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MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13TH, 2008

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

2008 SA GREAT EYRE PENINSULA REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS

An iconic hotel, an eco-friendly ferry service and a women's group are among the winners for the Eyre Peninsula Regional Awards held at the Port Lincoln Hotel. The event was held on November 13th 2008, attracting the who's who of the Eyre Peninsula Region.

The Eyre Peninsula had a range of diverse winners in 2008, including the Winner of the Community Award ' *Cummins District Enterprise Committee*', *A valued community group that provides community leadership. Cummins, tackles issues facing the community and manages a range of other groups and sub-committees.*

Also a winner in their category was Sustainability Winner *Sea SA Car & Passenger Ferries*. *Operating primarily out of the Yorke Peninsula, the past year has seen Sea SA carry 84, 303 passengers and 36, 538 vehicles. Sea SA has shown steadfast dedication to enhancing growth and long term sustainability of the region.*

'*Free Eyre*' the winner of the Innovation Award was also a standout contender for the Eyre region. *Fresh, rare, enticing, Free Eyre have worked consistently over the past year to build a sound company base from an initial \$800,000 pledge from farmers and the community. A group that takes control and adds value to locally produced agricultural product in an environmentally and economically challenging global businesses space, Free Eyre is an impressive outfit.*

A community owned hotel, The Ceduna Foreshore Hotel / Motel were the proud winners of the Tourism Award. Having recently undertaken an \$8 million redevelopment, the hotel has reached icon status and continues to attract greater numbers of people to the Ceduna Foreshore area.

All ten winners and four commendations from the Eyre Peninsula region contributed to another huge state total of just under 500 entries. The winners displayed talent, innovative thinking and exceptional drive towards building regional community pride and success.

"Judges were astounded this year with the amount of inspiring entries that displayed outstanding contributions to the Eyre Peninsula. The region's winners are prime examples of the talent that exists in our regional communities," said SA Great CEO, Judy Potter.

"The SA Great Regional Awards enable South Australians to celebrate the commitment and successes of individuals and organisations in our local communities. It is great to see so many entries from the Eyre Peninsula recognised for their achievements," added Judy Potter.

The SA Great Regional Award winners have again showcased determination in working innovatively and building excellence in our rural communities.

SA Great Regional Award winners will be publicly recognised for their achievements through their promotion in SA Great's broader programs and the media. To acknowledge their achievements, winners will also receive an honorary membership of SA Great for 2009, an invitation to an Awards celebration event in February 2009, and a Glass Pear Trophy – hand made by the Jam Factory.

"It is astonishing to see so many entries with such commitment to building excellence in our regional communities. The Eyre Peninsula should be proud for their involvement, and for making their community and the whole of South Australia a great place to work and live," said SA Great Chairman Nigel McBride.

SA Great Chief Executive Officer, Judy Potter, ABC Presenter, Emma Lee Pedler and other distinguished guests were on hand to congratulate those people and enterprises that were presented with Awards.

The SA Great Regional Award recipients had to demonstrate excellence in one of ten categories as well as a commitment to furthering community pride and confidence in their region.

The Eyre Peninsula winners are . . .

ETSA Utilities Arts Award

Winner – The Cellar Folk Club

Westpac Community Group Award

Winner – Cummins District Enterprise Committee, **Commendation** – Zonta Club of Port Lincoln

Westpac Community Individual Award

Winner – Karen Burrows

Department of Trade & Economic Development Innovation Award

Winner - Free Eyre

Australia Post Large Business Award

Winner - Keith Daniel Homes

SA Water Science & Sustainability

Winner - SeaSA Car and Passenger Ferries

Australia Post Small Business

Winner - Five Loaves Bakery, **Commendation** - Dental on Eyre

Nippys Sport Award

Winner - Port Lincoln Gymnasium Club Inc.

South Australian Tourism Commission Tourism Award

Winner - Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel, **Commendation** - Andrew Wright, Calypso Star Charter

Adelaide Showground Youth Award

Winner - Instep Dance Inc., **Commendation** - Mitch Henderson

Other Regional Award presentation evenings will also be occurring soon:

Limestone Coast – 17th November, Naracoorte Town Hall, Naracoorte (Cocktail) with Celebrity Guest Cosi, Triple M Adelaide

Flinders / Outback – 19th November, Standpipe Hotel, Port Augusta (Dinner) with Celebrity Guest Lisa Neale, Southern Cross TV, Port Augusta

Riverland / Murraylands – 26th November, Chaffey Theatre, Renmark (Cocktail) with Celebrity Guest Bruce Mellet, Region Program Manager, 1062 ABC Riverland

Fleurieu / Kangaroo Island – 27th November, South Lakes Golf Club, Goolwa (Dinner) with Celebrity Guest Cosi, Triple M Adelaide

Adelaide Hills - 3rd December, Auchendarroch House & Wallis Tavern, Mt Barker (Dinner) with Celebrity Guest Catriona Rowntree, Chanel 9 'Getaway' Presenter

Mid North / Yorke Peninsula / Southern Flinders – 5th December, Balaklava Town Hall, Balaklava (Cocktail) with Celebrity Guest Terry Williams, Editor, Plains Producer

Barossa & Light – 10th December, Chateau Tanunda, Tanunda (Dinner) with Celebrity Guest Lainie Anderson, Sunday Mail

Program partner, the Government of South Australia – Department of Trade and Economic Development - Office of Regional Affairs, and regional partner, Regional Development South Australia, support the SA Great Regional Awards.

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