CAMPBELLTOWN CITY COUNCIL

Confidential Item

For Council meeting to be held on

Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 7.00 pm

Refer Item 11.17

Confidential Item

11.17 Australia Day Awards 2023

Executive Assistant, Caroline Moeller's Report

Purpose of Report

To consider nominations for the 2023 Australia Day Awards.

Strategic Plan Link

Focus Area 1.1.1 Our Community is our strength

Background

Each year Council selects Award recipients from nominations received from the Community. In previous years the nominations and the decision on the Award winners have been kept confidential in order to enable the winners to be announced at Council's Australia Day event.

Discussion

Citizen of the Year Awards 2023 were launched on 1 October 2022 on the Council Website and through the Events and Activities News. An email dated 1 October 2022 advised Elected Members that the 2023 Australia Day Awards were open.

Council sent emails to Schools, Service Clubs, Sporting Clubs, local organisations and businesses within the Council area, placed information in the Advertiser, the Council website and social media and had nomination forms available online as well as editable PDFs and hard copies in the Council Office, Library and The ARC. Previous winners, nominees and nominators were also contacted and encouraged to nominate individuals for the Awards.

Over the ensuing two months Council promoted the Awards through its website, across various social media channels and accounts, in the eNewsletter, CHSP Newsletter, Council Banners, fliers and reminders from Mayor Whittaker at Council Meetings.

This year Council received seven Nominations in total, one nomination for Citizen of the Year, three nominations for Young Citizen of the Year and three nominations for Senior Citizen of the Year.

After assessing the nominations against the eligibility criteria it has been determined that one did not meet the eligibility criteria. The Nomination for Ms Ebony Merkx (Young Citizen of the Year) was deemed ineligible as she is under the required age of 15.

Attached to this report is a copy of the summary of nominations and a synopsis of the Eligibility Criteria.

The nomination forms were changed after a CEO Briefing Session on Monday 10 May 2021 whereby Members decided to change the section regarding the workshop from compulsory to optional. This year 5 nominators agreed to voluntarily attend the workshop to provide the Elected Members with additional verbal information regarding their nominee.

Social Implications

The Awards process enables Council and the Community to acknowledge the significant contribution that some residents and ratepayers make each year to the Community.

Environmental / Climate Change Implications

There are no environmental / climate change implications in relation to this report.

Asset Management Implications

There are no asset management implications in relation to this report.

Governance / Risk Management

Should Council wish to ensure that the Award winners are kept confidential until being formally announced on Australia Day, Council should invoke the provisions of *Section 90 (2) and 90 (3) (o) of the Local Government Act 1999.*

Community Engagement

Council wrote to Schools, Service Clubs, Sporting Clubs, local organisations and businesses within the Council area, placed information in the Adelaide East Herald, on the Council website, social media and had nomination forms available in the Council Office and Library.

Previous winners, nominees and nominators were also contacted and encouraged to nominate people.

Economic Development Implications

There are no economic development implications in relation to this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

Recommendation

That the:

1. **Citizen of the Year be awarded to ……..**
2. **Young Citizen of the Year be awarded to ……**
3. **Senior Citizen of the Year be awarded to ……**

2023 Nominations
Category – Citizen of the Year

Ms Lisa Miller

Nominee Name	Ms Lisa Miller
Nominee Address	[redacted]
Date of Birth	25 October 1970
Australian Citizen	Yes
Why do I believe the person should be awarded the COTY?	Lisa has been a passionate and dedicated volunteer for over ten years. Her volunteering in sport has enabled countless children to be involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities that they would not have without her selfless contribution of time. During her leadership roles in Governing Council she has worked tirelessly to deliver positive outcomes for parents, students, staff and leadership in administrative, academic and financial areas. She has continued her volunteering at East Marden Primary School for approximately two years after her last child left the school.
How has this person contributed to the local Community?	Lisa has been an active volunteer since mid - 2009 supporting at a classroom level with reading, times tables and LAP support, cooking, camps and excursions, school wide events such as cake stalls, discos and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. She has participated on Governing Council in leadership roles and on a number of sub-committees, and coordinated and coached the Kanga Cricket and school basketball programs for many years.
Describe how their work has been focused on helping others or making the Community a better place?	Lisa's volunteering role has been diverse as listed previously. Many of the volunteering roles she has performed whilst being around her children has also benefited the whole Campbelltown Community. Lisa has been a part of Governing Council committees that have improved the school playgrounds and facilities such as ovals and covered outdoor learning areas. Many Campbelltown Community Members use the school's facilities outside of school hours which provides alternative venues for families to meet and socialise.
Who has benefited the most from the nominee's contribution and/or services (ie community groups, individuals etc)?	Lisa's initial reasons for choosing to be a parent volunteer were to be involved in what her children were learning, to know their peers, to meet other parents and to help support the students and teachers. Her involvement grew quite rapidly from volunteering around her own children, to volunteering on committees and

	volunteering with other children throughout the school in other year levels. East Marden Primary School has a large multicultural Community and through Lisa's volunteering many isolated parents have been given an opportunity to make social connections where previously it may have been more difficult. Through her leadership in committees and sports she has mentored parents from all ethno-cultural backgrounds to develop their confidence to become involved in the school's activities. Lisa's work has supported the school in developing a Community that is supportive of the students and each other and created a sense of belonging and identity within the school and which extends to the wider Community. The main beneficiaries are the students who have been given opportunities from improved school resources and access to extracurricular activities.
Has the person overcome particular challenges, personal sacrifices or adversities to mark their achievement? If yes, how?	Lisa has given freely of her time which has often taken time away from her own family. She has worked tirelessly over a ten year period often on weekends and week nights to complete her roles. During the period after a family member passed away she still maintained her volunteering role as basketball coordinator to ensure that the teams were organised and parents were informed of their child's sporting commitments.
Does the nominee have any other significant community contributions/achievements (ie awards, certificates)?	None known.
Photo included?	Yes 
1st Nominator	Robert Kenyon [redacted]
2nd Nominator	Julie James [redacted]
Attending Workshop	Yes

2023 Nominations
Category – Young Citizen of the Year

Mr Jessie Wagas

Nominee Name	Mr Jessie Wagas
Nominee Address	C/o Charles Campbell College 3 Campbell Road PARADISE SA 5075
Date of Birth	1 January 2005
Australian Citizen	Yes
Why do I believe the person should be awarded the YCOTY?	Jessie Wagas has shown exemplary dedication, focus and strategic intent throughout 2022 as one of two Head Prefects at Charles Campbell College (CCC). Jessie has been a strong voice for student voice and agency, representing the school and student body beyond the gates as a young leader in the wider Community. Jessie's passion for the rights of the child was evident in his ongoing and active participation in the Child Development Council's Charter Ambassador Program. Throughout 2022, Jessie committed himself to moving student voice forwards at CCC. He co-wrote the School's Student Leadership Constitution and has been instrumental in establishing robust protocols and procedures in order to leave an ongoing functional legacy at the School. As the Student Representative on CCC's Governing Council, Jessie provided strong advocacy through a number of presentations and reports. He connected with adults to ensure they understand student perspectives and what mattered to them. He is ambitious, confident, able to reflect on opportunities for growth and development and speaks eloquently to both student peers and adult supporters. As a School, we fully commend Jessie for his tireless work in advocating for young people in our School and in the broader Community.
How has this person contributed to the local Community?	Jessie was a founding member of the Child Development Council's Charter Ambassador Program in 2021 and continued his service outside the school through this initiative in 2022. He was purposeful and highly motivated in this role in order to 'give life' to the Charter for Children and Young People. The program's

	key message is that kids should be safe, happy and well, and that children and young people have a democratic right to be involved in decisions that impact them. Jessie has embodied this purpose with a steadfast belief that children and young people have a right to be heard and to be instrumental in determining their own futures. Beyond the School gates, Jessie has showed leadership among other young leaders by co-founding the ESSSLP (Eastern Secondary Schools Student Leadership Partnership). In this forum, student leaders come together to share our ideas about leadership development and Community planning. Jessie played a key role in collaborating and exploring the diversity in student leadership throughout the Eastern Suburbs. As part of this, Jessie invited peers to our School to share successes and challenges and to reflect on questions they would like to ask each other. He led planning for, and delivery of, the half-day conference with confidence and pride.
Describe how their work has been focused on helping others or making the Community a better place?	Throughout 2022, Jessie has shown a determination to put the College values front and centre in all his dealings with Students, Staff and the Community. The values of Learning, Respect and Excellence have been enshrined in all elements of Jessie's Policy development and when he speaks with stakeholders in the broader School Community. Whenever he presents, he links conversations to these key foundations, never wavering in emphasising their importance. No matter who he deals with, in or out of the School, Jessie continues to reflect continuous improvement principles whilst asking all young people around him to strive to be their best selves. He thinks above and beyond himself through the connections he has made with the Childhood Development Council and other Eastern Schools.
Who has benefited the most from the nominee's contribution and/or services (ie community groups, individuals etc)?	Jessie has left a strong legacy for subsequent student leaders to build on both at our School and at other education sites. His commitment to the role will benefit young leaders directly and the study groups they represent because they have all been provided with a sense of their value and importance in the decision-making systems around them. Around Jessie, children and young people feel empowered to make choices about their own learning, to air concerns about issues that are significant to them, to challenge the status quo, and confidently put their case forward to influence the decisions of adults around them.
Has the person overcome particular challenges, personal sacrifices or adversities to mark their achievement? If yes, how?	Jessie has grown considerably in his Head Prefect role in 2022. He continues to mature as a leader, recognising the need to canvas broadly and collaborate.

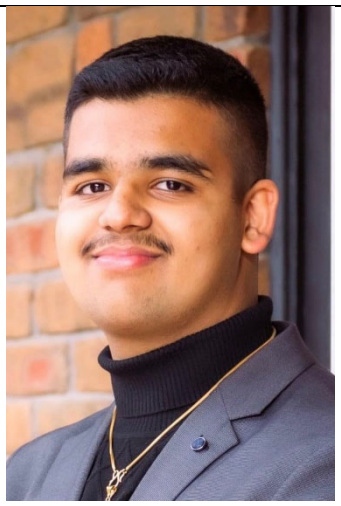
	Some set-backs later in the year prompted Jessie to reflect deeply on his role and leadership style. He emerged from this phase with a keen sense of his role as an agent of change for others. He is a stronger, more balanced and resilient leader having worked through this adversity.
Does the nominee have any other significant community contributions/achievements (ie awards, certificates)?	Jessie is being awarded Rotary's Tillet Award at this Year's CCC Valedictory dinner. This award recognises a student who strives to present their and other's voices to influence and inspire. He is a worthy recipient.
Photo included?	Yes 
1st Nominator	Ms Bobbie Taylor C/O Charles Campbell College 3 Campbell Road PARADISE SA 5075
2nd Nominator	Mr Kevin O'Neil C/O Charles Campbell College 3 Campbell Road PARADISE SA 5075
Attending Workshop	Yes

2023 Nominations
Category – Young Citizen of the Year Cont…

Mr Ravtej Sohal

Nominee Name	Mr Ravtej Sohal
Nominee Address	[redacted]
Date of Birth	27 August 2005
Australian Citizen	Yes
Why do I believe the person should be awarded the YCOTY?	Ravtej Sohal has served his Community for the past eight years. From a young age, he has actively contributed to his local Community. He has stellar records of leadership and dedication at two national organisations. At St John Ambulance Australian, Ravtej administered first aid at local Community events and taught his peers and juniors during training nights. At the Air Force Cadets, Ravtej is either in the classroom teaching cadets or instructing them out on the parade ground. He also leads sections of fellow Cadets out in the bush to plan and execute survival missions. Ravtej is preparing to be an Aviation Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force. His dedication to the Community is commendable, and he deserves recognition for his service. Ravtej should be awarded Campbelltown City Council's Young Citizen of the year for 2023.
How has this person contributed to the local Community?	From a young age, Ravtej has served his Community. Aged 9, Ravtej joined the St John Ambulance Campbelltown Cadet Division, where he volunteered for five years. While there, Ravtej attended several Community events and administered first aid where necessary. Ravtej also became the primary drill instructor at the Division two years after joining and instilled discipline and teamwork in his peers. Ravtej joined the Australian Air Force Cadets in 2018, where he currently holds the rank of Cadet Sergeant. He is also the Cadet Safety Representative, which involves advocating for a safe environment for his subordinates. Ravtej's current commitment to the Air Force Cadets also consists of attending the Australian Defence Force Academy after completing year 12, where he will be trained as a pilot while attaining his Bachelor's degree.
Describe how their work has been focused on helping others or making the Community a better place?	Ravtej's work in both organisations involved service to the Community. At St John Ambulance Australia, Ravtej volunteered at local Community events such as the

	local soccer games, Moonlight Markets, Movies at the Park and local fairs, where he was part of a team that provided first aid to participants. At the Air Force Cadets, Ravtej leads, instructs and empowers young people to become disciplined, resilient and confident in their pursuit of an Australian military career.
Who has benefited the most from the nominee's contribution and/or services (ie community groups, individuals etc)?	Ravtej's contribution to the Community has benefited young people. He has helped shape young individuals who aim to make a difference in the Community. First, at St John Ambulance, Ravtej taught first aid to the junior group. He also started teaching Drill to the Division, from which many members benefitted. Ravtej has encouraged several of his peers in his school to join the Australian Air Force Cadets. Most of those students are now preparing for a career in the Australian Defence Force. As a Cadet Sergeant, Ravtej teaches most subjects such as Aviation, Drill, RAAF History and Field craft. Ravtej has organised Anzac Day and Remembrance Day activities at his school and involved his peers in conducting ceremonial Drill for these occasions.
Has the person overcome particular challenges, personal sacrifices or adversities to mark their achievement? If yes, how?	Ravtej has had to balance his studies with his volunteer commitments. Ravtej volunteered 3-4 days a week at his busiest, including weekends. This involved missing out on social events if he was required urgently at either organisation. Ravtej also needed to accept the significant responsibility of leading several cadets at the Squadron. This involves ensuring their safety and well-being. While some cadets might be older than Ravtej, he has been given this responsibility due to his experience and skill set. While applying for the Australian Defence Force Academy, Ravtej completed year 12 Electronics in year 11, where his project was the best in class- a working model of the F-117 Nighthawk.
Does the nominee have any other significant community contributions/achievements (ie awards, certificates)?	Ravtej held the Campbelltown Cadet Division's Officer's Trophy in 2019. He has also been awarded most improved cadet in his first year as a recruit in the Air Force Cadets in 2019. Ravtej was also awarded the five year service pin from St John Ambulance Australia at Government House in 2021. Ravtej is also a qualified marksman having achieved a .22 rifle badge.
Photo included?	Yes

	
1st Nominator	Hon John Gardner MP 163 St Bernards Road ROSTREVOR SA 5073
2nd Nominator	Disha Matharu [redacted]
Attending Workshop	TBC

2023 Nominations
Category – Senior Citizen of the Year

Ms Lena Reitano

Nominee Name	Ms Elena 'Lena' Reitano
Nominee Address	[redacted]
Date of Birth	4 February 1944
Australian Citizen	Yes
Why do I believe the person should be awarded the SCOTY?	Lena would be a worthy winner of the 2023 Campbelltown Senior Citizen of the Year Award as Secretary of the Campbelltown over 50's Fun Club. Lena has never been front of stage but actually is the steering person of this group with over 60 Members. She is the first to arrive every Wednesday morning and the last to leave. She is the one to organise everything from the welcoming group to the setting up of beverages. She encourages the accepting attitude at the group, including people from all walks of life and many different nationalities. She is the one to step in when there is a short number for making a group of card players or with board games. She is the one to make sure everyone has a place and feels welcome. Special events are organised like the Melbourne Cup at Mannum, Mother and Father's Day luncheons, bus trips to the Cinema at Gawler and to places of interest. Lena is the steering person behind all these events. She is the last to drive away from the bus making sure everyone is going to get home safe. During the last two years she organised phone rounds to let folk know what was happening and with her guidance we were able to get back to the club as soon as we could safely do so. Good on you Lena.
How has this person contributed to the local Community?	This Club gives many elderly (including my 94 year old mother) that wonderful social interaction essential as you age. Playing games with others helps to keep your mind active as well. Keeping up to date with all the gossip and happenings of the week is essential. The trip to Carrick Hill that Lena organised was enjoyed by all with a wonderful morning tea and tour of the home. This trip led to the sharing of so many memories. It is wonderful hearing stories from people's childhoods

	from all over the world. Some have seen war and conflict.
Describe how their work has been focused on helping others or making the Community a better place?	Many at the Club have lost their husbands or wives and even endured the passing of children and these become shared experiences. Some who have lost their partners see going back to Club as a real decision in stepping back into life again. Lena attends funerals of folk who have passed away and makes sure to let everyone know at the Club how things have gone. The bravery of seniors is often overlooked but not here.
Who has benefited the most from the nominee's contribution and/or services (ie community groups, individuals etc)?	No response provided.
Has the person overcome particular challenges, personal sacrifices or adversities to mark their achievement? If yes, how?	Lena has a busy life besides what she does at the club with a family of 5 children and 7 grandchildren. She walks every day as she battles with arthritis and this helps to keep her fit. A family luncheon every Sunday is prepared for 20 family members.
Does the nominee have any other significant community contributions/achievements (ie awards, certificates)?	Lena is a member of University of the Third Age (U3A) where she studies history and participates in craft and chat sessions. Club members would be delighted to see Lena acknowledged for all her hard work on our behalf.
Photo included?	Yes 
1st Nominator	Ms Jeanette Dallwitz [redacted]
2nd Nominator	Ms Kathy Bell [redacted]
[redacted]	

[redacted]

2023 Nominations
Category – Senior Citizen of the Year Cont…

Ms Elizabeth Gagliardi

Nominee Name	Ms Elizabeth Gagliardi
Nominee Address	[redacted]
Date of Birth	1 June 1953
Australian Citizen	Yes
Why do I believe the person should be awarded the SCOTY?	Elizabeth has been a member of the Rotary Club of Campbelltown for many years, working on projects and initiatives that benefit the people of Campbelltown. Most recently, her work on the Community Connections Cafe has had a meaningful impact on older members of the Campbelltown Community in coming together in a safe, enjoyable and welcoming environment. Elizabeth deserves recognition for her initiative, efforts and ability to realise this vision for the betterment of Campbelltown residents.
How has this person contributed to the local Community?	Most recently, Elizabeth has been the key driver of the Community Connections Cafe, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Campbelltown's Community division that she leads. Partnering with the local division of Meals on Wheels and supported by Council, Elizabeth's vision of creating a cafe that connects the Community has grown from strength to strength in just over a year since it began. Elizabeth leads a team of Rotarians from the Campbelltown club in running the club twice a month, sourcing donations of coffee, meals, exercise and information talks to provide an enjoyable and meaningful experience for the Campbelltown Community.
Describe how their work has been focused on helping others or making the Community a better place?	The Community Connection Cafe aims to bring members of the Community, particularly those who are older, socially isolated and in need of support, together to enjoy fellowship, exercise, information and lunch in a welcoming environment. In a post-Covid environment, this initiative is something that is needed in Campbelltown as many residents, particularly vulnerable and older residents, excluded themselves from engaging socially due to the risks and fears that

	Covid brought to the Community. The Cafe now welcomes 30+ regulars twice a month for a coin donation (essentially for free) and extends the invitation to attend the regular cafe days, Christmas lunch and other celebrations to the whole Campbelltown Community. Elizabeth hopes to introduce bus trips and other social activities in the future to provide variety in social engagements and further cement relationships between attendees.
Who has benefited the most from the nominee's contribution and/or services (ie community groups, individuals etc)?	Older people in Campbelltown, particularly those who are lonely, socially isolated and live alone enjoy the safe and welcoming place that the Cafe offers. Some are clients of Campbelltown's Home Support Program, but many don't have a formal connection with My Aged Care services and the Cafe provides an opportunity to connect with a social program without the 'red-tape'.
Has the person overcome particular challenges, personal sacrifices or adversities to mark their achievement? If yes, how?	Elizabeth lives with some health conditions and recently caught Covid19, becoming very unwell including hospitalisation. She continued to support the cafe from afar during this time and her presence was greatly felt by the Rotarian team. She has since recovered and is almost back to better health, and has fully recommenced her work at the Cafe.
Does the nominee have any other significant community contributions/achievements (ie awards, certificates)?	Elizabeth was the President of the Rotary Club of Campbelltown in 2017, has been the Club Director of 'Fellowship' and is currently Director of 'Community' at the Club.
Photo included?	Yes 
1st Nominator	Vince Belperio [redacted]
2nd Nominator	Bianca Connelly [redacted]
Attending Workshop	Yes

2023 Nominations

Category – Senior Citizen of the Year Cont…

Ms Jennifer (Jenny) Bates

Nominee Name	Ms Jenny Bates
Nominee Address	[redacted]
Date of Birth	21 September 1955
Australian Citizen	Yes
Why do I believe the person should be awarded the SCOTY?	Jenny is the very model of a generous, committed, hardworking Community member whose contribution to her close and wider Community is an inspiration to others. See below.
How has this person contributed to the local Community?	Jenny has been the very active president of the Lochiel Park Community Garden since its establishment in 2009. She was involved from the formative design stage in all aspects of the Community garden including upgrading of facilities over the years, providing advice to members on what to plant, fundraising, building an on-site shelter (since named in her honour), liaison with Campbelltown Council, Renewal SA and other organisations over grants and promotion of the garden and as a tireless organiser of monthly working bees. Recently Jenny served as a judge in Campbelltown City Council's garden competition. Jenny is also a long term and active member of Ripples Community Arts including co founder of the textile group. She has led workshops on varied techniques, willingly sharing her knowledge and materials. She took a leading role in developing the landscaping outside the ArtSHED. Jenny helped organise the 'Go Figure' exhibition at the ArtHouse and has contributed to every SALA exhibition organised by Ripples. She helped over a number of years to create the 27 mosaic street drains in Lochiel Park, as well as designing the distance markers for Parkrun on the Linear Path and collaborating on the mosaic work in the Jan Street beautification. Jenny and husband Bevan instigated an annual Easter Community gathering on the village green, arranging for attendees to donate money and food for the Central Domestic Violence Service.

	Jenny is a regular hardworking attendee at monthly Friends of Lochiel Park working bees which maintain the communal land to high standard via weeding and native plantings.
Describe how their work has been focused on helping others or making the Community a better place?	Jenny has fostered a sense of inclusiveness, wellbeing and pride among members of the Community Garden and Ripples which are Community groups that are inclusive of members of the wider Community as well as Lochiel Park residents. She has contributed a great deal to the environment within Lochiel Park which has won a Green Park award several years in a row and is the 'pride' of Campbelltown City Council.
Who has benefited the most from the nominee's contribution and/or services (ie community groups, individuals etc)?	As above
Has the person overcome particular challenges, personal sacrifices or adversities to mark their achievement? If yes, how?	N/A
Does the nominee have any other significant community contributions/achievements (ie awards, certificates)?	Jenny was a key organiser of 'Dare to Differ' art quilt exhibitions in 2018, 2019 and 2022.
Photo included?	Yes 
1st Nominator	Sue Irvine [redacted]
2nd Nominator	Dave Parker [redacted]
Attending Workshop	Yes

2023 Australia Day Awards Nominations – Eligibility Criteria

Nominee	One Category Nominated?	Two Nominators?	Australian Citizen?	Workshop?	Has a picture been provided?	Previous Recipient of an Award	Nominated by a family Member?	Submission received after the closing date?	Resident?	Within date range for YCOTY?	Within date range for SCOTY?
Jessie Wagas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes by Bobbie Taylor	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	
Ravtej Sohal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Both Nominators unable to attend	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	
Lena Reitano	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes by Jeanette Dallwitz	Yes	No	No	No	Yes		Yes
Elizabeth Gagliardi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes by Vince Belperio	Yes	No	No	No	No		Yes
Jennifer (Jenny) Bates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes by Sue Irvine	Yes	No	No	No	Yes		Yes
Lisa Miller	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes by Robert Kenyon	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	N/A	N/A

- **Ebony Merkx** was nominated for Young Citizen of the Year however in accordance with the Eligibility Criteria is not eligible for the Young Citizen of the Year Award due to being only 12 years old as at 26 January 2023.