

Rotary
Salisbury (SA)



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY WOMAN OF ACTION 2025/26

The inaugural Outstanding Community Woman of Action Award was presented to **Gloria Dennis**, a woman whose life and service reflect the true spirit of action, generosity and community impact.

When people hear the phrase community service, they often think of committees, volunteer hours or fundraising events. While Gloria's list of contributions is extensive, her recognition is not simply about the number of roles she has held. It is about the impact she has created.

Gloria has often said: "It's only a little thing — but every little thing creates a ripple effect."

That simple belief has guided the way she has lived her life. At 84 years of age, Gloria is still creating ripples every single day.

She is currently the Public Officer and Vice President of the Inner Wheel Club of Tea Tree Gully, where she quietly helps keep the organisation running while encouraging others to become involved.

She is also the Vice President of the Playford Tennis Club and continues to play competitive tennis. For Gloria, tennis has never only been about winning a match. It has been about encouraging the nervous player, celebrating someone else's improvement, listening to someone having a difficult day, and making sure everyone feels they belong. To many, Gloria has become a role model and even a second mum.

Gloria has a remarkable gift for connecting people. She sees opportunities where others see leftovers. A piece of fabric can begin a journey through many different hands as part of the sewing circle Gloria helped create, before becoming a toiletry bag and gift through Backpacks for Kids, with around 5,000 bags now made. Another bundle of fabric may become quilts for people escaping domestic violence, while other pieces are reused as rags, reducing landfill. Gloria somehow knows who needs what and quietly brings the right people together. Her small acts become something much bigger.

Her compassion extends into every part of her life. Through her involvement with the Melanoma March, and in the loving way she supports her husband by attending every medical appointment with him, Gloria demonstrates another kind of service — one that often goes unseen. By supporting him so completely, she also enables him to continue contributing to the community. Even her caring has a ripple effect.

Gloria's commitment to serving others stretches back more than 60 years. In 1964, when she moved to Coomandook, she was already contributing by playing the organ for the local community. Since then, no matter where life has taken her, Gloria has simply looked around, asked "How can I help?" and found a way to make it happen.

She has never sought recognition. In fact, if asked why she does all these things, Gloria would probably say, "It's only a little thing."

But when thousands of little things are added together over a lifetime, they become something extraordinary.

The true measure of a person's life is not found in the awards they receive. It is found in the lives they have touched, the people they have encouraged, the communities they have strengthened, and the kindness they have inspired in others.

Gloria Dennis has spent her life proving that one person's kindness can create ripples far beyond what they may ever see.

Congratulations Gloria, our inaugural Outstanding Community Woman of Action Award recipient. Your life of service, kindness and quiet leadership is deeply valued, and the Rotary Club of Salisbury (SA) is proud to recognise the countless ripples you have created.