

WHYALLA NEWS

Musical pioneers recognised

Louis Mayfield October 12 2018



Stormfront Productions, which has provided a crucial mentoring service for budding musicians in Whyalla, have made it to the top 4 in the small business category of the South Australian Community Achievement Awards

The business is comprised of experienced musicians Alison Hams and Mark Tempany, who have regularly been involved in the community by providing a tutoring service and hosting concerts such as the JAMM 4 Genes.

Stormfront aims to go beyond their duty as a business by providing programs like the Whyalla Recording Scholarship, which creates an important pathway for budding musicians to pursue their goals.

“This is what we love to do for the community...we try to give as much back as possible,” Ms Hams said.

Mr Tempany said it was often hard for ‘arts’ businesses to break through in competitions, because they are often not recognised as a business.

“The fact that Stormfront is being taken seriously and compared with other businesses is fantastic,” he said.

Despite being a troubling time for the city, Mr Tempany believes the Arrium crisis helped shine a light on Whyalla’s small businesses.

“It’s alerted a lot of people in Adelaide to the challenges everybody who operates here has faced over the last two or three years. That’s made us look very strong and inspiring,” he said.

When not hosting their own events, Stormfront are regularly involved in supplying musical equipment or acts for community events such as Carols in the Park and the ANZAC Eve Vigil.

The duo also regularly have individual tutor sessions with students at their private studio. They have mentored some students right through high school.

“We’ve had some students who have been with us for 10 or 11 years and are in Adelaide in uni now,” Ms Hams said.

“We are available to people of all ages and all abilities. I’ve tutored students with special needs...we’ve taught a student as young as four and a man as old as 89.”

Those young people tutored by Stormfront Productions often go on to do great things, including Arno Bay musician Dayna Duncan who was recently inducted into the Brand SA Hall of Fame Youth Category.

Dayna, who is now studying to become a doctor, recently emailed Stormfront praising them for their guidance over the years.

“She said she owes a lot of who she is today to the self-worth she developed through doing the community gigs with us,” Ms Hams said.

Stormfront Productions were also inducted into the Brand SA Hall of Fame.

The winners of the South Australian Community Achievement Awards will be announced at an Awards Gala Presentation Dinner on Friday, November 2 at the Hilton Adelaide.