



**MEDIA RELEASE: MONDAY, 29 JANUARY, 2018**

**Strathbogie Shire celebrates Australia Day 2018**

Thirty-six Strathbogie Shire residents, community groups and events were recognised and awarded at the 2018 Australia Day Awards Ceremonies.

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

Australia Day Awards recognise and commend the community service contributions and achievements of local people during the previous year.

The following nominees were selected as the 2018 Shire-wide award winners:

**Community Organisation of the Year- Euroa Third Age Club**

The Third Age Club have provided many years of exemplary service to the mature citizens of Euroa including outings, meals, dancing, coffees and special occasions. They played an integral role in the Australian National Show & Shine, hosting the VIPs, judging staff, Police and Ambulance staff for the day.

**Community Event of the Year- Euroa Labour Day Tennis Tournament**

The Euroa Lawn Tennis Club hosted a huge three day tournament over the Labour Day weekend with a record 530 players registered for events. Seven additional courts were constructed on the adjacent Friendlies Oval to cater for extra matches in singles and doubles. Despite a drizzle of rain on the Saturday event, it was hugely successful, with all matches completed and prizes presented.

**Junior Citizen of the Year- Imogen Kelly**

Imogen constantly supports the Violet Town Football Netball Club by offering her service during the season to play and to support game days, assisting with the many fundraising functions, and won the Junior Club Person in 2017. She volunteered to help out at VicSwim last year, as well as assisting with the Nightmare on Cowslip Street celebrations and Community House activities.

**Young Citizen of the Year- Amelia Morris**

Amelia is a very impressive young leader. She was the Euroa Secondary College School Captain in 2016 and was an active member of schools Student Representative Council in 2017. Last year, Amelia became a member of the Orygen Youth Advisory Council, the National Centre of Excellence for Youth Mental Health. She also started a Mental Health Awareness Group in the local community, and ran monthly meetings at the Euroa Library. Amelia was selected as a representative on the Victorian Government's Youth Congress in October 2017.

### **Citizen of the Year (joint winner): Trevor Northey**

Trevor has volunteered at the Violet Town Market from 5.00am in the morning for many years. He is the friendly face of the market for the stallholders, as he is the one that greets them from early setup - rain, hail, frost or shine! He takes a lot of responsibility for the jobs that need doing and is one key reason the market is such a success. A carpenter by trade, Trevor uses his skills to fix what needs to be fixed in the community, volunteering his time to many local groups and facilities including Violet Town Community House and Euroa Arboretum.

### **Citizen of the Year (joint winner): Fiona Smith**

Fiona is a very active member of the Nagambie community. She has been on North East Breeders Committee for 15 years and was awarded the North East Breeders Industry Award in 2009. Fiona was the treasurer of the Nagambie Cricket Club from 2003-2007 and a committee member of St Joseph's Parents and Friends for seven years. She currently volunteers as the Treasurer of Tabilk Junior Football Club and is a member of the Nagambie Recreation Reserve Committee, Nagambie Football Club Committee and Nagambie Bowls Club Committee.

The township winners were as follows:

#### **Avenel**

*Community Event of the Year:* Stationeers Open Gardens- the Avenel Stationeers held a well-supported fundraising Open Gardens event with the proceeds going to local organisations.

*Junior Citizen of the Year:* Angus Murray- for his contributions to local football and tennis club and as an umpire of the KDFL for a number of years

*Young Citizen of the Year:* Mackenzie Garner- for her contributions as School Captain at Seymour Collage, captain of Under 17 Avenel Netball Team and Caltex Best All-Rounder Award recipient.

*Citizen of the Year:* Jeff Moran- for his efforts as Chairman of Avenel Action Group and as a member of the Avenel Stationeers.

#### **Euroa**

*Community Organisation of the Year:* Euroa Third Age Club- as above

*Community Event of the Year:* Euroa Labour Day Tennis Tournament- as above

*Young Citizen of the Year:* Denver Pallis- for his contributions to the Euroa community through involvement with Evolve Youth Committee and as a member of MPower Youth Group.

*Citizen of the Year:* Melinda Watson- as a dedicated volunteer in schools and sports in Euroa, including girls Auskick, Euroa Swimming Squad and Aussie Hoops Junior Basketball.

## **Longwood**

*Community Event of the Year:* Shrine of Remembrance Exhibition- a successful exhibition which told a chronological history of the First World War through a range of images, giving an insight into life in the early part of the century.

*Junior Citizen of the Year:* Madison and Casey Hearmon- for their assistance at Longwood functions, outstanding netball prowess and award winning cakes.

*Young Citizen of the Year:* Liza Hearmon- for her assistance at Longwood functions and as finals Captain of Under 14 Euroa Junior Netball Team who were premiers in 2017.

*Citizen of the Year:* Anne Murray- for her devotion to the Longwood community, particularly her work with the Shrine of Remembrance Exhibition.

## **Nagambie**

*Community Organisation of the Year:* Nagambie Golf Club- for their tremendous effort and contribution to the Nagambie Community and region by establishing and maintaining an asset for us all to admire and enjoy.

*Community Event of the Year:* Daniher Drive- Nagambie community put on a fantastic event for Daniher Drive when they cruised into Nagambie for morning tea as part of their mission to raise vital funds for MND research.

*Young Citizen of the Year:* Amelia Morris- as above

*Citizen of the Year:* Fiona Smith- as above

## **Strathbogie**

*Community Organisation of the Year:* Kelvin View, Strathbogie and Marraweeney CFA Fire Brigades- for their selfless devotion to serving not only our local community but, as witnessed on many occasions, being prepared to travel, sometimes long distances, to help other communities in times of need.

*Community Event of the Year:* World Yoga Day- a true community event for all ages and a class that everyone could enjoy.

*Young Citizen of the Year:* Grace Arnold- for her contributions as School Captain of Euroa Secondary College in 2017 and as an active member of School Council and Euroa Secondary College band.

*Citizen of the Year:* Allan Rowarth- for his contributions as an active member of the Strathbogie community through the Strathbogie Football Club, Cricket Club, Tennis Club, Golf Club, Primary School and Recreation Grounds Committee of Management.

## **Violet Town**

*Community Organisation of the Year:* Violet Town Fire Brigade Group- for their continued dedication to regularly attending fires, floods, serious road collisions and commitment to training and serving the community.

*Community Event of the Year-* The Motley Crew War Time Radio Show – Radio 3VT- a committed group of people from across the Shire who had a vision of entertaining on a shoestring, at \$10 or \$8 with concession including supper, they hosted an inexpensive and delightful night out.

*Junior Citizen of the Year:* Imogen Kelly- as above

*Young Citizen of the Year:* Lily and Stella Robinson- for their continued community service to Violet Town events such as Nightmare on Cowslip Street and the Violet Town Market.

*Citizen of the Year:* Trevor Northey- as above

*Senior Citizen of the Year:* Angus Howell- for his continued dedication to his position on a variety of community groups and for sharing his and his wife's journey with the community in his daily newsletter.

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Amanda McClaren said she was honoured to be a part of the Australia Day celebrations.

"The Australia Day Awards Ceremonies provide a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge some of the amazing community members that make up our wonderful shire," Cr McClaren said.

"I am blown away time and time again by the commitment and dedication of our local people and the outstanding things they have achieved."

"I would like to congratulate all of our award winners on their efforts," she said.

**-ENDS-**

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