individuals. This year we have vividly showcased how people strive to enhance their lives and the lives of others.

We celebrated remarkable individuals who embody our commitment to positive change. Our award recipients are everyday heroes who have overcome significant challenges and profoundly impacted their communities, exemplifying our mission to improve our world, nation, and communities.

I am particularly proud to highlight some of the year's most successful initiatives:

Inspiring Women of South Australia: Impacting Our World – Issue of Our Time Event

The Scott Theatre was alive with enthusiasm as participants gathered to hear the stories of extraordinary women who have made remarkable strides in their fields. This event celebrated their years of dedication, hard work, and resilience, showcasing their powerful impact that has inspired us all.

Australian of the Year Awards

In January, we honoured South Australians of the Year, including Tim Jarvis AM, Sister Meridith Evans, Tiahni Adamson, and Rachel Zoltron OAM. These distinguished individuals have used their platforms to advance important causes and foster growth, driving positive change.

Aus Lights on the River Program

This program highlighted our nation's diversity and commitment to inclusion, ensuring everyone feels valued and respected. It featured the Mourning in the Morning smoking ceremony, Twilight Reflections, and the Respecting Country Parade, emphasising our dedication to cultural inclusivity. The event reflected our commitment to cultural and environmental stewardship.

Awards Programs

In February, we celebrated extraordinary stories of selflessness at the Inspiring South Australian Women's Award, Citizen of the Year Award, and the Award for Leadership in Languages and Cultures. Congratulations to all recipients, including a renowned gardening advocate, a dedicated community leader from Hackham West, and a student from Unley High School who was recognised for his leadership in languages and cultures.

Australian of the Year Luncheon

In partnership with the Cancer Council SA, we raised vital funds to support groundbreaking cancer research led by Professors Georgina Long AO and Richard Scolyer AO, the 2024 Australians of the Year. This collaboration underscores our shared commitment to life-saving initiatives.

Inspiring Australian Student Summits

Our new series of Summits engaged students from disadvantaged areas with state and national leaders, fostering aspirational leadership, active citizenship, and future learning pathways.

I also wish to acknowledge our Board and extend special thanks to Peter Tsokas for his dedicated leadership as Chair over the past four years. We welcome Ms. Michelle Cox as our new Chair, guiding a visionary Board and focusing on a renewed strategic direction for the next four years.

We sincerely thank our members, corporate partners and community supporters. Without your invaluable support we would not have the impact that we work so hard to achieve.

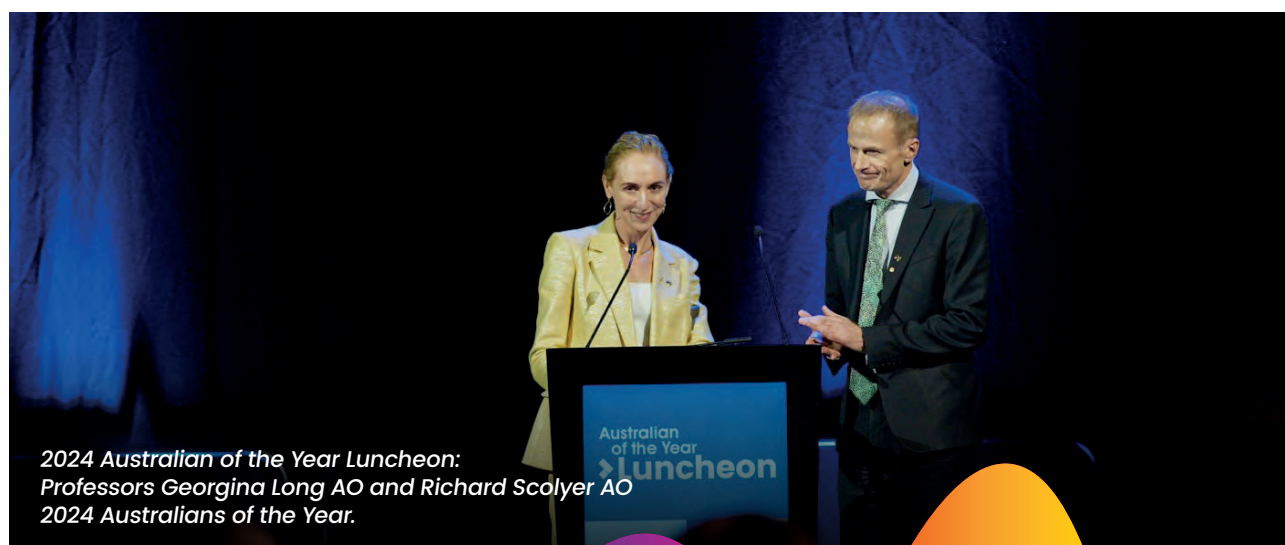
We work with many First Nations leaders who so generously provide their time, wisdom and wise counsel to ensure that First Nations voices are at the centre of all that we do.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their ongoing support to our work across the year.

Our funding partners continue to ensure that they back our work and initiatives through the provision of financial assistance to our organisation.

To our dedicated team, your tireless efforts ensure the success of our events and programs year after year. Thank you for embodying the values that make our organisation exceptional. We look forward to another year of making a meaningful impact together.

Jan Chorley
Chief Executive Officer



Capacity Building

Partnerships

Building capacity within our South Australian communities, offsetting disadvantage and addressing the issues of our time is important to us as we foster social cohesion and build national pride.

We bring together our community and stakeholders, providing platforms for our Award recipients and leaders to share their expertise and messages, instigating awareness and change, leveraging their impact and support for their causes to directly improve the quality of our health, social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

Unleashing Employment Opportunities Breakfast

Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc. hosted an event highlighting the benefits of employing people with disabilities, attended by 70 business and community leaders. Dr Gill Hicks AM MBE discussed the value of diverse perspectives, while Matthew Nicholls and Chris O'Connor shared personal insights on disability inclusion. Michael Bois addressed inclusive language and small business employment, and David Cooper covered the commercial benefits of social inclusion. The event emphasised how employing people with disabilities enriches decision-making and adds meaning to work, reinforcing the need for organisations to actively embrace inclusivity and showcasing how CBS can assist in navigating this crucial pathway.

Strengthening Melanoma Research

As part of our 2024 Australian of the Year program in South Australia we were thrilled to partner with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) enabling their researchers to share their work and receive feedback from world-renowned melanoma researchers Professor Georgina Long AO and Professor Richard Scolyer AO. The Professors delivered insights into their leadership approach resulting in ground-breaking research and lifesaving treatment protocols. This expertise and passion will continue to inform SAHMRI's vital work in cancer research.

Flinders University hosted the Professors at the new Health and Medical Research Building (HMRB) enabling their medical research teams to meet and hear of their multi-disciplinary and world-leading approach.

Championing Equality in Sport: Insights from Craig Foster AM

Sport SA's breakfast with Craig Foster AM, the 2023 NSW Australian of the Year, offered a compelling dialogue on advocating for refugees and advancing gender equality in sports. Craig's powerful stories, including his role in aiding the Afghanistan women's football team to escape Taliban control, sparked crucial conversations on women's safety and equity both on and off the field. This event highlighted the urgent need to 'level the playing field' and foster safer, more inclusive communities, driving forward essential discussions about women's roles and protections in sports and beyond.



Jan Chorley ADCSA CEO, Professors Georgina Long AO and Richard Scolyer AO
2024 Australians of the Year, Professor Maria Makrides Executive Director of SAHMRI.

Key Highlights

Events

Lord Mayoral Reception

21 August 2023

Adelaide Town Hall

At the Lord Mayoral Reception, Lord Mayor Jane Lomax Smith AM honoured South Australia's Australian of the Year 2023 recipients: Taryn Brumfitt (Australian of the Year), Awer Mabil (Young Australia of the Year), Christine Robertson OAM (Local Hero), and Sandra Miller (Senior Australian of the Year).

The event celebrated their achievements and provided a platform for the community to reflect on the positive changes they inspire.

This occasion highlighted these individuals' exceptional contributions and dedication to making a meaningful impact on society. Unfortunately, Sandra Miller and Awer Mabil could not attend.

The Regional Tour of Honour: Mt Barker

23 August 2023

Cornerstone College and TAFE SA

Cornerstone College Mt Barker hosted two motivating sessions with distinguished alumni Dr Trudy Lin, Christine Robertson OAM, Professor Chris Daniels, and Craig Scott OAM.

Attended by 224 students from years 7 to 10, the events highlighted dedication, compassion, and community spirit. The alumni shared impactful stories and engaged with students, emphasising the value of connections. Later, TAFE SA's session at its Mount Barker campus offered moving narratives and insightful Q&A sessions.

These events celebrated community contributions and reinforced the importance of dedication and inclusivity in making a societal impact.

Australia a Country of Opportunity, 2023 and Beyond

4 September 2023

Unley Town Hall

This engagement opportunity brought together 87 attendees from over 60 diverse groups, including CALD communities and new organisations advocating multiculturalism.

With Dr Bulent Hass Dellal AO, Chair of the Multicultural Framework Review panel, and facilitator Becky Hirst, the event featured dynamic discussions supported by the Department of Home Affairs team. These discussions focused on enhancing migrants' and refugees' sense of belonging and participation.

Insights from text and video recordings contributed to the Multicultural Framework Review, supporting the creation of a more inclusive Australia.

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

5 September 2023

Scott Theatre, University of Adelaide

The Scott Theatre was filled with over 400 attendees eager to hear the stories of these exceptional women. The women we had the privilege of listening to have a culmination of many years of dedication, hard work, advocacy and grit to face the challenges in their respective industries.

We thank Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC for her inspirational address and MC Ali Clarke for being a gracious and witty host. The Young Adelaide Voices for their stunning performance. Anna Meares OAM left us all in awe with her incredible journey and achievements in cycling and sports. We also want to thank the Hon. Susan Close MP, the Hon. Catherine Branson AC KC, and Professor Maria Makrides FAA FAHMS for sharing their insights and expertise. Their examples of leadership and change are an inspiration to us all.

Australia Day Council SA Events

2023-2024



Australian of the Year Luncheon

As a change manager, I am humbled by how much I learned today about making seemingly impossible changes happen.

Event Attendee



Inspiring Australians Student Summit

I've been getting positive feedback through social media messages from students at the event and even had some parents of one of the attendees email to ask about opportunities for Special Needs Dentistry work experience.

Dr Trudy Lin, 2022 Young Australian of the Year





“

Inspiring South Australian
Women Impacting the World

I loved hearing such raw stories of true vulnerability and resilience. I have never been to an event like it. I left feeling incredibly encouraged.

Event Attendee



“

Citizen of the Year
Ceremony

It was heartwarming to recognise those who so selflessly give their time and support to others. Citizen of the Year Attendee 2024.

Citizen of the Year Attendee 2024



“

It opened many opportunities to connect and expand connections with like-minded and inspiring people, service providers and to listen to those wonderful people who are making real differences that benefit all Australians.

ADCSA Member 2024

Key Highlights

Events

Australian of the Year Presentation Evening

1 November 2023

Adelaide Oval

At the Australian of the Year Awards, we celebrated South Australia's 16 exceptional finalists, each demonstrating remarkable excellence and commitment. The award recipients for South Australia were announced and joined winners from other states and territories for the national awards on 25 January 2024

South Australian recipients are:

- **Australian of the Year:** Tim Jarvis AM, an environmental scientist and philanthropist renowned for leading the Forktree Project, which restores farmland and protects rare native plants. He also holds leadership roles at Fauna & Flora, WWF-Australia, and other environmental organisations.
- **Senior Australian of the Year:** Sister Meredith Evans, a Sister of Mercy dedicated to compassionate care for refugees, young people, and women facing homelessness or violence. She founded Young Mercy Links and actively supports social justice movements.
- **Local Hero:** Rachael Zaltron OAM, founder of Backpacks 4 SA Kids, has supported over 86,000 children in crisis. They provide emergency kits, clothing, and essentials to children and young people facing crises such as family violence or homelessness.
- **Young Australian of the Year:** Tiahni Adamson, an Aboriginal leader in sustainability. Working with CH4Global, she integrates Indigenous knowledge into climate solutions and is recognised as a Science and Technology Australia Superstar of STEM.

Their dedication and impact are truly inspiring. We congratulate the recipients for their significant contributions to people and the environment.



Tim Jarvis AM 2024 SA Australian of the Year, Sister Meredith Evans 2024 SA Senior Australian of the Year, Rachael Zaltron OAM 2024 SA Local Hero, Tiahni Adamson 2024 SA Young Australian of the Year.



Australian of the Year Presentation Evening:
The Honourable Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier of South Australia and Tim Jarvis AM
2024 SA Australian of the Year

Official Ceremony

January 2024





Key Highlights

Events

Aus Lights on the River

26 January 2024

Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

Aus Lights on the River Program brought together all parts of our national story our First Nations' ancestral heritage, Australia's connection to our colonial history and our multicultural and refugee stories.

Inspired by creative visions of Belonging to Country and Connecting to Nature, included immersive, visually engaging light, vision, and sound installations supported with complimentary children's activations. Held in Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama, the event drew over 30,000 attendees.

The program included a Welcome to Country by Senior Kurna Elder Frank Wanganeen and a Flag Ceremony with the Australian Defence Force. The Respecting Country Parade, accompanied by Matsuri Taiko drummers. Creative Director Cindi Drennan's projections highlighted sea life and nature.

The evening concluded with performances by Nancy Bates, the Adelaide Youth Orchestras conducted by Keith Crellin OAM, and a stunning fireworks display over the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri.

Mourning in the Morning – Smoking Ceremony

26 January 2024

Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

Led by Ngarrindjeri and Kurna cultural leader Uncle Moogy Sumner and emceed by Kirstie Parker, thousands of South Australians attended the deeply profound and moving ceremony. Truth-telling underpinned this important event.

The event seamlessly integrated elements from the cancelled Twilight Reflections, enriching its cultural depth. Uplifting performances by First Nations musicians Katie Aspel, Vonda Last, and Rob Edwards enhanced the atmosphere. Elders and youth, including inspiring words and their post-referendum hopes. The 'Respectfully Yours' segment collected nearly 450 supportive cards, reflecting a strong commitment to reconciliation.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all participants, including the Tal-Kin Jeri dancers, speakers, and volunteers. Special thanks to the ADCSA's First Nations Open Circle who generously guided our approach.



Events

Respecting Country Parade

26 January 2024

Adelaide Oval to Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

The Respecting Country Parade brought together over 2,000 multicultural and community participants to celebrate Australia's rich cultural mosaic.

This vibrant event showcased the diversity of 55 South Australian communities through colorful displays of culture, music, and dance.

It began with the South Australian Migrant and Refugee Story and Our Ancestral Story, a cultural procession filled with colour, music, and dance. Following this, South Australians at their Best highlighted large and small community organisations, performers, and charities contributing to the state's cultural tapestry. Japanese drumming group Matsuri Taiko energised the event with performances at the start and end, making the day a resounding celebration of community and culture.

Aus Lights 4 Kids

26 January 2024

Adelaide Festival Plaza/Kirrawirra Parri

Aus Lights for Kids delighted children aged 4 to 8 with stage performances, arts and crafts, roving entertainers, face painting, and food.

Families enjoyed captivating shows from Heaps Good Productions and Peter Combe. The event also included a hands-on experience with Australian native animals, offering an educational and exciting alternative to a traditional petting zoo.

The day was filled with laughter and discovery, creating lasting memories for all who attended.

The Official Ceremony

26 January 2024

Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

Emceed by Rosie Panetta, the Official Ceremony featured speeches from Lord Mayor Dr. Jane Lomax Smith and Hon. Zoe Bettison MP. Highlights included performances by Nancy Bates and the Song Birds Ensemble, offering a spotlight on often-overlooked community members.

The event presented cultural insights from Ni Hup Cem of Myanmar, a celebration of Pacific Islander culture by Ananiasia Drugu, and Clancy Luscombe showcasing his diverse heritage and achievements. With musical direction by Dr. Julian Ferraretto, South Australians experienced exceptional performances from the Adelaide Youth Orchestras conducted by Keith Crellin OAM, Young Adelaide Voices, Adelaide Choral Ambassadors, and Elizabeth McCall.

The evening concluded with the One Heart Beating finale, led by award-winning conductor Christie Anderson, which brought the crowd together to experience one country, one heart beating, reflecting the rich tapestry of our community.

Cinematic Fireworks Display

26 January 2024

Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

As the evening reached its climax, a breathtaking cinematic fireworks display illuminated the night sky along the banks of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri.

This spectacular finale served as a fitting tribute to the collective spirit and unity that defines the Aus Lights on the River 2024 event.

Aus Lights on the River

26 January 2024



Respecting Country Parade

It was great to be part of this multicultural country, it was great to do it together, positive vibes, it reflects where we come from, respecting this country, respecting tradition.

Aus Lights on the River
Attendee 2024



Aus Lights on the River

I enjoyed it so much; it was spectacular and moving. The event was very professional, so exciting and entertaining.

Aus Lights on the River
Attendee 2024





Smoking Ceremony

Participating in the smoking ceremony helped me understand the importance of this powerful ceremony for bonding people together.

Mourning in the Mourning Attendee 2024



Respecting Country Parade

A wonderful parade, to see so many cultures celebrate their sense of belonging and showcase their heritage. It made us feel very proud.

Aus Lights on the River Attendee 2024



Key Highlights

Events

Inspiring Australians Student Summit

15 May 2024

Christies Beach High School

The Australia Day Council of South Australia (ADCSA), in partnership with the South Australian Department for Education, launched the inaugural Inspiring Australians Student Summit at Christies Beach High School.

The event, attended by over 483 students from Christies Beach High School, Seaford Secondary College, Cardijn College, Woodcroft College, and Wirreanda Secondary School, featured discussions with state and national Australians of the Year. Key speakers included Craig Foster AM, Tiahni Adamson, Mark Le Messurier, and Dr. Trudy Lin, covering topics such as human rights, climate change, mental health, and special needs inclusion.

The Summit aims to inspire leadership, amplify student voices, and promote active citizenship, highlighting its role in helping students engage with and learn from some of Australia's most notable changemakers.

Australian of the Year Luncheon 2024

21 June 2024

Adelaide Convention Centre Hall

At the 2024 Australian of the Year Luncheon, 550 attendees learned about the groundbreaking work of this year's award recipients. Professors Georgina Long AO and Richard Scolyer AO shared insights into their pioneering research on melanoma and brain cancer, emphasising that "no tan is a safe tan" and discussing advances in cancer care. MC Sonya Feldhoff moderated a Q&A with Tim Jarvis AM on climate solutions, while Sister Meredith Evans recounted impactful stories from refugee families. Young Australian of the Year Tiahni Adamson highlighted the role of Indigenous knowledge in climate action, and Local Hero Rachael Zaltron OAM spoke on supporting vulnerable children.

The event featured performances from the St Peters College band, Elder Conservatorium Chamber Chorale, and the Balinese Society of South Australia, showcasing South Australia's diverse talent and cultural identity.



Inspiring Australians Student Summit:
Craig Foster AM 2023 NSW Australian of the Year

Programs

Ambassador Program

The Ambassador Program is the cornerstone of local Australia Day celebrations. Each year across Australia over 300 ambassadors generously volunteer their time and energy to visit regional and metropolitan areas to engage and connect with communities.

Our SA Ambassadors connected to 26 Councils and communities in January 2024 traversing over 7150 km across our state.

As ambassadors for January 2024 these community leaders were part of a rich storytelling and connection experience – the sharing of our ambassadors' unique lived experience promotes active citizenship and strengthens our communities.



Ambassador Program Monique Bareham.

SA ambassadors were allocated and engaged across the following Local Government Areas:

ADCSA Ambassadors 2024

Name	Destination on Australia Day
Major General (Retd) Vikram Madam OAM VSM (Deceased)	Adelaide Plains Council
Stella Braund	City of Burnside
Nasir Hussain	City of Charles Sturt
Dr Peter Cahalan	Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council
Ingrid Kennerley	District Council of Cleve
Dr Felicity-Ann Lewis	Coorong District Council
Ian Smith	District Council of Coober Pedy
Kate Swaffer	District Council of Grant
Anthony Hart	Regional Council of Goyder
Dr Trudy Lin	City of Holdfast Bay
Professor Jennifer McKay AM	District Council of Karoonda East Murray
Samoda Silva	City of Marion
Craig Scott OAM	Mount Barker District Council
Samela Harris	The Rural City of Murray Bridge
Mark Le Messurier	City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
Wayne Anthony	City of Onkaparinga
Monique Bareham	City of Playford
Lynn Hill	City of Port Adelaide & Enfield
John Shepherd AM	Port Pirie Regional Council
Kaitlin Purcell	Southern Mallee District Council
Michael OConnell	Tatiara District Council
Christine Robertson	City of Tea Tree Gully
Craig Scott OAM	City of Unley
Peter Goers	District Council of Yankalilla
Dr Robert 'Bob' Irving	Wattle Range Council
Anthony Fioravanti	City of West Torrens

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World

Anna Meares OAM
September 2023



Impact at a Glance

59

Aus Lights on the River volunteers

1,300

Respecting Country Parade volunteers

236

hours worked

7000

hours worked

Aus Lights on the River 2024

32,600

reached across two days

2,000

smoking ceremony attendees

600

Aus Lights for Kids patrons

55

diverse community organisations involved in the program

42

ethnicities involved in the program

30,000

Aus Lights on the River patrons

Income Sources + Expenses



Income

Grants	65%
Sponsorship	6%
Programs & Partnership	8%
Product Sales	10%
Subscriptions	4%
Interest	3%
Other income	4%

Expense

Operating Costs	5%
Cost of Goods Sold	6%
Office Costs	5%
Staff Costs	35%
Events & Programs	49%

**Across SA
Community
Events**

33

Community Grants for Local
Government and Non-For-Profit
Community Organisations

totalling

\$500,000

Whole of Year Engagement

80

attendees

Lord Mayoral
Reception

400

attendees

Inspiring South
Australian Women
Tackling the Issues
of our Time

350

attendees

SA Australian
of the Year Awards
Presentation Evening

436

attendees

Australia Day Awards
Government House

483

attendees

Inspiring Australians
Student Summit

515

attendees

Australian of the Year
Luncheon 2024

Social Media

Australia Day in South Australia
Facebook Page @AustraliaDaySA

13,000

likes

14,000

followers

Australia Day in South Australia
Instagram Page @AustraliaDaySA

1,843

followers

1,393

following

Australia Day
Council of South
Australia LinkedIn

837

followers

Australia Day Ambassadors

26

Ambassadors across
68 councils

7,157kms

travelled

11

Across Metropolitan
Councils

15

Across Regional
Councils

Key Highlights

Awards

The Australian of the Year Awards

Nominees for the 2024 SA Australian of the Year Awards include an Environmental Scientist, a wildlife conservationist, a woman helping vulnerable children, an elite athlete, a mental health activist and an SES Volunteer.

South Australia's Australian of the Year

Recipient:

Tim Jarvis AM

Environmental scientist and advocate

Finalists:

April Lawrie

Changemaker for Aboriginal children and community

Stella Braund

Mental Health Advocate

Associate Professor Susan Evans

Co-Founder, Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia

South Australia's Young Australian of the Year

Recipient:

Tiahni Adamson

Wildlife conservation biologist

Finalists:

Qasem Bahmanzadah

Ambassador, mentor and volunteer

Kylan Beech

Fundraiser, Cancer Council

Hugo Taheny

Elite athlete and health ambassador,
Down Syndrome Australia

South Australia's Senior Australian of the Year

Recipient:

Sister Meredith Evans

Sister of Mercy helping the vulnerable

Finalists:

Professor Fran Baum AO

Health equity advocate

Commander Stephen Dunning RAN (Ret'd)

Mental health and disability advocate for veterans

Glyn Scott

Founder, Love Hope & Gratitude Foundation

South Australia's Local Hero 2024

Recipient:

Rachael Zaltron OAM

Founder, Backpacks 4 SA Kids

Finalists:

Chris McDermott

Founder, Little Heroes Foundation

Pauly Vandenberg

Co-founder, Tjindu Foundation

Jack Nixon

Volunteer, state emergency services

The Citizen of the Year Awards

The Citizen of the Year Awards was again a highly successful program in unearthing and celebrating the achievements of remarkable local individuals across our regions, that place others need before their own and in doing so go above and beyond in enriching their local communities.

We continued our successful partnerships with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Sarah Constructions, On the Run (OTR), MGA Insurance Group and Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc. The recipients for 2024 were:

South Australia's Citizen of the Year

Recipient:

Gill Golding

City of Onkaparinga

Commendation:

Denis and Maria Pellizzari

Adelaide Plains Council

South Australia's Young Citizen of the Year

Recipients:

Alexandra Seal

City of Salisbury

Kylan Beech

City of Charles Sturt

South Australia's Community Event of the Year

Recipient:

National Shearing and Wool Handling Competition
Northern Areas Council

South Australia's Award for Active Citizenship

Recipient:

Jade Brook
District Council of Mount Barker

Commendation:

Jody Moate
City of Mitcham

The Award for Leadership in Languages and Cultures

In partnership with the Minister for Education through the Multicultural Education and Languages Committee (MELC), this Award recognises outstanding young people who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to advocacy for a multilingual and culturally diverse Australia.

Category 1

Recipient:

Mohammad Abazly
– Unley High School

Commendation:

Eve Corso
Saint Ignatius College

David Duncan
Jamestown Community School

Encouragement Award:

Saiesha Ganu
Adelaide Marathi Vidyalyay

Balroop Singh
Valley View Secondary School

Category 2

Recipient:

Wissam Alfathan

Commendation:

Justin Barola

Inspiring South Australian Women

In partnership with the Office for Women, the Inspiring South Australian Women Award recognises the contribution women make, in a voluntary or paid role, to advancing and enriching our society. This Award celebrates women and offers people a chance to shine a light on women whose efforts can sometimes go unrecognised.

Inspiring South Australian Women Recipient

Recipient:

Sophie Thomson

Commendation:

Marnie Hughes-Warrington AO

Emerging Leader Recipient

Recipient:

Isabella Courtney

Commendation:

Dr Sarah Scholten



Citizen of the Year

Award Ceremony
February 2024







Organisation and Governance

Governance

The Board of Management governs the Australia Day Council of South Australia Inc (ADCSA). In the year 2023 – 2024, the Board comprised of the following members:

Ms Michelle Cox – Chairperson
 Ms Heather Holmes-Ross – Deputy Chairperson
 Mr Rob Stobbe – Deputy Chairperson
 Mr Des Quirk – Treasurer (appointed member)
 Mr Rajendra Pandey
 Ms Antonietta Cocchiari OAM
 Ms Gillian Lewis
 Professor Jennifer McKay AM
 Ms Dana Wortley, MP
 Cr Jing Li
 Ms Anna Cheung
 Mr Peter Tsokas – Chairperson – term of office completed at 2023 AGM
 Mr Daniel Melino – Treasurer – resigned December 2023
 Mr Grant Mayer – term of office completed at 2023 AGM

The ADCSA Board met on seven occasions. Meetings were held on Wednesday evenings at ADCSA Offices at 240 Currie Street Adelaide. Board members attended in person or via Teams link up.

- 26 July 2023
- 27 September 2023
- 13 November 2023
- 4 December 2023
- 17 January 2024
- 14 February 2024
- 22 May 2024

The Annual General Meeting was held on 24 October 2023.

The Sponsorship, Membership, and Marketing Committee met once during the year. The committee's purpose is to offer assistance and expertise in developing and implementing effective sponsorship, membership, and marketing plans for ADCSA. This supports the organisation's goals and strategic plan and involves overseeing successful ADCSA events.

The Corporate Governance Committee has met on four occasions during the year. The committee's purpose is to assist the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance responsibilities. The main focus of the meetings at the beginning of the year was to review the Constitution. The committee is now focusing on ADCSA policies.

The Corporate Governance Committee comprises 3 Board members and 4 Independent Members.

The New Premises Committee met several times during the year. The purpose of this committee was to look at new premises for ADCSA.

Supported by

Government of South Australia
 Multicultural Affairs SA
 Volunteers

Board Attendance – 2023 –2024

Member	Jul	Sep	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	May
Peter Tsokas	Apology	Term as Chairperson completed at the AGM 2023					
Michelle Cox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heather Holmes Ross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rob Stobbe	✓	✓	Apology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daniel Melino	✓	✓	✓	Resigned December 2023			
Des Quirk	Appointed Treasurer February 2024						✓
Rajendra Pandey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Antonietta Cocchiari OAM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gillian Lewis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apology	✓
Prof Jennifer McKay AM	Elected AGM 2023		✓	Apology	✓	✓	✓
Dana Wortley MP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anna Cheung	✓	Apology	✓	Apology	✓	✓	✓
Jing Li	Apology	Apology	✓	✓	✓	Apology	✓
Grant Mayer	Apology	✓	Resigned at AGM 2023				

Inspiring Australians Student Summit

May 2024





Partnerships, Supporters and Volunteers

Partnerships and sponsorships are vital for events and programs delivered by the Australia Day Council of South Australia. We would like to thank the following sponsors and partners for their generous and invaluable support:

Funding Partners

Government of South Australia Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Government of South Australia Multicultural Affairs

Government of South Australia Department for Education

Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council

City of Adelaide

Government of South Australia Office for Women

Minister for Education through the Multicultural Education and Languages Committee (MELC)

Local Government in South Australia

Community Support Partners

Active Inclusion

Inspiring Australians Student Summit –Christies Beach High School

Adelaide Cemeteries Authority

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Adelaide PHN

The Respecting Country Parade

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Adelaide Venue Management Corporation

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Alliance College

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Applewood Distillery

Aus Lights on the River Program

Australian Institute of Company Directors

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Cancer Council SA

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Ceravolo

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Credit Union South Australia

Twilight Reflections 2024

Channel 44

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Australia a Country of Opportunity – Multicultural Framework

CMV Group

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Community Bridging Services

Unleashing Employment Opportunities
Networking Breakfast

Citizen of the Year Awards Program

Cornerstone Alliance

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Cornerstone College

Tour of Honour Mt Barker

Entrée Recruitment

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Epson Australia

Aus Lights on the River Program

Flinders University

Inspiring Australians Student Summit – Christies Beach High School

Green Gold Energy

Official Ceremony Aus Lights on the River Program

Government of South Australia Office for Women

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Haigh's Chocolates

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World –Issues of our Time

Australian of the Year Luncheon InDaily

Australian of the Year Luncheon Jurlique Australia

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Kyton's Bakery

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Local Government Association of South Australia

Citizen of the Year Awards Program

Maras Group

Australian of the Year Luncheon Marshall & Brougham

Inspiring Australians Student Summit
– Christies Beach High School

MGA Insurance

Citizen of the Year Awards Program

Novatech Creative Event Technology

Aus Lights on the River Program

OJO Creative

Aus Lights on the River Program

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Citizen of the Year Awards Program

Inspiring Australians Student Summit
– Christies Beach High School

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Peregrine Corporation (OTR)

Citizen of the Year Program

Pernod Ricard Winemakers

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Aus Lights on the River Program

Australian of the Year Luncheon

PH8 Natural Alkaline Water

Aus Lights on the River Program

Pirate Life Brewing

Aus Lights on the River Program

SA Business Chamber

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World –Issues of our Time

SAFM

Aus Lights on the River Program

SAHMRI – SA Health and Medical Research Institute

Australian of the Year Luncheon

SA Power Networks

Smoking Ceremony Mourning in the Morning

Sarah Constructions

Citizen of the Year Awards Program

Smoking Ceremony Mourning in the Morning

Sofitel Adelaide

Inspiring Australians Student Summit
– Christies Beach High School

Australian of the Year Luncheon Sports SA

Networking Breakfast

St Peter's College

Australian of the Year Luncheon

TAFE SA

Tour of Honour Mt Barker

The University of Adelaide

Inspiring South Australian Women Impacting the World – Issues of our Time

Volunteers

We deeply appreciate the invaluable support from our 1300 volunteers who dedicate their passion, expertise, creativity and time to Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony, Aus Lights and the Respecting Country Parade, the Ambassador Program; our operations and governance.

Respecting Country Parade

January 2024



Members, Sponsors and Supporters

Our Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson
AC, Governor of South Australia

Corporate Club

Platinum

Intract Australia Pty Ltd

Gold

Build Tec Group

Karidis Corporation

Maras Group (Aus) Pty Ltd

Multicultural Communities Council of SA

Normetals Pty Ltd

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Association of Independent Schools
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Centennial Park Cemetery Authority

Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc

Community Corporate Pty Ltd

Foodland North Adelaide

SA Shoulder Pavers P/L

Terry White Chemmart Cumberland Park

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of South Australia
& Northern Territory

Williams Barristers and Solicitors

Government Entity

City of Unley

Life Members

Mr Ron Green

Mr Steve Maras

Dr Tony Cocchiaro

Councils

City of Adelaide

Adelaide Hills Council

Adelaide Plains

Alexandrina Council

Barossa Council

Barunga West Council

Berri Barmera Council

Burnside City Council

Campbelltown City Council

Ceduna District Council

Charles Sturt City Council

Clare & Gilbert Valleys District

Cleve District Council

Cooper Pedy Council

Coorong District Council

Copper Coast District Council

District Council of Coober Pedy

District Council of Mount Remarkable

Elliston District Council

Franklin Harbour District Council

Gawler Town Council

Goyder Regional Council

Grant District Council

Holdfast Bay City Council

Kangaroo Island District Council

Karoonda-East Murray District

Kimba District Council

Kingston City Council

Light Regional Council

Lower Eyre Peninsula District

Loxton Waikerie District Council

Marion City Council

Mid Murray District Council

Mitcham City Council

Mount Barker District Council

Mount Gambier City Council

The Rural City of Murray Bridge

Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Northern Areas District Council

Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council

Onkaparinga City Council

Orroroo Carrieton District Council

Outback Communities Authority

Peterborough District Council

Playford City Council

Port Adelaide Enfield City Council

Port Augusta City Council

Port Lincoln City Council

Port Pirie Regional Council

Prospect City Council

Renmark Paring Council

Robe District Council

Roxby Downs Council

Salisbury City Council

Southern Mallee District Council

Streaky Bay District Council

Tatiara District Council

Tea Tree Gully City Council

Tumby Bay District Council

Unley City Council

Victor Harbor City Council

Walkerville Town Council

Wakefield Regional Council

Wattle Range Council

West Torrens City Council

Whyalla City Council

Wudinna District Council

Yankalilla District Council

Yorke Peninsula District Council

68 individual
members

Australian
of the Year
Awards
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.


Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.
South Australia

**CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR AWARDS**
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**Inspiring
South
Australian
Women**

**Award for
Leadership in
Languages
and Cultures**

The Australia Day Council of South Australia extends our thanks to the following partners for their generous support.

Funding and Strategic Partners


**Government
of South Australia**


Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

 **CITY OF
ADELAIDE**


**Government
of South Australia**
Department for Education

Support Partners across Inspiring South Australian Women – Issues of our Time, Tour of Honour Mt Barker, Smoking Ceremony, Aus Lights on the River, Citizen of the Year Awards, Inspiring Australians Student Summit, and Australian of the Year Luncheon

Supporting Partners

active
inclusion 

**ADELAIDE —
CEMETERIES**

Supported by
phn
ADELAIDE
An Australian Government Initiative

 **Alliance
College**

 **applewood**
DISTILLERY

**Australian Institute of
Company Directors**

 **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
Business Chamber**
EST. 1998

 **Cancer
Council
SA**

CERAVOLO

**credit
unionsa** 

 **CMV GROUP**

 **CBS**
Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc.

 **CORNERSTONE
ALLIANCE**

 **CORNERSTONE
COLLEGE**

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

 **Flinders
University**

 **GREEN GOLD
ENERGY**

 **Government
of South Australia**
Office for Women

entree
RECRUITMENT

Jurlique

 **HAIGH'S
CHOCOLATES**

 **Kytos
BAKERY**

SOFITEL
ADELAIDE

MARAS
Group

 **Marshall
Brougham**

 **MGA**
INSURANCE GROUP
STANDING BY YOU

novatech

 **OJO
creative**

 **OTR**
making life easy

 **Pernod Ricard Winemakers**

 **PH8**
PURE HYDRATION

 **PIRATE LIFE**
adventure

 **SAHMRI**

 **SA
Power
Networks**

SARAH
Building Great
Relationships.

lga. South
Australia

 **SPORT SA**

 **tafeSA**

 **St Peter's College**
ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

 **THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE**

Media Partner across
our 2023–2024 Program

Venue and event assistance partners
across our 2023–2024 program

 **44**
ADELAIDE
COMMUNITY
TELEVISION

 **IN
INDAILY**

 **h.
SAFM**
107.1

 **SEP**
Short Event Productions

**FESTIVAL
PLAZA**

 **AVM**
ADELAIDE VENUE MANAGEMENT

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Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**South
Australia**

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