Community heroes have been recognised at the fifth annual Playford Alive Local Heroes Awards announced on Wednesday night at an event attended by more than 300 people at the Central Districts Football Club’s Grand Central Room.

The awards, an initiative of the State Government through Renewal SA and Housing SA, together with the City of Playford, recognise the achievements of individuals, groups and local businesses in supporting northern suburbs’ communities.

Member for Napier Jon Gee MP joined City of Playford Mayor Glenn Docherty and Renewal SA Chief Executive John Hanlon in presenting the 16 awards that attracted more than 120 nominations.

A $3,000 Minister’s Scholarship was presented during the evening to enable an outstanding nominee to further her success in training or employment. This was awarded to 19-year-old Laurie Partridge, a mother of two who is continuing her education. Laurie has obtained a Certificate II in Security Operations and Certificate II in Hospitality – helping her gain casual employment. Laurie is captain of her Ice Factor (ice hockey) team and co-presented at the Partnerships for Learning Conference about the importance of alternative education models for young people.

Renewal SA Chief Executive John Hanlon said the Playford Alive Local Heroes Awards finalists and winners showed the value of community involvement.

“Playford Alive is giving back to the community with the help of our contractors, local agencies and training providers – generating a wide range of work and training opportunities for local people as well as supporting community initiatives,” Mr Hanlon said.

“These awards recognise the great work and contributions made by the community.

“Renewal SA is proud to be the organiser and a major sponsor of these awards."

Winners of the scholarships and awards are available for interview. High resolution photographs available on request.

For further information contact
Adam Joyce – Media and Communications Officer
Tel: 08 8207 1317  Mob: 0429 542 757
Award recipients include:

Community Involvement Award winner Laura Brenton, was disengaged from education but still wanted to create opportunities for herself and her future. Fast forward two years and Laura is a leader and role model. Laura performed as part of the Royal visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Elizabeth, and was also selected to have a private discussion with them - talking about mental health. Laura is now enrolled in Para West Adult Campus and on track to complete Year 12 next year.

Inspire Playford Award winner Laurie Partridge, 19, is a mother of two children under four. Balancing motherhood and completing her schooling, Laurie has also obtained a Certificate II in Security Operations and Certificate II in Hospitality gaining casual employment with these certificates. Laurie is captain of her Ice Factor (ice hockey) team and co-presented at the Partnerships for Learning Conference about the importance of alternative education models for young people.

Positive Playford Award winner Jacob Desmond is a competitive swimmer at the Playford Aquatic Club (which won the Sports Award). Jacob won seven gold medals in January alone. Training six days a week, before and after school, Jacob is a positive role model with leadership skills that make him a standout within the community.

Best Educational Outcome winner Amber MacDonald had dropped out of school and lost her way but made the decision to enrol as a flexible learning student. This non-mainstream schooling brought back a sense of confidence. Being back in the classroom was a significant challenge. She made a conscious decision to change her attitude and make a commitment to take on a full study load. Since then, she has been going from milestone to milestone, in all subjects and is now one of the highest graded students in her classes. She has also enrolled in a Certificate IV in Youth Work.

Best Employment Outcome winner Lliam Rodger has an intellectual disability and whilst eager to enter the workforce, was struggling to find an employer who would be supportive of his needs and help him develop his strengths. After being referred to Job Prospects, Lliam was soon placed into work experience with Cash Central. After demonstrating his willingness to work and continued reliability, Cash Central offered him a paid position. Lliam continues to exceed expectations and is on the path to gaining more responsibilities.

Environmental and Healthy Communities award winners David and Narelle Warner are advocates for edible gardening and healthy eating and are busy sharing this passion with others in the community. They have spent countless hours helping others. Their vision and passion goes beyond the vegie patch and together they have something that makes people want to get into gardening.
Full list of winners

Mayor's Youth Awards
Community Involvement Award - Laura Brenton
Inspire Playford Award - Laurie Partridge
Positive Playford Award - Jacob Desmond

Governor's Awards
Best Learning to Employment Outcome - Tim Wegner
Best Work Experience Placement - Amy Everett
Best Educational Outcome - Amber MacDonald

Playford Alive Achievement Awards
Best Employment Outcome - Lliam Rodger
Best Training to Employment Outcome - Joseph Petrizza and Ian Storay (joint winners)
Outstanding Achievements by a Playford Alive Contractor - T & J Constructions
Outstanding Achievements by a Local Business - Habitat for Humanity
Best Training Program - Tickets2Trade Civil Live Works Program
Environmental and Healthy Communities - David and Narelle Warner
Sports Award - The Playford Aquatic Club
Service to Community by an individual - Denis Jarman
Service to Community Group or Organisation - Elizabeth Riders Committee
Positive Playford Award - Christine Jacques-Doolan