

Carrickalinga Dark Sky Community An Unlikely Story!

Dr Sheryn Pitman
Dark Sky Project
Carrickalinga Community Association

Welcome!
Carrickalinga

  #fleuriecoast

Image: The Backyard Universe



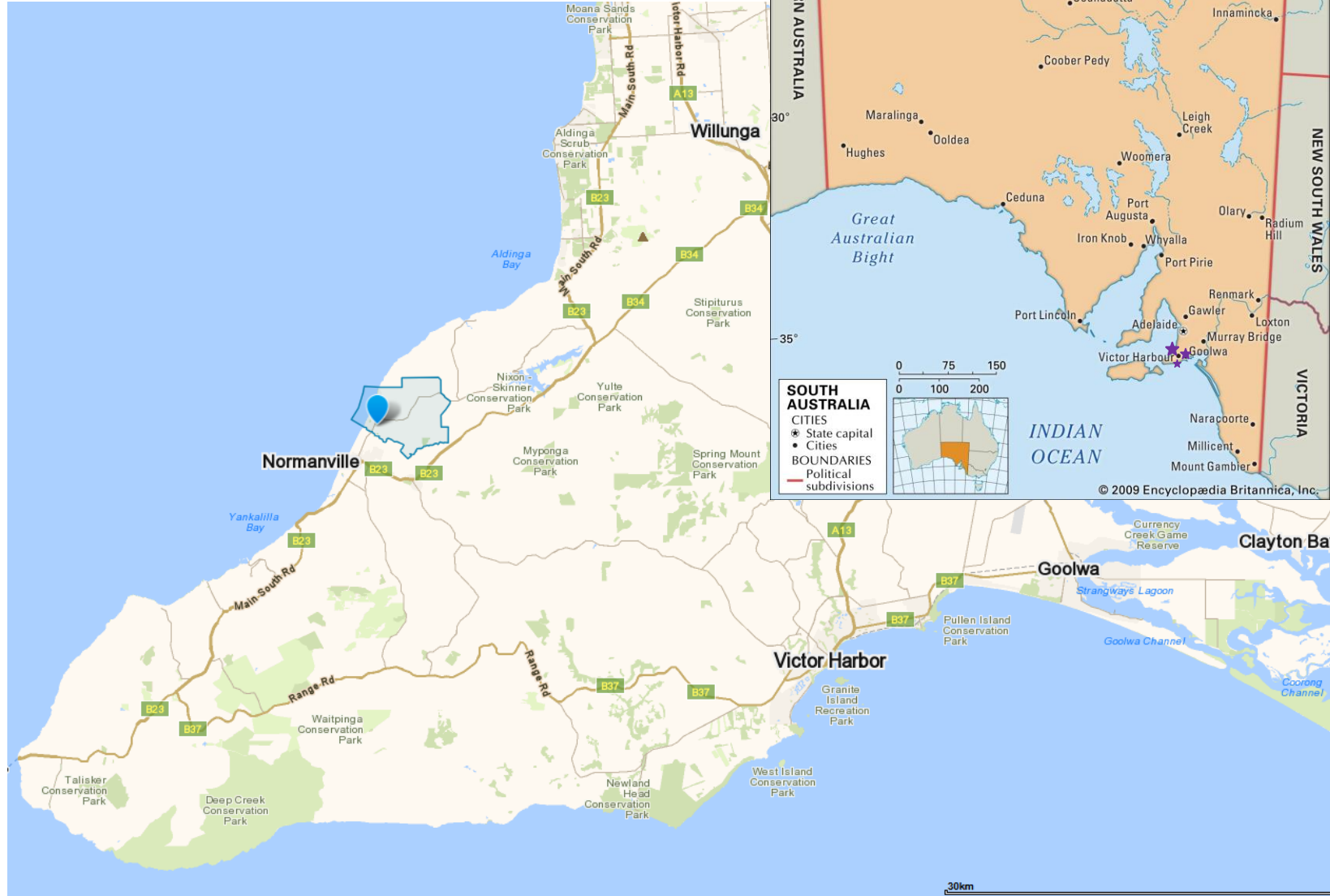
RACK PLAN 1105

DC YANKALILLA

Local Government Township Boundary

TOWNSHIP OF CARRICKALINGA

- Legend**
- Carrickalinga Town Boundary
 - Parcel Boundaries
 - Suburb
 - Hundred



30km

Yankalilla Star

SEPTEMBER 2022
CARRICKALINGA BIDS TO BE A DARK SKY COMMUNITY

Thursday July 7, 2022

JUSTICE FOR PUP Page 3

MEDICAL CENTRE FLATLINES Page 3

School holiday giveaway

The Milky Way as seen from Carrickalinga, Carrickalinga, and Council member of Carrickalinga, Matt Welch (Picture: The Redwood Reserve)

Dark Sky bid shines bright

A community push comes to fruition, Carrickalinga could become an International Dark Sky Community. The effort led by the Carrickalinga Ratslayers Association, aims to limit the amount of light pollution in the area.

A reduction in the impact light pollution can have on people, animals, and the whole environment, all while allowing us to enjoy the stunning night sky. Carrickalinga is a small town with a big heart and we are proud to be a part of the Dark Sky bid.

Portrait of a singer: Margie Russell

International bid: Carrickalinga to be Australia's first Dark Sky Community?

Final days: Normanville Kiosk & Café

140th Yankalilla Show October 1

Foreshore Community Survey

Fleurbaey Environment Centre

Live Music & Entertainment

Locals Markets

2022 Council Elections

Pretty Fishes of Yankalilla Bay

Yankalilla REGIONAL NEWS

1ST TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2022
CIRCULATION 5000+ | FREE MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2022

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50 YEARS OF THE WORD ACROSS THE GULF ESTABLISHED 1970

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Dark Skies concept gains traction

by Matt Welch Carrickalinga

The Times Thursday 22nd December 2022 12:02 PM
Page 8 | Section: NEWS
Room on the page

Carrickalinga looking to become Australia's first Dark Sky Community

REGIONAL NEWS

The Carrickalinga Ratslayers Association is pushing ahead with an application for the town to become Australia's first Dark Sky Community after gaining support from the Yankalilla District Council.

Kathleen Budge
Support our work
Don't have an account?
Free trial available

The association and council are working together in order to adopt a Dark Sky Lighting Policy which is required in order to progress the application to become a globally recognised accreditation.

Professor Chris Daniels, a geographer and resident of Carrickalinga, is one of the community's strong advocates for Carrickalinga to become a Dark Sky Community.

"We have this issue now where big cities produce a huge amount of light," he said.

"They produce a dull glow which actually hides our view of the stars, and this is a really big issue because our kids are growing up without seeing stars."

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"We have this issue now where big cities produce a huge amount of light," he said.

"They produce a dull glow which actually hides our view of the stars, and this is a really big issue because our kids are growing up without seeing stars."

Dark Sky Lighting Policy - Carrickalinga

The Carrickalinga Ratslayers Association is progressing an application for Carrickalinga to become Australia's first Dark Sky Community. In order to progress the application, it requires Council to adopt a Dark Sky Lighting Policy. The Carrickalinga Ratslayers Association and Council are working together, and we invite you to share your views on the draft Dark Sky Lighting Policy.

What is a Dark Sky?

A Dark Sky is a natural night sky unaffected by light pollution.

What are the Dark Skies movement?

It is an international community to protect the night skies for present and future generations. For over two decades, the International Dark Sky Association has managed the award-winning International Dark Sky Places Program.

What is smart lighting?

Lighting is 'smart' when appropriate for the task, and refers to when, where and the amount of light produced. This is better termed 'smart lighting design' where the need, the timing and the minimum requirements for light are assessed.

Smart lighting means that we:

- Use targeted lighting - light only when and where we need
- Use shielded lights and direct them downward, avoiding light trespass
- Use energy efficient bulbs that are no brighter than necessary
- Use warm white or amber-coloured bulbs
- Use controls such as motion sensors and dimmers

Is smart lighting safe?

It is an urban myth that more light is safer. In fact, research finds that well-designed lighting is safer. Carefully targeted and uniform lighting are critical elements of night-time safety. Bright and glaring lights are shown to distract from safety.

"Dark sky does not mean 'dark ground'. Smart lighting means you can have a dark sky without losing light on the ground."

The Draft Policy

The Draft Dark Sky Lighting Policy is based on the requirements of the International Dark Sky Community Guidelines. This policy shall apply to the Designated Area of Carrickalinga (excluding areas through the Carrickalinga

Why become a Dark Sky Community?
There are human health, ecological health and economic benefits to protecting the natural night sky.

The human health benefits are many, ranging from better sleep to physical and mental well-being. Plants and animals, and indeed whole ecosystems, have evolved with the natural daylight cycles and to keeping this as natural as possible is of great benefit for wildlife, and essential for the survival of many species.

Economic benefits are also very clear, with energy savings translating directly into monetary savings. This also helps with mitigation of climate change by reducing energy production emissions into the atmosphere. Investment in the future of dark skies is valuable for many reasons.

Why Carrickalinga?
The "Make by Nature" Festival Cost Community of Carrickalinga has only 18 streetslights. The upgrade of these lights can be achieved for little cost and effort, and the Carrickalinga Ratslayers Association who are driving this project will be responsible for all activities required to receive a Dark Sky Community accreditation, including the cost of light sensors and working with Council on the development of a Dark Sky Lighting Policy.

Carrickalinga could then become the first Dark Sky Community in Australia.

This initiative of the Carrickalinga Rate Payers Association aims to reduce light pollution, improve human and environmental health, and reduce energy and energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to residents and visitors who can enjoy the night sky into the future. Stargazing brings joy and wonder to all of us. Different ways and the stary skies of the Fleurbaey Peninsula are precious.

Typical Outdoor Lighting
Optimal Outdoor Lighting

Battle Scale 1 - Excellent - 3 - City Sky

The Policy aims to minimize the light pollution and promote the use of smart lighting policy by having the Council consider formally adopting the policy.

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You can find the full policy, more information and complete the online survey at: www.draft-darksky.com.au
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1 Charles Street, Yankalilla SA 5203 ☎ 08 8558 0200
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Carrickalinga Dark Sky Consultation

News & Events

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The Carrickalinga Ratepayers Association are progressing an application for Carrickalinga to become Australia's first Dark Sky Community.

Latest News

Published 10th November 2022

Carrickalinga Dark Sky Consultation



The Carrickalinga Ratepayers Association are progressing an application for Carrickalinga to become Australia's first Dark Sky Community.

In order to progress the application, it requires Council to adopt a [Dark Sky Lighting Policy](#).

The Carrickalinga Ratepayers Association and Council are working together, and we invite you to watch the [video of Professor Chris Daniels explaining the initiative](#), read the [FAQ's](#), view the [draft Dark Sky Lighting Policy](#) and provide your feedback via on [survey](#).

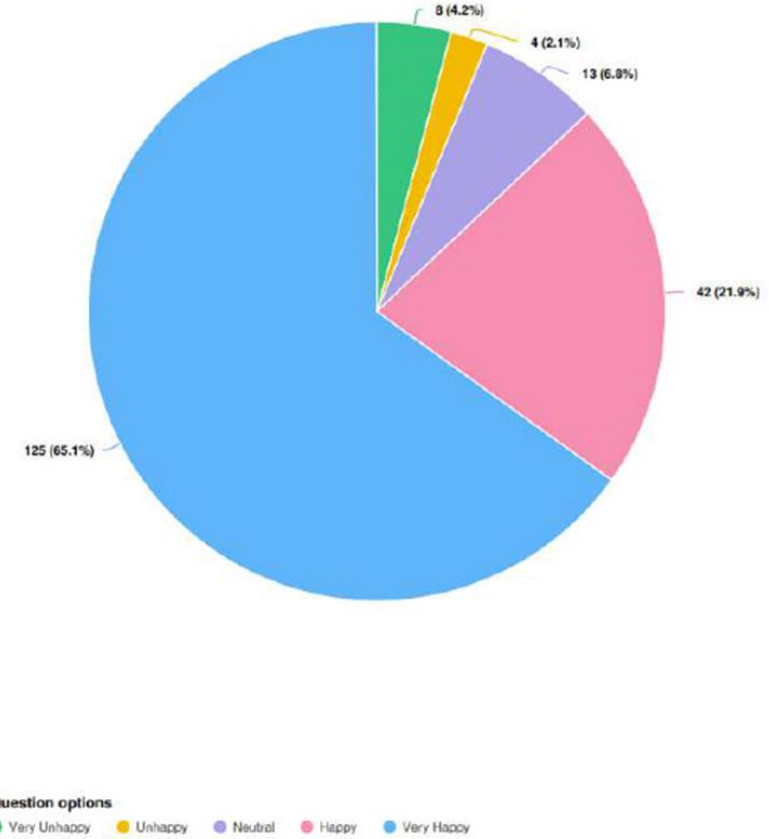
The "Made by Nature" Fleurieu Coast community of Carrickalinga has only 38 streetlights. The upgrade of these lights can be achieved for little cost and effort and the Carrickalinga Ratepayers Association who are driving this proposal and will be responsible for all activities required to receive a Dark Skies Communities Accreditation, including the cost of light shields, and working with Council on the development of a Dark Sky Lighting Policy.

Carrickalinga could then become the first Dark Sky Community in Australia. With less than forty such 'communities' in the world at this stage, this would be a great accomplishment indeed.

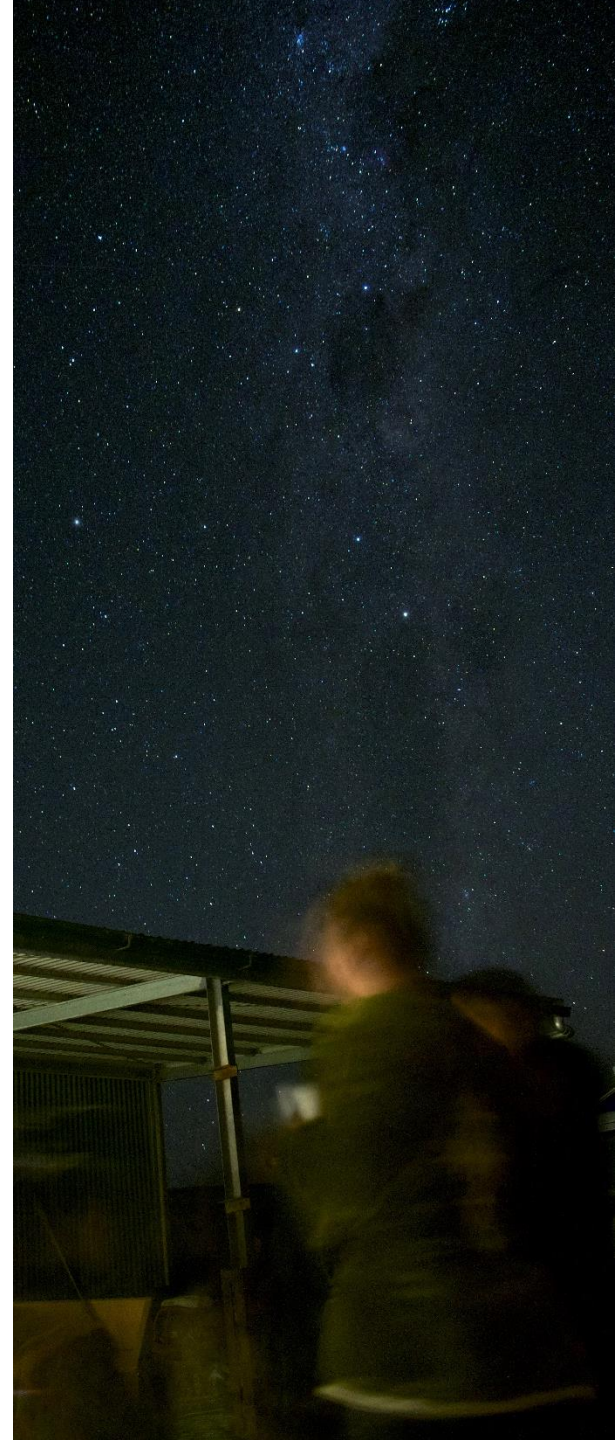
This initiative of the Carrickalinga Rate Payers Association aims to reduce light pollution, improve human and environmental health, and save both money and energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, so residents and visitors alike can enjoy the night skies into the future. Stargazing brings joy and wonder to all of us in different ways and the starry skies of the Fleurieu Peninsula are precious.

Visit the Your Say page [here](#)

How satisfied are you with the Draft Dark Sky Lighting Policy for Carrickalinga?



Over 85% of respondents were happy or very happy with the draft Dark Sky Lighting Policy.



Dark Sky green lit

DANI BROWN

The first certified Dark Sky Community in all of Australia is the Fleurieu Peninsula's own coastal town of Carrickalinga.

After three years of hard work by dedicated locals, Carrickalinga has been granted the certification by DarkSky International.

According to DarkSky International, a Dark Sky Community is a town, city, municipality, or other legally-organised community that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of a quality outdoor

lighting ordinance, dark sky education, and citizen support of dark skies.

Dark Sky Communities excel in their efforts to promote responsible lighting and dark sky stewardship, and set good examples for surrounding communities.

The Carrickalinga Ratepayers Association (CRA) has led the way in Carrickalinga's bid to become a Dark Sky Community and has collaborated with the District Council of Yankalilla to educate fellow locals, create a new lighting policy, and prepare a public lighting design compliant both with DarkSky and Australian

Standards.

Resident, environmentalist, and educator Sheryn Pitman has spearheaded the project since 2021, with the aim of addressing light pollution and protecting the "magnificence of the night sky".

She said achieving this accreditation filled her with hope that the amount of unwanted, inappropriate, or excessive artificial light at night could be cut back globally.

"In a world of diminishing dark and starry skies, we are thrilled to have achieved this certification for a beautiful place we hold close to

our hearts," Dr Pitman said.

"For over 50 years I've viewed the night skies of Carrickalinga with amazement and wonder, and they've played a key role in helping me gain perspective on the unique value of our planet and my place on it.

"The Carrickalinga community hopes to promote this achievement to offer inspiration to the wider community to learn about light pollution and adopt dark-sky friendly lighting practices."

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News

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The Milky Way seen from Carrickalinga North Bay.
PHOTO: AMY GEBHARDT.



The Forktree Project's Tim Jarvis, Adelaide Planetarium Astronomy lecturer Paul Currow, Barika senior man Karl Winds Teller, Carrickalinga Dark Sky Community bid's Sheryn Pitman, Carrickalinga Ratepayers Assoc.'s Amy Gebhardt. PHOTO: DANI BROWN, 022848_07

Carri's Dark Sky bid success

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She said the status would provide the town and wider region with exciting opportunities by putting it on a global map, and showed Carrickalinga was committed to making a difference in the world.

"It means we are actively addressing the issues of our times, of this century, with eyes wide open and can assist other communities to come on board also," she said.

"It means we are ready to take on the challenge of living more wisely, more thoughtfully, more caringly on this precious planet.

When measured scientifically, Carrickalinga's night skies are incredibly dark, despite being about an hour from South Australia's capital city.

Contributing to this is the combination of the Sellicks Hill Range blocking much of Adelaide's artificial light glow and a small number

of streetlights throughout the town.

A range of activities including sky quality monitoring, holding information stalls, presentations to community groups and local government, creating informative flyers and videos, and hosting a Star Party have all been part of the effort to keep light pollution as low as possible.

Ways people can reduce their light pollution include changing the colour of lights from cold (white) to warm (amber) colours, shielding lights so pollution does not spread upwards, strategic and targeted lighting, reducing wattage and improving energy efficiency.

CRA president Amy Gebhardt hopes to protect the night sky at Carrickalinga and, in turn, look after the environment and humans.

"The preservation of our dark skies is vital in protecting First Nations cosmology held within the stars, the health of our wildlife, and the awe that comes in looking up at the night

sky," she said.

"Our community is incredibly proud that within an hour of the city of Adelaide, Carrickalinga will remain one of the greatest places to see the stars."

District Council of Yankalilla mayor Darryl Houston said reaching the Dark Sky Community status was an incredible achievement.

"This amazing recognition follows the conclusion of a three-year process that has resulted in Carrickalinga being the first International Dark Sky Community in Australia," he said.

"I congratulate the hardworking and dedicated Carrickalinga Ratepayers Association who have played the lead role in pursuing this initiative with the full support of council and I am excited to see what is to come with promoting dark skies across southern Australia."

There are different types of Dark Sky status: reserves, communities, islands, and sanctuaries.

Three of those now exist in South Australia - one being Carrickalinga, the Dark Sky Community.

A 3200-square kilometre patch at Swan Reach and surrounds, now known as the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve, became the country's first Dark Sky Reserve in 2019, then 63,000 hectares of conservation land at Arkaroola was officially listed a Dark Sky Sanctuary in 2023.

State Minister for Environment and Water Susan Close appreciated the effort that went into Carrickalinga attaining the certification.

"With the certification of Carrickalinga as a Dark Sky Community, South Australia now leads the way in this country with three Dark Sky Places," she said.

"The vision and commitment of the local community in achieving this milestone is to be commended."



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AWARD | FINALISTS

SPONSORED BY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

FLEURIEU & KANGAROO ISLAND
Carrickalinga becomes Australia's first Dark Sky Community
 Carrickalinga has officially been recognised as the first Dark Sky Community in Australia by DarkSky International.

FLEURIEU & KANGAROO ISLAND
High hopes for big dollar restoration of landmark regional church
 A dedicated congregation says St Andrews Uniting Church is an essential part of Strathalbyn's fabric and they couldn't walk away from the historic building or raising the more than \$1 million needed to restore it.

YORKE & MID NORTH
Wine and wilderness provides a perfect pairing in the Clare Valley
 The final stage of a 100-kilometre walking trail linking the wilderness, food and wine of the Clare Valley has recently opened.

TOP 20 STORIES

FLEURIEU & KANGAROO ISLAND
Surf's up at Aldine approved
 A \$100 million surf park w stay villas has been approved.

LIMESTONE COAST
Robe's historic seas
 The Robe Hotel has unveiled in time to watch the ANZAC

FLEURIEU & KANGAROO ISLAND
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LIMESTONE COAST
End of road for Wattle Range community group
 The Wattle Range Road Safety Group comes to an end after three decades of nurturing a tragic loss into passionate change for the local community.

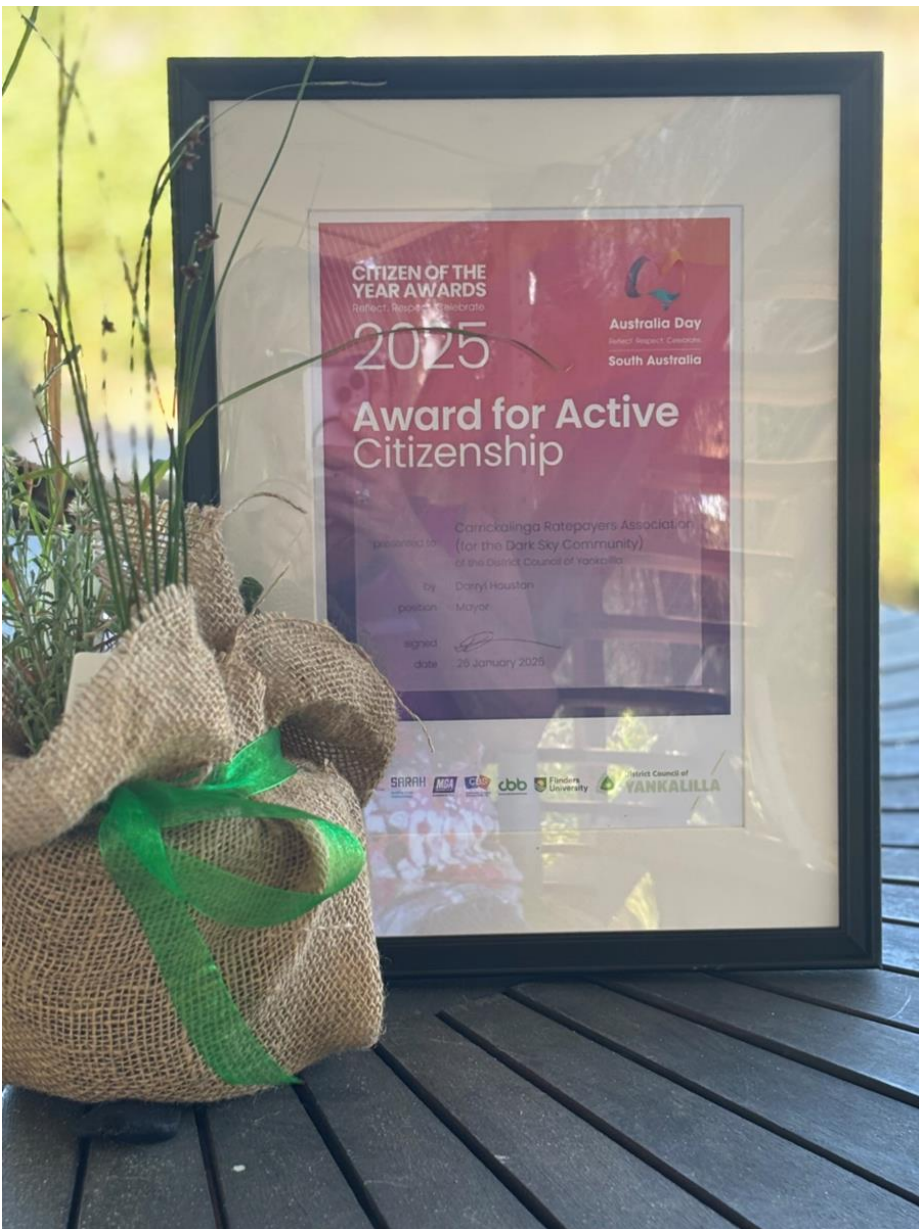
RIVERLAND
Fence fixers lend a hand at flood-hit SA town
 BlazeAid, a volunteer organisation usually associated with helping farmers after fires, is helping the River Murray community of Myponga replace fences destroyed in last year's flood.











News www.fleurieusun.com.au

Awards presented to deserving winners

DANI BROWN

Alongside the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards, the District Council of Yankalilla handed out five more awards on Australia Day.

The Community Event of the Year went to the 'Stargazing Q&A Yankalilla Classic Motor Show, Risklings Ratepayers Association for the Dark Sky Community, and the Mayor's Award was presented to Louise Allerton.

The Shiremen Q&A Yankalilla Classic Motor Show not only brings the community together for a great day out, it boosts local tourism, and uses proceeds to fund community projects.

It is run by volunteers from the Yankalilla and District Lions Club - among those being Peter Fillett and Rosalyn Hoffman, who accepted the award on behalf of the show.

Council chief executive officer, Nathan Cunningham said it was a "highly anticipated annual event and beyond".

"The event brings together car enthusiasts, families, and community members of all ages to celebrate the history and nostalgia of classic cars while making a meaningful difference in the community," he said.

"This commitment to giving back (through funding community projects with the proceeds) not only strengthens the community but also inspires residents and visitors to actively participate in the betterment of their community."

"The event bridges generational gaps as older car enthusiasts share their stories and expertise with younger attendees, creating a sense of connection and shared appreciation."

The Carrickalinga Ratepayers Association's bid for Carrickalinga to become Australia's first International Dark Sky Community was successful in 2024, and this effort was recognized by the council through the awards.

This bid shows commitment to preserving natural night skies and reducing light pollution, and after a three-year campaign by Carrickalinga residents and visitors, they were rewarded with the Dark Sky Community status.

My Cunningham said the association's outstanding accomplishment extended "beyond certification".

"The group continues to champion responsible lighting practices, minimise light pollution, and engage the community in preserving the district's natural night skies for future generations," he said.

"They are also supporting other regional communities, such as Clayton Bay and York Peninsula, in their Dark Sky aspirations."

"Their leadership and dedication serve as an inspiration for other communities across Australia and beyond, exemplifying the spirit of active citizenship and environmental stewardship."

Louise Allerton, recipient of the Mayor's Award, has given long-standing and diverse contributions to the community, dedicating time and energy to enhancing the social fabric of the region by connecting people.

She has served as a former District Council of Yankalilla street member and deputy mayor, the founding president of Normanville Traders, president of Club Fleurieu, and a volunteer with the Yankalilla Area School governing council, Yankalilla Community Children's Centre, and Meals on Wheels.

"Under her leadership, Club Fleurieu has become a cornerstone of social life in the District offering a wide range of activities that encourage participation and foster social connections," Mr Cunningham said.

She also ran Hooked on Books in Normanville, which included a free book club for preschool children to inspire their love of reading while connecting families.

"Through her dedication and hard work, she has enriched the lives of many residents, fostering a sense of belonging and pride in the Yankalilla district," Mr Cunningham said.

The Shiremen Q&A Yankalilla Classic Motor Show won the Community Event of the Year award, Rosalyn Hoffman and Peter Fillett accepted the award from mayor Darryl Houston. (Dani Brown: 455728, 29)



We deeply thank all who have helped us on the journey thus far:

- The local CRA/CCA committee for time, passion and support
 - District Council of Yankalilla for in-kind support
- Dr Sharolyn Anderson for sowing the seed, time and expertise
- Prof. Chris Daniels for presenting the community consultation video
 - Tim Jarvis and Liz Blumer for hosting our Star Party
 - State and local media for publishing support and story-telling
- Everyone who has donated time or resources so far and will do so in the future
 - Dark Sky International and Australian Dark Sky Alliance
- Local astronomer Fraser of The Backyard Universe for images, astronomical education and experiences