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MEDIA RELEASE

Community Spirit shines on International Stage

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Strathalbyn sparkled on the international stage last Saturday for the Santos Tour Down Under southaustralia.com Stage 5 finish. Our magnificent Soldiers Memorial Gardens and town centre were full to the brim with locals and visitors for the race and the Strathalbyn community certainly put on a show.

Saturday's southaustralia.com Stage 5 finish saw some controversy after the Australian sprinter, Caleb Ewan, crossed the finish line to the roar of the crowd. Victory was later handed to the popular Belgian, Jasper Philipsen following a protest. The final stages of the race into Strathalbyn were also action packed, with Patrick Bevn falling in a spectacular crash just 9km from home. Whether it be good sportsmanship or sheer determination on his behalf, the peloton slowed and allowed him to catch up and re-join the leading riders to finish the stage. While the action was taking place on the roads, the roadside colour adorning the streets of Strathalbyn vibrantly highlighted our community spirit. Strathalbyn Tourism Association joined forces with Strathalbyn Garden Club, Strathalbyn Stitchers, Strathalbyn Floral Art Society, Strathalbyn Strikers Soccer Club, Strathalbyn Town Band, Strathalbyn Lions Club, Strathalbyn SES and the many individuals who dedicated hours of time and energy to bring the event and the township of Strathalbyn to the world's attention.

In the lead up, Council staff met regularly with a small, highly motivated group of local Strathalbyn residents to plan for the event. Other community members joined the core group to give ideas and input, all with a genuine desire to make the stage finish a huge success. Compliments aplenty have flowed in to Council's Tourism Coordinator from market stall holders and business owners, visitors and locals.

It was the simple touches - such as the Strathalbyn Town Band playing in the rotunda to the red and white themed decorations that lined the race route - that demonstrated the community and local pride of Strathalbyn.

An enormous thank you from Mayor Keith Parkes, Elected Members and Council staff is broadcast to each and every volunteer that was involved and to the many local community groups who invested hours of time dressing the entire township in red and white.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes is enormously proud and thankful to each and every person

who attended and volunteered on the day.

“It was a true showcase of Strathalbyn’s community spirit. The entire township of Strathalbyn joined together to showcase our region and make this the best Santos Tour Down Under stage finish in history. Strathalbyn is a destination township. A country town full of wonderful people and stunning gardens, which well-deserves to host world class events such as the Santos Tour Down Under,” he said.

A heartfelt congratulation goes to the Nelson’s of Strathalbyn, winners of the Santos Best Private Residence along the route and also to Strathalbyn’s Metal and Stone Jewellers for taking the honours for the Santos Best Commercial Property award.
