

Plains' best recognised

LUKE MILLER

A committed Two Wells couple, a passionate young horse rider, a memorial celebration and a project paying tribute to local sporting legends are the latest recipients of Adelaide Plains Council's Australia Day Awards.

The council recently announced the winners of its annual awards, highlighting the work and achievements of many members from what mayor Mark Wasley described as a "proud, spirited and generous community".

"Council received many worthy nominations and acknowledges the significant positive impact every nominee has had on the community in 2023," he said.

"Council members carefully considered all nominations at the ordinary council meeting on December 18 and are now proud to announce the recipients."

Denis and Maria Pellizzari was awarded Citizen of the Year for their dedication, time, and passion that they have given to the Two Wells community for more than 57 years.

From helping to set up the first kindergarten and the Two Wells Community Centre, Denis has also been actively involved with the Two Wells Football and Netball Sporting Club and local Catholic Church for many years.

Maria has also been involved with the club, has been a member of the Two Wells Community Centre Committee, and volunteered with St John's for more than 20 years while raising three children.

The duo said they were pleasantly surprised when they heard they had won the award, as they undertake most of the work they do out of the goodness of their heart and for the love of their community, rather than for recognition, but they were happy to be recognised nonetheless.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Two Wells local Jacob Paul who started as the town's Equestrian and Pony Club's youngest member at just 6 months old, and since then has grown up to become an integral member within it, often assisting his grandfather with its upkeep.

The 18 year old devoted more than 500 volunteer hours to the club while finishing year 12, and when not riding at club rallies Jacob is busy maintaining the grounds, working in the canteen, and encouraging others to volunteer.

His mother, Amy, said people described Jacob as warm, kind, and always committed to helping others, adding she was glad her son - who has down syndrome - was able to find a hobby that brought him joy and purpose at such a young age.

The Dublin War Memorial 20th Anniversary and Remembrance Service, organised by the Dublin History Group, was named Community Event of the Year.

Since the installation of the Dublin War Memorial in 2003, the Dublin History Group has spent countless hours researching past and present defence personnel who lived in the region to ensure their stories are told and remembered.

The 20th anniversary of the memorial was commemorated at the Remembrance Ser-

vice, with more than 50 people attending to pay their respects and connect with others, an event the group's secretary Andrea Brow said was a huge success.

Finally the Two Wells Oval Water Tank Mural, which was recently completed, was named Community Project of the Year.

The Two Wells Football and Netball Sporting Club was commended for finding a creative way to pay homage to local sporting legends, by transforming an unused water tank into a vibrant art installation.

With a grant from Country Arts SA, it engaged local artist Kyle Armstrong to paint images of sporting locals from the town's recent history, and plan to host an official opening in 2024.

Club president Devon Hardiman said he was chuffed the project had been awarded.

Award recipients will be officially presented with their certificates at Council's Australia Day Ceremony at Dublin Oval on January 26.

Hosted by Mayor Wasley, recipients will be officially presented with their Australia Day Citizen of the Year awards and council residents will be conferred as Australian citizens.

Australia Day 2024 Ambassador Vikram Madan - a retired Major General in the Indian Army, chairperson of Multicultural Aged Care Inc and an ambassador for Oz Asia Festival - will attend as the special guest speaker.

BELOW: Members of the Dublin History Group who won Community Event of the Year.



Citizen of the Year joint winners Denis and Maria Pellizzari. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



Recipients of the Community Project of the Year Award Devon Hardiman and Lynette Seccafien.



Young Citizen of the Year Jacob Paul.