

Aldinga Bay's **Coastal Views**

proudly brought to the community since 1977 by the Aldinga Bay Residents Association



Photo: Martin's Farm, Port Willunga - See Story on page 6.

Credit: Jan M. Jasiewicz

Harcourts Wine Coast

Proudly Supporting Coastal Views

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SUZANNE CARAGIANIS, OAM

Suzanne Caragianis is not just an occupational therapist; she's a seasoned professional who has dedicated her life to the intricate world of hand therapy. Graduating in 1985, Suzanne's journey began in the UK, working in burns units. However, it was in the USA that she honed her skills, becoming a certified hand therapist under the guidance of Dr. Harold Kleinert, a pioneer in hand surgery.

Dr. Kleinert's philosophy of sharing knowledge and giving back left an indelible mark on Suzanne. His teachings inspired her to not only treat patients with expertise but to approach them as friends or family. In 1992, Suzanne returned to Adelaide and founded SA Hand Therapy. Her passion for education led her to become an adjunct clinical lecturer with the University of South Australia, where she has been shaping the future of occupational therapy for over 30 years.

Suzanne's commitment to giving back extends beyond borders. She volunteers her time to teach and mentor in Australia, Bhutan, and India. In her pursuit of making a lasting impact, Suzanne established the charity 'Helping Hands in Bhutan.' This initiative aims to raise funds for therapist education and support patients in Bhutan, showcasing her dedication to global outreach.

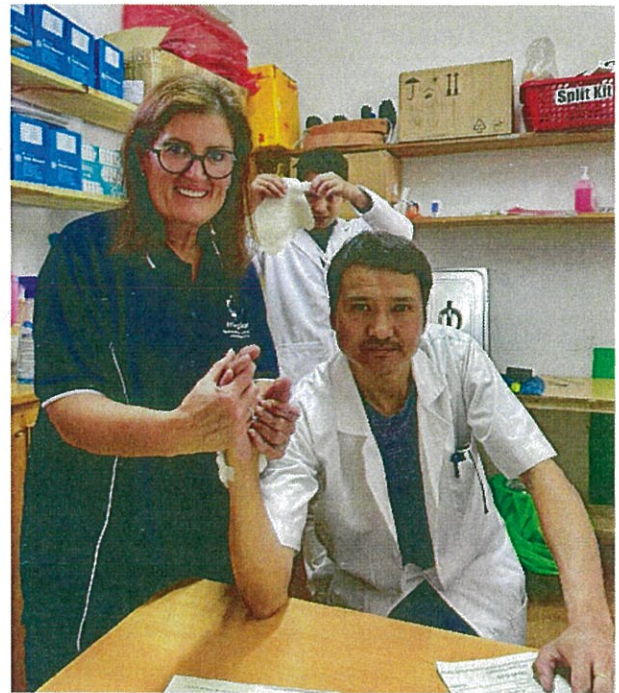
In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Suzanne was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2023, a testament to her services to occupational therapy. "The Order of Australia is an honour that recognises Australian citizens and other persons for outstanding achievement and service". The Sovereign Head is now King Charles III and the award was announced in June on the King's Birthday Celebration.

Her lifelong commitment earned her life membership in the Australian Hand Therapy Association, acknowledging her unwavering dedication to hand therapy locally and internationally. In addition, she was awarded Life Membership by the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy in June 2022.

Mentored by Dr. Kleinert and collaborating with leading surgeons worldwide, Suzanne is not just a practitioner; she's a leader in hand therapy in Australia. Her expertise, coupled with a heart for philanthropy, sets her apart, making her a pivotal figure in the realm of hand and upper limb rehabilitation.



Suzanne Receiving her award



Suzanne and a nurse

ABRA PUBLIC MEETING

WHEN: MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 2024 7:00 PM

WHERE: ALDINGA COMMUNITY CENTER, 7 STEWART AVE, ALDINGA BEACH, SA 5173

TOPIC: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT