

MEDIA RELEASE

SA TRUCK AND UTE SHOW AND RIVERLAND WEST VOLUNTEER NAMED MID MURRAY'S AUSTRALIA DAY WINNERS

SA's popular Truck and Ute Festival and a dedicated Riverland West volunteer who has given hours of her time to support businesses, tourism and community safety have been honored in the Mid Murray Council's annual Australia Day awards.

Cadell business owner and volunteer **Angela Lukacs** – who has worked tirelessly to assist in promoting and supporting the local business sector, enhancing local tourism and delivering valuable community safety training – was named the **2023 Mid Murray Council Citizen of the Year**.

As the Chairperson of the Riverland West Chamber of Commerce Angela initiated a Careers Expo for local high school students, and commenced a local business awards program. Through her role with the Cadell Community and Tourist Association, she also contributes to the organisation of key events, and has also delivered free and low-cost first-aid training to many local non-profit, sports and community organisations.

The **Mannum Progress Association** was recognised for its success in organising the popular **2022 SA Truck and Ute Show**, held on 12 June, 2022. The event drew more than 3000 people to Mannum on the June long weekend and continues to be a highly-effective attraction during the traditionally slower winter tourism period. Visitors flocked to Mannum's main street – with local businesses reporting strong trade during the show – and a new audience of travelers were exposed to some of the town's key attractions including river cruises, Mannum's rich riverboat heritage, as well as shopping, dining, recreation and accommodation options to encourage repeat visitation. Funds raised at the event are also reinvested into the Mannum community through support for local service clubs, non-profits, schools and recreational groups.

Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey said each of the award winners and nominees showed significant dedication and commitment to their local communities.

"These awards are a timely reminder of the level of passion, dedication and hard work put in by volunteers across Mid Murray which, and in many cases, these people have been contributing so generously for many years," Mayor Bailey said.

"Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our community. It's their countless hours of service that keep our sports clubs, community organisations and events, health services, emergency services and tourism initiatives going.

"Never has it been more important for us to stop, reflect and show our deep appreciation for these people than now, after our community has endured months of challenges with one of the biggest River Murray floods on record, and as we turn our minds toward the critical work of clean up and recovery.

"On behalf of Council, I congratulate all our Australia Day award winners and nominees. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. I also extend our thanks and deepest gratitude to the many people and organisations who have helped Mid Murray through one of its most difficult times.

"The year ahead will be one of rebuilding – but we are confident that the Mid Murray community will continue to display its strength and resilience as we begin the process of recovery."

Those recognised with Australia Day awards and nominations were:

Citizen of the Year

- **NOMINEE: Joyleen Burton** – As the postmistress at the Tungkillo Post Office, Joyleen goes above and beyond often making mail deliveries in her own time. Through her involvement with the Tungkillo Progress Club, she supports many projects and initiatives that benefit the local community.
- **NOMINEE: Merv Masters** – A regular Mannum Community College volunteer, Merv supports and mentors students and assists with the Breakfast Club. He's highly respected and well liked by students and staff alike. Merv is also a regular volunteer with the Mannum Meals on Wheels.
- **NOMINEE: Susan Grieger** – Susan is an inspiration in the Sedan community, where she is involved in many local groups and initiatives, including the church, Sedan Progress Association, Sedan Cambrai Football Club, CFS and bowls. She has also chronicled the history of Sedan in the local history book, *The Plains Capitol, Sedan*.
- **WINNER: Angela Lukacs** – Angela is a driving force in promoting business and tourism in Cadell. As the Chairperson of the Riverland West Chamber of Commerce she initiated a Careers Expo for local high school students, and commenced a local business awards program. She supports community events run through the Cadell Community and Tourist Association, and delivers vital first-aid training to many local non-profit, sports and community organisations.

Event of the Year

- **NOMINEE: Sounds By The River** – Over 5000 people attended the 2022 Sounds By The River at the Mannum Golf Course. The event was a huge success, providing direct economic benefits to local tourism and accommodation operators, other businesses, and community and service clubs.
- **NOMINEE: Sedan 150th Celebrations** – A community-led celebration of Sedan's rich 150-year history with the launch of a new local history book. Organised by the Sedan Progress Association, Sedan Recreation Park and Sedan Lutheran Church, the book launch attracted 250 people, with 500 copies already sold and a second print run being considered.
- **WINNER: SA Truck and Ute Show** – A popular annual feature on the Mid Murray events calendar, the 2022 show attracted a crowd of over 3000 people during the traditionally quieter winter tourism period. Money raised will be used to support Mannum community initiatives.

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