

22 December – For Immediate Release

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Berri Barmera Council has announced their 2023 Australia Day Award recipients for the Berri Barmera Council area. “Again, we have had some excellent nominations this year. We are very fortunate to have so many active people doing great things in our community,” said Mayor Winnall. The Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year and Berri Barmera Council’s “Building a Better Community” award were endorsed at the Special Meeting of Council held on 21 December 2022.

Citizen of the Year was awarded to Glenys Matthews, for her years of service to our community.

For over 45 years, Glenys has made an outstanding contribution to the education of young people. Glenys has worked tirelessly providing students with extra opportunities both in and beyond their in-class education. Aside from her schoolwork, Glenys has organised school camps and trips, community events and fundraisers and applied for extra funding through grants.

As part of her volunteer work, Glenys has assisted in the setting up shop window displays as part of the Barmera Centenary celebrations, assisting in the writing and editing of the Barmera Centenary Book. She has also volunteered and helped run other community events such as the Riverland All Cars Day (2003 to 2015), the Big River Regional Street Road Nationals (2006 and 2012) and the Barmera Centenary Auto Street Party (2021).

Glenys is an advocate for environmental education and has encouraged young people to take an interest in the community as seen when Barmera not only took out the 2017 KESAB Tidy Town Award, but also an Environmental Education Award and the Young Legends Award.

Between 1999 and 2019, each year Glenys has taken a small group of students interstate to the International Kids Technical Kids Conference. This started as the River Health Conference in Mildura but has since grown to a larger international event, allowing students to come together to talk about environmental issues.

Over the past 10 years, Glenys has given Barmera Primary and other primary school students across the Riverland, the opportunity to take part in the Barmera Primary School Environmental Expo. This event was inspired by what Glenys had seen of students running workshops to educate each other at the Kids Teaching Kids event.

Glenys liaises with a range of other community individuals, groups and organisations. In 2017, the students at Barmera Primary School were provided with the opportunity to work with Elizabeth Frankel to publish a picture book supported by the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Glenys has been recognised for her contribution to education and more specifically environmental education, in 2010 received Environmental Education of the Year for Upper Murray.

Glenys' dedication to her work, her passion for environment and volunteering highlights her selfless drive to help others, always going above and beyond to support others.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Kale Karpany. Kale has demonstrated active community spirit through this ability to advocate for, and inspire local aboriginal youth through sporting organisations, community events and school.

His charisma is contagious, he has the ability to put his peers first, show empathy and willingness to develop opportunities for others to succeed.

His leadership has been recognised in school where he has led the Student Leadership Council in 2022 at the Berri Regional Secondary College. During his time, he led various projects including choosing a new mascot, raising over \$10K for Riverland Relay for Life has had the opportunity to meet with the Her Excellency, the Governor of South Australia.

Kale was also an integral part of Riverland SAASATA, being an inspiration to others and a captain of the academy. Kale has been in various coaching, umpiring and volunteer roles in the Riverland Football and Riverland Softball and Baseball. He has represented the community on multiple occasions for regional and state teams.

Kale is an emerging leader, who takes as many opportunities as possible to better the people around him. He was a recipient of the MADEC Leadership Scholarship for his willingness and skills in leadership settings. He was also the winner of the STEM Scholarship to assist him pursue his goals of becoming a Construction Manager. At the SAAST Power Cub, he was awarded the Blooms Chemist Leadership Award. Locally his sporting achievements have been recognised with being named the 2021 NAIDOC Sports Person of the Year.

The Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Riverland Auto Street Party which was held to celebrate 100 years of the automobile in Barmera as part of the towns Centenary Celebrations.

The event was well attended with over 220 vehicles registered and over 2,000 people visiting during the five-hour event. Vehicle owners came from wide and far including Port Lincoln, Eudunda, Morgan, Mount Gambier and Adelaide. There were vintage, classic and modern vehicles on display including cars, trucks and bikes manufactured over the last 100 years.

The event not only exceeded the organisers expectations, but also those of the participants and public. The event was held on the beautiful foreshore of Lake Bonney with live music, food, drink and market stalls plus entertainment for the children. This was a great tourism event for the region, bringing a great economic benefit to Barmera.

This free event, however many spectators provided a gold coin donation which raised \$2,500 on the day for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Berri Barmera Council “**Building a Better Community**” Award has been awarded to Berri Men’s Shed (Berri Church of Christ).

The Berri Community Men’s Shed has been a labour of love with \$150,000 being secured to bring this project to fruition. The shed provides a haven for the men in our community to spend days working on projects, repair items, but most importantly having the opportunity to meet and socialise.

With a membership base of over 100, the facility provides support for health and wellbeing of participants. The collaboration addresses social isolation whilst making friendships.

The Mayor, Elected members and staff congratulate these very worthy recipients and look forward to presenting their Awards at the ceremony in Barmera on Australia Day 26 January 2023. An invitation is extended to all Berri Barmera residents and visitors to enjoy the Australia Day celebrations including free breakfast with the winner’s family and friends.

For media enquiries:

Contact Cathy LeMaistre, Executive Services and Communications Coordinator on 8582 1922, or email clemaistre@bbc.sa.gov.au or the award recipients

For further comment and photo opportunities from the recipients their contact details are as follows:

Citizen of the Year:	Glenys Matthews (0437 819 271)
Young Citizen of the Year:	Kale Karpany (0467 655 034)
Event of the Year:	Riverland Auto Street Party (0419 807 837)
Building a Better Community:	Berri Men Shed (Berri Church of Christ – Minister Clinton Wardle 0419 7836 779)