

MEDIA RELEASE

27 January 2017

Australia Day Award winners

The 2017 Huon Valley Council Australia Day Awards were presented at the Breakfast by the River celebrations at Franklin on January 26. A great crowd was on hand to enjoy all of the activities and pay tribute to the worthy award winners.

The winners were presented with their awards by Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor, the Huon Valley Council Australia Day Ambassador Gwen Egg, Nic Street MP, Liberal member for Franklin and Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP, Greens member for Franklin.

The **Sports Award** for making a significant contribution and encouraging sporting activities within the Huon Valley was given to **Nicola Smith** and **Pam Lane** for their women's cycling group, Sisters on a Roll (S.O.A.R.). Sisters On A Roll started in March 2016 with just a handful of women. Their membership now stands at 60.

Nicola and Pam have a proven history of service to the Huon Valley Community through various programs and they work tirelessly to fund raise for many ongoing projects both locally and internationally. Their involvement in S.O.A.R



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has positively impacted many people and contributed towards promoting women's health, wellbeing and fitness.

The **Community Event Award** for an outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of the Huon Valley community, went to the **Geeveston Town Hall (GTH)** for their **Twilight Feasts**. The GTH is currently managed by a volunteer group representing the local community.

The volunteer group have managed the Town Hall since taking over during 2015 to create a community precinct that encompasses a Visitors Centre, Museum and History Society and a commercial Gallery that offers local products to the estimated 40,000 to 60,000 visitors per year to the Centre.

The Geeveston Town Hall Twilight Feasts are held regularly on the first Thursday of the month. They have been incredibly well patronised and each Twilight Feast is catered for by local businesses and community groups which work together for the benefit of the community and their businesses. The attendees include long term residents, new arrivals to the town and visitors from interstate. The next Twilight Feast is on Thursday February 2 from 5-8pm.

The **Young Citizen of the Year Award** for a significant contribution to, and as an inspirational role model for, the Huon Valley community, was presented to **Annastasia Bedford**.

Though in her final year of a Bachelor of Marine Science degree at UTAS, Annastasia still devotes many hours volunteering in the community. She has spent years in the scouting movement helping younger members, volunteers at the Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre encouraging children to take an



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interest in their environment and has represented Australia internationally as part of the “Ship for World Youth Leaders” program sponsored by the Japanese Government.

The 2017 **Citizen of the Year Award**, given for significant contribution to the Huon Valley community and strong community values was presented to **Lorraine Whelan**.

Lorraine’s passion is recording and preserving the history of Glen Huon and Judbury and the surrounding areas. She has lived most of her life in the Valley and has worked tirelessly to ensure that the stories of our pioneers are not lost or forgotten.

She has worked as a coordinator of the Upper Huon Historical Society where she volunteered more than 1500 hours each year working on the history of the Valley and its people.

Lorraine’s passion and dedication and that of other local historians help us keep the threads and origins of our local stories and as such, play a vital role in shining a light on our past and ensuring we can pass these on to future generations.

Commissioner Taylor said it was a pleasure to acknowledge the winners and formally recognise their contributions to their communities.

For more information
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