



Australia Day Awards
& Citizenship Ceremony
25 January 2010



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Citizen of the Year - Claire Bond

Claire was born into the Direen family of Cygnet. Growing up she lived and attended school in Cygnet. Showing some musical talent, she soon learned to play piano.

Claire has gone on to give her musical talent far and wide throughout the Huon Valley for many years. Her contribution to the Huon Valley Theatre Company alone, spans over 24 years.

The list of her contributions, if thoroughly detailed would far exceed the time we have, but we can safely say - without Claire's generosity of spirit in sharing her talent and skills – the Huon Valley would be a very different place.

For anyone who has been involved in theatrical productions of any kind, you will understand the patience, team spirit and optimism that is required to bring an idea to life.

Claire has been key to breathing that life into many occasions and projects. Her contribution have included:

- Playing keyboard for dozens of plays for schools, churches, and countless concerts;
- Arranging scores and music for local productions;
- Composing short pieces for theatre;
- Taking on the role of musical director; and
- Assisting at rehearsals, workshops and auditions since the inception of the Huon Valley Theatre group.

Claire's contribution has clearly been enormous and has had a vital impact on the success and longevity of the Huon Valley Theatre Company.

Perhaps most importantly – and what stands out about Claire's voluntary contribution to the Huon Valley – is the fact that Claire has given of her time and extensive expertise so graciously.

She has shown true dedication through her willingness and reliability. Claire has shown unfailing patience and has been able to nurture musical talent in others – a gift that will continue for a lifetime for many people.

There is no doubt that on many occasions, in many organizations and through many very personal experiences the question "What would we do without Claire?" has been asked - and for that continued presence, integrity and generosity, we honour Claire Bond with the Huon Valley 2010 Citizen of the Year.

Young Citizen of the Year - Sophie Allwright

Huon Valley's Young Citizen of the Year Award is an award that we are very proud to grant. It is exciting to receive nominations and look closely at the work of young people and the kinds of things which are important to them.

Our Young Citizen of the Year for 2010, Sophie Allwright, carries on a strong tradition of spirited, caring and hard working young people who have received the award in the past.

Sophie is 15 years old and has already shown that she possesses strong leadership skills and an equally strong community spirit.

Four years ago when Sophie joined the Cygnet Scout Group, these qualities became evident very quickly and she was appointed to Patrol Leader – a role in which she has continually made herself available to train younger scouts. From this role, Sophie was chosen as Patrol Leader for the Australian Jamboree which was held this month. To enable her to attend the Jamboree, Sophie has worked very hard to raise the \$1750 fee.

As a trusted and reliable member of scouts, Sophie has made herself available to assist her leaders and the group in all its activities. She has worked at Burtons Reserve open days, school fairs, Rotary apple & salmon days, Clean Up Australia days and has been an active participant in National tree planting days, proving herself at all times to be responsible and trustworthy.

Sophie attend Ogilvie High School where her leadership skills have seen her appointed to the Student Representative Council and in that role she has participated in the Linchpin Peer Helper Course. She has represented her school in choir, cricket and water polo. Her enthusiasm, motivation and passion in all she does has also led to her appointment as prefect for her school for 2010.

Sophie is a very patient, caring and compassionate young woman. For most of her life, she has been dedicated to the care of her younger brother who has Down's Syndrome, with this experience leading her to become an active member of the Down's Syndrome Association. She has attended numerous camps with the association, attended workshops and helped younger children with activities. Sophie has taken on the responsibility of looking after young children on these camps in order that their parents may attend important and helpful workshops.

Sophie is a very active advocate for Young Carers in Tasmania. Young Carers are people under the age of 26 who provide care in a family affected by illness, disability, mental health and/or drug or alcohol issues of one or more family members or friends. Sophie has represented the organization at state and national levels. At age 14, Sophie was chosen as a state representative to attend a national conference in Canberra. Sophie's responsibilities at the conference included discussing with politicians and other young carers, the needs and concerns for young carers and the best way in which government can support them. Sophie addressed the conference and was able to put forward her thoughts and suggestions in support of young carers.

Her passion for what she does and in her advocacy for other young people who find themselves either willingly or unwillingly fulfilling the role of carers, has motivated Sophie to take up the challenge to lobby politicians, to seek out assistance for young carers who attend schools- putting forward some of the issues they face and how the school system could be more pro-active in assisting and identifying these young people for the important contributions they make.

We are very pleased and proud to award Sophie Allwright the 2010 Huon Valley Young Citizen of the Year.

Community Event of the Year – Focus on Franklin event 2009

In 2007 the Franklin Progress Association organised its inaugural 'Focus on Franklin' event with the aim being to showcase all that FPA members and the local community enjoy and appreciate in this historic village alongside the Huon River in the Huon Valley.

This event spanned over two weekends and it certainly attracted more visitors to the town with the café and restaurant businesses offering special al fresco dining menus to residents and visitors alike.

The second 'Focus on Franklin' event aimed to build on the success of its first year, a larger organising committee of its general members was formed, and the 2009 event was reduced to one weekend from the Friday evening to the Sunday afternoon. A core group of four major sponsors was obtained. The majority of Franklin's local businesses also added to the sponsorship funding pool. The major components of the event included the 'Showboat of Music' which had full house audiences over two nights at the Palais Theatre, whilst a wide range of outdoor attractions and activities were held on the recreation ground as well as on the river.

By 2009, the FPA's membership list had grown to include a larger representation of local business people and this saw a significant change in the FPA's 'Focus on Franklin' organising committee.

In late 2008, the proprietors of four Franklin businesses put forward an ambitious program of events under an 'Arts' theme, and the seven-member committee of five business owners and two Franklin residents was formed. An intense and demanding period of time, energy and enthusiasm was contributed by this group to produce 'Focus on Franklin 09 The Arts' held on 27th - 29th March 2009. Substantial sponsorship support was again achieved, over the three-day period, the event attracted in excess of 2,000 people, and was highly acclaimed by visitors and residents from the wider Huon Valley area.

Congratulations are extended to the 2009 committee that comprised –

Jane Mohr – Team Leader (Franklin Gallery Cafe)

Sandi Trajdos (Do Dilly Dally)

Shane and Jane Johnson (Village Antiques of Franklin)

Sarah Swanson (Franklin Post Office)

Jane Gadd (Franklin resident)

Gwen Booth (Franklin resident)

In keeping with the true community nature of the festival, over the three years that 'Focus on Franklin' has been held, from net funds raised, the FPA has been able to donate funds to the following local organisations:

In 2007 and 2008: Huon Eldercare

In 2009: Franklin Primary School, Franklin Landcare, Palais Theatre Management Committee, The Living Boat Trust

The success of the event is clearly due to the participation of many committed organisations and individuals within the local community. It has succeeded in raising the profile of Franklin and has attracted others to enjoy the natural beauty of the township and surrounds, in a celebration of local history and current achievements.

In honour of the hard work and community spirit shown by the organisers, we are pleased to award the Franklin Progress Association the Community Event of the Year 2010 for Focus on Franklin.

Special Merit Award – Fiona Donato

Included in the nomination of Fiona Donato for recognition in Council's Australia Day Volunteer Recognition Awards was a reference to the phrase – "If you want something done, then ask a busy person". It was suggested that whoever first quined that phrase must have been talking about Fiona.

A very busy, involved and hands-on mother of four, Fiona finds the time, energy and enthusiasm to be involved in a wide range of community activities which benefit many in her community.

Over the years, Fiona has run playgroups, been on the committee of Sacred Heart School where she has been heavily involved in school camps, running stalls, helping in the classroom, assisted with school fairs, raffles, organized and helped with school functions and sporting activities. For the past two years, Fiona has been on the board of the school.

In the sporting community, Fiona has organized and coached Milo cricket, Auskick football, helped with Huon Netball and Kermandie Mini-league over many years and acted as team manager. Additionally, Fiona has been an active member of the Dover Oval committee and the Dover Sports Centre Advisory Committee.

As well as these public contributions – it is well known that Fiona has assisted and been supportive of local families in crises – in their times of great need.

Fiona's efforts to assist those in need have gone far beyond the Huon Valley.

In 2008 Fiona travelled to Cambodia to help at an orphanage. The trip was life changing and since returning she has been the driving force behind Juey Bazaar. For those who don't know, Juey is a shop located in the Southern Design Centre in Geeveston selling quality second hand clothing and goods. All of the profits go directly to the Cambodian orphanage where Fiona has visited. The work of sourcing stock, sorting, cleaning, labeling, bookwork and networking is all carried out by Fiona and can be calculated in terms of hours and donations but it is the effect of this work, for the Cambodian orphans that can never be calculated. At her own expense Fiona recently returned to the orphanage to deliver much needed goods.

Fiona's sense of community extends far and wide – from those she is close to, to those she has never met - and it is this sense of generosity of spirit that has led us to present Fiona with our Special Merit Award for 2010.

Special Recognition Awards

Volunteer Recognition Awards are a way of Council recognizing the many and varied ways in which individuals contribute to their community.

In the Huon Valley we are blessed with a great many community-minded people and their voluntary efforts contribute to building our strong and resilient community.

The awards we grant today are a tribute to those who give of their time and energy and, intentional or not, keep our community spirit alive and well.

Volunteer Recognition Award; 500 Hours

Kaye Gilhooly - Cygnet Community Arts Council

Roy Stafford - Cygnet Community Online Centre

Peter Campbell - Cygnet Community Online Centre

Chris Danckert - Cygnet Community Online Centre

Special Voluntary Service Award; 2000 hours

Dave Scarafiotti - Huon Valley PCYC

Kevin Lancaster - Huon Valley PCYC

Michelle Rauenbusch - Cygnet Community Arts Council & contribution to the Cygnet Art Trail

Sue Townson - Cygnet Community Online Centre

Alice Griffiths - Cygnet Community Online Centre

Bill Ryan - Cygnet Community Online Centre

Outstanding Voluntary Service Award; 5000 hours

Ian Duggan - for contribution to the Tasmanian Fire Service since 1956

Ian Duggan is and has been a highly respected member of Tasmanian Fire Service for over 50 years. He has been awarded various national and state medals throughout his long service. He currently looks after the station and the firefighters on a daily basis. There is no doubt Ian (Dart) Duggan is a worthy recipient of this award.

Michael Minchin - Huon Folk Inc & the Cygnet Folk Festival

Michael has been involved with the Cygnet folk festival for over 15 years and in that time has contributed tirelessly to the success of the festival (including handing over his business premises each year to become the festival office).

His knowledge and love of folk music, business and IT skills, and understated commitment to community values and the Cygnet community in particular have contributed hugely to the ongoing success and development of the Cygnet Folk Festival, now in its 28th year.

Bruce Hodge - Cygnet Community Online Centre

For roughly seven years, Bruce has been integral to keeping a quietly valuable community resource ticking along for locals and visitors for roughly seven years.

His contribution has included establishing the training centre at the original online Centre and integrating a visitor information centre with the Online Centre, which is now an important part of the service the Centre offers.

Bruce has steered the organization through many difficult times and has worked hard with the rest of the team in fundraising efforts to continue to provide the service to the community as a self funding, entirely volunteer run 7 day a week community service.

Special Recognition Awards

Nominations for Citizen of the Year this year were of a particularly high standard and led the selection committee to create a separate category to honour the efforts and contributions of several outstanding members of our community.

Receiving Council's certificate of appreciation for outstanding contributions to the community are:

- **Mr Wayne Dowling:** for continued voluntary service over 17 years with the State Emergency Services and St Johns Ambulance and over 8 years with the Tasmanian Ambulance service. During this time he has been a key figure in these services, being available in all types of emergencies, being available to train others for various important roles in these services and being available consistently at community events to ensure their safety.
- **Joe and Edie Clark** who established and run the Port Cygnet Senior Citizens for most of its 20 year history, coordinated events and transport for local seniors over many years, and were instrumental in developing the Lovett Respite Centre in Cygnet, their contribution to seniors in the Cygnet area and wider Huon Valley is immeasurable.
- **Maureen Oates** – Maureen unbeknown to most of us, carries out many of her roles and responsibilities at the Huon News in a voluntary capacity – after 43 years of service being paid for only a fraction of her work, Maureen hasn't lost her passion or commitment for her role with 'The News' and for informing the community about the many issues, events and stories which are important to us all.