AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2019

NOMINEE CITATIONS

PRESENTED BY PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL
Welcome to the official Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Australia Day Awards presentation. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to meet and share time with some of the Port Macquarie-Hastings’ most respected citizens.

All our nominated citizens and community groups are actively living the values of what it means to be Australian. This is what makes our region such a strong, resilient and caring community.

On behalf of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Australia Day Working Group, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your contribution to our community.
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Now the Australia Day Council has introduced a new award category this year – it was too late to be put out to the community for nominations, but we still wanted to take the opportunity to recognise some more of our fantastic community volunteers. The new award is the Environmental Citizen Award, and it is sponsored by Return and Earn. Now we have so many fantastic environmental volunteers, but in this first year, as this is a litter reduction initiative, we decided to focus on two volunteers who tirelessly work to clean up litter and reduce its impacts on our local Environment. They are Shalise Leesfield and Addam Lockley.

SHALISE LEESFIELD

Shalise Leesfield is a 12 year old ocean conservationist from Lake Cathie, NSW. A few years ago she found out that every year thousands of her favourite marine animals including seals, dolphins, whales, pelicans and sea turtles are injured due to people leaving behind their plastic pollution and discarded fishing lines. She wanted to become a voice for them and it became her mission to clean up the local beaches to help save these aquatic animals and bird life. When you love something you want to protect it, so she set up trial fishing line collection bins in Lake Cathie and worked with Council to secure an EPA litter grant to address Marine Litter locally - including signage, new bins, educational flyers and a local engagement with fishers to enforce marine litter rules. The grant application was a success, largely due to data Shalise had collected, and the project is now underway.

Shalise has also been chosen to be the host of the Australian launch of the Earth Echo Plastic Seas Expedition with Philippe Cousteau next month and can’t wait to show schools, teachers and students all over the world how young people can work together and help protect oceans from plastic pollution. Classrooms in Australia and around the world can use these inspiring materials that will spark student enthusiasm of STEM concepts and empower them to help protect the environment. By creating as much awareness as possible in our local communities, hopefully in the future the marine debris that is haunting our present ocean will be a thing of the past and will vanish from our world forever.

She is also one of the Youth Ambassadors for Clean Up Australia Day 2019 and a Green Innovations Award ambassador, an annual award that recognises and celebrates the sustainability innovations of young people in the region.

Congratulations Shalise on your nomination for Environmental Citizen of the year.
Addam Lockley co-founded the Coastal Warriors in 2017, after participating in Clean up Australia Day at Town Beach. The amount of litter inspired Addam to look for a local solution, and to form a group to clean up monthly and not only aim to help the environment, but to also educate people on the importance of recycling, the damaging impacts of pollution, ensure people feel connected to their community and have an enduring presence within the Mid North Coast area.

His vision has come to fruition, and the group that has been formed is not only passionate but very productive, active now for 18 months, numbering over 250 registered volunteers, supported by local business, and removing over 35,000 pieces of litter from the local environment, though the ongoing impact of education has a much greater reach. Adam has carried out talks for community groups and schools to educate people about marine debris and recently worked with local member Leslie Williams to do a ‘Straws off the Shores’ campaign to reduce plastic straw use in the local area. This resulted in the introduction of paper straws in many pubs, cafes and restaurants and a massive reduction in straw collection during litter clean up events.

Most recently the Coastal Warriors have been working with the Port Macquarie Marina and Council to purchase a Seabin for the Port Macquarie Marina, and a local sponsorship campaign may also add a second. These are floating filtration bins that remove litter from the marine environment – another benefit to the local community.

Addams passion for the marine environment has now led to him starting his own business called Coral Blue, designing a coral cooling pod to prevent coral bleaching and also assist with water flow in dams and rivers to prevent stagnant water and algae issues. Hopefully a prototype will be in the water and being tested later this year.

Congratulations Addam on your nomination for Environmental Citizen of the year.
2WAY FM COMMUNITY RADIO

2WAY FM has been an integral part of our community for 33 years.

2WAY FM continues to provide listeners with a real alternative with programs going to air seven days a week. In times of an emergency and natural disasters, 2WAY FM provides regular updates on prevailing conditions, emergency service advice and warnings.

2WAY FM continues to support community groups and their projects by providing air time for radio interviews, full programs and producing community service announcements for not-for-profit organisations. Local schools are also provided the opportunity to inspire young people to further their skills in public speaking, English and confidence building through the ongoing support provided by the volunteers at 2WAY FM.

The professionalism of the volunteer presenters is to be applauded and is much appreciated by the listeners.

Congratulations 2WAY FM on your nomination in the category of Community Group of the Year.

HASTINGS SECONDARY COLLEGE PORT MACQUARIE CAMPUS – P & C

Described as the “silent achievers,” the Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus P & C Association is nominated for its tireless work for the students at the Hastings College Port Macquarie Campus.

With all the work for the P & C Association being done in their own time in a voluntary capacity, the members contribute to various activities across the school.

Recently the members were successful in obtaining a $20,000 grant to assist the Robotics program across both Campuses. With the opportunity to obtain funding becoming more difficult for public schools, it is these hard working group of P & C volunteers that are continually striving to give local students extra opportunities.

Congratulations Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus – P & C Association on your nomination for Community Group of the Year.
PORT MACQUARIE COMMUNITY GARDENS INC. – THE LOST PLOT

Set on a small strip of Council managed land off Central Road, the Port Macquarie Community Gardens Inc. – The Lost Plot is now in its sixth year.

Initially established through “seed funding” from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, The Lost Plot has evolved into a vibrant community hub organised, planned and created by a broad spectrum of enthusiastic volunteers, led by a devoted and committed committee.

Through the tireless work by the group’s volunteers, further grants from both State and Federal Government have been secured enabling the group to facilitate a variety of regular sustainability workshops.

The volunteers organise regular educational workshops, encouraging a more sustainable lifestyle, both at home and within our broader community, along with working bees, where members get together as an organised team to attend to the many tasks required to maintain the garden. As the garden is mostly wheelchair accessible, with raised planting beds, it provides an inclusive environment where all are welcome. The Lost Plot hosts several community days each year, including the very popular Spring Fair.

The volunteers have found that new residents to our area are discovering that The Lost Plot is a great way to connect with the community and meet new people, with all the volunteers making new residents and visitors to our region most welcome.

Congratulations Port Macquarie Community Gardens Inc. – The Lost Plot on your nomination in the category of Community Group of the Year.

TIMELESS QUILTERS ASSOCIATION

The Timeless Quilters are a tireless group that make a huge contribution to our local community.

Providing baby quilts which they make and donate to the neonatal unit at the Port Macquarie Base Hospital, the group also make and provide comfort quilts for local branches of Riding for the Disabled, the Hastings Hospice, Endeavour House, and various local nursing homes.
Regular donations are also provided to Sister Marjorie to go towards her Soup Kitchen. During the recent dreadful drought the group got together and made little coats for orphaned lambs in an effort to assist where they could.

Congratulations Timeless Quilters on your nomination for the Community Group of the Year Award.

**WAUCHOPE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Since 1976 the Wauchope District Historical Society has been documenting and sharing the history of Wauchope. From humble beginnings in the Timbertown Precinct, housed in Church (circa 1868), and since relocating in 2013, the group has been able to maintain its presence and continue to provide a vital community service for the people of Wauchope and neighbouring hinterland. This passionate group of volunteers are renowned for holding various special events and taking the history of Wauchope to the community through historical displays and presentations.

2018 presented the unique opportunity for the Wauchope District Historical Society to share the amazing story of when John Oxley and his party explored our region.

With 5 years of planning, this Bicentennial was embraced enthusiastically by the group’s members with the volunteers contributing countless hours to create the extensive program to coincide with the Oxley Diaries.

A program of over 40 events was created and held across the region, including a Governors’ Ball and Garden Party. The launch of Rob Tickle’s Book - “John Oxley - a new perspective” saw direct descendants of John Oxley; George Evans, Dr John Harris and Richard Watts attend the book launch.

With every effort made to understand society of the time, some members took the opportunity to re-create the dressing style of the time, looking resplendent in their beautiful 1818 style frocks, which created a wonderful atmosphere and sparked conversation at every occasion to which they were worn.

Congratulations Wauchope District Historical Society on your Award nomination in the category of Community Group of the Year.
Barry has been a member of the Port Macquarie Lions Club for 30 years.

Always giving his time freely, Barry involves himself with the many Lions Club charity projects fund raising for various community causes.

The Lions Club’s “Cash a Can” has been a project involving Barry for the last several years. In the last twelve months Barry has been instrumental in introducing changes regarding the recycling of cans (both crushed and uncrushed).

Barry can be seen helping out as a volunteer worker for two days per week for the Port Macquarie Hope Shop as a truck driver and in this capacity has helped deliver the Lions Club donation of thousands of cans to assist the Hope Shop with their recycling program and fund raising efforts.

Seeing the opportunity that the recycling of uncrushed cans and bottles can provide to charitable organisations, Barry continues to be heavily involved with the collection of cans and bottles gathered at the large music festival held in our region each January, and continues this great work during the Port Macquarie Cup Race Meeting.

Barry’s ongoing tireless contribution to the Port Macquarie Lions Club has been of benefit to not only the broader community of Port Macquarie but also to our local environment.

Congratulations Barry on your nomination for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Senior Citizen of the Year Award.
Moving to Wauchope in 2014, Daphne wasted no time in seeking out and joining the Wauchope District Historical Society (WDHS).

Already having a passion for history, and not knowing much about our region, Daphne was keen to get started on researching and conducting interviews, scanning & reproducing photos for WDHS archives. Daphne’s great work in categorising files on the computers, printing off photos & display books contributes to the wonderful exhibition the WDHS regularly showcase.

Daphne has a talent for creating miniature wooden replicas she crafts from local timbers using WDHS photos for patterns. Replicas have included bullock jinkers, a chaff wagon, dray, and sulkies along with the first truck in the Hastings.

Daphne prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the History of the Hastings Valley, Wauchope District & the Oxley 1818 expedition and often receives requests to deliver this presentation to schools and other interested community groups.

In addition to the PowerPoint presentation, Daphne created a riverside map displaying 17 Heritage sites located within the Wauchope area. A second map was also created by Daphne displaying proposed signage for the Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and the WDHS. Both these maps and the PowerPoint presentation were submitted as part of the successful grant application for the Heritage Riverside Walk proposal.

Daphne’s contribution to the planning and staging of the numerous events that took place in 2018 to mark the Bicentennial of John Oxley Expedition included the creation of a number of outfits, all based on Oxley’s journal in 1818.

Congratulations Daphne on your outstanding contribution to our local community and your nomination in the category of Senior Citizen of the Year.
DIANA UPCROFT

Since moving to our region some 17 years ago, Diana immediately started to focus on how she could contribute to our community with the skills she had.

Described as very gracious, stable and dignified, Diana joined Lifeline Mid Coast as a volunteer at the Gordon St Shop and has worked for over 15 years at the front desk in customer service. Diana has a reputation with other volunteers as being the “face of Lifeline” as she is known to so many customers for her help and friendliness. Diana has helped many people who are less privileged, to feel at ease, with her graciousness and respect for them.

Diana’s organisational skills have helped to raise a considerable amount of money for The Cancer Council through the functions she has organised with her band of helpers. As a survivor of breast cancer herself, Diana has a full understanding of this disease and its effects.

Diana gives her time freely to assist where she can in our community and is well known at the Oncology department at The Port Macquarie Base Hospital / Lifeline Mid Coast. Diana has also served on the committee holding a number of positions as a member of the Port Macquarie Panthers Womens Bowling Club.

Congratulations Diana on your nomination for Senior Citizen of the Year.

JANETTE HYDE

Described as humble, generous and a prime mover, always willing to help out, Janette always has the Port Macquarie-Hastings front of mind and is keen to see our region prosper. With a track record of community work for over 40 years, Janette’s contributions are numerous.

A member of the local Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce, Food & Wine Tourism Taskforce, Bravehearts and current President of the Greater PMQ Tourism Association (member for 33 years) Janette is always there to assist.

Janette has been a supporter of Panthers for many years and was instrumental in the NSW State Touch Competition coming to and remaining in Port Macquarie
for over 30 years. This event attracts approximately 6000 visitors a year to our region. Janette’s work in developing and keeping that event led to the Junior State Cup also being held here, attracting competitors, visitors and local crowds of 17,000 to the event.

Janette’s ongoing contributions to see the successful delivery of local events are endless, with a few examples being the coordination of participants in Council’s annual Christmas Street Parade, and co-establishment of the Beatles Festival held in the shoulder season each year to stimulate tourism.

Wrangling the tourism group alone can be a confronting challenge. With the planning of networking nights, securing catering, keeping operators PR-motivated, compiling and publishing a running events list for tourists’ info, chasing members’ fees, liaising with NSW Government and PMHC to promote tourism, Janette is always on the go, doing what she can to promote our beautiful region in an effort to attract more tourists which contributes not only to the local economy, but also our broader community.

Congratulations Janette on your nomination for Senior Citizen of the Year.

JOYCE (JOY) SMITH

Since arriving in the Camden Haven back in the 1980’s, Joy wasted no time getting to know the members of her local community and putting her hand up to help out where she could. With her background in nursing during the Korean War time, Joy had spent most of her life providing physical care for others and during that time it was noted that “Joy picked up an exceptional skill set from her time with the Australian Airforce”.

Many years on and now at 85 years old, physical caring for others is limited. It is Joy’s persona that now contributes the most and she continues to contribute to the Camden Haven Community through Community Leaders.

Joy continues to volunteer her time to numerous Schools, Clubs and Associations and is described as “caring, careful, thoughtful, having a great smile, great sense of humour, understanding, purposeful, patient, organised,
without pretence, honest, strong willed against physical limitations, connected, respected and a go-to-person.”

Joy has been Vice President of The Laurieton RSL Sub-Branch for six years, and on the 28th October 2018 at the monthly Sub-Branch meeting Joy received a standing ovation for her consistent efforts of excellence.

Joy Smith is recognised by Community Leaders for her contributions in Camden Haven.

Congratulations Joy on your nomination in the category of Senior Citizen of the Year.

ROBERT BOSS-WALKER

Robert (Bob) Boss-Walker is the founding and continuing chairman of the Endeavour Mental Health Recovery Clubhouse, which provides psychosocial and vocational rehabilitation for adults living with mental illness.

Under Bob’s leadership, Endeavour has grown from a dedicated band of volunteer community fundraisers in 2001, to a fully-fledged clubhouse with a purpose-built facility, a Director, two further staff and 290 registered members.

From the 290 registered members, 160 have now completed accredited and non-accredited courses, 32 are now volunteering and 27 have returned to paid employment.

For these members, their families, friends and the wider Hastings community, the impact of Endeavour – with Bob at the helm – has been immeasurable. In the past 12 months, however, Endeavour has faced an uncertain future, as destabilisation in the health sector and the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme has posed major challenges to mental health agencies operating from a ‘recovery’ model.

This structural change led to the forced withdrawal of funding from Endeavour’s auspicing agency, One Door, raising the real prospect of Endeavour having to close its doors on June 30. Bob, with his foresight and experience, helped prepare Endeavour for this predicament by leading a carefully planned restructure that saw Endeavour established as an independent entity in May this year. From
this position, he skilfully led the committee in negotiating an interim funding agreement to keep Endeavour open.

Despite his heavy commitments with Endeavour, Bob has also found time for other social justice causes outside his local community. Described as a “truly great Australian who has made some exceptional achievements over the past 12 months as well as having a lengthy record of service to the Port Macquarie-Hastings community.”

Congratulations Bob on your nomination for our Australia Day Award in the Category of Senior Citizen of the Year.

ROGER BARLOW

Widely recognised as the ‘go to’ person in the Bonny Hills community, Roger has been the President of the Bonny Hills Progress Association since 2009.

Described as a proactive person, Roger has volunteered time to be involved in important initiatives such as: development of the Bonny Hills Community Plan; input into the Urban Growth Management Strategy and; Biodiversity Strategy; formation of a Community Action Team; input into local traffic management and pedestrian safety; and improvements in essential services such as establishing medical and chemist facilities.

Appreciated for his consultative and positive manner, organisational capability and attention to detail, Roger embraced the 2018 John Oxley Bicentenary celebrations as an opportunity to involve the entire community by instigating a spectacular Back to Bonny’s weekend. An estimated 4,000 people attended a range of events, from a community movie night, market and entertainment day on the beachside reserve, and a Gala Dinner to hear about the pioneers and early days. Roger’s leadership encouraged a small volunteer committee to work purposefully to stage this memorable event that has left enduring legacies such as a stronger and more connected community; a collection of historical photos; and a book containing the first-ever compilation of the history of Bonny Hills.

In response to a need for a more specific sporting facility for young girls and women in our Bonny Hills Community, Roger supervised the building of a netball half court in just four months at the centrally located Community Hall Reserve. These courts were the result of a successful grant funding application through the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Fund. A grant of $33,200 was received, the community raised $2,500 for the painting of the court, volunteers put in an
estimated 300 hours labour, and businesses and tradespeople contributed to an estimated value of $15,000 - in all a $50,000+ project.

Roger’s other passion is music. Taking up the bass guitar in retirement, he has for many years played with local concert and jazz big bands at retirement villages, the Glasshouse and open air concerts. As an amateur musician in and around Port Macquarie, he willingly gives his time and expertise as a bass player to provide backing for visiting choirs, such as The Choir of Hard Knocks.

A keen kayaker, Roger also coordinates a group of seniors for a weekly paddle in many of the natural lakes and waterways of the Hastings Valley. This highlights is deep appreciation for the natural beauty of our region and the need to sustain the community’s quality of lifestyle by ensuring well-planned and environmentally sensitive development.

Congratulations Roger on your nomination for 2019 Senior Citizen of the Year.

SYLVIA SCOTT

Described as a “dynamo”, Sylvia has for the last five years been organising and delivering the free Friday lunchtime concerts at the Glasshouse. In 2018 there were over 50 concerts provided for the enjoyment of our community.

Performers at these concerts have included professional, amateur and budding musicians of all ages in the community, including school children and school bands. The free lunchtime concerts give them a stage and the motivation that they would not otherwise have to improve their skills to perform and gain confidence. High-school students have the opportunity to practice their sound, lighting and stage management skills, and members of the community have a free music performance to enjoy each week.

The musical opportunities that Sylvia has given the community over the last five years have added so much richness to the area - social connection, appreciation of music and the arts, a feeling of contributing and making a difference - bringing disparate members of the community together in harmony and symphony!

Sylvia is on the board of the Mid North Coast Conservatorium of Music and was involved in running the Port Macquarie Musical Eisteddfod last year, all whilst coordinating a ladies barbershop chorus and ladies barbershop quartet.

Congratulations Sylvia on your nomination of Senior Citizen of the Year Award.
JENNIFER COOPER

Jennifer is a highly valued student at Hastings Secondary College and was recently elected, by her peers, as School Captain for 2019.

In 2018 Jennifer initiated a fundraising program to support farmers and communities who were in drought affected areas of NSW. Her idea developed into a shared fundraising campaign through the Hastings Valley Community of Schools, and through partnering with a number of local Rotary Clubs, has enabled her to purchase, fill and distribute Christmas hampers to identified families within the drought affected areas.

Jennifer is an active member of the Westport Aware Students of Cancer and Leukaemia Sufferers (WASCALS) which has raised over $30,000 since Jennifer joined in 2013, to assist the Cancer Council and those affected by cancer so they can have a better life. As part of the volunteering work with WASCALS, Jennifer travels to local primary schools to speak to students about the importance of Daffodil Day, raising awareness about cancer to young people and the need for a cure.

Jennifer’s willingness to accept challenges and responsibilities has seen her undertake various roles not only in school, but also contributing to the community by volunteering for various charity organisations such as the Salvation Army’s Red Shield Appeal, selling Legacy badges and volunteering at the Port Macquarie Ironman event.

Congratulations Jennifer on your nomination in the category of Young Citizen of the Year.

JESSICA HAYES

Jessica is described as a dynamic young citizen within our Hastings region. As a leading sportswoman, Jessica has experienced success in the fast growing sport of Futsal. Jessica works and trains very hard and enjoys giving back to other young people by sharing her experience and skills as a volunteer coach of the Under 6’s Port United Soccer team, Jessica is seen as a local a role model.

Alongside an impressive sporting career, Jessica was recently nominated for the Young Volunteer of the Year award by the Red
Cross for the Mid North Coast for her volunteer work with Orange Sky Laundry, an organisation working with homeless people. Jessica has been part of a number of fundraising efforts, most recently for Variety Club, which involved cutting off her beautiful long hair and donating it to help young children living with cancer.

Congratulations Jessica on your nomination in the category of Young Citizen of the Year.

RORY COOKE

Rory is a young entrepreneur and active businessman across the Hastings. Last year Rory volunteered his time, equipment and services from his business to pressure clean all of the playgrounds across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region. From Telegraph Point all the way to Comboyne, Rory spent countless hours working very hard to clean over 60 playgrounds, enabling safe, clean play spaces for families and children within our community.

Rory’s driving force behind this initiative was to encourage other businesses and individuals to give back to the community and keep our town looking the best that it can look. Throughout this time, Rory has received over 1000 comments from the local community leaving positive messages of support and encouragement, thanking him for his efforts.

Congratulations Rory on your nomination in the category of Young Citizen of the Year.

SAMET PORTAKADALI

Samet is a young man who makes a significant contribution to the community through his academic, sporting and community life.

As School Captain at Hastings Secondary College in 2018, Samet represented his school at many events including touch football tournaments, robotics presentations as well as significant community events where he was invited to lay wreaths at the local commemorative services including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.
Samet has been recognised for his academic and sporting skills through a number of different awards such as the ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork award, Hastings Secondary College Awards of Excellence, the Premiers Sporting Challenge Medal and was awarded the Hastings Valley Community of Schools Award for Student Leadership and Robotics.

When not at school, Samet can often be found volunteering at a number of different community events including Relay for Life, Clean Up Australia Day, and Luminosity programs for youth. He has been described as an ‘exemplary role model’ and contributes to making a positive difference in our community.

Congratulations Samet on your nomination in the category of Young Citizen of the Year.

Sophie Dowse

Described as a beautiful woman inside and out, Sophie is an inspiration to Koori women and all women of the area.

She is a brave, hardworking woman and active member of the Muay Thai sporting group who contributes to inspiring young women through learning Muay Thai.

Sophie contributes to the community by teaching Aboriginal children about her passion for martial arts, specifically Muay Thai. As part of the program, Sophie talks to young people about self-discipline, courage and determination and respect for all cultures, and encourages children to contribute to the betterment of the community.

Sophie’s passion can be seen through her desire to help young people and women strive to achieve their goals, and the pride that she has in being able to make a positive contribution to the community.

Congratulations Sophie on your nomination in the category of Young Citizen of the Year.
As Port Macquarie-Hastings Council did not receive any nominations for its 2019 “Citizen of the Year” Award, a recipient for this Award will be determined from the nominations received in both the Young Citizen of the Year and Senior Citizen of the Year Award categories.
Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We’ve golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature’s gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history’s page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We’ll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who’ve come across the seas
We’ve boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.