



*Australia Day Awards  
& Citizenship Ceremony  
25 January 2008*



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Dr Richard Geeves pictured with Lara Giddings MHA (photo courtesy of the Huon News)

## **Citizen of the Year 2008 Dr Richard Geeves OAM ED**

After an illustrious medical career, Dr Geeves retired in the late 1980's to the house his Great Grandfather (after which Geeveston is named), built in Port Huon. It was then that Dr Geeves started contributing in a variety of ways to the Geeveston Community.

The Geeves family's 150<sup>th</sup> reunion which was held in 1992, was an idea that had been simmering away for 25 years.

With the driving force of Dr Geeves and the creation of a committee the idea was brought to life. The reunion attracted 500 people and drew together stories, historical artefacts and an enormous sense of achievement and pride, for, not only the Geeves family but for the Geeveston community as a whole.

Dr Geeves has provided many hours of service to the Technical Aid for the Disabled, a voluntary organisation providing individualised aids for people with disabilities.

Dr Geeves' vision was behind the creation of the Green Jacket Volunteer Movement working out of the Forest and Heritage Centre. He has remained involved since its beginnings and has served on the Board of the Forest & heritage Centre for 5 years.

He has volunteered his time to Meals on wheels for "donkeys years" and been a Vestry Member of St Peter's Church and a Church Member of the Parish Council.

As an active member of the Geeveston Streetscape Committee since 2000, Dr Geeves has contributed his time to the beautification of the township. He has also been a committee member of the Tasmanian Forest Festival and a co-organiser of the pitsaw display held at the festival.

Dr Geeves is secretary of the Geeveston Archives and History Group, hosts bus groups to the region, volunteers at the Anglican Op-Shop in Huonville, has attended the Grey Parliament and put forward successful recommendations relating to aged care. In 1990 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community, particularly the welfare of the aged and in 2001 received a Centenary Medal for his many years of service to the Huon Valley.

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**Community Event of the Year 2008  
Gai Anderson and Lucinda Wilson  
Cygnet Community Arts Council  
'Isle of Plenty' Apple Harvest Celebration  
Held at Burton's Reserve Cygnet March 2007**

This special event was inspired by the famous Cygnet Apple Harvest Festivals which attracted over 10,000 spectators in their heyday on the 1950's.

The 'Isle of Plenty' Apple Harvest celebration was created by Lucinda Wilson and Gai Anderson in conjunction with the Cygnet Community Arts Council, Tasmanian Regional Arts and Ten Days on the Island to showcase the community's connection with the apple industry.

It was a day of harvest celebrations including the iconic Apple Queen Float and Parade, screenings of rare archival footage and a farmers and makers market. A display of local vegetables, apple pies and retro kitchenware was on show in the Scout Hall.

In the months leading up to the event, workshops were held to create gowns, costumes and decorations for the parade. There were 6 past Apple Queens present, all were paraded in a horse drawn cart, a giant swan was created for the parade by students from Huonville High School but the highlight may have been the Apple queen herself – an art installation requiring 2.5 tons of apples to fill a 3m high metal skirt worn by Kris Rastovich. The day continued with a concert by Cape Verde singer Lura, while the surrounds contained Nicolas Goodwolf's 'Hut Culture' art installation, a tribute to the pickers huts of old.

This one off event was a great tribute to the apple industry.

# **Community Project Service Award 2008**

Ranelagh Oval Clubrooms and Changerooms Project

Ranelagh–Grove Cricket Club & the Huon Valley Soccer Club

## **Rhona Burgess**

### **Special Merit Award 2008**



Rhona Burgess photographed at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony

For 70 years Rhona has attended the Geeveston Community Church where she is now Deacon. For 25 of these years from 1981 to 2006, she held the position of secretary and tirelessly carried out all the responsibilities of that role. In addition, Rhona has been an Elder of the Church and carried out the tasks with good cheer. She has been a trustee of the Church for 46 years.

For 14 years Rhona has volunteered her time to Meals on Wheels for the people of the Geeveston area, and has been a vital member of the Geeveston Green Jackets who provide information and assistance to visitors to the area.

Rhona has volunteered much of her time as a committee member of the RAFT and CARE organisations which helped people with disabilities acquire appliances to improve their quality of life.

She has been a contributing member of the local Parents and Friends as well as contributing to the Geeveston Brownies and Guides where she was President and secretary for five years.

Rhona is a founding member and volunteer with the Geeveston Streetscape group, where her initiative and hard work have been pivotal in creating and maintaining the landscape in the township.

Less officially, but no less importantly, Rhona has sought out people who have recently moved to the area, making them welcome with homemade treats of biscuits or jam. Rhona is known for her acts of kindness and friendship.

Church colleagues gave this summary of Rhona's contribution to the community...."Rhona offers a hand of friendship to all visitors in the area, gives a helping hand to all in need, works tirelessly with quiet dignity. She is a treasure and a very respected citizen of Geeveston and the Huon Valley"

## **Outstanding Voluntary Service Award for Service in excess of 5000 hours**

### **Jimmy Bell for the following:**

- 6 years voluntary service as president of the Huonville PCYC Committee:  
planning, researching, consulting, fundraising, writing grant applications and attending meetings .
- Junior coach Huonville Football Club
- Junior coach Ranelagh-Grove Football Club
- Committee member Ranelagh-Grove Football Club
- Project co-ordinator-Ranelagh Oval Clubrooms and Changerooms project
- Member of Huonville Recreation Area and Ranelagh Recreation Area Advisory Committee

## **Voluntary Service Awards 2000 hours**

Betty Brettingham-Moore	Sandra Crouch
Jan Direen	Anne Duggan
Mark Dance	Huon Linc Volunteer Team
Gloria Glass	Brian Larratt
Desley Kippax	Alan Patman
John O'Toole	Frank Perry
Cathy Swan	Rex Voss



## **Voluntary Service Awards 500 hours**

Michael Anning	Faye Brown
Tina Carver	Julie Fabini
Paul Harriss	Denise Humphries
Beata Parry	Ian Presland
Colleen Shield	