



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

**29 January 2019**

### **Locals recognised in Australia Day Awards**

A crowd of over 130 converged on the Coonamble Showground Pavilion last Saturday, 26 January to celebrate Australia Day and recognise the achievements of people and groups in the Coonamble community.

Coonamble Rotary Club cooked up a storm with a free breakfast for everyone while students of Coonamble Public School gathered to led the National Anthem.

Dr Benjamin Veness, the 2019 Australia Day Ambassador took to the stage to present his Australia Day Address, where everyone quickly learned about his passion and the research he has done into mental health. Dr Veness believes small communities like the Coonamble community have great support units in place and should keep up the good work.

The Coonamble Education Foundation Scholarships were announced by Mrs Lindy Regan and the Coonamble Shire Council Mayor, Cr Ahmad Karanouh presented the awards to the winners of the Australia Day Colouring competition.

It was then, the moment everyone had been waiting for, the announcement of the Coonamble Australia Day Awards for 2019.

Coonamble Shire Council Mayor, Cr Ahmad Karanouh said, "Congratulations to all nominees and a huge thank you to those who nominated each and every one. Well done!

During 2019 we encourage you to think about those in the community that should be recognised for their contribution to the local community and nominate them for the 2020 Awards."

The 2019 Coonamble Australia Day Awards recipients are:

#### **Citizen of the Year Award – Wayne Phillips**

Wayne, a member of many committee in the local community including Coonamble Lions Club, Coonamble Drought Relief Alliance, the Cancer Survival Group, Welcome to Coonamble Committee, Meal on Wheels and the Worn-Out Old Fellows group, just to name a few.

An unsung hero who volunteers his time to a vast array of activities that support members of our local community.

Wayne is a very quiet achiever and deserves recognition for everything he does including mowing your lawns when you are unwell to changing your light bulbs.

If you need assistance, Wayne is always there lending a hand. – he is the go-to person in the community!

Coonamble Shire Council congratulates Wayne on the positive influence his community work and personal dedication has on the community of Coonamble. Wayne Phillips is certainly a worthy recipient of the 2019 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award.

### **Young Citizen of the Year Award – Douglas Fernando**

Douglas is a fantastic young Coonamble citizen who contributes to many community events including running activities at the Coonamble Drought Fun Day. Douglas volunteers with Clontarf at various community events and is a valued member of the community.

Coonamble Shire Council congratulates Douglas on his achievements. He is a worthy recipient of the 2019 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award

### **Community Group of the Year Award – Castlereagh Connection**

Over the last 12 months this band has performed at many community events including the Coonamble Drought Fun Day and Coonamble Christmas Carnivale. They have performed at the Coonamble hospital long stay as well as many schools including Coonamble, Nyngan and Dubbo.

This group of young boys and their father are an extremely talented group and very deserving of this award as the Coonamble community are very lucky to have them.

### **Community Event of the Year Award – Coonamble Drought Relief Fun Day – organised by Coonamble Rotary Club**

The Coonamble Drought Relief Fun Day event was proudly presented by the Coonamble Rotary and supported by Coonamble Lions Club, Australian Red Cross, Coonamble CWA, Quota, Department of Primary Industries and Coonamble Shire Council.

The free event, held at the Coonamble Showground was an enormous success and provided a day of respite for families and their children from the impacts of the drought. The action packed day included free activities, entertainment, food and provided an opportunity for people to access drought assistance. The day was also supported by several Rotary Club across NSW.

Australia Day celebrations in Gulargambone started early with the Gulargambone Australia Day Committee and helpers serving breakfast prior to the announcement of the Australia Day Awards by Ambassador Clio Cresswell, PhD, mathematician, writer, media presenter, educator and author of *Mathematics & Sex*.

The 2019 Gulargambone Australia Day Awards recipients are:

**Citizen of the Year Award – Annie Haling**

**Young Citizen of the Year – Chloe Fardel**

**Sportsperson of the Year – Katarina McEwen**

**Community Group of the Year – Gulargambone MPS**

**Community Event of the Year – Pave the Way Festival  
Environmentalist of the Year – Gulargambone Lions Club**

**END**

<b>Precis or Summary: Australia Day Celebration and Award Recipients</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Embargoed:</b>
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