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MEDIA RELEASE

Summer and Spokes celebrate award

27 May 2019

It's been a few months since the peloton of the 2019 Santos Tour Down Under buzzed through Strathalbyn, but the organising committee of the acclaimed Summer and Spokes Festival found reason to keep the celebrations alive on 23 May, when they were formally acknowledged for their contribution.

Stephanie Murgatroyd from the South Australian Tourism Association (SATC) met with Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes and the Summer and Spokes Festival Committee to present a \$500 cheque to the Strathalbyn Lakes and Tourist Association in recognition of the town's Bronze place in the Stage 5 Santos Best Dressed Town Award. The presentation also included a framed jersey and certificate.

Stephanie, on behalf of SATC, also presented Alexandrina Council with a certificate of thanks for hosting the stage; and to the town of Strathalbyn, Council gifted a replica winners' trophy, created by local craftsman, James Stewart. The trophy captures the rich pioneering and agricultural history of the Alexandrina region and features an eclectic array of objects found in agriculture, viticulture and farm workshops around the region; including irrigation valves, wine barrel staves, spanners, allen keys, sockets, chuck keys and engine parts.

Strathalbyn sparkled on the world stage on 19 January when Stage 5 of the iconic Santos Tour Down Under culminated in a sprint finish down Dawson Street, past the backdrop of the leafy Soldiers Memorial Gardens. The Summer and Spokes Festival Committee worked with a number of community groups to ensure the town was adorned in red and white, ready to host the hordes of locals and visitors who wanted a piece of the excitement.

Mayor Parkes congratulated the group for their hard work and inclusive approach.

"It was a true showcase of Strathalbyn's community spirit. The entire township joined together to showcase our region and make this the best Santos Tour Down Under stage finish in history. Strathalbyn is a destination township, full of wonderful people and stunning gardens. With the help of the Summer and Spokes Festival Committee, we have proven why we deserve to host these world-class events," he said.

The framed jersey, certificates and replica trophy will be on public display in the Strathalbyn Library from June 2019.