



District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula

MEDIA RELEASE

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2018 Australia Day Award winners

Cathy Haarsma was selected as the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula 2018 Citizen of the Year as part of the annual Australia Day awards at Council's meeting last Friday, December 15.

Council assessed and voted on the 33 nominations received across the six categories, including a pleasing four nominations for Council's newest category, Young Sportsperson of the Year.

Other award winners were Belinda-Jane Moroney (Young Citizen), Mikaela Richardson (Young Sportsperson), Bvt Sgt John Randall (Employee), Dr Claire Rowe (Business) and A Day on the Bay (Community Event).

Awards will be presented at Council's official breakfast and ceremony at the Cummins Hall, as well as a community breakfast on the Coffin Bay foreshore on Australia Day.

Council congratulates all award winners, as well as all those who were nominated. Council also acknowledges the efforts of the nominees who submitted so many comprehensive and high quality nominations.

Citizen of the Year

Cathy Haarsma was nominated for her long-time and selfless contribution to many groups and organisations within the Cummins community.

In 2017 alone she has continued as an SA Ambulance Service volunteer, Cummins Area School volunteer, Cummins and Districts Memorial Swimming Pool secretary, active member of Cummins Ramblers football and netball clubs, Cummins and Districts Basketball Association secretary, Cummins Homes Committee member as well as Miroma Hostel aged care garden volunteer.

Over the years Mrs Haarsma has also held office and volunteered with the Great Flinders Junior Tennis Association, Cummins X-Roads, Cummins Recreation Centre

Courts Redevelopment Committee, Cummins and District Memorial Hospital Adopt-a-Room project, Cummins Community Music Hall and St Andrews Catholic Church. Mrs Haarsma's willingness to volunteer and contribute to so many facets of the Cummins community is a testament to her character, and makes her a worthy recipient of the award.

Young Citizen of the Year

Belinda-Jane Moroney has been described as a driving-force for her community. She has got behind and helped develop community projects and initiatives including the Kapinnie Clubroom upgrades, where she is heavily involved with the Cummins Kapinnie Netball Club, as well as the Cummins Show entertainment committee.

She positively promotes local people, business and services and is always up for helping fundraise for local causes and families in need. She has also contributed to two local blogs – Unspoken Conversations and Behind The Mind, that aim to reduce stigma and increase awareness around mental health.

Mrs Moroney has been described as someone who is willing to put themselves first for the greater good of the community.

Young Sportsperson of the Year

Mikaela Richardson has had a stellar 2017 with significant sporting achievements across netball, basketball, tennis and school sport.

Mikaela's season with Ramblers Netball Club included being vice-captain and winning the A grade premiership. She also coached the E grade team (under 15). She was selected by her peers as a Great Flinders top 10 A grade player, and was awarded a joint A grade Rising Star award. Representing the association she was the Under 17 captain and player, voted most valuable player, and was best on court in the association match.

Mikaela was also a senior women's basketball premiership player and best and fairest award winner. She was also awarded the inter girls' best and fairest award and coached the Subbies grade.

Mikaela plays senior tennis for Cummins White but also coaches juniors.

Through Cummins Area School Mikaela has also been successful at interschool, winning first place in senior girls javelin, has participated in the Secondary Regional Netball Carnival and helped promote health and fitness through her Stage I of Physical Education – planning and taking her classmates through a training session at Iron Grit Gym.

Employee of the Year

SA Police Brevet Sergeant John Randall has been recognised for his outstanding service to the community of Cummins and surrounds. He is highly regarded and is always prepared to make the extra effort in his role with SA Police, but also as a local community member. Bvt Sgt Randall conducts himself with a standard to be admired - his professionalism and compassion make him a valued member of the district.

Bvt Sgt Randall is a community minded man having ongoing involvement with Cummins Area School as a policeman and parent, Cummins District Enterprise Committee, Cummins Emergency Ready Committee, Cummins X-Roads, Uniting Church Youth Group, Cummins Gymnastic Club and the Cummins Hall. He also coordinates the town's speed radar sign, helping keep people safe over the busy harvest period.

Business of the Year

Dr Claire Rowe has a loyal following and has been providing a medical service to the residents of Coffin Bay and surrounding areas for more than a decade. Over the years she has gained the confidence and respect from patients of all ages. She is highly respected with patient care her priority, always going the extra mile to find solutions for her patients. Dr Rowe's regular visits to Coffin Bay means patients do not have to travel a long distance for medical treatment.

Community Event of the Year

Coffin Bay's A Day on the Bay is an annual event hosted by seven Coffin Bay businesses – Coffin Bay Sporting Complex, 1802 Oyster Bar & Bistro, Beachcomber Agencies, Coffin Bay General & Liquor Store, Coffin Bay Yacht Club, Coffin Bay Pizza & Takeaway and the Coffin Bay Hotel.

The theme is to promote Coffin Bay and in particular, the oyster industry. Local beer and wine, as well as local talent are promoted as part of the event, with up to 4000 people attending this year's foreshore happenings.