

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Alexandrina Council Heritage Awards

04 June 2021

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Heritage enthusiasts from around the region attended the Tooperang War Memorial Hall on Thursday 27 May for the annual Alexandrina Council Heritage Awards.

Organised by Council's Heritage Advisory Committee, the awards recognise and celebrate the hard work undertaken by residents, businesses and community groups on some of our most iconic heritage properties, along with those who contribute to recognising and researching our region's history and heritage.

The evening began with a special recognition acknowledging Heritage Advisory Committee member, Lorraine Pomery's long standing commitment and contribution to the history and heritage of Port Elliot.

Prior to the awards being presented, guest speaker Peter Cahalan shared his perspective on the benefits of 'heritage tourism.' Peter has a wealth of experience in cultural and heritage tourism through his former roles at the History Trust of South Australia, the South Australian Tourism Commission and Fleurieu Peninsula Tourism.

Award categories and winners included:

- Conservation Practice –Small Scale – John Wilson for his 1857 Cottage on North Parade, Strathalbyn;
- Conservation Practice – Large Scale – Gaetane Zufferey for the National Australia Bank building, Strathalbyn, and Andrew and Livia Smith for Tucker Church, Sandergrove;
- Adaptive Re-use – Edie Bransbury and Paul Heywood-Smith for their barn adaptation at 19 The Strand, Port Elliot;
- Heritage Gardens and Fencing – William Cortissos for his Jeff Street property, Strathalbyn;
- Historic Research – Eastern Fleurieu School, Langhorne Creek Campus ;
- Heritage Tourism – Gilbert's Motor Museum, Strathalbyn.

Commendations were awarded in the categories of Conservation Practice - Small Scale, Conservation Practice - Large Scale and Historic Research. Commendation recipients are recognised for their significant contributions made in preserving and promoting local heritage:

- Conservation Practice Small Scale - Mette-Lene Jensen & Neil MacKinnon for their 1890 Cottage on Watson Street, Milang;
- Conservation Practice Large Scale - Frank Agostino for his Cottages on South Terrace, Strathalbyn;
- Historic Research – Andrew Frost for his research into St. John's Cemetery, Port Elliot.

The evening culminated in the presentation of the inaugural Mayoral Award, which was selected by Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes from the category award recipients. This award went to Andrew and Livia Smith for their restoration of Tucker Church at Sandergrove.

As it was known then, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was built by Charles Martlew over a 3 month period in 1867. Restoration work has been undertaken over the years, however in 2020, Andrew and Livia Smith, with the help of Tim Phillips Builders, undertook a significant restoration project, restoring the western wall render, repairing cracks and repointing the stonework. A new roof and guttering were installed, the wooden doors and windows were remade and painted, and internal repairs and works were undertaken. The impressive belfry was also repaired and finished off with the installation of an archetypal bronze bell.

Council would like to thank the Tooperang War Memorial Hall Committee for hosting the event and providing an enjoyable supper; all nominees and those who nominated them; and the Heritage Advisory Committee for their work in identifying our award recipients.

More information about the Alexandrina Council Heritage Awards can be found at [www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/heritageawards](http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/heritageawards)



*Alexandrina Council Heritage Award winners at the Tooperang Hall last week. Photo: Robert Fairweather*