

14.2 2025 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS

REPORT AUTHOR: Manager, Marketing & Place Activation
GENERAL MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer
CONTACT NUMBER: 8366 4582
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ATTACHMENTS: A - E

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the nominations which have been received for the 2025 Australia Day Awards for the Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

Every year the Council, in association with the *Australia Day Council of South Australia*, invites nominations from the community for the Citizen of the Year, the Young Citizen and the Community Event of the Year Awards, as well as an Award for Active Citizenship, where the person or group are not required to be Australian Citizens.

Promotion of the Awards has been undertaken via the Council's website, social media platforms and through promotional materials located at Council facilities (ie the Norwood Town Hall and Libraries) and by the Australia Day Council of South Australia.

The Council has received four (4) nominations for the 2025 Australia Day Awards.

RELEVANT POLICIES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The relevant Outcomes and Objectives in City Plan 2030 are:

*Outcome 1 Social Equity
Objective 1.3. An engaged and participating community.*

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

EXTERNAL ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL ISSUES

The Australia Day Awards provide recognition to the City's citizens and groups who have given freely of their time, efforts and abilities to promote the well-being of the community. The Awards also provide a means of celebration of the achievements of the nominee's and to enhance the Council's Australia Day celebrations.

CULTURAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RESOURCE ISSUES

Not Applicable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATION

- **Elected Members**

Elected Members were advised of the opening of nominations via a memorandum dated 26 July 2024 and via email on 11 October 2024 from the Council's Events Coordinator.

- **Community**

Not Applicable.

- **Staff**

Not Applicable.

- **Other Agencies**

Not Applicable

DISCUSSION

The Australia Day Awards are presented annually to local citizens who are considered to have made outstanding contributions to the South Australian community.

A list of all local Australia Day Award winners since 1999 has been prepared for the Council's information and a copy of this document is contained within **Attachment A**.

The Council has received one (1) nomination for the *2025 Young Citizen of the Year Award*:

- Mr Ethan Jiunn-Yow Chen (**Attachment B**)

The Council has received one (1) nomination for the *2025 Active Citizenship*:

- Mr Thomas Marlin (**Attachment C**)

The Council has received two (2) nomination for the *2024 Community Event of the Year*:

- Cheeky Grin Coffee Longest Table (**Attachment D**); and
- Donne Divine - In cammino con Dante (**Attachment E**)

The Council did not receive any nominations for the Award for Citizen of the Year.

There is no requirement or obligation on the Council to confer an Award if nominations are not worthy of an Award, however the selection criteria differs for each category.

Award Criteria

The selection criteria for the *Citizen* and *Young Citizen of the Year* when considering an application is as follows:

- to be eligible, the person must be an Australian citizen;
- to be eligible, the person must be an Australian citizen under 30 years of age on January 26, 2023;
- the significance of the contribution to the community;
- an inspirational role model for the Australian community; and
- the scope of impact the individual's contribution has on the local government area.

Other factors to be considered include:

- personal, academic and professional achievements;
- demonstrated leadership, innovation and creativity;
- degree of difficulty and sacrifices made; and
- nature and length of activity or service.

The criteria when considering an application for *Community Event of the Year* is set out below:

- Who was the event for, what was its objective and did the event achieve these objectives?
- How many people attended or benefited from the community event?
- What impact did it have on the group/audience for whom it was held?
- Did the event have any other positive impacts for the community that it did not necessarily aim to achieve?
- Did the event receive any positive commendations from members of the community?
- Was there an environmental advantage?
- How was the event funded? Was it a not-for-profit event or was it planned to have a financial advantage?
- Did the organiser or organising body, work alone or as a team?
- Did the event involve broad community participation? And
- To be eligible, the person or group must be Australian Citizens.

The selection criteria for *Award for Active Citizenship* is set out below:

- The person or group has demonstrated leadership in and for the community;
- The person or groups involvement in the community; and
- The scope of impact the person or groups work has on the community.

Please note: The person or group need not be Australian Citizens.

OPTIONS

Option One

The Council can confer the Award to the nominee, who the Council determines as meeting the criteria as set out by the Australia Day Council of South Australia.

Option Two

The Council can determine not to confer Awards as part of the 2024 Australia Day celebrations.

CONCLUSION

It is important to note that the Council does not have to confer Awards if the Council is not convinced that the nominations meet the criteria.

The Council's Australia Day celebrations will still feature a Citizenship Ceremony and therefore the event can proceed as planned, albeit without the Awards component.

COMMENTS

To assist the Council, a model recommendation for Recommendation 2 is set out below.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present, be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

(o) information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award;

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

RECOMMENDATION 2

1. That be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2025 Active Citizen of the Year Award.
2. That be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2025 Young Citizen of the Year Award.
3. That be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2025 Community Event of the Year Award.
4. That the successful Award recipient and their family and friends be invited to accept the Australia Day Award at the Council's Australia Day Event to be held on 26 January 2025.

Or

That the Council determines not to grant an award under any or one of the categories as part of the 2025 Australia Day Celebrations.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that the report, discussion, and minutes be kept confidential until 26 January 2025.

Cr Clutterham left the meeting at 8.10pm.

Cr Granozio moved:

That pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the public, with the exception of the Council staff present [Chief Executive Officer, General Manager, Urban Planning & Environment, General Manager, Infrastructure & Major Projects, General Manager, Community Development, General Manager, Governance & Civic Affairs, Manager, Governance and Governance Officer], be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the Council will receive, discuss and consider:

(o) information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award;

and the Council is satisfied that, the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the receipt/discussion/consideration of the information confidential.

Seconded by Callisto and carried unanimously.

Cr Clutterham returned to meeting at 8.11pm

Cr Callisto moved:

That Mr Thomas Marlin be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2025 Active Citizen of the Year Award.

Seconded by Cr Granozio and carried unanimously.

Cr Piggott moved:

That Mr Ethan Jiunn-Yow Chen be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2025 Young Citizen of the Year Award.

Seconded by Cr Moorhouse and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bria declared a general conflict of interest in respect to the 2025 *Community Event of the Year Award*, as Mr Iannace allowed Mayor Bria to place advertising material on his property during Mayor Bria's 2022 Local Government Election campaign and left the meeting at 8.14pm.

Appointment of Acting Mayor

At 8.16pm Cr Mex moved:

That Cr Hugh Holfeld be appointed Acting Mayor in respect to consideration of the 2025 Community Event of the Year Award.

Seconded by Cr Robinson and carried unanimously.

Cr Holfeld assumed the Chair.

Cr Mex moved:

That Donne Divine - In cammino con Dante, be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2025 Community Event of the Year Award.

Seconded by Cr Clutterham and lost.

Cr Piggott moved:

Subject to it meeting the criteria as set out by the Australia Day Council of South Australia, that a second 2025 Community Event of the Year Award be awarded to Cheeky Grin Coffee Longest Table.

The motion lapsed for want of a seconder

Cr Robinson moved:

That Cheeky Grin Coffee Longest Table be selected as the successful candidate to receive the 2025 Community Event of the Year Award.

Seconded by Cr Duke and carried.

Mayor Bria returned to the meeting at 8.28pm and resumed the Chair.

Cr Clutterham moved:

That the successful Award recipient and their family and friends be invited to accept the Australia Day Award at the Council's Australia Day Event to be held on 26 January 2025.

Seconded by Cr Robinson and carried unanimously.

Cr Sims moved:

Under Section 91(7) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that the report, discussion, and minutes be kept confidential until 26 January 2025.

Seconded by Cr Knoblauch and carried unanimously.

Released

Attachment A

Confidential

2025 Australia Day Award Nominations

Released

Australia Day Award Recipients

Year	Citizen of the Year	Young Citizen	Active Citizen	Community Event	Commendations
1999	Crystal Young	Josephine Sexton		Argent Uniting Church 150 Anniversary	Nil
2000	Mavis O'Connor	Christopher Hunt		Devitt Avenue Primary School	Ray Curson Daryl Jones Mary McDonald Mary Harford
2001	Enid Berry	Megan Boundy		Journey of Healing: A Service of Reconciliation Parade Area Clergy	Darren Andrews
2002	Rino Grotto	Erin Symons		Nil	Barbara Rogers Peg Richards
2003	Nan Hamra	Jonathon Gill		Nil	Pam Whittle Eileen Williams
2004	Meg Siosstrom Bruce Raymond	Nil		Combined Christmas Endeavours of the Christian Churches	Alby South
2005	Bruce Lee	Mathew Cowdrey Efpraxia Stasi		Nil	Elsie Butler-Nixon

Year	Citizen of the Year	Young Citizen	Active Citizen	Community Event	Commendations
2006	Adrienne Earl	Gemma Weedall		Paynham City Concert Band ANZAC Day Concert	Nil
2007	James Dunk	Scott Murray		Disability Arts Party	Nil
2008	Patrick Byrt	Hayley Prentice		South Australian Miniature Enthusiasts 22 nd Annual Festival	Nil
2009	Kingsley Turner	Riley Ingham		Concert at the Kiln – Organised by Susan Wilson	Nil
2010	George Karatassas	Louise Anne Hutchinson		Nil	Nil
2011	Beth Mylius	Nil		Nil	Nil
2012	Margaret (Peggy) Knoblauch	Stephanie O'Connor		Nil	Nil
2013	Jeff and Jean Baulch	Nil		Nil	Nil
2014	Barry Skinner	Nil		Nil	Nil
2015	Raphael Denis (Ray) Gleeson	Nil		Nil	Nil
2016	Brian Essery	Nil		Nil	Nil
2017	Victor Baltutis	Nil		Hillbilly Hoot Radio Program	Nil
2018	Ian Rohde	Nil		Nil	Nil

Year	Citizen of the Year	Young Citizen	Active Citizen	Community Event	Commendations
2019	Mr Colin Abel	Mr Ryan Sumner-Knowles		Culture of Kensington	Nil
2020	Mr Les Dennis	Nil		Payneham RSL – ANZAC Day Commemoration	Nil
2021	Mr Don Looker	Nil		Nil	Nil
2022	Mr Sudhir Thakur	Nil		Nil	Nil
2023	Mr John Legg	Nil	Mr Andrew Dyson	Nil	Nil
2024	Mr Ravi Hammond	Ms Abbey Wilkinson	Nil	Kensington Residents Association - Kaurna Cultural Ceremony	Nil

Attachment B

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2025 Australia Day Award Nominations

Released

2025 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Mr Ethan Jiunn-Yow Chen

Award Category: Young Citizen of the Year

Name: Ethan Jiunn-Yow Chen

Age: 16

Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen?

Yes

Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

Ethan has made a significant impact on the community by bridging the gap between disadvantaged children and the benefits of sports.

Founded by Ethan, his initiative has raised over \$10,000 and reached 700 families, delivering sports programs to children who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity.

Through sports, Courtside Champs not only promotes physical activity but also fosters a sense of community, teamwork, and resilience in the young participants.

Their efforts have extended beyond just local outreach, as all proceeds and donations go back towards equipment and scholarships to these families, providing them with much-needed relief and support.

This initiative has not only transformed lives locally but has also shown a commitment to global humanitarian efforts, making a lasting difference on multiple fronts.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

Ethan revolutionised service learning in his community by stepping up to various ambassador roles in his community.

He represents the UN Youth SA organisation as a student ambassador, Green Adelaide as the Youth Coastal Ambassador. Garnering over 20 "student-coaches" he pulled players from the South Australia state team to coach in his NGO, he has invested in youth development by creating opportunities for young athletes to give back to their communities.

Through his initiative, Courtside Champs, Ethan has fostered a culture of mentorship and skill development, ensuring that disadvantaged and underrepresented children have access to quality sports coaching and positive role models.

His innovative approach has not only elevated the level of service learning in his community but has also empowered young leaders to take an active role in shaping the future, making a lasting impact on both the players and the broader community.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

Nominated for the South Australian Volunteer Award:

This award acknowledges Ethan's dedication to volunteerism and their impactful service in the community.

UN Youth Global Citizenship Award: Recognizes his efforts in promoting global awareness and social responsibility among young people.

Semi-Finalist for the 7 News Young Achiever Award for Leadership: This recognition highlights Ethan's outstanding leadership and his role in driving positive change within their community.

Headmaster's Academic Scholarship: Awarded for academic excellence, this scholarship further solidifies the nominee's dedication to both their studies and extracurricular contributions.

He has also been named a student-leader for the 18th National Leadership Camp by Burn Bright. Service Learning Symbols '2023.

Referee

Name: David Hankin
Email: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

Academic Tutor

What can the referee comment on?

- Integrity: Discuss the candidate's honesty, ethical standards, and moral principles.
- Leadership: Highlight how the candidate leads by example, inspires others, and takes initiative.
- Resilience: Comment on how the candidate handles challenges and setbacks.
- Humility: Mention the candidate's modesty despite their achievements and how they prioritize the well-being of others.
- Empathy and Compassion: Describe the candidate's ability to understand and care for others, especially in community service.
- Personal Growth: Reflect on the Ethan's growth over time, particularly how he's evolved through challenges or significant experiences.
- Referee's Relationship with the Candidate: Comment on how long and in what capacity I have known the Ethan, offering insight into their personal journey and character development.

Nominator

Name: Jin Li
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Attachment C

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2025 Australia Day Award Nominations

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2025 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Mr Thomas Marlin

Award Category: Award for Active Citizenship

Name: Thomas Marlin

Age: 35

Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes

Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

Thomas is a world class cellist and musician who could be playing in major cities like London or Sydney.

Because it was his own route (and passport to London via Singapore) post covid, he's committed himself to building the musical landscape in Adelaide through the grassroots of our music community.

He's a very busy private teacher who has contributed many pupils to the musical ecosystem, through Adelaide Youth Orchestras and Open Music Academy; he has significantly contributed to the success of St Peter's College Strings in ABODA Festival.

Thomas is a member of Adelaide Baroque- their success is building up more performance and listening opportunities for historically informed practice in SA- and a member of Tarrawatta Trio, which as a member of Chamber Music Adelaide, is currently celebrating the legacy of Miriam Hyde.

Thomas is an active member of the freelance community in SA and in addition, he has formed the top quality Alma Moodie String Quartet with major professional players in Sydney, raising awareness of another historical female figure in Australian musical history.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

He works so hard to deliver the best service to young cellists, to bring music to a new vanguard of young players, and to use classical music to provide for his family.

We are in Australia's UNESCO city of Music, and Thomas demonstrates total dedication to the principals of UNESCO cities of music re spreading awareness of and access to more live music opportunities in the community.

He was the cello tutor for the important Adelaide Baroque Academy and participates in Cello Weekends and concerts at Elder Conservatorium. He contributes his high level, ASO-available cello skills to thrive in an area that sadly has traditionally offered very low quality freelance scene, and in addition to that he has nurtured a loving family life for three children with no salary.

He is a hugely active sports fan for local teams in SA. In UNESCO City of Music's decade 2025, it would send a strong, positive message to publicly highlight the activities of a deserving, freelance musician.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

Thomas' recent recording of Boccherini's famously virtuosic Cello chamber music with Sally Walker, made in the world class North Adelaide Baroque Hall and released on AVIE records, is currently Grammy-nominated.

Thomas has been reviewed with Alma Moodie Quartet across Australia, in effect playing an ambassadorial role for Adelaide

Referee

Name: Robert Nairn

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

Colleague

What can the referee comment on?
Musicianship level, and activity in the community

Nominator

Name: Celia Craig

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Released

Attachment D

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2025 Australia Day Award Nominations

Released

2025 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Cheeky Grin Coffee Longest Table

Award Category: Community Event of the Year

Name: Cheeky Grin Coffee Longest Table

Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? No

Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

Through an amazing fundraising event, \$32,555 was raised for the Hospital Research Foundation Group, with a focus on Australian Breast Cancer Research thanks Stefan Iannace / Cheeky Grin Coffee

Referee

Name: Becky Heffernan

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

Works at The Hospital Research Foundation Group

What can the referee comment on?

The event/ Stefan's Community spirit

Nominator

Name: Rhianna Iannace

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Attachment E

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2025 Australia Day Award Nominations

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2025 Australia Day Award Nominations Nominee - Donne Divine - In cammino con Dante

Award Category: Community Event of the Year

Name: Claudia Sailis

Is the person being nominated an Australian citizen? Yes

Address: [REDACTED]

Reason for nomination - How has the person/organisation contributed to the community?

Claudia Sailis didn't just organize an event, she opened a portal to the Divine Comedy. Her passion for Dante Alighieri and his timeless masterpiece was palpable in every aspect of "Donne Divine".

From the dramatic readings to the insightful discussions, the event transformed a historical text into a living, breathing experience. By sharing the beauty and complexity of Dante's work, Claudia ignited a spark of intellectual curiosity in our community.

Beyond the literary significance, she created a space for connection and shared appreciation. The event brought together people from diverse backgrounds, united by their love for literature and culture.

How has the nominee demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life?

Through "Donne Divine", Claudia Sailis actively engaged our community in a celebration of Italian culture and literature. By bringing Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy to life, she inspired countless individuals and fostered a deeper appreciation for Italian rich heritage.

Thanks to her meticulous planning and execution, she demonstrated a strong sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to enriching our community. "Donne Divine" was more than just an event, it was a catalyst for intellectual discourse, cultural exchange, and community bonding.

By creating a space where people could come together to share ideas, passions, and experiences, Claudia Sailis has truly elevated our community.

How has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere?

"Donne Divine" generated a buzz across Adelaide's cultural landscape, garnering recognition from prestigious institutions and widespread media coverage.

This impactful event sparked the interest of the Dante Alighieri Society of SA and The Fogolar Furlan Cultural Center, while receiving coverage from SBS and Radio Italiana 531.

Additionally, "Donne Divine" secured the patronage of the Consulate of Italy in Adelaide, the University of South Australia, Flinders University, SAATI (South Australian Association of Teachers of Italian), Com.It.Es., and SAIA (South Australian Italian Association).

Referee

Name: Edmondo Palombo

Email: President of the Dante Alighieri Society of SA

Phone: [REDACTED]

What is the referee's relationship to the nominee?

They often work together in cultural/volunteer projects

What can the referee comment on?

Please feel free to reach out to him for some comments about the event and Claudia Sailis' character.

Please note that the Council selected is City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters because the event was held in Felixstow, while Claudia Sailis private address is in the CBD. Please feel free to move this nomination to the relevant Council.

Nominator**Name:** Stefano Tardiola**Email:** [REDACTED]**Address:** [REDACTED]

I give permission for the Australia Day Council of South Australia to submit this nomination to other recognition programs such as the Australian of the Year Awards: Yes

Released