



Renmark Paringa Council

Press Release

Members of the media are welcome to re-phrase the information contained in this press release, but the essential information is correct and should not be altered.

DATE: 18 December 2018

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2019 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Renmark Paringa Mayor Neil Martinson today announced Renmark Paringa Council's Australia Day Award Winners.

"I have pleasure in officially announcing the recipients of Renmark Paringa Council's Australia Day Awards for 2019. As I'm sure you will all agree, the award winners are valued members of our community. Their service is spread out over a wide range of community and sporting groups, organisations and events. Council would like to congratulate the award winners for their commitment made to our community and I am looking forward to presenting the recipients with their awards at Council's Australia Day celebrations on Saturday 26 January." Said Mayor Martinson.

Citizen of the Year Award – Helen Cenko of Renmark

Helen has been a huge contributor to the community over many years and is still very active in many voluntary roles. She is a Life Member of the Renmark Ladies Probus Club where she has served 5 years as treasurer, 1 year as president and 5 years as secretary; she has also been involved with Meals on Wheels for 15 years; Renmark Paringa Ladies Hospital Auxiliary for over 12 years (6 years as treasurer); tournament co-ordinator and life member of the Renmark Tintra Tennis Club; umpire, patron and life member of the Renmark Netball Club; Riverland Netball Umpires Association; volunteer Tai Chi tutor through U3A as well as voluntarily running sessions of her own; Renmark Basketball Club; Renmark West Church; Renmark Senior Citizens Singing Group; Sing Australia Group which she performs at various nursing homes and community events and volunteering for over 15 years at the Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre.

Committed to a sustainable future



Renmark Paringa Council

As well as those listed above, Helen has been involved in many other community organisations and is known by her fellow community members to be the first to volunteer or lend a hand when needed.

Helen's contribution to the community of the Renmark Paringa area indicates many aspects the Citizen of the Year Award represents and Council is pleased to name her as the Renmark Paringa Council 2019 Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

Young Citizen of the Year Award – Celeste Newbery of Renmark

Celeste has been an active member of the Renmark Paringa community since she moved to the area over 4 years ago. She won the title of Renmark Rose Festival Ambassador in 2016 and excelled in the role of promoting the festival and the region. Following this, Celeste joined the Renmark Rose Festival Committee and has been a major influencer in shaping the Ambassador Program to what it is today. She continues to be a major role model to the budding ambassadors and on many occasions she has gone above and beyond to support the festival and the programs within it. In 2018, Celeste took on the role of coordinating the advertising and promotion of the festival.

In February 2018, Celeste was a baton bearer for the Gold Cost Commonwealth Games Baton Bearer Event in Renmark where she was transported from the Paringa Bridge into Renmark on a trailer that was attached to the Renmark Rose Festival Massey Ferguson tractor. She took this important role on with utmost pride and grace. Celeste is also active within the Country Music space and joined the Riverland Country Music Festival Committee in 2017 where her passion for country music has carried through to the festival.

Celeste volunteers her time not for recognition, but to ensure that the community she lives in is a better place for those who live in it. Her values were passed down from her family who live in the Barossa and she has brought them to Renmark to share with her community.

Celeste's contribution to the community of the Renmark Paringa area indicates many aspects the Young Citizen of the Year Award represents and Council is pleased to name her as the Renmark Paringa Council 2019 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year.



Renmark Paringa Council

Community Event of the Year Award – Renmark parkrun

Every Saturday morning at 8am, between 30-60 people gather on the lawns by the Visitor Information Centre for 'parkrun', a 5 kilometre walk/run for anyone – young, old, locals or visitors. parkrun is a not-for-profit organisation established in the United Kingdom in 2004 to provide a free, weekly, timed event to every community that wants one. Events are organised by local volunteers with support from parkrun HQ.

parkrun was initially launched in Renmark by Annette Aston and since its conception, a band of dedicated volunteers make it happen every single Saturday morning. Each week volunteers take it in turns to fill the following roles – run director, timekeeper, handing out finish tokens, barcode scanner, marshal, tail walker and photographer. Since the beginning of Renmark parkrun, there has been 127 runs held, with volunteers helping out each week to ensure the event can take place. Some of the runs are themed runs, with participants encouraged to take part by dressing up. In the heat of summer and the frosts of winter there is always good numbers turning up to take part.

Renmark parkrun is not only a free and easy way to get some much needed exercise for anyone of any fitness level, it is also very social with friends and family meeting and doing the course together. It has drawn many tourists over time, as parkrun is world wide, anyone visiting our region often turns up to our very picturesque running track along the beautiful Murray River.

For these reasons Renmark parkrun has been awarded the Renmark Paringa Council 2019 Australia Day Community Event of the Year.



Renmark Paringa Council

Community Services Award – Milton and Jenny Curtis of Paringa

Milton and Jenny have committed their time to the local community by volunteering for many community and sporting groups in the Renmark Paringa area for over 40 years.

Milton is the president of the Lawns Bowling Club in Renmark, where he was involved in negotiations with the RSL when the Club was up for sale. Meanwhile, Jenny has spent many years volunteering her time there running the kitchen for carnivals and club events. They have donated the use of approximately 20 acres of land for the Club to grow pumpkins, which has assisted the Club to raise money to purchase the Lawns Bowling Club property. Milton and Jenny also donate a lot of their time and machinery by planting, looking after and harvesting the crop.

During the 1960's, 70's and 80's, Milton and Jenny ran the Paringa Youth Club and Gymnasium, with many local children attending gym classes free of charge. Milton and Jenny were involved with tennis at the Paringa Tennis Club, where they coached and played tennis for more than 30 years.

Jenny is a life member of the Paringa Women in Agriculture and Business. Milton was a member of the Paringa CFS for over 40 years and has also been an Elected Member of Council. He began in 1982 with the District Council of Paringa then after amalgamation followed on with the District Council of Renmark Paringa where he served until 2003. This totalled over 20 year's service to Local Government.

For these reasons Milton and Jenny Curtis have been awarded the Renmark Paringa Council 2019 Australia Day Community Services Award.



Renmark Paringa Council

The awards will be presented at the awards ceremony of the Renmark Paringa Council Australia Day Celebrations at 9am and will be held at the Jarrett Memorial Gardens, Renmark on Saturday 26 January 2018, following the Australia Day FREE Community Breakfast which begins at 8am.

Media inquiries in relation to this event can be directed to Mayor Neil Martinson, on 0427 951 369

Contact Details for the winners are:

Helen Cenko – 8595 1667

Celeste Newbery – 0417 869 236

Renmark parkrun (Annette Aston) – 8586 5033

Milton and Jenny Curtis – 8595 5192 / 0417 825 208 (Milton)