



Australia Day 2020

# Citizen of the Year

## Winner

**Dianne Morris**

Di is well known for being a strong advocate and passionate member of the Biloela community. By networking with all levels of government, public and private stakeholders and individuals, Di has successfully promoted Biloela as a great place to live, work, invest and retire. Her commitment to the community through volunteering has spanned 39 years. Her achievements have resulted in long term benefits for the region, including the establishment of the Biloela Medical Centre and Community Resource Centre.

Di, along with husband Don, has a passion for finding a cure for cancer. Through cycling, they have raised nearly \$420,000 over the past nine years, promoting the causes *Tour de Cure* and *Smiling for Smiddy*.

Di has received numerous accolades for her community contributions, including selection as a Commonwealth Games Baton Relay participant in 2018. Di is a fantastic ambassador for our region and her commitment to continuous improvement should be celebrated.

Nominated by Biloela Enterprise.





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# Citizen of the Year

## Nominee

### Douglas Poole

Doug has been an active volunteer for the Theodore Show Society for 22 years, holding various committee positions and announcing at countless shows and other local events. He has volunteered many hours to assist with the construction of facilities at the showgrounds including grand stands, cattle yards, kitchen and offices. Doug's volunteering also extends to several other community organisations.

Doug has served as an instructor with the Theodore Pony Club for 22 years, accompanying young competitors all over the state where some of his students have achieved State Championship titles.

Doug's character is showcased by his commitment to the community, regularly travelling over an hour one-way to attend meetings and events. Doug is often the last to leave, ensuring everything has been packed up and completed.

Nominated by Theodore Show Society.





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# Citizen of the Year

## Nominee

### Sally Conway

Sally is an adventurous soul living in the Taroom community. As part of the *Ride with Me – Ride for Lee* team, Sally aims to 'change the attitude towards mental illness in rural Australia by uniting communities and improving medical facilities'. The team works towards this goal by raising funds for the *Royal Flying Doctor Service* and *Rouge & Rouge Foundation*.

Sally's fundraising efforts in 2019 included organising the Gala at the Gorge event, which raised almost \$17,000. She also combined her love of horses with fundraising to compete in the Mongal Derby, the world's longest horse race, traversing 1000km across remote Mongolian landscapes.

Nominated by Member for Callide, Mr Colin Boyce MP.





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# Community Event of the Year

## Nominee

### Cutting Edge Express Time Trial Races

The Banana Sports Committee has made a significant contribution to the Banana township over recent years, culminating in the inaugural Cutting Edge Express Time Trial Races.

A magnificent effort from a small group of volunteers resulted in a successful event which was supported by the local community and visitors from across Queensland. The event is intended to be held annually, continuing to attract attention and visitors to Banana and the Banana Shire for years to come.

Nominated by Banana and District Progress Association.





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# Community Event of the Year

## Winner

### 2019 Jambin State School P&C Bullarama

The inaugural Jambin State School P&C Bullarama attracted over 1300 visitors from across the Banana Shire and several bull riding champions. The event was an overwhelming success, both financially and socially, not only for the School, but also for the broader community.

The goal was to fundraise for the Jambin State School to alleviate the financial burden for families. The success of the event can be attributed to the time and effort contributed by a small group of volunteers to methodically plan and overcome numerous challenges.

Nominated by Jambin State School and Jambin State School P&C Association.





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# Community Event of the Year

## Nominee

### The Bilo Blowout

The inaugural Bilo Blowout drew in crowds in excess of 500 people from as far away as Brisbane and Mackay. The event was planned and pulled together in six short weeks following encouragement and interest in the community. Generous sponsorship to support the event resulted in significant prize money, attracting well known competitors. The time and resources provided by members of the Callide Valley Auto Club ensured a first class event was delivered, with plans to make it bigger and better in 2020.

Nominated by Toni O'Connor.





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# Community Group or Team Nominee

## Callide Dawson Beef Carcase Competition Committee

The Callide Dawson Beef Carcase Competition has been successfully running for 31 years, showcasing local producers and the beef cattle industry. The volunteer organising committee represents the Show Societies of Callide Valley, Monto, Baralaba, Theodore and Wowan, along with the Moura Coal and Country Festival and Bauhinia Sports Association. In 2019, over \$26,000 was raised for local show societies and community groups.

The tireless efforts of the organising committee resulted in the competition scaling new heights, recording milestones across all areas including nominations, exhibitors and media exposure.

Nominated by Callide Dawson Beef Carcase Competition Committee.





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## Community Group or Team

### Nominee

## Leichhardt Branch Australian Stock Horse Society Inc.

Since 2017, the Leichhardt Branch Australian Stock Horse Society has been rebuilt through the dedication of just a few passionate volunteers. Their success is evident, delivering no less than eight clinics or competitions at the Theodore Showgrounds in less than 18 months. In 2018, the group were awarded the National and International Australian Stock Horse Society Branch of the Year Award, recognising their contribution to the local community.

Nominated by Brian Hanna and Allan Powell.





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## Community Group or Team

Winner

### Wowan/Dululu Community Volunteer Group Inc.

The Wowan/Dululu Community Volunteer Group operates to allow members of the community to stay in their homes longer. This is achieved through offering transport, social support, domestic assistance, personal care and group activities.

The service commenced in 1992 and in 2008 the purpose built Wowan/Dululu Multi-Purpose Centre opened, a major achievement. This centre now provides additional services to the community including a doctor's clinic. The group hold one major fundraiser per year to help fund free nursing services for the community.

Nominated by Cassandra Donald.





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# Cultural Award

## Winner

### Le-Anne Cowell

Le-Anne is a classically trained singer, sharing her musical talents and passion wherever possible – singing at countless community events, through delivering musical programs and as a teacher. For Le-Anne ‘a day without music is a day wasted’.

For the past two years Le-Anne has assisted the Biloela Baptist Church English Speaking Conversation Classes, using music as a way to assist with teaching correct pronunciation. Her success with this group resulted in them entering as a choir in the 2019 Biloela Eisteddfod.

Le-Anne’s resume as a professional singer in residence is impressive and her performances at the Biloela Eisteddfod have resulted in first place positions across eight different categories in both 2018 and 2019.

Nominated by Biloela Eisteddfod Society.





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# Junior Cultural Award

Winner

Laney Siegmeier

Laney is a passionate dancer with a long term goal to teach and inspire other young dancers. Laney trains four days per week and regularly travels to Brisbane to undertake further training and participate in competitions. In 2019, Laney was selected as a member of the Brisbane-based, contemporary dance youth company, RBCorp. This ultimately led to performing in the production *The Hive* at the Queensland University of Technology Gardens Theatre.

Laney's other cultural pursuits include being awarded Junior Miss Showgirl at the Callide Valley Show in 2019, representing her school as part of the senior Cheer Team and performing with her school choir at local events. Laney's passion and drive have helped her persevere through the challenging times, successfully juggling training with school commitments to follow her dreams.

Nominated by Kim Siegmeier.





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## Junior Sportsperson

Winner

### Ameliija Swaffer-Selff

Ameliija demonstrates extreme diligence and determination to achieve outstanding results in tennis and academically. Ameliija coaches and mentors younger children whilst juggling her own school and training commitments. She travels to Brisbane most weekends to compete and also trains several weeks of each school term at the National Tennis Academy.

In 2019, Ameliija was selected in four separate teams, competing on a regional, state, national and international level. She also received multiple sporting awards including the Tennis Queensland Eddie Machin Regional Tennis Player of the Year Award.

Nominated by Moura Tennis Club.





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# Junior Sportsperson

## Nominee

### Tyler Seagrott

Tyler is a successful young swimmer, achieving at both school and club level. In 2019 he represented Capricornia School Sport at the School State Swimming Championships in Brisbane which resulted in him being invited to join the Queensland Schools State Swimming Team to compete at the Australian Titles in Melbourne.

Tyler is also a valued member of the Callide United Football Club, as a player, coach and referee. In 2019 he received Callide United Football Club Sportsperson of the Year, and Biloela State High School Junior Sportsperson and Athlete with a Disability awards.

Nominated by Nikki Radke.





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## Senior Sportsperson

Winner

### Salome Duff

Throughout 2019 Salome has had great success in the sport of Triathlon. She finished third in her age group in her first Ironman Triathlon in Cairns, which then provided her the opportunity to attend the World Ironman Championships in Kona, Hawaii. Salome also finished third in her age group at the *Hell of the West* Triathlon in Goondiwindi. Salome trained 14-18 hours per week to achieve this success with an intense focus on nutrition and recovery.

Salome was involved in organising the 2019 Theodore River Run which attracted over 60 participants from across the Banana Shire. In the lead up, Salome facilitated an eight week, 'Learn to Run' program for over 30 Theodore residents.

Nominated by Joshua Duff.





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# **Sports Coach, Official and/or Administrator Nominee**

## **Judi Powell**

As President of the Leichhardt Branch of the Australian Stock Horse Society Judi has been the driving force behind reforming the branch and organising events and activities. As a Stock Horse Level One Judge and qualified branch facilitator, Judi donates countless hours to supervise events and run training days, not to mention general planning and administration.

Judi has been the main fundraiser for the branch, instrumental in raising more than \$20,000 in sponsorship since reformation in 2017.

Nominated by John Evensow.





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# **Sports Coach, Official and/or Administrator Winner**

## **Terry Tappin**

Terry is an outstanding and generous coach making a difference to his whole community and beyond with his dedication, skills, kindness, ability to innovate and make positive change. His dedication and endless energy for sport began in his early childhood and remains just as strong today.

As President of Moura's Tennis Club, and voluntary coach, over the past two years Terry's tireless work and innovative planning has resulted in securing funding for Moura's Multi-Purpose courts and an extraordinary membership boost, which has increased by over 1000%. Terry's never give up attitude and his willingness to give his time and skills has contributed to providing a sustainable future for sport in the local area.

Nominated by Debbie Elliott.





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# Volunteer Award

## Winner

### Graham Rewald

Graham has been an integral member of the Dawson Jockey Club since 1971. Graham volunteers as many as 20 hours each week to the Club overseeing building projects, maintaining the track and seeking sponsorship for race meets. Graham, along with other committee members, developed an infrastructure plan to upgrade the facilities for the benefit of patrons, trainers and jockeys and to improve animal welfare.

Graham served as President for 14 years, Treasurer for two years and still remains an active member of the committee today, along with his position as Chair of the Eastern Downs Racing Association.

Nominated by Dawson Jockey Club.





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# Volunteer Award

## Nominee

### John Walton

John has been a pivotal member of the St Vincent de Paul Society Biloela Conference for 45 years, helping people in need and bringing joy into their lives. John was involved in building the first Vinnies Centre in Kariboe Street in Biloela which opened in 1983. Over the years John has served as President, Vice President and Secretary and has also been a representative of the isolated conferences of Callide and Dawson Valleys and Monto.

John considers his volunteering a reward and continues to volunteer at the Vinnies Centre and visit elderly people in their homes.

Nominated by St Vincent de Paul Society.





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# Young Citizen of the Year

Winner

## Ameliija Swaffer-Selff

Ameliija is an intelligent and high achieving young citizen, she is an exemplary role model and inspiration to all those who know her, students and adults alike. In 2019, Ameliija was School Captain and House Captain at Moura State High School where she also received many academic and sporting achievement awards, including the Moura State High School Dux.

Ameliija mentors younger students through regular tennis lessons and leads by sharing her experiences and knowledge gained from participation in both state and national mentoring programs.

Nominated by Moura State High School.

