



MEDIA RELEASE: MONDAY, 29 JANUARY, 2019

Strathbogie Shire Australia Day ceremonies celebrate local achievements

Thirty-two Strathbogie Shire residents and community groups were recognised and celebrated at the 2019 Australia Day Awards Ceremonies.

Ceremonies were held in the townships of Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Nagambie, Strathbogie and Violet Town.

The Australia Day Awards acknowledge and celebrate the community service contributions and achievements of local people during the previous year.

The following candidates were selected as the 2019 shire-wide award winners:

Community Organisation of the Year- St Dunstan's Film Society

The St Dunstan's Film Society has grown in momentum over the last nine years and provides great entertainment for many community members. The Society has not only provided entertainment for the community, but has reinvigorated and utilised an unused space in Violet Town. The Society has been a lifeline for a lot of the elderly in town, giving them a chance to get out and socialise.

Community Event of the Year- Longwood Beer, Wine and Cider Festival

The inaugural Longwood Beer, Wine and Cider Festival was held on Saturday 3rd March, 2018. The event was organised by a sub-committee of the Longwood Football Netball Club. The positive impacts on the town and district exceeded expectations. An enjoyable and relaxing day was had amongst the gum trees on the fairway at the Longwood Community Centre by the four hundred plus crowd who were entertained by local musicians.

Junior Citizen of the Year- Ely Reid

Ely Reid has shown a strong interest and commitment to his local community in Avenel by seizing every opportunity to contribute, fundraise and participate. On 26th January 2018, Ely eagerly volunteered to sing the National Anthem solo at the Avenel Australia Day Ceremony and performed a wonderful song he co-wrote with his singing teacher about his love of Avenel and the things that make the community special to him.

Young Citizen of the Year- Beata Nikoloski

Beata was the 2018 School Captain and has very competently represented Euroa Secondary College at both ANZAC Day services at Euroa and on several occasions. As a part of the school captain's role she attended and contributed to school council meetings. Beata was also a very valued member of the school band and an important member of a buddy program called Art Club at Euroa Secondary.

Citizen of the Year- Neil McLeod

Neil dedicates a substantial amount of his free time to providing medical care to the Nagambie community through his time as a volunteer with the Ambulance Service. On average, Neil volunteers more than 20 nights per month on top of working full time. He has also taken a leading role in fundraising activities to obtain vital equipment for the new First Aid Training facilities at the Ambulance Station.

The township winners were as follows:

Avenel

Community Event of the Year- Opening of the netball courts, skate park and cricket nets which was a great celebration of fantastic new infrastructure for the town through the collaborative efforts of many local community groups and levels of government

Community Organisation of the Year- Avenel Action Group, for their work with Strathbogie Shire Council and various other community groups to help facilitate significant improvements to infrastructure in Avenel

Junior Citizen of the Year- Ely Reid (as above)

Young Citizen of the Year- Lily Aitken, for her efforts as President of the Student Representative Council at Euroa Secondary College

Citizen of the Year- Kate Steers, for her efforts in planning, developing and organising the 'It Just Takes One' drought relief fund

Euroa

Community Event of the Year- Pink Stumps High Tea, which significantly contributes to the McGrath Foundation and its mission for breast cancer

Community Organisation of the Year- Euroa parkrun, for their hard work in bringing parkrun to Euroa which brings significant social and physical health benefits to the local community

Junior Citizen of the Year- Jordan Kipping, for embracing opportunities within and beyond the classroom including sports, productions and in her role as Assistant Treasurer of the Student Representative Council

Young Citizen of the Year- Ben Lewis, for his efforts as an active member of the Evolve Youth Committee

Young Citizen of the Year- Jessica Staff, for her contribution to the Euroa Secondary College through the school production, art club and in her role as Publicity Officer for the Student Representative Council

Citizen of the Year- Scott Watson, for his ongoing contribution to the Euroa community, especially as President of the Euroa Football Club and Chairman of the Euroa Community Action Group.

Citizen of the Year- Kerrie Stackhouse, for many years of selfless service to her local community, in particular, Kerrie has given a great deal of her time to the Euroa Hospital, both as a board member and volunteer.

Longwood

Community Event of the Year- Longwood Beer, Wine and Cider Festival (as above)

Citizen of the Year- Travis Stefanos, for years of commitment to the Longwood Football Netball Club and his contribution as the Principal of Longwood Primary School

Nagambie

Community Organisation of the Year- Nagambie On Water, for taking their event to the next level by moving it to the main street of Nagambie and substantially increasing the range of activities and involvement of community groups

Community Event of the Year- New Year's Eve, which provided a family friendly way to celebrate the commencement of the New Year

Junior Citizen of the Year- Alysha McLeod, for her efforts as Vice-Captain of Nagambie Primary School and participation in a variety of sporting activities

Citizen of the Year- Neil McLeod (as above)

Strathbogie

Young Citizen of the Year- Tom McIntosh, for being a fantastic role model for his fellow students as School Captain of Euroa Secondary College in 2018

Young Citizen of the Year- Tamara Smith, for her exceptional sporting achievements and leadership as the Vice President of the Student Representative Council at Euroa Secondary College

Young Citizen of the Year- Beata Nikoloski (as above)

Citizen of the Year- Jill Smith, for all of her behind the scenes work for the Strathbogie, especially the Strathbogie Hall Committee and Material Girls

Violet Town

Community Event of the Year- Violet Town Kindergarten High Tea, a was a wonderful local event which raised over \$4000 for the Violet Town kindergarten

Community Organisation of the Year- St Dunstan's Film Society (as above)

Young Citizen of the Year- Brodie Doige, for his contributions as an active member of the Violet Town CFA and a great role model for his peers

Citizen of the Year- Janine Palmer, for her ongoing support for the Violet Town Opportunity Shop, volunteering her services to the Violet Town History Group and being an active member of the local church

Senior Citizen of the Year- Fay Whitewood, for her significant contributions to the Violet Town community, especially through Violet Town Action Group

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Amanda McClaren said Council congratulates all of those who were recognised at this year's ceremonies.

“The Australia Day ceremonies are a fantastic way for us to give thanks for this wonderful sunburnt country we are so lucky to call home and provides the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate some of the outstanding individuals and groups who contribute so much to the Strathbogie Shire,” Mayor McClaren said.

“I’d like to congratulate our winners on their ongoing dedication to their communities.”

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