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2017 Kangaroo Island Citizen of the Year Awards

Kangaroo Island Council is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 Citizen of the Year Awards.

Mayor Peter Clements said, "Australia Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contribution of some of our Island's most outstanding citizens and the exceptional rewards they bring us as a Community.

"The leadership demonstrated by this year's group of Award winners has been second to none. Our winners have excelled in a broad spread of areas from agriculture to the arts, and road safety to science.

"I congratulate them all".

They are:

2017 Citizen of the Year – Rodney Bell

2017 Exemplary Service to the Community - Sue Florance

2017 Project of the Year– Sixteen Legs: Enter the Cave Exhibition

2017 Event of the Year – KI Players "Blithe Spirit"

Rodney Bell: Sheep and grain farmer Rodney Bell has been a tremendous contributor to the Kangaroo Island Community for decades and is well recognized for his proactive community thinking. His forward vision for business and the people of Kangaroo Island is reflected in his years of personal commitment to a number of organisations that are the cornerstone of the Island's community and business life.

He was part of the group to start the Wisanger CFS, and the Shearing Shed group (a forerunner to Business KI). He served as chair of the State Government Agriculture Advisory Group, the KI Field Day Group and the KI Road Safety Group among others. His efforts have also included board memberships on KIPG Grain Group, NRM and Agriculture KI and numerous committee and association memberships and associations such as KI Prime Lamb Group and Advance Kingscote Progress Association.

Sue Florance: Sue has been the driving force for road safety on Kangaroo Island both as a committee member and secretary of KI Road Safety Committee. As a passionate advocate for improvement and change in a community that needs safe roads, Sue's energetic and determined attitude has meant that road trauma on KI has been reduced. She has spent countless volunteer hours on issues that affect

the community, without self-interest, and has promoted projects such as Drive on the Left.

Sue is a strong advocate for lowering speed limits at appropriate stretches of road, and helped to achieve that in Parndana and on Island Beach Road. She organised the recent road safety survey, and has organised meetings with Ministers to canvass specific concerns about road safety on Kangaroo Island. Sue is also a member of the Parndana Progress Association and has dedicated many hours to supporting the community through her involvement with the PPA.

Sixteen Legs: Enter the Cave Exhibition was an outstanding project brought to the Island by the enthusiasm, passion and persistent efforts of Katrina Wills. Unlike anything the Island has ever seen before, this professional travelling exhibition from Tasmania showcased cave spiders, cave biology and the science behind what makes this unique Tasmanian environment work. The exhibition is the result of a 25 year science research project. Worth over \$75,000, the month-long exhibition transformed the Parndana Town Hall into a cave with spiders the size of trucks hanging from the ceiling. Sixteen Legs attracted broad community sponsorship and support, and was visited by 1,200 people. Penneshaw students also had their artwork exhibited as part of the exhibition. Their works have become a permanent part of the exhibition and are now on display in the Australian Museum in Sydney. Getting the exhibition to Kangaroo Island before appearing in Sydney was nothing short of a coup.

Kangaroo Island theatre group KI Players works tirelessly each year to bring a dynamic, live theatre performance to the local community. This year's play "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward was a knockout, and ran for an extended season over three weekends in June and July, including nine performances. The costumes, set and special effects offered a new aspect of theatre for Kangaroo Island. The play was a sellout and received terrific reviews. This year's event took six months of tireless preparation by the actors, set builders, stage managers and other helpers who together brought us this special high quality event.

Mayor Peter Clements also announced the successful recipients of the Kangaroo Island Council 2017 Community Partnerships Grant Program to enable the following projects. They are:

- Parndana Soldier Settlement Museum: blinds for light reduction
- Advance Kingscote Progress Association: signage for exercise equipment
- Reclink Australia: three day youth sports event



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- Artists Collective KI: computer upgrade
- Dudley Writer's Group: weekend masterclass
- American River Progress Association: shed at The Shed
- National Trust SA: upgrade access to courtyard display buildings
- KI Pioneers Association: restoration of Reeves Point interpretive signs
- Parndana Sports Club: lawnmower
- KI Basketball Association: automatic court cleaner
- KI/Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch: placement of static hydrophones

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