



MEDIA RELEASE

20 March 2019

Belated Australia Day Awards Unveiled

On January 26 we were in the midst of the bushfire emergency and the Australia Day Awards and Citizenship ceremony had to be postponed.

Mayor Bec Enders said a lot of people had made outstanding contributions to our community and she was happy to finally be able to recognise them.

“We appreciate the patience of everyone involved and we are happy the event could finally go ahead today,” Cr Enders said.

“The bushfire emergency was a particularly difficult time for the Huon Valley and it’s nice to be able to acknowledge the people who have worked so hard to make it such a great place to live.

“This year we had a lot of exceptional nominations for people and groups who have shown a great sense of community spirit and a willingness to give their time to help their community.

“It was also a pleasure to welcome seven new Australians citizens to our community. They are most welcome.”

The winners of Australia Day Awards for 2019 are as follows:

Citizen of the Year – ERIC FERNANDEZ

Eric Fernandez of Ranelagh has been posthumously named Citizen of the Year.

Eric is remembered as a man of compassion and understanding who spent his life quietly involved in all aspects of his community.

He worked as a teacher in a number of countries and eventually settled in the Huon Valley when he retired.

Eric was heavily involved in the Huon Disability Network. In a Huon Valley Youth Services film project he was quoted as saying he wanted nothing more than for people to be thoughtful, kind and considerate of people with disabilities. This is how his community saw him.

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Sadly, Eric passed away last year. His posthumous nomination for this award is a sign of appreciation from his entire community. He is greatly missed.

Young Citizen of the year – TAMARA JACOBSON

Since she was 8 Tamara Jacobson has been a member of the Huon Districts Pony Club. For the past 18 years she has consistently represented the club in teams and individually. She has coached and ridden in the club's games team at state level and competed in the Royal Hobart Show's prestigious Team of Three event since she was 9. She has been successfully coaching these teams for the past 6 years.

She has served as president of the pony club's junior committee, run its canteen and been involved in numerous fundraisers. She has donated at least 50 hours of her time year on year to her club and the sport she loves.

She was nominated for this award for her exemplary sportsmanship and values and is considered a wonderful role model to the community.

Sports Award – GRACE LOVELL

Grace Lovell's commitment to women's football and cricket in the Huon Valley has made a lasting impression on our community.

During last year's football season she coached a girl's junior team with the Huon Lions while playing for the Southern Storm. She then went on to back up in the cricket season, coaching a junior team for North Huon while competing in the inaugural open women's competition.

Supporters say Grace shows young girls that you don't have to be the best to play a sport and is considered a great role model for girls and women in her community.

Community Event or Group of the Year – THE HUON SHOW

The Huon Show is one of the state's favourite and enduring Agricultural events. Throughout its 72 years the show has been run entirely by volunteers of all ages.

While Agricultural events are on the decline around the country the Huon Show continues to thrive attracting up to 14,000 visitors every year.

For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300

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