



Australia Day Awards
& Citizenship Ceremony
25 January 2011



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Citizen of the Year - Sharee Burgess

Sharee Burgess has been an active and important member of the Geeveston Community for many years now.

Over the last 12 years Sharee has been working in many different capacities with Meals on Wheels – a community organisation that offers what is undeniably one of the most important functions in assisting members of our community to maintain independence and in creating a sense of community when people most need it.

Sharee has been pivotal in the running of Geeveston Meals on Wheels by attending meetings at a local and state level, organisation of rosters, deliveries, supplies and of course, in the delivery of meals. Initially Sharee took the role of Secretary/Treasurer as a 6-month fill-in role until the following AGM – that was in the year 2000 – she held the role until August 2010.

The Kermandie Football Club has benefitted greatly from Sharee's involvement. Sharee is currently helping to steer a new course for the club. We all know that sports clubs are very much more than the game being played and very much about creating social and sporting opportunities for local young people – an outcome which shows vision and caring for the future.

Sharee has also been heavily involved in the Huon Pony Club where she has always been one of the first people to put up her hand to arrange functions, sell raffle tickets and staff BBQs.

Her contribution at Sacred Heart Geeveston has been tremendous. Sharee is a dedicated and committed member of the Parents and Friends and for nine years has worked tirelessly to fundraise for the school through assistance with and coordination of events, the largest of which is the school fair a major fundraiser for the school – although it is important to note that Sharee facilitates mothers and fathers day stalls, the production of a school calendar, numerous raffles during the year, a stall at the Huon Show and various social nights for families and parents. What is a particularly telling display of the qualities Sharee embodies is that she is instrumental in organising events to welcome new families to our school community. This in many ways displays what is at the heart of the Citizen of the Year award.

Sharee is involved in voluntary efforts in connection with her workplace where she has twice captained the 'Relay for Life' team - a fundraising effort and way to honour those affected by cancer and those who have been lost to the disease.

All her efforts have been carried out while raising her children – and we hope they are very proud of their mum.

Sharee has demonstrated an active concern for others, a true sense and appreciation of community spirit and a willingness to give time, energy and enthusiasm to projects which benefit others.

Young Citizen of the Year - Caitlin Scaife

Caitlin is a Huonville High School Year 10 student who has made a big difference to the lives of many over the last 2 years.

Caitlin has played an integral role in the Student's Working Against Poverty group which has been working with the local Huon Valley community to raise funds for the COSO Orphanage in Cambodia.

Caitlin was one of the students selected to participate in the Vietnam and Cambodia project which involved a trip to those countries in March 2010. Prior to the trip itself, students involved were required to assist with a number of fundraising activities. Caitlin's willingness to participate in these fundraising events was outstanding. She has contributed many hours outside of school and at weekends, assisting in a variety of ways and can always be relied on.

The 'Coffee for a Cause' program at Huonville High was initiated not only to teach students hospitality skills but to raise money for poverty based projects. Caitlin has been a leader in this program over the last 18 months. She is a 'Coffee with a Cause' team leader, which requires Caitlin to teach younger students the skills involved in the use of coffee making equipment and service. In this area Caitlin has shown great skills as a communicator. She is also willing to go out of her way to assist others and relates well to people from all backgrounds.

In addition Caitlin is also the Manager of 'SWAP' (Students Working Against Poverty) group. As a motivated individual she is always striving to help others, works hard to organise different fundraising events, manages the SWAP shop in Huonville and work with all students in the group to bring fundraising ideas to fruition. Caitlin arranges meetings of the SWAP group at the school each week and has effectively involved students of different grades and allocated tasks appropriately.

Along with her administration and communication efforts, Caitlin uses her talents in graphic art to design and produce the various promotional materials to advertise SWAP activities.

Caitlin has represented the school and spoken publicly about her role with 'Coffee with a Cause' and SWAP at different events. She has a strong philanthropic stance and actively encourages others to be aware of the cycle of poverty and to make a difference in ways that they can.

Her commitment to helping alleviate the effects of poverty on a global basis is ongoing, even beyond her time at Huonville High. This year Caitlin has pledged to travel to Cambodia to volunteer at the COSO Orphanage and she is also volunteering at the Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning – an educational resource centre which focuses on assisting learning about global issues.

Community Event of the Year – The Taste of the Huon

The idea of holding a fine food and wine festival was conceived early in December 1991 following a meeting at the Woodbridge Hotel to which local small food and wine producers from the Huon Valley and the Channel had been invited.

The guiding principles of the establishment of the festival were threefold:

1. That such a festival would introduce Tasmanians beyond the valley (as well as those living locally) to the fine offerings that were already available in the Huon
2. That the festival would encourage and assist small entrepreneurs to display their wares and hopefully find commercial footholds in wider and more established markets
3. That in severely economically depressed situation that existed in the Huon Valley at the time the “Taste” started – as far as possible all equipment and necessities which would be required to set up the festival would be purchased and obtained locally

It was to be, in every way, a product of Huon Valley expertise and enterprise, with the profits if any returning to the community.

The Management Committee which pulls the festival together is made up completely of volunteers.

Over the years the Taste of the Huon has been the testing ground for many craft and food producers.

Some of those who have gone on to become successful established businesses are:

Beauty and the Bees

Tassie strudel Co

Lark Distillery

Bruny Island Cheese Co

Tasmanian Fine Ice cream

Festival Mushrooms

Home Hill Wines

Silver Hill Bratwurst and perhaps many more into the future.

Gate takings are used to cover the burgeoning expenses to mount the festival and also to give substantial donations to the organisations which assist over the weekend.



Special Merit Award – Dianne Smith (awarded post-humously)

The late Dianne Smith was nominated for a Special Merit Award for a 'lifetime of service to her community'.

This service was primarily directed through the Huonville Auxiliary for the Huon District Hospital and Eldercare where, after joining, she became a very active member.

Her efforts as a committee member for 14 years were extremely highly regarded. Dianne was one of the major forces behind the Annual Huonville Auxiliary Eldercare Garden Walk now in its 20th year with funds raised amounting to well over \$50,000 in the last decade alone.

Another astonishing fundraising effort was the brainchild of Dianne – a Gold Auction held in October 2001, at, what was then, the new Home Hill Winery. In one night an astonishing \$17,500 was raised to raise money for furnishings and curtains for the new Eldercare facility which would be opened in August 2002.

These efforts have gone a very long way to creating a facility of which the community is very proud. They are some of the efforts which will always be part of the memory of Dianne.

Dianne Smith passed away in January 2010 . We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to her efforts with a Special Merit Award. Dianne's husband Ian Smith will be accepting the award on behalf of the family.

Special Merit Award - Joan Kesson

Since her childhood in Lucaston, Joan has worked hard in both private and public life. The strength and loyalty she has shown to family and friends is well known to many, however today we will be recognising Joan's efforts in her community life.

The list is extensive.

Joan has had a lifelong involvement with the Church, beginning as a youngster with St James Anglican Church in Ranelagh and the Salvation Army in a picker's hut on the Lucaston farm.

As an adult she has been active in all aspects of church life with the Huonville Community Church – from flower and readings rosters to pastoral support to fundraising – Joan has been part of it all.

Since the 1960s, Joan has been active with the Lucaston Branch of the CWA. She has held various committee positions at branch, district and state levels, including President of the Jessie Kean Holiday Home, Secretary of Choral and Drama and has supported the Huonville Market shop. She has made clothing for refugee families and for the neo-natal unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Joan has given voluntary service to the Huon show since the 1960s as a handcraft judge, as a steward and provides assistance with displays. Joan still carries out these responsibilities.

Sport – Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Football, Hockey – Joan has coached, umpired, sat on committees, served at canteens and fundraised for any and all groups and clubs she has been apart of.

Joan has been active in the school life of the valley with commitments to Parents and Friends of Huonville Primary and Huonville High Schools.

Huonville Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides have also benefitted from Joan's community spirit over the years.

Special Recognition Award - Huon Helps Haiti

On January 12 2010, you will all remember, that a terrible earthquake hit Haiti. Global support for those suffering was sought immediately.

Very soon a group of dedicated people in the Huon Valley were putting their heads together to figure out ways they could most help those in need.

Under the slogan 'Huon helps Haiti', the Franklin Progress Association together with the Huon Valley Theatre Company and the Palais Management Committee, agreed to act as the coordinating body for community groups throughout the valley to help the victims of the January 2010 earthquake disaster in Haiti.

The concept took hold and very soon 'Huon Helps Haiti' was underway with a major raffle being organised with prizes donated by local businesses. Schools were involved and a major concert was organised with a firm deadline to maximise the State government offer to match funds raised in local communities.

In a period of just over 4 weeks, the total amount of money raised by various participating community groups amounted to \$10,085. This was supplemented by a donation of \$2,500 from the Huon Valley Council. The total amount was directed to the Rotary Club of the Huon Valley in order to qualify for matching funds promised by the Tasmanian Government.

The total value of the Huon Valley contribution to the Haiti earthquake Disaster Appeal under this initiative was therefore \$25,170.

The list of those involved is extensive: schools, progress associations, small businesses, big businesses, sporting clubs, RSL clubs and countless individuals – even before the wind-up Variety Concert held at the Palais Theatre.

The concert was the culmination of the overall project. Over 60 performers ranging from children through to a number of seasoned 'veterans' took to the stage to entertain a solid audience of over 200 people.

Special thanks and congratulations go to Betty and Ray Lyon who were the driving force behind the project.