



Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Citizen of the Year

Nominee

Angela Fredericks

Angela has coordinated a local campaign advocating for asylum seekers in response to a Biloela based Tamil asylum-seeking family that were taken into custody and detained in March 2018. Angela has featured in interviews internationally and has started discussions about asylum seeker policies that will impact the entire country. Through her efforts Angela has raised the profile of Biloela and the Banana Shire globally and our community is now known and respected in refugee support groups and mainstream politics nationally and internationally.





Australia Day

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Citizen of the Year

Winner

Debra Elliott

Debbie is an advocate for the Moura community and has been for several decades. Debbie was pivotal in saving Moura's hospital service from being closed down; central in negotiation, planning and development of a new hospital facility being built. Debbie was an important contributor to the development of the current kindergarten, and served as the President of the State School P&C for over ten years. Debbie is currently Chairperson of the Moura Community Advisory Group, Secretary to the Moura Hospital Auxiliary and member of the Dawson Community Reference Forum.





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Citizen of the Year

Nominee

Brian Hanna

Brian is the owner of Theodore's Xtreme 1 Service Station. During the last year, one cent from every litre of fuel purchased from his business has been donated back to the local community. There is not an event or fundraiser in Theodore that Brian doesn't support in one way or another, whether that be by financial contribution, his valuable time, experience or advice. Brian is passionate about Theodore and its people, he is community focused and has been a driving force behind ensuring Theodore remains the busy, supportive community that it is.





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Citizen of the Year

Nominee

Kenneth John Walker

John is currently President of both Moura Coal and Country Historical Society and Moura Community Progress Inc. He has spent many years serving his local community, holding a place on these and many other community groups. In 2014, John had a vision to build one single memorial which honours all fifty miners who have died on the Moura Coalfields. With the assistance from community groups and many hours spent fundraising and overseeing the project, this vision became a reality. The Moura Miners Memorial was officially opened on the tenth of November, 2018.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Citizen of the Year

Nominee

Robert Price

Robbie has been the President of the Baralaba Fish Stocking Group for thirty years and in the Fire Brigade for the past thirty-three years. He conducts junior fishing lessons, takes water samples for testing for chemicals in the Dawson River, checks fish for disease, and for noxious weeds, tags and records fish species and advises the community on flood levels for the Dawson River. Robbie also worked with others to achieve the fish lock at the Neville Hewitt Weir in Baralaba. The Community always come first for Robbie.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Young Citizen of the Year

Winner

Caitlyn Donohoe

Caitlyn excels in her academic, cultural and service endeavours. She was recently awarded Senior Dux at Biloela State High School and received the Grade Twelve Australia Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award in 2018. This award recognises the values of Long Tan veterans in students. She has performed in the local eisteddfod for the past eleven years and teaches drama to students aged five to twenty-three. Caitlyn is the Opposition Leader in the 2018 Queensland Youth Parliament and has passed a bill promoting youth mental health.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Young Citizen of the Year

Nominee

Ameliija Swaffer-Selff

Ameliija is an active member of the Moura community and has achieved great success and excellence in her sporting, academic and leadership endeavours. Ameliija competes at National and International levels in Tennis and trains at the National Academy in Brisbane for up to three weeks each school term. She is an incoming School Captain at Moura State High School. Ameliija mentors younger students, actively encouraging them to pursue their own dreams and goals. In 2018 she was announced as one of eighteen winners of the National Country to Canberra Leadership Competition.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Cultural Award

Winner

Sarah Larsen

Sarah is a renowned Artist, sculptor, tutor and author. Sarah is currently the President of the Biloela Area Visual Artists, member of Culture and Arts Banana Shire, volunteer at the Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery and volunteer for the annual Brigalow Arts Festival. Sarah has won many awards and her work is represented in major collections. Her latest touring exhibition, Prismatic Pachyderms, seeks to bring awareness to the complex syndrome Autism Spectrum Disorder, whilst also highlighting the plight of endangered elephants. The culmination of this exhibition is Sarah's new children's book, The Rainbow Elephant.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Junior Cultural Award

Nominee

Caitlyn Donohoe

Caitlyn has dedicated thousands of hours to script learning, lesson planning and speech and drama practice over many years. She has been a member of both the St Joseph's and Biloela State High School Bands. She has performed in several local musicals, along with a Christmas pageant for residents of a local retirement village. Caitlyn has been named Biloela Eisteddfod Society's Most Outstanding Performer for the last three years and was awarded the Billy Brown Memorial Trophy in 2016 and 2018. Caitlyn has also excelled in Public Speaking being awarded the Lions Youth of the Year Public Speaking Award in Club, Regional and District levels.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Junior Cultural Award

Winner

Katelyn Ninness

Katelyn is a passionate musician and shares her talents mentoring younger musicians. She has performed in several local musicals and has been a member of both the St Joseph's and Biloela State High School choirs. She is a vocalist in the High School Rock Band, violist in the School Band and member of the community orchestra Strings Attached. Katelyn has won the bursary for Most Outstanding Instrumentalist and/or Vocalist at the Biloela Eisteddfod in 2017 and 2018. Katelyn also gained a place in the Australian Honours ensemble program run by the Queensland Conservatorium.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Junior Sportsperson

Nominee

Paige Mallet

Paige has been a keen squash player since she was eight years old. Fast forward nine years and Paige regularly travels to compete in squash tournaments. Paige captained the Capricornia School Squash team and Queensland Squash team, also playing in the Trans-Tasman Championship. She assists with coaching of the Moura Junior Squash team and gets involved with any fundraising efforts. In 2018, Paige was a Sports Captain for Gibihi and was named Sportsperson of the Year at Moura State High School.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Junior Sportsperson

Winner

Samuel Atwell

Sam is a self-taught golfer and has represented the township of Wowan and the region of Banana Shire on a Regional, National and International level over the last five years. Sam has been an avid sportsman for several years and excels in both sports and education. When time permits, Sam enjoys assisting in course maintenance and is considered a valued club member and well-mannered young man. One of Sam's greatest achievements was representing Australia in the Australian Junior Golf Team winning a Silver Medal at the AAU West Coast Junior Olympics in Southern California in 2018.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Senior Sportsperson

Nominee

Marina Wright

Marina is a passionate horse enthusiast who has dedicated countless hours to encouraging and assisting both individuals and groups in developing their interest in horses. Marina has represented Queensland as both a player and coach in Polocrosse and was named Australian Campdraft Association Lady Rider in 2004 for her achievements. Marina was selected to represent Australia in 2018 in a Non Pro cutting team, competing against the USA in California, the team won all three rounds – a stunning result.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Senior Sportsperson

Winner

Ryan Yanko

Ryan's passion is Ducati motorbikes and road racing. He has had extensive success in his field, including coming first at the 2018 Australia FX Superbike Championship Pro-twins and being named the 2018 Queensland State Champion at the State Titles for Superbike Championships Series. Ryan has been awarded Motor Cycling Queensland Senior Road Racer in 2017 and 2018, not only for his ability on the track, but also for his supportive nature. Ryan's success against adversity is a true testament to his passion and dedication to the sport.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Event of the Year Nominee

Moura Miners' Memorial Official Opening

The Moura Miner's Memorial was officially opened in November 2018 attracting a large crowd from local, state and interstate. The event received extensive media coverage through TV channels Win, Seven and ABC and newspaper coverage in The Morning Bulletin and Central Telegraph which published a special Moura Miners' Memorial twelve page wrap for the official opening. The ceremony was respectful and dignified and offered the Memorial as a place where people could gather to pay their respects and remember loved ones. The event provided an economic boost to the local community and the Memorial will bring many visitors to the region for generations to come.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Event of the Year

Nominee

Baralaba Saratoga Classic Fishing Competition

The Baralaba Saratoga Classic Fishing competition is held in September each year, and is well known amongst the fishing community. Around 300 people, both adults and children compete in the event. The Baralaba Recreation and Fish Stocking Group boost the waterways with around 60,000 fingerlings each year. The local community take great pride in the river, putting money raised towards continuing to care for the river and the event provides opportunity for local community groups to fundraise.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Event of the Year

Nominee

Baralaba State School Centenary

In October 2018 the Baralaba State School marked 100 years of education with a weekend of celebrations that attracted over 1000 people. The Centenary Committee spent many months pouring through archive boxes collecting and cataloguing memorabilia for classroom displays. An official roll displayed the name of every student who attended the school. The Baralaba Historical Society published a book on the history of the school which sold out over the weekend. The Centenary cake was cut by two of the oldest past students and five current students who are direct descendants of the first enrolment group. The event saw the community come together to achieve something remarkable.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Event of the Year

Winner

Nu-Tank Presents Broncos vs Capras Rugby League Day

The Theodore Sports & Recreation Association spent three years preparing for the 2018 Nu-Tank Broncos v Capras Rugby League Day. The event attracted 3000+ patrons from as far as Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Brisbane and put Theodore and Banana Shire on show. Funds raised from the day were distributed between eight local community groups who all contributed to the event. The Theodore Sports & Recreation Association also helped organise a meet and greet dinner at the Theodore Hotel the night before which was well received by all in attendance.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Event of the Year

Nominee

Thangool Cup Race Day

The Thangool Cup Race Day is an annual event held in September which showcases country racing at its best. The event is a major drawcard for the Thangool community which brings great economic benefit to many local organisations and businesses. A major goal of the event is to provide a special social occasion for people to get together and enjoy each other's company. The Committee is made up of twelve hard working and dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to do all the grounds maintenance, setting up and cleaning up on and after the races.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Event of the Year

Nominee

2018 Banana Shire Australia Day Celebrations

The 2018 Banana Shire Australia Day Celebrations were hosted by the Goovigen Community. The event provided a wonderful family social occasion for residents of Goovigen and the wider Banana Shire community. Activities included a mini concert, photography, dog high jump, best decorated thong and decorated Aussie ute competitions. As well as a machinery and car displays and a “bush” swimming pool for the kids. Working together towards success for this event underlined the great community spirit in Goovigen. Profits raised from the day were used for projects to improve local halls, parks and amenities in the town.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Event of the Year

Nominee

2018 Autofeste

The Annual Biloela Rotary Autofeste aims to provide alternative entertainment for locals and tourists alike and an outlet for car enthusiasts to showcase their pride and joy. Funds raised from the event are put back into the community and it's youth with a portion donated to J-Boys, assisting in the delivery of their 'Roadcraft' program. The event continues to draw in entrants and spectators from all over Queensland and its success is a result of the hard work undertaken by the many volunteers and sponsors involved each year.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Nominee

Edwina Devine

Edwina volunteers her time, fulfilling the role of Secretary and Treasurer of the Thangool Racing Club for the past fourteen years. The roles are very time consuming and require a comprehensive knowledge of Racing Queensland rules and regulations to ensure Thangool Races run smoothly not once, but eight times a year. Aside from Thangool Racing Club, Edwina is an active member of the Callide Valley Barrel Racers Association and the Thangool State School P&C.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Nominee

Jessica Stevens

Jessica is a small business owner and Secretary for Theodore Chamber of Commerce. During Jessica's time in the role of Secretary, she has reintroduced events such as the Hooked on Theodore fishing competition and Theodore River Festival. Jessica also established the Theodore Christmas Street Party and is the driving force behind many other projects and ensuring the Theodore Chamber of Commerce remains an active community group. Jessica has also been a member of the local SES for many years.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Nominee

Kenneth John Walker

John is involved in a number of community organisations including Moura Men's Shed, Moura Tourism Group and Moura Rotary Club, he is currently President of both the Moura Coal & Country Historical Society and Moura Community Progress Inc. In 2014, John had a vision of one single memorial to honour all fifty miners who have died on the Moura Coalfields. With assistance from various other groups and years of dedication and sacrifice to bring the project to fruition, the memorial was officially opened in November 2018.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Nominee

Gregory Shearer

Gregory has been the President of the Taroom Museum since 2015. He has been pivotal in raising the profile of the Museum, volunteering his time and knowledge to significantly improve displays and facilities. His work records and shares local history for the enjoyment of the local community and tourists. Extending beyond the museum, Gregory uses his trade skills to make improvements across the town of Taroom, while also working behind scenes for a number of community groups and events. Gregory is selfless in his volunteering. He is determined to pass on his knowledge and skills for the benefit of the broader community.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Nominee

Kevin Brackley

Kevin is an integral part in providing a beautiful living space for residents of the Wahroonga Retirement Village in Biloela. He gives his time to do small maintenance tasks and large tasks to ensure the residents have a lovely living environment. Rain, hail or shine, the staff at Wahroonga know that Kevin will be there to tackle anything. No job is too big or small, he just gets in and gets the job done.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Winner

Allan Tappin

Allan has been volunteering through many different roles in the Biloela community for the past forty-one years. From P&C committees to sporting events, the annual Anglican Church Fete and the Callide Valley Show, Allan is always on-hand volunteering his time and experience in organising and running these events. Since 2012, Allan has volunteered at Wahroonga Aged Care facility and for the last six years served as a member of the Probus Club. Allan is always cheerful, obliging, caring and helpful and gets real enjoyment out of making others happy.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Nominee

Dorothy Vernon

Dorothy has worked tirelessly over the past five years making life saving pouches for the Stitchers for Tamborine Animal Rescues (STAR). The pouches are used by registered volunteer wildlife carers Australia wide. Many wildlife sanctuaries, hospitals and vet surgeries have also benefited from her work. Dorothy has made thousands of pouches, first sourcing the materials, then washing, cutting and sewing double lined pouches. Dorothy's skill and unflagging enthusiasm has made a tremendous difference to hundreds of wildlife carers, who save countless orphaned or injured native animals.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Volunteer Award

Nominee

Robert Price

Robbie has been the President of the Baralaba Fish Stocking Group for thirty years and in the Fire Brigade for the past thirty-three years. He conducts junior fishing lessons, takes water samples for testing for chemicals in the Dawson River, checks fish for disease, and for noxious weeds, tags and records fish species and advises the community on flood levels for the Dawson River. Robbie also worked with others to achieve the fish lock at the Neville Hewitt Weir in Baralaba. Robbie is an experienced driver on the river, helping to save others stranded in flood events.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Group or Team

Nominee

Moura Community Progress Inc.

Moura Community Progress Inc. was formed in 2010 to improve the image of Moura as a town to live in and to promote the township and district as a major tourist attraction. Their efforts include setting up the Move to Moura campaign, More to Moura brochure, Moura website, establishing an outdoor gym and planning and fundraising for the building of the Moura Miners' Memorial which was opened in November 2018. The team spent over five years in the planning stages of the project and fundraised close to \$800,000.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Group or Team

Nominee

Biloela Junior Cricket Association

The Biloela Junior Cricket Association, together with financial assistance from CS Energy and the Department of Sport & Recreation successfully built new cricket nets at the Magavalis Sports Complex in 2018. The nets are fully compliant with Australian Cricket standards including flood lighting and will be a crucial part of junior cricket training, also allowing for future representative opportunities. The Association engaged local contactors wherever possible. The wonderful effort by a dedicated group of cricket enthusiasts, local businesses and corporations will ensure first rate facilities in the Banana Shire for many years to come.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Group or Team

Nominee

Biloela Bandits Men's Fours Team

The Biloela Bandits Men's Fours team is made up of Rob Huggers, Shane McCrohon, Geoff Geall and Graham White. This group of men have played together in Biloela Bowls Club competitions for several years. The team had a very successful year in 2018 qualifying for the State Finals on the Gold Coast, making it to the bronze medal play-off. These men competed exceptionally against some of the country's best bowlers, many of whom are full time professionals or play in international, national, state and other high level competitions on a regular basis. The Bandits play competition or Social Bowls on average twice per month.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Group or Team

Winner

Rotary Club of Biloela

The Rotary Club of Biloela is an active club with strong membership. Various charities, organisations, individuals and programs are supported through their work. By working with community leaders and local organisations they are able to improve the quality of life for people in the Biloela community, working to serve public interest. Members of the club and their families volunteer their time, knowledge and skills to organise and support events and to identify opportunities within the community for engagement and improvement. Rotary Biloela are currently developing a Rotaract Club, aimed at eighteen to thirty year olds; and will host the 2019 District Conference.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Group or Team

Nominee

Theodore Sports and Recreation Association

The Theodore Sports and Recreation Association work hard year round to run and maintain the sports grounds for community events and private functions such as the Theodore Show, Theodore Bulls and Barrels rodeo and Theodore Spindles and Spurs Campdraft. The grounds are home of the Theodore Junior Roosters Rugby League Club and also host numerous pony club events on weekends. The Association was recently able to use some funds raised to upgrade the toilets for disability access around the grounds. The Grounds are also a popular spot for tourists and in the high season can see up to eighty caravans each night.





Australia Day

Australia Day 2019

Community Group or Team

Nominee

Team Biloela – Tour de Cure & Cycling for a Cure

Team Biloela was founded by Don and Di Morris in 2009, after their friend Megan Knightly was taken by cancer at the age of twenty-eight. Since then, Team Biloela has journeyed the country, achieving amazing results through sheer determination. Their support team of partners, friends and work colleagues has developed a strong community that has shown true results, fundraising in excess of \$377,000 for Tour de Cure. Team members include Ron Carige, Kerrie and Tony Fitzpatrick, Ed Godwell, Janet Gran, Gary Latcham, Naomi Latcham, Ross Munroe, Rodney and Donna Muston, and Di and Don Morris.

