AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2020

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.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Environmental Citizen of the Year .................. 4

Community Group of the Year ............................ 5

Senior Citizen of the Year .............................. 8

Young Citizen of the Year ............................... 10

Citizen of the Year ......................................... 12
JUDIE RUMBLE

Described as an environmental warrior, Judie was first noticed several years ago carrying a very large sack of rubbish, that she had just collected whilst walking along the side of Lake Road on an extremely hot day. Since that time, Judie has been noticed out and about in our community, both on weekdays and weekends taking on the challenge of picking up and collecting rubbish and disposing it in a proper manner, in an endeavour to help our environment. Judie is passionate about the environment and backs her passion up with her actions. Judie’s selfless contribution to the Community is inspiring.

Congratulations Judie on your worthy nomination for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council 2020 Environmental Citizen of the Year.

DIANNE DAVISON

Dianne is being recognised for her involvement with Friends of Mrs York’s Garden (FMYG) and her passionate commitment to the conservation of habitat and wildlife. Due to Dianne’s unwavering passion & enthusiasm, MYG has been transformed from a severely degraded weed infested area into a Littoral rainforest corridor to be enjoyed by all.

Over the past nearly five years Dianne has taken on the full time duties in many of the roles within FMYG including grant and award submission officer. Late in 2019 the FMYG were awarded the Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award as a result of Dianne’s efforts. The community support and social media following is managed by Dianne including presentations to schools, local businesses and social clubs (Rotary, Landcare), library groups, radio and magazine interviews, garden clubs and interstate and overseas supporters.

Mrs York’s Garden benefits the local community as a place of natural beauty where residents & visitors can come for exercise, recreation and solace, whilst setting an example to the community using native species by showing that they are colourful, bird and butterfly attracting, weed and pest resistant and tolerant of coastal conditions.

Congratulations Dianne on your worthy nomination for Environmental Citizen of the Year Award.
SUNRISE ROTARY & SUNRISE PMQ WEST

Sunrise Rotary & PMQ West Club are both non-profit community organisations who have combined their efforts to benefit the community and the environment by a cooperative venture involving a comprehensive bottle, can and container collection service. This project delivers many hundreds and sometimes thousands of recyclable items per visit. The Hope Shop is an accredited deposit centre where all collected cans and bottles are taken. This is a win-win as The Hope Shop earns money that funds more of its community welfare work. The two groups work with the organisers of Ironman to attend the three-day carnival. Here their teams sort the refundable deposit containers into three groups - glass bottles, aluminium cans and plastic bottles and responsibly discard ineligible containers. This is an incredible effort that these two groups manage which is benefiting the environment. In addition to the Touch Football events Rotarians continue to utilise their own vehicles, absorbing all costs to collect from about 20 businesses and hundreds of households in the region and deliver to the bulk deposit centre. In overall terms both Rotary clubs are pleased to be involved with Touch Football, small and large local businesses and many households as a community benefit to the environment and as a way of fundraising for the benefit of other not-for-profit organisations located within the Port Macquarie-Hastings.

Congratulations Sunrise Rotary and PMQ West Club.

SUNSET GALLERY BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Sunset Gallery and Framing opened its doors to create a donation and distribution centre to assist where they could during the recent bushfires. Together with the generosity from members of our community, they have since received thousands of donations, coordinated volunteers to create care packages with those donations and distributed those care packages to numerous RFS and emergency crews and evacuation centres from Kempsey to Forster and in between, providing much-needed grocery hampers and clothing items to those people who have lost property in the fires. Together Sunset Gallery Bushfire Appeal has supported and contributed to other donation centres around Port Macquarie such as the Charles Sturt University Campus where hundreds of firefighters were staying, and established a contact network with the RFS and Emergency Services to assist where they could.

Congratulations Sunset Gallery Bushfire Appeal on your nomination.
Tacking Point Lions Club continue to deliver large and successful community projects for the benefit of the Port Macquarie area. These projects for 2019 include but are certainly not limited to The Koala Smart Project: a partnership with the Koala Hospital, and other stakeholders to deliver a project designed to educate and deliver solutions to assist in the future survival of our Koala population. The program has been so successful that it will be adopted as part of the NSW Education Dept curriculum, with a view to taking it State wide in the near future.

Other projects include the redesign and upgrade of Geriatric Wards Gardens at the Base Hospital Port Macquarie, the building of a children’s playground and BBQ facilities at Lighthouse Beach and the delivery of a Communication system between Base Hospital at Port, and Kempsey Hospital. This system allows doctors and patients in the two Renal units to communicate by video reducing the need to have to undertake the daily travel to Port/Kempsey.

TPLC assisted with feeding the hundreds of firefighter’s their breakfasts at Charles Sturt University nearly every morning since November during the recent bushfire crisis. A joint project between CSU and Lions.

Congratulations Tacking Point Lions Club on your worthy nomination for Community Group of the Year Award.
The Rotary Club of Wauchope is a non-profit community service organisation, working in the Wauchope and surrounding communities for 67 years. Last year the group performed 674 hours of service, a mighty effort for 26 members.

The group played an important role assisting in the planning and development of the very well used Blackbutt Off Leash Dog Park. Drought Relief programs have also been supported with over $4000 being donated to date.

Past President Reg Pierce, through Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS), administered the distribution of over $1.8mil via vouchers to farmers in drought declared areas. In partnership with Real Dairy Australia, Wauchope Rotary established the ‘Hay for Farmers’ program. Through funding from RAWCS, 3 B-double loads of hay for Hastings and Manning dairy farmers were purchased. Wauchope Rotary members have helped staff the food distribution centre at the Cameron St Rural Fire Service, Wauchope.

Wauchope Rotary supports the program for homeless people ‘Wauchope at 3’ by donating food items and financial donations and providing a venue for their Christmas luncheon.

In this past year, the group sponsored attendance at the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), Luminosity, RyMarine and conducted a public speaking program for high school students and co-sponsored an international youth exchange from Germany and a Norwegian youth exchange.

Wauchope Rotary is known for its energetic support of other community events, programs and groups through volunteer works or donations. Examples include the Wauchope Farmer’s Markets, the Port Macquarie Foreshore Markets, Wauchope Moto Fest, Riding for the Disabled – Wauchope, Sailability – PMQ Branch and Lifeline just to list a few.

Congratulations Wauchope Rotary Club on your worthy nomination for the 2020 Port Macquarie-Hastings Community Group of the Year Award.
JOHN URQUHART

“Someone who has focussed his many professional talents to support his passionate belief in social justice for all, doing so through his various volunteer and charity work” is how John Urquhart is described.

John is one of life’s “doers” actively engaged in making a difference, being there when decisions are made that make things better. His many roles on local Boards and Committees are testimony to that. Through good use of his leadership and management skills he supports the over 50’s in our community. John has been on the Council of National Seniors Australia since 2014 and on its Policy Board since 2015. In these roles, he helps shape the organisation’s powerful advocacy for seniors everywhere.

John makes sure that the voices of our seniors are heard at a national level and keeps members up-to-date on how our concerns are being fed through to state and national advocacy campaigns. John has played an integral part in helping our local branch grow to the vibrant society it now is. He was President of the Executive Committee of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Branch of National Seniors for two years. Amazingly, John finds time to help with other groups.

John is a volunteer gardener at the Domestic and Family Violence Centre, and a member of Lions Clubs for over 30 years with his achievements having been recognised at local and international level. Through John’s volunteering he engages with all ages and walks of life providing much care and needed support to those who need it and is considered by many as an outstanding member of our local community. Congratulations John on your worthy nomination for the Senior Citizen of the Year award.

GREGORY CAVANAGH

Greg has been nominated in recognition of his life long volunteering efforts across a wide range of organisations throughout the Port Macquarie-Hastings.

Community members like Greg Cavanagh are the backbone of many community groups across our LGA at one point in time or another. From Legacy, The Westpac Rescue Helicopter or the Wauchope Lions Club or the Yesteryear Truck & Machinery Club, just to name a few, Greg is always willing to assist when required. Congratulations Greg on your worthy nomination for Senior Citizen of the Year.
LEONIE ANN HEATH

Leonie Heath is nominated for her volunteer efforts in our community and her generous spirit, which is an inspiration to all who know her. Leonie’s unstinting voluntary contribution of time, effort, work and support to the people of Port Macquarie-Hastings, is described as being “a shining light and example to all, deserving of recognition”. Leonie has been President of Port Macquarie Animal Welfare Service Inc. (PMAWS) for three and a half years and a member for approximately twelve years. PMAWS is a group of 29 members who care for and re-home domestic animals from Taree to Kempsey and sometimes beyond. In her position of President Leonie has ensured that PMAWS has a much appreciated and respected place in our community. She is on call 24/7 in the service of the animals and the group. Her organisational skills are invaluable to PMAWS. Congratulations Leonie on your worthy nomination for Senior Citizen of the Year award.

KENNETH LITTLE

Kenny Little is being nominated because of his continued effort to put others before self. As a long-term local and business owner Ken has always been there & is part of the fabric of Port Macquarie! Ken is always giving back and providing opportunities to the youth of our community. Ken has embarked on & continues to provide employment programmes which reaches out across our local broad demographics. Ken works tirelessly for not only the benefit of his employees and family, but the wider community. Ken continually supports local sport or community fundraiser efforts. He loves his town & the people in it. Ken has been awarded life memberships to his Rugby League, Cricket and Hockey Clubs, and the Hockey Association. He is the recipient of Port Macquarie sports Volunteer of the Year. Has been involved with Nippers, Swimming, Snooker Clubs & many other organisations. Ken has been a volunteer hockey & cricket coach, a lifeguard & life mentor, a sports administrator & President of the Men’s Hockey Assoc. Ken was founding member of the Port City (Settlers) Hockey Club & was president for 10 years. He, along with his teammates, campaigned for the first artificial hockey turf in Port Macquarie. Ken still plays & umpires hockey. Ken sources as much produce as he can from local ORGANIC suppliers for his business. He understands the importance of environmental stewardship! Ken’s love for his beloved beach & environment remains at the forefront of his business decision making practices. A True Champion. Congratulations Kenny on your worthy nomination for Senior Citizen of the Year.
LIAM BIRRER

For the last two years Liam has been volunteering at Sancrox Rural Fire Brigade.

From the age of 16 years old Liam has stepped up to the challenge of the RFS, and is always available to help out when needed.

Recently due to the devastating bushfires, Liam missed his HSC exam to continue fighting fires that were threatening his local community. Liam has been accepted into University to study Environmental Science Management.

The display of such dedication by Liam to help out during such an extreme fire event by someone so young, is so positive and inspiring to all around him.

Congratulations Liam on your worthy nomination for Young Citizen of the Year.

LAURA TELFORD

Laura is described as a highly motivated and caring person, who has made it her mission in life to better inform society and give youth a credible voice through her media and people skills.

After moving to Port Macquarie in 2017, Laura joined Rotaract, a service club for young people, as a way of dedicating herself to serving the community through voluntary and advocacy actions. As the Rotaract representative on the Rotary District management team, Laura spent the past year travelling the district, state and nationally to advocate for young people. During this time, Laura encouraged the formation of several Rotaract clubs as a way of empowering rural youth.

Laura is generous with her free time taking on the communications role for the highly acclaimed and successful 2019 Luminosity Youth Summit. Laura was a member of the management team and panel forum. Over 400 young delegates from NSW rural & regional areas attended the three-day forum.

Congratulations Laura on your worthy nomination for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council 2020 Young Citizen of the Year award.
YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR cont.

BRITTANY DALY

At just 27 years of age Brittany Daly is described as a passionate, hard working and inspiring young woman. Following serving in the Australian Defence Force Brittany has now integrated back into civilian life and contributing to her local community.

Brittany is a volunteer firefighter, she joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in June 2009 and joined the fire brigade in memory of her brother who tragically passed away in 2009, she is a active member of the Bonny Hills Rural Fire Brigade.

Brittany is always there to help out with fundraising events, one of which was the 2019 stairwell climb of the Sydney Centre Point tower to raise funds for Motor Neuron disease.

Unfortunately, after months of hard work fundraising, engaging with the community and training for the climb Brittany was unable to attend In the middle of the terrible fires of late. Brittany was however able to provide some much needed smiles to the kids camping out at Rolland Plains Showground by starring in the RFS dance challenge video.

Brittany has such a love for people and the outdoors and she brings them together to support so many causes. Competing in Port Macquarie park run plus a further 15km in support of mental health, two runs for ‘Walking off the war within’ and 20kg for 20km in support of mental health. The Walk is for Emergency Service Personnel, Defence Force Personnel and members of the public to come together to share burden and march as one.

Brittany strongly believes in promoting the positive message about Mental Health

Congratulations Brittany on your worthy nomination for Young Citizen of the Year award.
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

LUKE ANDERSON

Described as a quiet achiever, Luke has overcome adversity in his young life to become the person who is being recognised with his nomination for Citizen of the Year. Following a number of personal issues and a motorcycle accident that nearly took his life, Luke has been given the opportunity to speak with the youth in our community about the experiences he had endured from the loss of his mother, and through his motor cycle accident. Here was a chance for him to pass on warnings to the younger generation and make a difference to the community of Port Macquarie.

Luke established a voluntary gratis speaking role with Lifeline and NSW Health, RRISK, (Reduce Risk Increase Student Knowledge) and speaks at schools from Port Macquarie to Coffs Harbour, delivering PowerPoint presentations and workshops on Road Safety Skills and Suicide Prevention. Often his talks are linked with Police, Fire and Roads and Maritime Service presentations.

Lifeline Mid North Coast appointed Luke as their Youth Ambassador in 2016 and he is having a major influence on students.

Walking out of hospital alive was a crossroad moment and he realised his purpose in life is to help others in need.

Congratulations Luke on your worthy nomination for Citizen of the Year.

DAMON MORONEY

Damon is a local street artist who has significantly contributed to improving the beauty of Port Macquarie with his outstanding murals throughout our Local Government area. Described as being someone who is “extremely community minded and is taking steps to eradicate illegal graffiti in the town”, Damon has organised youth art days and working bees to get the youth of the town involved in his quest.

Damon is an inspiration to all and is always ready to assist those in need. Congratulations Damon on your worthy nomination for Citizen of the Year.
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR cont.

IAN FENTON

Described as always going above and beyond when it comes to mateship. Ian received a desperate phone call from a long-time friend who was asking for help as his property was under direct threat during the recent bushfires impacting our region.

Ian, once reassured by his neighbours that his family would be ok, showed his true character and didn’t hesitate to jump in his car and drive to Birdwood to help where he could. Driving through extreme fire conditions to lend a hand, Ian and his mate where unable to save some of the outbuildings on the property, but managed to protect and save the family home for which his mate will be forever grateful. Ian is said to be humble about his heroic efforts, but it is mates like Ian who like others in our community have gone above and beyond to help out during the devastating recent bushfires suffered across our region. Congratulations Ian on your worthy nomination for this year’s Citizen of the Year Award.

DANIELLE MALTMAN

Danielle is described as someone who has a passion for regional communities and dives into her work with gusto. Danielle was instrumental in forming the Revive Lake Cathie Community Group and is the current President. Her ability to harness peoples enthusiasm to achieve the best outcome for Lake Cathie’s ecosystems, waterways and catchments which are in crisis, is amazing.

Danielle has organised many meetings and events and also ensured that credible research had been achieved. Many hundreds of hours has been spent on the Revive Lake Cathie Community Group objectives. To see a successful result for the Lake Cathie Region is driving her to leave no stone un-turned to achieve.

Danielle is involved in many Community organisations and is the first person to put her hand up to help. Over the past year she has been involved with many charitable fundraisers. Just recently she headed up the volunteers helping with the Bush Fires.

With Danielle’s leadership skills, Revive Lake Cathie heeded the Community calls for assistance to help with donations for the Wauchope Show Society in preparing a community evacuation centre during the Mid North Coast fire emergency. Thanks to the wonderful Lake Cathie community within less then half an hour our Revive Lake Cathie team vehicles were packed to the brim with plenty of donations.

Congratulations on Danielle on your worthy nomination for Citizen of the Year.
CHRIS BROWN

Chris Brown is the Captain of the Lake Cathie Rural Fire Brigade and it is because of his leadership of the Lake Cathie Rural Fire Bridge that he is being nominated. Chris’s nominator wrote ... “Quite simply his courageous efforts to pull out all stops personally and professionally saved our town in November from the firestorm, during the Lake-Innes Crestwood fire”.

Chris Brown has been a firefighter for 17 years and as Captain leads a brigade of 53 volunteer members. The community of Lake Cathie experienced extreme fire conditions in November, and it if wasn’t for amazing volunteers like Chris, his wife Kylie and fellow brigade members, and many others who offered to assist, we might be looking at a very different community today. During this difficult time in November 2019, and in an effort to continue to assist with the firefighting efforts, Chris as a small local business owner, put his livelihood on hold and continued to volunteer to do what he could to combat the threat facing the Community of Lake Cathie.

Congratulations Chris Brown on your worthy nomination for the Port Macquarie-Hastings 2020 Citizen of the Year.
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

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.