



## 2018 SA Environment Awards: All winners and finalists

### 20th annual Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection

The award is in memory of Jillian Hudson (1949-1997) and is made to a person living in South Australia, who in the year of the award, made an outstanding contribution to protection of the environment.

#### Finalists:

##### Cristel Chambers

Cristel was nominated for her tireless campaign work on behalf of the Great Australian Bight, her love for people and unwavering dedication to protecting our environment.

##### Limestone Coast Protection Alliance

The Alliance was nominated for actively and tirelessly engaging communities in the South East to raise awareness of the dangers of gas extraction and other mining to the local environment.

#### Winner:

##### Sue Colman Haseldine

Sue Colman Haseldine is a Kokatha-Mirning woman and a recognised and respected Elder.

Her childhood experience of nuclear testing at Maralinga led Sue to be an early and enthusiastic advocate of ICAN – the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for advancing the international Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons.

Sue attended the Nobel Peace Prize investiture in Oslo and represented Australia at an important Indigenous People's forum as part of the presentation festival. Sue is also Co-Chair of ANFA – the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance.

As a protector of country, Sue has been visible and vocal in highlighting the ecological concerns around deep-sea oil drilling in the Great Australian Bight, and has led countless landcare initiatives.

Sue's championing of cross cultural respect, engagement and understanding have earned her recognition as the 2018 local region NAIDOC Elder of the Year.

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## 2018 Young Achiever Award

The Young Achiever Award recognises inspiring young people who are committed to improving environmental outcomes.

Finalist:

Student leaders of Aberfoyle Park Primary School

The Student Leadership Team was nominated for their hard work to improve sustainability within their schools and the wider community.

Winner:

Kahlia Clarke

Kahlia was nominated for her inspiring contribution as a climate campaigner and youth community leader.

Kahlia has brought energy and passion to her volunteer role as state coordinator for the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Kahlia's nominator describes her as an inspiring campaigner and a selfless support to others in the youth climate movement.

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## 2018 Unsung Hero Award

The Unsung Hero Award recognises those who have a long-standing commitment to protecting the environment.

Finalists:

Alan Dandie

Alan was nominated for his Bush for Life program volunteer work and passionate advocacy for bush regeneration.

Mary-Ann Van Trigt

Mary-Ann was nominated for her work as a dedicated champion of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park.

Winner:

Phil Gillet

Phil's outstanding volunteer commitment to Friends of Para Wirra and his passion for nature conservation have had an indelible impact on some of our state's most beloved nature places. His nominator has described him as "an inspirational volunteer, humble bush carer and true unsung hero."

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## 2018 Lifetime Achievement Awards

Each year we honour five extraordinary South Australians as the winners of the Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Winners:

Betty Fisher, Rodney Fox, Richard Owen, Eileen Wani Wingfield\*, Warren Bonython AO\* (bios below)

\*Awarded posthumously

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### Betty Fisher

A strong and vocal feminist and advocate for Aboriginal rights and conservation, Betty Fisher's commitment to environmental protection has been at the forefront of her remarkable life.

Serving as the very first woman President of the Conservation Council of South Australia, her contribution both to our organisation and our state's environment sector cannot be overstated.

Throughout her life, Betty has been a fierce advocate for the rights of women and girls. She served as International Women's Day president for eight years and received both a Bicentenary Medal and Flinders University medal for services to women.

Her advocacy for aboriginal rights and the environment came into the spotlight during the Hindmarsh Island royal commission, where she produced notes and tape recordings from the 1960s which confirmed "secret women's business."

As an author, Betty acknowledged the remarkable achievements of over 2,000 South Australian women in a 2001 publication she produced in conjunction with the International Women's Day Committee.

The document represents Betty's ongoing work to publicly acknowledge the role of women in our community.

Betty's mantra remains strong today: "In the name of peace we did what we could ... and in the name of peace could the young people in our community please continue on this path."

## Rodney Fox

Rodney Fox is a powerful contributor to shark conservation worldwide.

After surviving a massive shark attack in 1963, Rodney wanted to learn more about his attacker and embarked on a lifelong campaign to educate the public to replace fear with fascination for these incredible creatures.

Rodney was a strong campaigner for the protection of Great White Sharks for over 20 years before they were protected, first in South Africa in the 1990s, and then in Australia and other places around the world.

After designing and building his first shark cage in 1965, Rodney organised the first cage diving expedition and enlisted marine conservation pioneer and renowned shark expert Ron Taylor to help shoot the first ever underwater film on Great White Sharks.

As an expedition leader for many shark documentaries and feature films, plus scientific and tourist expeditions, Rodney is also accredited for being responsible for most of the footage of Great Whites produced in the 20th century.

In 2001 together with his son Andrew, Rodney founded the Fox Shark Research Foundation, a non-profit organisation with the mission 'to inspire the appreciation and understanding of Great White Sharks through research and education.' Their diving expeditions continue to supply a vital platform for conservation and research initiatives.

Rodney's passion for the Great White continues to this day. He is a key speaker at many international conservation and diving events, and gives motivational talks at schools and organisations around the world.

His life and career have become a textbook example of creating opportunity from crisis, turning a near-fatal shark attack into a life of discovery, ingenuity and passion.

## Richard Owen

Conservation legend Richard Owen has lived at the Murray Mouth on Hindmarsh Island since 1980, and has been involved at every level in the protection and restoration of its ecosystems.

In the 1990s Richard was one of the three Conservation SA Board members (with the late Margaret Bolster and Prof. David Shearman) involved in the landmark litigation with Tom and Wendy Chapman over the building of the Hindmarsh Island Bridge.

He lobbied for the development of the Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Management Plan and was responsible for writing the case for the successful banning of jet skis from the Coorong National Park.

Richard was a key member of the group that established the Encounter Marine Park from the Coorong to Kangaroo Island, identifying suitable sanctuary zones to protect and conserve this region from ongoing exploitation.

He has been the Project Co-ordinator of the Murray Mouth Estuary Restoration (MMER) Project - a major project of the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group - from its inception.

In 2018 the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group won the National Coastcare Award and celebrated the planting of over 500,000 plants on the island.

Richard's family currently manages Tarni Warra Sanctuary, a 6 hectare dune and wetland property on the Goolwa Channel, which is the only covenanted property and private sanctuary on Hindmarsh Island.

Richard was awarded tonight's major honour - the Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection - in 2002, and joins other past recipients being honoured tonight for the Award's 20th anniversary.

### Eileen Wani Wingfield

Eileen Wani Wingfield was a proud and strong Aboriginal woman. A winner of the International Goldman Award for the 'protection of environment', she was an activist and leader standing up for the rights of Aboriginal people, culture and country.

At every opportunity she would act as a voice not only for her people but for the animals, the water and the land.

Eileen dedicated most of her life to advocacy for the awareness of the British atomic bomb tests undertaken in the state's north in the 1950s.

After uranium was discovered near Roxby Downs in the 1980s, Mrs Wingfield and other families gathered at Cane Grass swamp — a camp established in the 1970s — where they sat down in opposition.

During this time there were multiple arrests and family members locked up for protesting. Eileen put her body on the line, laying herself in the earth in front of the bulldozers. They had no money, no mobile phones, very few resources but they stood their ground in saying no.

There is little known about these early protest camps and Eileen's family are working to compile and share some of these early stories. It's an important part of the state's history.

In 1980's Coober Pedy, Eileen was key member of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta, a council of Senior Aboriginal Women dedicated to the protection of land and culture. When a proposal for a nuclear waste dump was presented in the late '90s, Eileen rallied with the women and fought hard against the proposal for nuclear waste to be brought to SA.

In 2009 Eileen and the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta were acknowledged as outstanding nominees on the SA women's honour roll.

Eileen was a formative member of the Alliance against Uranium, which later became the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA), and became the honorary president in 2009. Her input and leadership at ANFA contributed greatly to the strong alliance it is today.

Eileen will be remembered for her incredible efforts, leadership and love for her people and culture, and her unstoppable passion for a nuclear free world.

### Warren Bonython AO

Warren Bonython was the most renowned walker, hiker and modern-day explorer South Australia has known.

He is credited with planning and developing the Heysen Trail, which today spans from the south-coast to the northern Flinders Ranges and covers 12,000km of land. It is a legacy that will be enjoyed by many generations to come.

Warren began bushwalking while living in Melbourne during the 1940s, heading out into the Dandenong Ranges, and then north into the Cathedral Ranges with his wife Bunty at his side.

In 1966, at the age of 50, Warren retired to follow his passions for conservation and bushwalking, and soon became involved with the major conservation and heritage bodies in Australia.

Warren was SA president of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, a Foundation Committee Member of the Australian Solar Energy Society, President of the National Trust and President of the Conservation Council of South Australia.

In 1980 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia recognition of service to conservation.

Warren was author of a number of books, most notably *Walking the Flinders Ranges* and *Walking the Simpson Desert*. His most recent book was *The History of the Heysen Trail*.

Warren also climbed mountains - notably Kilimanjaro at the age of 75.

Warren Bonython set out on adventures that most of us have only dreamed of. He was truly an inspiration to all of us to get out there and experience the wonders of the wilderness.