



MEDIA RELEASE

2024 Australia Day Celebrated in Port Augusta

The heart of Gladstone Square echoed with joyous celebrations as the local community gathered to commemorate Australia Day this morning. Smiling faces embraced the festive spirit, partaking in a delightful Australia Day breakfast against the backdrop of live music. The morning was filled with camaraderie, marked by the traditional Thong Toss and the cutting of the 26er Australia Day cake.

The day's events began with a poignant citizenship ceremony following the raising of the flag by the 46th Army Cadet Unit, emphasising the significance of unity and shared values. Mayor Linley Shine, remarked, "Australia Day is not just a commemoration of our past; it's a call to action for our future. It's an opportunity to renew our commitment to the values that define us – mateship, inclusivity, and a fair go for all. In a world where uncertainty looms large, let our unity be a beacon, guiding us toward a brighter and more compassionate future."

As the community raised flags and joined in the festivities, Mayor Shine encouraged everyone to remember that Australia's strength lies not only in its landscapes but in the hearts of its people.

"On this Australia Day, let us rekindle the flame of mateship, standing shoulder to shoulder as we face the challenges and celebrate the triumphs that lie ahead," Mayor Shine stated.

The Australia Day Awards, featuring five categories, present an opportunity for the community to acknowledge outstanding individuals and events within Port Augusta:

1. Citizen of the Year
2. Young Citizen of the Year
3. Community Event of the Year
4. Award for Active Citizenship
5. Environmental Sustainability Award (Individual & Group Award)

This initiative encourages residents to recognise and appreciate the contributions of their fellow community members.

Citizen of the Year

Nominees:

Shirley Mundy
Dr Devinder Singh Grewal
Kaylin Chetty
Jenny Grantham
Courtney Nowak
Steve Lasiter

Adam Wilson
Anne Marie Seagrim
Emily Holden

Citizen of the Year awarded to:

Dr Devinder Singh Grewal

Dr. Devinder Grewal is a highly esteemed figure in the medical profession, renowned for his unwavering dedication to providing exceptional care to his patients in and around Port Augusta, as well as in various suburbs and towns across Australia. With a rich background in medicine, having studied in India, Malaysia, and Britain, Dr. Grewal migrated to Australia in 1971, initially working as a microbiologist and lecturer before realising his true calling as a General Medical Practitioner.

In 1972, Dr. Grewal embraced an opportunity to serve as a GP in Quorn, South Australia. His commitment to providing comprehensive medical care extended to the neighbouring towns of Hawker and Port Augusta, where he not only delivered over 350 babies but also performed numerous minor surgeries, further cementing his reputation as a dedicated and skilled practitioner.

Beyond his practice, Dr. Grewal has been a pivotal figure in supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service, offering vital relief to doctors in remote areas, and working closely with the Aboriginal Health Services. Additionally, Dr. Grewal has been instrumental in recruitment of doctors right across Australia, addressing the crucial need for healthcare professionals and contributing to the overall well-being communities.

Dr. Grewal has also made significant contributions to the development of the Port Augusta Hospital by enhancing clinical outcomes and positively impacting the local healthcare landscape. His enduring commitment to the well-being of the community continues as he currently practices at the Westside Medical Centre, where he remains deeply dedicated to providing vital care to the people of Port Augusta and its surrounding areas.



Young Citizen of the Year

Nominees

Kimjoline Dunham
Charlotte Ford
Blake John Packard

Young Citizen of the Year awarded to:

Blake John Packard

Blake is an exceptional young individual who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Port Augusta community. In August 2023, his remarkable organisational skills were on full display as he successfully orchestrated every aspect of the highly anticipated 2023 Port Augusta Wharfest. This incredible event drew over 8,000 attendees, featuring more than 60 stall holders, food trucks, and captivating entertainment and sideshows all the way from the Gold Coast.

Beyond his impressive event planning abilities, Blake's dedication to community service is truly inspiring. He is an active member of the Port Augusta APEX Club, where he contributes selflessly to various initiatives. As the past president of the Port Augusta & District Little Athletics Club, Blake has made a lasting impact on the lives of young athletes, fostering their growth and development. Additionally, he generously volunteers his time with the West Augusta Football Club, further strengthening the community spirit.



Community Event of the Year

Nominees:

South Augusta Football Club – Port Augusta All Star v Emergency Service Charity Match 4
South Augusta Football Club – Jodi Lee Bowel Cancer Awareness Event
South Augusta Football Club – The Inaugural South Augusta Football Club Hall of Fame
South Augusta Football Club – The Dementia Australia Mid-Summer Ball 3
The Port Augusta RSL Sub-branch – Fallen Soldiers Memorial Centenary Rededication
Ladies Who Dine at Dusk

Connecting to Culture – Indian and South Asian Festival
Wharfest – APEX Port Augusta
The Port Augusta Soccer Club Reunion
The Port Augusta Park Run
Partnership in Positive Aging Expo
The Port Augusta Indigenous Community and Army Football

Community Event of the Year awarded to:

The Port August RSL Sub-branch – Fallen Soldiers’ Memorial Centenary Rededication

The Port Augusta Sub-Branch of the RSL played a significant role in organising the event. They formed a dedicated committee that worked tirelessly to manage and coordinate all the activities and events that contributed to the resounding success of the occasion. Through their efforts, the committee secured various funds and grants, collaborating closely with the Port Augusta City Council to restore the Rotunda and its surroundings, showcasing the city in a truly remarkable light.

To add to the significance of the event, the committee extended a gracious invitation to Her Excellency the Honourable FRANCES ADAMSON AC, the Governor of South Australia, to officiate and re-dedicate the new Memorial Plaque. They also liaised with Central Command (Department of Defence) to ensure the presence of members from the Armed Services, who represented this momentous occasion with great honour. Officers from each of the three Services attended, and the Guard of Honour was formed by members of the 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. The South Australia Police contributed to the ceremony by providing a Brass Quintet, who performed various selections and the official music for the event.

The collaborative efforts of the Port Augusta Sub-Branch of the RSL and the committee they formed truly made this event a resounding success. Their dedication and attention to detail, along with their ability to secure important participants and resources, ensured that the occasion was both meaningful and memorable.



Award for Active Citizenship

Nominees

Paul Smith
Ignite Cheer and Dance Extravaganza
Ladies who Dine @Dusk
Kaylin Chetty
Jenny Grantham
Courtney Nowak
Steve Laister
Adam Wilson

Active Citizenship awarded to:

Paul Smith

Paul Smith is a remarkable individual who wears many hats in his community. As the secretary of the RSL sub-Branch, he takes great pride in organising memorial events to honour our fallen soldiers. But his dedication to service doesn't stop there. Paul is also a passionate volunteer at the local library, where he shares his love for books and knowledge with others. As an active historian of Port Augusta, he delves into the past, preserving and sharing the rich history of the area. Paul's commitment to his community extends to providing cemetery tour guides, ensuring that the stories of those who came before us are not forgotten. In the past, he was also a valued member of Rotary, where he made a positive impact through various initiatives. And if that wasn't enough, Paul finds time to volunteer at the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, nurturing the beauty of nature for all to enjoy. With his tireless dedication and boundless enthusiasm, Paul Smith is a true inspiration to us all.



Environmental Sustainability Award (Individual)

Nominees:

Emily Howard
Shirley Mundy

Environmental Sustainability Award (Individual) awarded to:

Shirley Mundy

Shirley's unwavering passion for preserving our coastal environments for future generations is truly commendable. As an integral member of the Port Augusta Coastcare group, she actively participates in regular beach cleans, AUSMAP microplastic sampling, and plays a crucial role in the success of Community Education Events. Her dedication to these activities demonstrates her commitment to raising awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and taking tangible steps to protect our coastlines.

In addition to her involvement with the Port Augusta Coastcare group, Shirley also contributes her time and expertise as a Guide and Member of the Friends of the Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Through her role, she enriches the experiences of visitors by sharing her knowledge and love for nature. Shirley's efforts not only educate and inspire others but also promote the significance of environmental conservation in our community.

Shirley's contributions to environmental sustainability are truly deserving of recognition. Her dedication, passion, and active involvement in various initiatives make her a deserving recipient of the environmental sustainability individual award.



Environmental Sustainability Award (Group)

Nominees:

Caritas College – Nature Playground
Port Augusta Garden Club

Environmental Sustainability Award (Group) awarded to:

Port Augusta Coastcare

Port Augusta Coastcare is a volunteer group of local members of Port Augusta dedicated to caring for the marine and coastal environment of the Upper Spencer Gulf from Port Augusta to Blanche Harbour.

The group aim to undertake on-the-ground actions to care for the marine and coastal environment including regular clean ups around the coastal areas, water sampling and monitoring of particular sites (including microplastics), community education to promote the protection of the marine and coastal environment, including with local schools, and through interpretive signage, and building relationships with local industry.

Their dedication to promoting and educating both the marine industry and the local community on the unique marine, coastal, and wetlands environment of the region is truly commendable. By actively engaging in these initiatives, Port Augusta Coastcare plays a vital role in ensuring the long-term sustainability and well-being of this precious ecosystem.



A huge thank you to the Lions Club of Port Augusta who organised the morning activities with assistance from Rotary, Apex, SES, the Army Cadets and Port Augusta City Council.

For further information please contact Council's Media and Communications Officer on (08) 86419100

LINLEY SHINE
MAYOR
PORT AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL
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