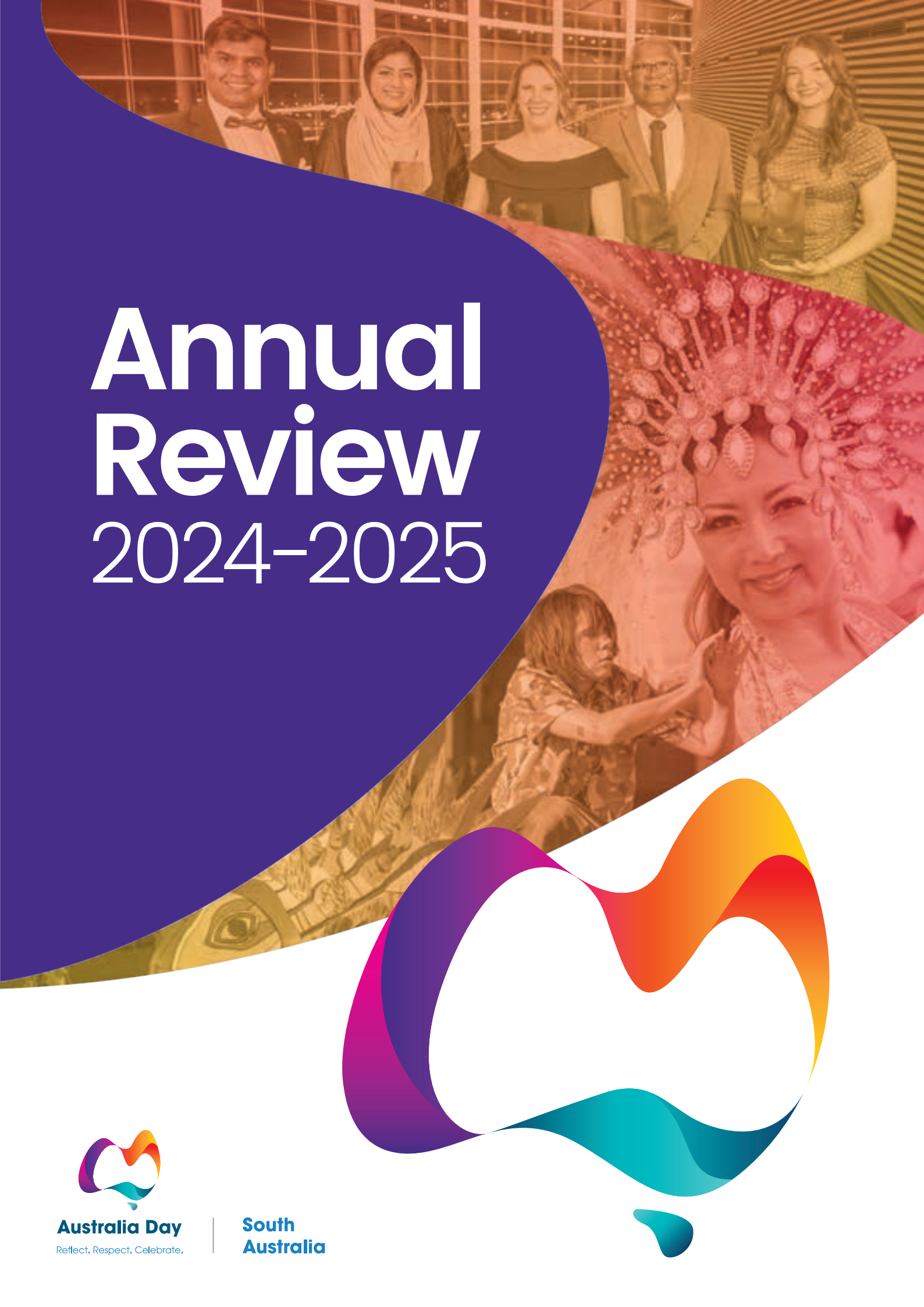




Annual Review 2024-2025



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 nongovernment 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:

- Reimagining and honouring who we are as Australians
- Recognising and promoting active citizenship
- Cultivating social inclusion and cohesion
- Fostering cultural, social and economic impact
- Transforming lives and inspiring future leaders
- Counteracting disadvantage and providing platforms for the social concerns of our time
- Thought leadership for organisations and communities
- Advancing organisational, financial and environmental sustainability

Our collaborative efforts amplify voices, inspire change, and strength.



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Message from the Chair



2025 has been another rewarding and challenging year. As always, the Australia Day Council SA looks to highlight the remarkable and sometimes silent and always passionate achievers who work tirelessly to make our State, Country, and even beyond a better place.

Throughout the year, the Australia Day Council of South Australia has proudly amplified the remarkable achievements and contributions of outstanding South Australians from diverse backgrounds. Our year-round programs illuminate these individuals whose commitment, courage and leadership enrich our state's social and cultural fabric, demonstrating the profound impact they make each day.

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 events and sponsorship engagement programs.

At our Australian of the Year Luncheon, Neale Daniher AO 2025 Australian of the Year, Co-founder, FightMND and former Australian Rules footballer, shared a deeply moving reflection:

"No matter the odds, no matter the diagnosis, we all have the power to choose to fight and our attitude. The true measure of a person lies in what they choose to do and how they put that into meaningful action."

In South Australia, 2025 Australian of the Year, Professor Leah Bromfield, a child protection expert, highlighted the importance of reshaping systems to protect children and promote long-term well-being, including supporting children at risk in our community.

SA's 2025 Senior Australian of the Year, Charles Jackson OAM, Indigenous advocate and knowledge holder although not able to be present at the luncheon reaffirmed his commitment to advocating for First Nations language and cultural preservation as well as sent a heartfelt message celebrating Wilpena Pound's World Heritage listing.

Our SA 2025 Young Australian of the Year, Amber Brock-Fabel, is on a mission. Amber is an advocate for youth and she is on a mission to amplify the voices of rural youth, presenting their ideas to the government.

SA's 2025 Local Hero, Sobia Hashmi and Irfan Hashmi, discussed their innovative approach to building healthcare capacity including skills, employment and addressing isolation in regional communities.

Our society relies heavily on incredible people like these who contribute significantly to making a difference in our communities and shaping our great State. The 2025 Australian of the Year recipients embody the essence of active citizenship and show us that by coming together and acting, we create greater cohesion, positive change to build stronger, healthier, more compassionate, and vibrant communities.

Our Organisation depends on the support and leadership of many individuals. We are immensely grateful to our Vice-Regal Patron, Her Excellency, The Honorable Frances Adamson, AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mr. Rod Bunten for their ongoing involvement and support throughout the year.

Thank you to our enduring and much valued partners, corporate members, sponsors and our individual members. In addition, I want to thank all our Volunteers, including panelists and community leaders who always make great things happen year in year out, we could not do this without you. With your incredible and

essential support, we can and have been able to expand our programs and ensure a broader reach and impact across the state.

I sincerely thank our Board Members who continue to offer solid support across the year to the organisation in so many ways certainly the strategy, risk management, vision and values, and the very many hours that they voluntarily commit to driving the Council in future directions. I also acknowledge our dedicated CEO and the ADCSA team that work diligently and passionately to advance ADCSA's mission.

The nominators, nominees, finalists, and recipients of our awards uphold obligations as active citizens and demonstrate to our state and in some instances to our nation that nothing is more satisfying than giving our all to a cause or addressing complex societal challenges or future positioning their work into horizons not yet imagined.

Thank you all for embracing the work of these incredible award recipients and the many other inspiring South Australians we recognise across the year.

Michelle Cox
Chair



Australian of the Year Presentation Evening.

Message from the CEO



In a time marked by economic uncertainty and global divisions, our work this year has continued to highlight those driving positive change and fostering a better Australia for all. This year, we were proud to present and implement ADCSA's Strategic Plan Towards 2027.

This plan has been developed across four strategic priorities:

- Recognise inspiring people and communities and stimulate thought leadership
- Foster social cohesion within our communities
- Place reconciliation at the centre of all we do, and at an organisational level
- Enhance our brand, organisational capacity and environmental sustainability.

Our work across this year has continued to amplify and celebrate the voices of recognised and remarkable leaders, many of whom are everyday people doing extraordinary things, as well as individuals at the highest levels of their professions and influence.

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

Inspiring Australians Student Summits

This year's Inspiring Australians Student Summits connected students with state and national leaders to foster aspirational leadership, active citizenship and future learning pathways.

At Adelaide Botanic High School, 2024 Young South Australian of the Year Tiahni Adamson, 2024 South Australian of the Year Tim Jarvis AM, 2023 Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt and 2020 Australian of the Year Local Hero Bernie Shakeshaft shared insights on inclusion, environmental sustainability, climate change, youth justice and youth empowerment.

Olympic champion and Indigenous education advocate Catherine Freeman OAM led the Murray Bridge High School Summit, joined by Taryn Brumfitt and 2024 SA Young Citizen of the Year Kylan Beech, who has raised over \$100,000 for cancer research.

Australian of the Year Awards

In January, we honoured South Australians of the Year, including Professor Leah Bromfield, Charles Jackson OAM, Amber Brock-Fabel and Sobia & Irfan Hashmi. These esteemed individuals have leveraged their platforms to advance child protection and wellbeing, First Nations advocacy, regional access to healthcare and to strengthen youth voice across our state and country.

Aus Lights on the River Program

Over 23,000 people experienced Aus Lights on the River, celebrating unity, reflection and community. The day began with a First Nations-led Smoking Ceremony, offering a moment to honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and reflect on our shared history. A vibrant Respecting Country Parade showcased diverse stories, communities, organisations and first responders. The Official Ceremony featured renowned South Australian artists with the Adelaide Youth Orchestras, while the Elder Park Rotunda became a stunning 'Welcome Lantern'. Families enjoyed Aus Lights for Kids, with storytelling on Australia's unique flora and fauna, before the evening closed with a spectacular fireworks display.

Awards Programs

In February, we came together at Government House to honour the incredible contributions and celebrate the achievements of our remarkable community members through the 2025 Inspiring South Australian Women Awards, the 2025 Citizen of the Year Awards, and the 2025 Awards for Leadership in Languages and Cultures.

This ceremony highlighted the exceptional service provided daily in our communities, often through volunteer efforts. Each recipient and commended individual plays a vital role in enhancing the social and cultural fabric of our society. They exemplify selflessness and foster meaningful relationships, demonstrating a commitment to connecting with and supporting vulnerable members of our community.

Australian of the Year Luncheon

In an unforgettable afternoon filled with inspiration, courage, and community. Neale Daniher AO, 2025 Australian of the Year and his wife Jan Daniher's words resonated with attendees and inspired generous support of \$12,000 for FightMND.

Commencing with a moving Welcome to Country, an engaging panel conversation with South Australia's 2025 Australian of the Year recipients. Professor Leah Bromfield, Amber Brock-Fabel, Sobia and Irfan Hashmi. Charles Jackson OAM, Senior South Australian of the Year, sent a message celebrating Wilpena Pound's nomination for World Heritage listing, reaffirming his commitment to advocating for First Nations language and cultural preservation.

We sincerely thank our dedicated volunteers and ambassadors who share powerful messages around Australia Day. Our engagement with Local, State and Federal Governments is vital to our mission, and we appreciate the partnerships we have built. To our sponsors and members, your support helps us expand our reach. Thank you to our many constituents for your participation and interest in our work.

I also want to acknowledge our dedicated Board, focusing on a renewed strategic direction for the next four years. Your support ensures we maintain high standards throughout the year. To our hardworking team, your tireless efforts in planning our events and programs are invaluable.

We look forward to another year of making a meaningful impact together.

Jan Chorley

Chief Executive Officer
Australia Day Council of South Australia

Building Capacity

Partnerships

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. By leveraging their impact and support for their causes we directly improve the quality of our health, social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

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

A new path for at-risk youth

In Australia, one in five children under seventeen is missing out on school, one in four is battling mental health issues and over 25,000 children are homeless despite seeking assistance.

Utilising animal-assisted learning, agricultural training, residential care and an enduring commitment to everyone, BackTrack Youth Works, founded by **2020 Australian Local Hero Bernie Shakeshaft**, is making significant strides in supporting at-risk youth. In August, Bernie shared his pioneering methods with a notable assembly of South Australian leaders and advocates working with young people, highlighting the program's life-changing and multi-generational impact.

Thank you to the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Sliding Doors Foundation for their generous support.

Collaborative Leadership

On 8 November, the Australia Day Council of South Australia hosted its annual NGO Luncheon at the National Wine Centre, uniting over 100 CEOs and leaders from across South Australia's not for profit sector. With **Senator the Hon. Penny Wong** as guest speaker, the event underscored the importance of resilience, collaboration and mutual support in strengthening communities. Her address reinforced the pivotal role NGOs play in driving innovation, supporting vulnerable populations and fostering social cohesion.

Hosted by Mark Groote, CEO of St John SA and ADCSA CEO Jan Chorley, the luncheon provided a platform for sharing insights, forging partnerships and exploring solutions to sector challenges. This builds capacity, reinforcing the collective strength needed for a more resilient and connected South Australia.

Climate Change in Action

St Peter's College welcomed **Tim Jarvis AM, 2024 SA Australian of the Year**, to inspire students with stories of his incredible Antarctic survival journey re-enacting Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition. He highlighted the Forktree Project, an initiative restoring 54 hectares of degraded land. Students actively supported the project through volunteering and fundraising, underscoring the importance of community involvement and sustainability.

Resilience and Leadership

It was an honour to welcome **Emma McKeon AM, 2024 Young Australian of the Year** to Adelaide. Emma inspired communities by sharing her journey as one of Australia's greatest Olympian, highlighting the importance of achievable goals, balance and support networks. From mentoring Youth Olympic hopefuls and students at Adelaide High School to connecting with the swimming community and young swimmers at SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Emma engaged sports leaders at Sport SA's Parliament House event, Emma's impactful insights resonated deeply with all.

Thank you to our partners SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre and Sport SA for making this impactful visit possible. Together, we continue to empower young Australians and leaders to dream big and achieve their goals.

Regional Collaboration, Leadership and Insights

We proudly delivered the inaugural gathering of the newly formed Regional Alliance at an exclusive leadership breakfast in Murray Bridge. **From Sustainability to Strength: Leadership Insights on Business and Community** brought together over 50 stakeholders for a powerful exchange of ideas and inspiration.

South Australia's Police Commissioner and **2025 SA Australian of the Year Nominee Grant Stevens APM LEM**, and **Barry Irvin AM, Executive Chair of Bega Group** shared insights into leadership and community collaboration. This landmark event set the tone for long-term, transformative change, uniting business leaders, community champions, government representatives and strategic partners from across the region. Attendees reflected on how to unlock opportunities across four emerging priorities: water resilience, community wellbeing, circular economy innovation and regional enterprise.

Key Highlights

Events

Future Focused Leadership and Growth

In May, we hosted *Our Collective Strength: Creating a Sustainable Future a Community Forum* that brought together local government, business, industry leaders and engaged citizens for a forward-thinking dialogue on sustainability, leadership and regional resilience.

Keynote speakers included **Barry Irvin AM, Executive Chairman of Bega Group**, and **Tim Jarvis AM, 2024 SA Australian of the Year**. They were joined by **Wayne Thorley, Mayor of the Rural City of Murray Bridge**, **Heather Barclay, CEO of the Rural City of Murray Bridge**, and **Jan Chorley, CEO of the Australia Day Council of SA**, each offering a unique and compelling perspective on community innovation, economic transformation, climate adaptation, the circular economy and the opportunities for regional growth.

The event was presented in partnership with the Rural City of Murray Bridge and supported by Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverlands.

Inspiring Australians Student Summit

9 August 2024

Adelaide Botanic High School

The second **Inspiring Australians Student Summit**, held at Adelaide Botanic High School, brought together students and educators from six schools to engage with prominent changemakers.

Speakers included **Tiahni Adamson, 2024 SA Young Australian of the Year**, **Tim Jarvis AM, 2024 SA Australian of the Year**, **Taryn Brumfitt, 2023 Australian of the Year** and **Bernie Shakeshaft, 2020 Australia's Local Hero**, who shared powerful insights on inclusion, sustainability, youth justice, and empowerment. Highlights included BackTrack's youth development model, climate lessons from Antarctica, body positivity and the value of youth voices. The event inspired students to create positive change in their communities.

Supported by the Department for Education and key sponsors, the summit was enriched by contributions from Uncle Mickey O'Brien, MC Freddie Johns and Deputy Premier Susan Close.

The experience left a lasting impression on all involved.



Mayor of the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Wayne Thorley, Tim Jarvis AM, Barry Irvin AM, Heather Barclay, Jan Chorley.

Australia Day Council SA Events

2024-2025

“

Inspiring Australians
Student Summit

It's an honour to be invited to speak to a room full of young people and to meet with Adelaide networks, which are dedicated to helping the kids who are doing it tough.

Bernie Shakeshaft
2020 Australia's Local Hero



“

Emma McKeon AM Engagements

Emma's humility, insights and passion inspired athletes, students and leaders, leaving a legacy to motivate future generations to dream bigger and reach higher.

SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre





“

Inspiring Australians
Student Summit

The response from young and old to Cathy Freeman at Murray Bridge High School was extraordinary.

CEO RDAM&R



“

Award for Leadership in
Languages and Cultures

Receiving the MELC Award is a reminder that resilience, courage and community spirit make a difference. It has fueled my passion to work harder, speak louder and stand taller for every voice that has felt silenced.

MELC Category 1 Recipient



“

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Harry (Year 11) was inspired by Neale's challenge to 'play on' and embrace the belief that "there is no perfect time, only now" a mindset he plans to apply to his studies, sport and life.

St Peter's College Student

Key Highlights

Events

Australian of the Year Presentation Evening

7 November 2024

Adelaide Convention Centre

The 2025 Australian of the Year Awards celebrated 17 exceptional finalists, each exemplify leadership, dedication and community spirit. South Australia's Award recipients were announced and joined winners from other states and territories for the national awards in Canberra on January 25, 2025.

South Australian recipients are:

- **Australian of the Year:** Professor Leah Bromfield, a Child Protection expert who has devoted her life to establishing practical, evidence-based solutions to child abuse and neglect. Leah developed the first evidence-based analysis of child protection practice frameworks.
- **Senior Australian of the Year:** Charles Jackson OAM is an Indigenous advocate and knowledge holder. Charles has had a passion for working with indigenous Australians for more than 50 years. Charles' new business, Urndu, helps the Aboriginal community via culturally appropriate training and provides support and resources for people with disabilities or age-related impairments.

- **Young Australian of the Year:** Amber Brock-Fabel, founded of the South Australian Youth Forum in 2021 at just 17 years old. The forum empowers those aged 14 to 18 to discuss critical issues such as climate change, period poverty, gender equality and youth loneliness.
- **Local Heroes:** İrfan Hashmi and Sobia Hashmi are pharmacists and migrant community leaders. Over 20 years, Sobia and İrfan have transformed healthcare in remote and rural communities in South Australia. They employ staff who collectively speak 21 languages, allowing them to reach vulnerable populations and provide culturally sensitive healthcare.

We congratulate the recipients for their significant contributions to people and the environment.



İrfan Hashmi, Sobia Hashmi, Leah Bromfield, Charles Jackson, Amber Brock-Fabel.





Respecting Country Parade

January 2025



Key Highlights

Events

Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony

26 January 2025

Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

The Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony was a resounding success, fulfilling its objectives of reflection, cultural education and reconciliation. The event reinforced the importance of First Nations languages and fostered meaningful connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

The day began with a powerful Smoking Ceremony led by Uncle Moogy Sumner, honouring First Nations resilience and cultural heritage. Karina Lester delivered a compelling keynote on language preservation and reconciliation, while performances by Nathan May, Eddie Peters, and Kara Nam brought tradition and contemporary artistry to life.

Moving forward, there is great opportunity to expand engagement, deepen cultural programming and further elevate the voices of First Nations peoples. The ADCSA remains committed to these efforts and looks forward to strengthening this annual event in future years.

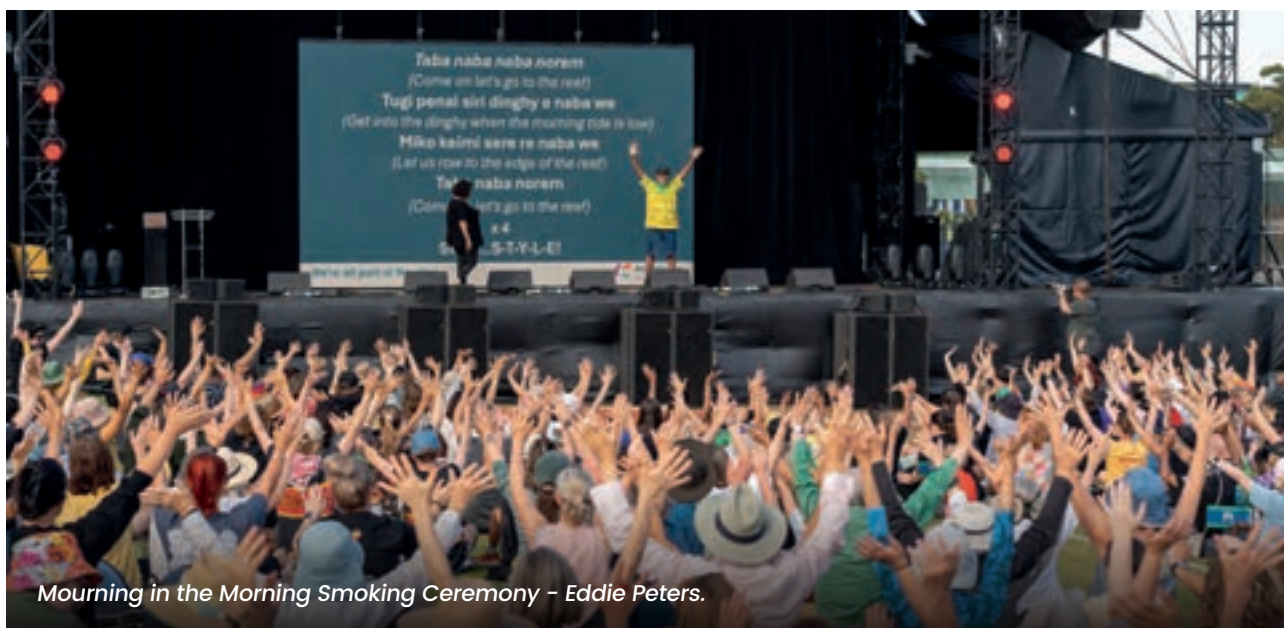
Respecting Country Parade

26 January 2025

Adelaide Oval to Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

The Respecting Country Parade was a vibrant celebration showcasing the diversity and richness of 55 South Australian communities. From the South Australian Migrant and Refugee Story and Our Ancestral Story to our South Australians at their Best, the parade highlighted both large and small community organisations, performers and charities that contribute to the state's cultural tapestry.

Over 2000 multicultural and community participants came together to acknowledge their sense of belonging to this great country and showcase their cultural and community identity. The procession filled with colour, music and dance culminated in a call and response drumming performance.



Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony – Eddie Peters.

Aus Lights

26 January 2025

Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama

Aus Lights on the River 2025 successfully brought together over 20,000 attendees on Kaurna land for a spectacular and meaningful celebration. The Rotunda transformed into a 'Welcome Lantern' featuring Peter Drew's AUSSIE poster series, reinforcing themes of unity and belonging. The event highlighted themes of storytelling, culture and reflection, uniting communities through a vibrant program of music, dance, art and engaging activities with assistance from over 50 volunteers.

The Official Ceremony hosted by Rosie Panetta featured a Welcome to Country by Uncle Mickey O'Brien and performances by John Schumann, the Adelaide Youth Orchestras, Nathan May, Farhan Shah, Maryam Rahmani and the Festival Statesman Chorus.



Official Ceremony – John Schumann and Festival Statesman Chorus.

Aus Lights on the River

26 January 2025

“

The fireworks were spectacular. They were a perfect culmination for the event. The huge crowds who attended highlighted the importance, success and significance of the event.

Aus Lights Attendee



“

I hoped the lantern would help South Australians identify themselves in the photographs, recognising similarities and the value of multiculturalism in the story of our nation.

Artist – Peter Drew





“

Mourning in the Morning was beautifully organised. I attended the first one in 2018 where a few of us gathered on the edge of the water to hear Uncle Moogy. This one made all feel welcome in the same way.

Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony Attendee

“

It's heartwarming to see so many cultural, religious, and community groups coming together here in South Australia. It really highlights the incredible diversity of our country.

Respecting Country Parade Attendee



Key Highlights

Events

Inspiring Australians Student Summit

22 May 2025

Murray Bridge High School

Olympic champion and Indigenous education advocate **Catherine Freeman OAM, 1998 Australian of the Year** led the third Inspiring Australians Student Summit at Murray Bridge High School. Joined by body image advocate **Taryn Brumfitt, 2023 Australian of the Year** and young fundraiser **Kylan Beech, 2024 Young Citizen of the Year**, the event inspired students to lead with courage, purpose and resilience.

Catherine championed self-belief and the transformative power of education, while Taryn urged students to embrace body positivity and reject comparison. Kylan shared his story of turning personal grief into action, raising over \$100,000 for cancer research.

With strong Indigenous student representation, the Summit celebrated cultural identity, wellbeing and leadership.

Australian of the Year Luncheon

20 June 2025

Adelaide Convention Centre

With 500 people in attendance the Australian of the Year Luncheon celebrated notable Australians who inspire us to contribute to a better country. It featured **Neale Daniher AO, the 2025 Australian of the Year**, whose enduring courage and advocacy for motor neurone disease (MND) research through FightMND has captured the hearts of a nation. His story of resilience, leadership and determination was a powerful highlight that deeply moved all attendees.

The event included an inspiring In Conversation panel featuring some of South Australia's most distinguished South Australians: **Professor Leah Bromfield, SA Australian of the Year, Charles Jackson OAM, SA Senior Australian of the Year (Apology), Amber Brock-Fabel, SA Young Australian of the Year** and **Irfan and Sobia Hashmi, SA Local Heroes**.



Kylan Beech, Catherine Freeman OAM and Taryn Brumfitt.

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 across the nation to engage and connect with communities. Our SA Ambassadors connected with 24 Councils and communities in January 2025, traversing over 9074 km across our state. As Ambassadors for January 2025 these community leaders were part of a rich storytelling and connection experience – the sharing of their unique lived experience promotes active citizenship and strengthens our communities.



Dr Victoria Cox – City of Holdfast Bay.

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

ADCSA Ambassadors 2025

Name	Destination on Australia Day
City of Unley	Christine Robertson
Cooper Pedy Council	Dr Bob Irving
City of Holdfast Bay	Dr Victoria Cox
City of West Torrens	Monique Bareham
City of Playford	Prof Rob Morrison OAM
City of Charles Sturt	Christine Robertson
City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters	Kaitlin Purcell
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	Ingrid Kennerley
District Council of Yankalilla	John Shepherd AM
District Council of Mount Barker	Samoda Silva
District Council of Grant	Nicki Brunton
Coorong District Council	Stella Braund
Adelaide Plains Council	Alexandra Seal
Regional Council of Goyder	Dr Peter Cahalan
District Council of Cleve	Prof Richard Bruggeman
Rural City of Murray Bridge	Daljeet Bakshi
Wattle Range Council	Wayne Anthoney OAM
Southern Mallee District Council	Craig Scott OAM
Pt Pirie Regional Council	Michael O'Connell AM APM
City of Tea Tree Gully	Nasir Hussain
Tatiara District Council	Prof Jennifer McKay AM
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Kylan Beech
City of Burnside	Kate Swaffer
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	Gill Golding

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Neale Daniher AO
2025 Australian of the Year





Our Impact

43

Aus Lights on the River volunteers

2,100

Respecting Country Parade volunteers

172

hours worked

11,500

hours worked

Aus Lights on the River 2025

23,000

reached across the day

3,000

Mourning in the Mourning attendees

48

ethnicities involved in the program

55

diverse community organisations involved in the program

20,000

Aus Lights on the River patrons

Income Sources + Expenses



Income

Grants	66%
Sponsorship	8%
Programs	5%
Product Sales	11%
Subscriptions	4%
Interest	2%
Other income	3%

Expense

Operating Costs	3%
Cost of Goods Sold	7%
Office Costs	6%
Staff Costs	39%
Events & Programs	45%

Across SA Community Events

43

Community Grants for Local
Government and Not-For-Profit
Community Organisations

totalling

\$465,000

Whole of Year Engagement

506

attendees

Australian of the
Year Awards

940

attendees

Inspiring Australian
Student Summit

340

attendees

Australia Day
Awards

497

attendees

Australian of the
Year Luncheon

Social Media

Facebook

11,359

engagement

173,690

reach

14,423

followers

Instagram

540

engagement

15,453

reach

1,847

followers

LinkedIn

2,311

engagement

58,303

reach

1,195

followers

Australia Day Ambassadors

23

Ambassadors across
24 councils

9

Across Metropolitan
Councils

9,074kms

travelled

15

Across Regional
Councils

Citizen of the Year

Christopher Mailley





Key Highlights

Awards

The Australian of the Year Awards

Nominees for the 2025 SA Australian of the Year Awards include a child protection expert, Indigenous advocate, SA Youth Forum advocate, migrant community leaders, disability advocate, anti-ageism advocate, cancer researcher and aerospace engineer.

South Australia's Australian of the Year

Recipient:

Professor Leah Bromfield
Child protection expert

Finalists:

Dr Sarah Cannard
Aerospace engineer

Commissioner Grantley Stevens
Commissioner, South Australian Police

Dr Hannah Wardill
Cancer researcher

South Australia's Young Australian of the Year

Recipient:

Amber Brock-Fabel
Founder, South Australian Youth Forum

Finalists:

Denzel James
Environmental advocate

Andriana Petrakis
International tennis champion, coach and autism advocate

Kushi Venkatesh
Comedian, reporter and content creator

South Australia's Senior Australian of the Year

Recipient:

Charles Jackson OAM
Indigenous advocate and knowledge holder

Finalists:

Anne Burgess AM
Anti-ageism advocate

Dr Devinder Grewal
GP and medical services provider

Keith Preston
Arts and events manager, artist

South Australia's Local Heroes 2025

Recipients:

Irfan & Sobia Hashmi
Pharmacists and migrant community leaders

Finalists:

Shane Hryhorec
Disability advocate

Lisa O'Malley
Foster carer and co-founder, The Carer Project

Dinah Thomasset
Founder, Villagehood Australia

The Citizen of the Year Awards

The Citizen of the Year Awards is a highly successful program, unearthing and celebrating the achievements of remarkable local individuals across South Australia. These awards recognise people who place the needs of others before their own, enriching their communities through selfless service, leadership and commitment.

We continued our successful partnerships with the Local Government Association of South Australia, Sarah Constructions, MGA Insurance Group and Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc. and welcomed new sponsors Flinders University and Community Business Bureau (CBB). The recipients for 2025 were:

South Australia's Citizen of the Year

Recipient:

Christopher Mailley
Naracoorte Lucindale Council

South Australia's Young Citizen of the Year

Recipient:

Layla Bovell
City of Onkaparinga

South Australia's Community Events of the Year

Recipients:

Pink and Blue Swim/Walk/Run
City of Charles Sturt

2024 Blackwood Reconciliation Walk
City of Mitcham

Commendation:

Yarn Bombing
Berri Barmera Council

South Australia's Award for Active Citizenship

Recipient:

Neil Martinson
Renmark Paringa Council

Commendation:

Guiseppe Geracitano
City of Charles Sturt

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:

Marzila Osmani
Thebarton Senior College

Commendation:

Seerat Bughio
Pinnacle College

Anja Tassios
Renmark High School

Category 2

Recipient:

Sophia Zavlagkas

Commendation:

Elisha Unuhuri

Leah Kovacic

Inspiring South Australian Women Awards

The Inspiring South Australian Women Award, delivered in partnership with the Office for Women, recognises the contribution women make in a voluntary or paid role. Their efforts advance and enrich 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:

April Lawrie

Commendations:

Ella Stratton

Joanna Wells

Emerging Leader Recipient

Recipients:

Hayley Frazer

Andriana Petrakis



*Ella Stratton, Joanna Wells, April Lawrie,
Hayley Frazer.*

Inspiring Australians Student Summit

May 2025





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 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

Accenture

Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony
Australian of the Year Luncheon

Adelaide Cemeteries Authority

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Adelaide University

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Adelaide PHN

Respecting Country Parade
Australian of the Year Luncheon

Adelaide Venue Management Corporation

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Australian Radio Network (Mix 102.3 & Cruise)

Aus Lights on the River

Ceravolo

Respecting Country Parade

Credit Union South Australia

Respecting Country Parade

Channel 44

Aus Lights on the River Program

Commissioner for Children & Young People

Community Leaders Breakfast

Community Business Bureau

Citizen of the Year Awards

Community Bridging Services

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Citizen of the Year Awards

Epson Australia

Aus Lights on the River

FiveAA

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Flinders University

Inspiring Australians Student Summit – Adelaide Botanic High School

Citizen of the Year Awards Program

Inspiring Australians Student Summit – Murray Bridge High School

Galipo Foods

Respecting Country Parade

GLAM Adelaide

Aus Lights on the River

Green Gold Energy

Official Ceremony – Aus Lights on the River

InDaily

Aus Lights on the River

Intract Australia Pty Ltd

Inspiring Australians Student Summit – Murray Bridge High School

Kilara Capital

SA Business Leaders Boardroom Luncheon

Kyton's Bakery

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Local Government Association of South Australia

Citizen of the Year Awards

Maras Group

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Marshall & Brougham

Inspiring Australians Student Summit –
Adelaide Botanic High School

MGA Insurance Group

Citizen of the Year Awards

Novatech Creative Event Technology

Aus Lights on the River

OJO Creative

Aus Lights on the River

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Citizen of the Year Awards

Inspiring Australians Student Summit

Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland

Regional Leadership Breakfast

SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre

Breakfast with Emma McKeon AM

SA Tourism Commission

Aus Lights on the River

SA Power Networks

Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony

Sarah Constructions

Citizen of the Year Awards

Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony

Serafino Wines

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Sliding Doors Foundation

Community Leaders Breakfast

Sofitel Adelaide

Inspiring Australians Student Summit –
Adelaide Botanic High School

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Sport SA

Parliament House with Emma McKeon AM

SA Sport Awards with Catherine Feeman OAM

St Peter's College

Australian of the Year Luncheon

The Rural City of Murray Bridge

Our Collective Strength: Creating a Sustainable Future
Community Forum

Thomas Foods

Inspiring Australian Student Summit –
Murray Bridge High School

Vale Brewing

Australian of the Year Luncheon

Volunteers

We deeply appreciate the invaluable support of our 2,123 volunteers who dedicate their passion, expertise, creativity and time to Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony, Respecting Country Parade and Aus Lights on the River; the Ambassador Program and our operations and governance.



Organisation and Governance

The Board of Management is the governing body of the Australia Day Council of South Australia Inc (ADCSA). In the year 2024 – 2025, the Board comprised the following members:

Ms Michelle Cox – Chairperson
 Ms Heather Holmes-Ross – Deputy Chairperson and LGA representative
 Ms Antonietta Cocchiaro OAM – Deputy Chairperson (from December 2024)
 Mr Des Quirk – Treasurer (appointed member)
 Mr Rajendra Pandey
 Ms Gillian Lewis
 Professor Jennifer McKay AM
 Ms Dana Wortley MP – Premier’s representative
 Ms Anna Cheung
 Ms Catherine Herrmann
 Dr Mehmet Aslan – appointed MCS representative, October 2024

Resignations:

Mr Rob Stobbe – October 2024
 Cr Jing Li – April 2025

The ADCSA Board met on nine occasions. Meetings were held on a Monday evening at ADCSA Offices at 240 Currie Street, Adelaide, commencing at 5:30 pm. Board members attended in person or via Teams.

Meeting Dates:

- 24 July 2024
- 18 September 2024
- 16 October 2024
- 2 December 2024
- 20 January 2025
- 3 March 2025
- 14 April 2025
- 2 June 2025
- 30 June 2025

The Annual General Meeting was held on 30 October 2024.

The Corporate Governance Committee has met on three occasions during the year. The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance responsibilities.

The Committee had undertaken a review of the Constitution and the changes were adopted at a Special Meeting on 7 August 2024. The Constitution was approved by Consumer and Business Services on 24 September 2024.

The focus of the meetings since August has been to review ADCSA’s policies.

The Corporate Governance Committee comprises four Board members and two Independent Members.

The Sponsorship, Membership and Marketing Committee did not meet during the financial year.

Board Attendance – 2024 –2025

Member	Jul	Sep	Oct	AGM–Nov	Dec	Jan	Mar	Apr	Jun
Michelle Cox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heather Holmes–Ross	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓
Antoinietta Cocchiaro OAM	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Des Quirk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rajendra Pandey	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dana Wortley MP	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gillian Lewis	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prof Jennifer McKay AM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Anna Cheung	✓	A	–	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Jing Li	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	Resigned April 2025		
Catherine Herrman	Elected AGM Nov 2024			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Dr Mehmet Aslan	Appointed MCS Representative Nov 2024				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rob Stobbe	A	A	Resigned October 2024						

Board Members shown above attended meetings in person or via Teams. Where a – is shown no apology was received.

Aus Lights on the River

Official Ceremony





Members, Sponsors and Supporters

Our Patron

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

Corporate Club

Platinum

Intract Australia Pty Ltd

Kaya Disability Support

Gold

Build Tec Group

Karidis Corporation

Maras Group (Aus) Pty Ltd

Multicultural Communities Council of SA

Silver

Adelaide Venue Management

Disability Rights Advocacy Service

Green Gold Energy

Rocco Giglio

Tong De Association

Bronze

Access 2 Place Housing

AH Media Intl

Alfred James & Sons Pty Ltd

Association of Independent Schools of South Australia

Centennial Park Cemetery Authority

Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc

Community Corporate Pty Ltd

Foodland North Adelaide

Kang Pan Pty Ltd (KP Media)

SA Shoulder Pavers P/L

Aussie Care Hub Midnight Pharmacy

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 Cocchiario AM

Norman Scheuler OAM

Local Government Councils

Adelaide (City of)

Adelaide Hills Council

Adelaide Plains Council

Alexandrina Council

Barossa Council (The)

Barunga West Council

Berri Barmera Council

Burnside (City of)

Campbelltown City Council

Ceduna (District Council of)

Charles Sturt (City of)

Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council

Cleve (District Council of)

Coober Pedy (District Council of)

Coorong District Council

Copper Coast Council

Elliston (District Council of)

Flinders Ranges Council (The)

Franklin Harbour (District Council of)

Gawler (Town of)

Goyder (Regional Council of)

Grant (District Council of)

Holdfast Bay (City of)

Kangaroo Island Council

Karoonda-East Murray (District Council of)

Kimba (District Council of)

Light Regional Council

Lower Eyre Council

Loxton Waikerie (District Council of)

Marion (City of)

Mid Murray Council

Mitcham (City of)

Mount Barker District Council

Mount Gambier (City of)

Mount Remarkable (District Council of)

Murray Bridge (The Rural City of)

Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Northern Areas Council

Norwood Payneham & St Peters (City of)

Onkaparinga (City of)

Orroroo Carrieton (District Council of)

Peterborough (District Council of)

Playford (City of)

Port Adelaide Enfield (City of)

Port Augusta City Council

Port Lincoln (City of)

Port Pirie Regional Council

Prospect (City of)

Renmark Paringa Council

Robe (District Council of)

Roxby Downs (Municipal Council of)

Salisbury (City of)

Southern Mallee District Council

Streaky Bay (District Council of)

Tatiara District Council

Tea Tree Gully (City of)

Tumby Bay (District Council of)

Unley (City of)

Victor Harbor (City of)

Wakefield Regional Council

Walkerville (Town of)

Wattle Range Council

West Torrens (City of)

Whyalla (City of)

Wudinna District Council

Yankalilla (District Council of)

Yorke Peninsula Council

66 individual members



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

Funding and Strategic Partners



Supporting Partners



Media Partner across
our 2024-2025 Program

Venue and event assistance partners
across our 2024-2025 program





Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**South
Australia**

Photo credits to:
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Projection Design