MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteers recognised for 9,000 hours of service to Council

9 November 2026

Alexandrina Council has recognised the contribution of 150 volunteers who have contributed more than 9,000 hours of service to Council programs and services over the past 12 months.

Their efforts were highlighted at Council's recent Volunteer Recognition Event, held at the Strathalbyn Town Hall in Strathalbyn, and attended by Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes, Deputy Mayor Michael Scott, Councillor Craig Maidment and Alexandrina Council CEO Andrew MacDonald.

In our libraries, volunteers have clocked up more than 4,000 hours with around 88 Alexandrina residents able to receive outreach deliveries of library items every month and Local or Family History Room volunteers responding to 378 enquiries.

The event also paid tribute to the late Jim Caspers who was Council's first Goolwa Local or Family History Room volunteer.

Within Council's open space, volunteers gave 574 hours to maintaining and revegetating the Currency Creek Cemetery and Beyond Estate.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to three volunteers, Mandy Decaux, Kathy Gambling and Bronwyn Holdsworth, each recognising 10 years of service to Council.

Mandy Decaux volunteers at the Strathalbyn Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and is known for her passion, professionalism, extensive local knowledge and genuine care for visitors and the VIC team. Mandy goes above and beyond to ensure everything runs smoothly at the VIC, from coordinating rosters and supporting fellow volunteers to keeping the centre looking welcoming and organised.

Kathy Gambling dedicates her time and research skills to assisting members of the public with their local history enquiries through the Strathalbyn Local and Family History Room at Council's Strathalbyn Library and Customer Service Centre. Kathy has also produced several significant local history works, including research into Strathalbyn's business district and a history of Strathalbyn's High Street.

Bronwyn Holdsworth has also made invaluable contributions to Strathalbyn's local history service, creating indexes on Strathalbyn identities and places, organising the careful filing of research materials and assisting members of the public with their research. These behind the scenes tasks are essential in helping researchers and

community members access the wealth of historical information held within the Strathalbyn Local and Family History Room.

“I would like to thank each of the volunteers across our programs who continue to give so generously their time and vast array of skills. We have enjoyed some great achievements in our programs this year,” said Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes.

“This year we presented three awards for 10 years of service and it was a pleasure to acknowledge these volunteers on a personal level.

“The work of our volunteers contributes greatly to the success of Council’s services and program, and we are thankful for their hard work and commitment.

“Council volunteer programs include the Visitor Information Centres at Strathalbyn and Goolwa, the Libraries at Goolwa and Strathalbyn, Centenary Hall and Art Galleries, Open Space and Cemeteries, and our Advance Care Directive support service.

“The efforts of our volunteers have a huge impact on the positive interactions and experiences that residents and visitors have with Council, and Council thanks them sincerely for their valuable service.”

To learn more about how you can volunteer in our community through Alexandrina Council, visit https://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/volunteering



Image: Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes, left, and Alexandrina Council CEO Andrew MacDonald, right, with the recipients of the Certificates of Appreciation for 10 Years of Service - Bronwyn Holdsworth, Kathy Gambling and Mandy Decaux.



Image: At the Volunteer Recognition Event were Goolwa Library volunteers, front from left, Wendy Hay and Mandy Stokes with Goolwa Visitor Information Centre volunteer Elaine Wood, back left, and Strathalbyn Library volunteer Diane Thorpe.



Image: Front from left: Friends of Beyond volunteers Bob Huiskamp, Joel Shayer, and Di Hogg, with Currency Creek Cemetery volunteer Adrian Kemp. Back from left, Lyn Statfold, Ank Huiskamp, Alexandrina Council Technical Officer Parks and Gardens Ian Brett, and Currency Creek Cemetery volunteer Criena Kemp.



Image: Strathalbyn Visitor Information Centre volunteers Cintra Amos, left, Kay Thoroughgood (standing), Denise Commons and Vivien Peglar.



Image: Strathalbyn Visitor Information Centre volunteers Deb Hill, back left, Melina Henningsen and Mandy Decaux (seated).

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