



AUSTRALIA DAY IN BALRANALD SHIRE

Australia Day 2016 –

A Record Crowd as Balranald Shire Celebrates Australia Day 2016!

A record crowd at Balranald gathered to celebrate Australia Day and Balranald Shire award presentations.

A new venue for Balranald - the Discovery Centre - and ideal weather conditions, made for a lovely event as around 200 people attended the breakfast and award celebrations.

The official Australia Day celebrations began with Cr Trevor Jolliffe raising the flag whilst Mrs Greenham lead the community singing the National Anthem.

Balranald Shire 2016 Australia Day Ambassador Hannah Campbell-Pegg was unable to make the trip due to a medical condition, so beloved Balranald local, Mrs Doreen Greenham OAM, stepped in as Ambassador. Doreen addressed the audience and told of her life in Balranald and passion for Balranald Shire. Doreen also spoke of Hannah Campbell-Pegg's achievements.

At the conclusion of the Balranald presentations, Mrs Greenham, Mayor Leigh Byron, Councillors Elaine Campbell, Trevor Jolliffe and Steve O'Halloran, along with General Manager Aaron Drenovski and Elizabeth White, Director Corporate & Community Development attended morning tea hosted by the residents and staff of Bidgee Haven Hostel.

At 12.30pm around 100 residents and visitors gathered at the Euston Multi-purpose Centre for the Euston Australia Day Award Presentation and BBQ lunch.

The official part of Euston celebrations commenced with Cr Trevor Jolliffe raising the Australian flag and singing of the National Anthem.

The highlight of the day was the awards presentation. Awards presented were: (click on photos to enlarge)

Balranald Shire Citizen of the Year

The dedication and commitment to the community by Balranald resident Mrs Janice Murphy was publicly recognised when Janice was named the **Balranald Shire Citizen of the Year**.

Janice was very shocked at receiving this award - she said she was very privileged to receive such recognition for doing the things she loves to do.



Young Sportsperson of the Year

Kobe Lloyd from Balranald received the award for **Young Sportsperson of the Year** - outstanding achievements by a young man. Kobe was unable to attend the ceremony as he was in South Africa touring with the Under 15 All Australian AFL team. The award was accepted by his mother, Mrs Kim Lloyd, sister Macey and brother Drew on Kobe's behalf.



The Community Event of the Year

The Community Event of the Year was presented to the Balranald Central School 150th Anniversary celebrations. An amazing effort by a dedicated few committee members to develop this successful event.



Special Achievements in sport

Recipients of this award were:

Jordyn Jolliffe from Balranald



Ricardo Liparotta from Euston



Cyrus Lloyd from Euston



Esther Tedd from Euston



Grace Makalio-Harris from Euston



Frankie-Joe Chirchiglia from Euston



Nick Neyland from Euston



Rafaele Bulzomi from Euston



Congratulations to all our worthy Balranald Shire award recipients, a wonderful achievement to be proud of.



Some of the crowd at the Balranald Ceremony



Some of the crowd at the Euston Ceremony

Balranald Shire Australia Day Ambassador

Balranald Shire's Australia Day was allocated Ms Hannah Campbell-Pegg as its Ambassador for 2016. Hannah is 5½ months pregnant and unfortunately at the last minute, was been advised by her doctor that she is unable to travel.

The Balranald Australia Day Committee convened a meeting to discuss a replacement. All agreed that a local citizen would be the perfect solution, and it was a unanimous decision to appoint Mrs Doreen Greenham, OAM as our 2016 Balranald Shire Australia Day Ambassador.

Mrs Greenham delighted both the Balranald and Euston crowd's with tales of her time coming to and living in Balranald, with many requesting a copy of her speech, included below:

Doreen Greenham OAM – Ambassador Australia Day Address

Good morning ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to be asked to be your Ambassador today.

I have lived in Balranald for 61 years, having come from Newcastle as a 19 year old school teacher and overall, I taught at Balranald Central School for 37 years.

I grew up in a strict Catholic family of ten children, where the boys were waited on and the girls did the “waiting”. I was ninth in line. The boys had to be well educated or have a trade and the girls were expected to find a job in preparation for marriage. I had a paper-round before school and would ride one of the boys “pushies” to do the deliveries. In secondary school, I had a weekend and school holiday job, serving in a cake shop or working at a chain of butcher shops, but I still found time to play hockey or ladies basketball. At the end of Year 6, I was fortunate to win a State Bursary which paid for all my secondary education as well as music lessons, piano and singing.

After I finished high school, I applied for teachers college, but had problems because of an eye injury I suffered at birth – there was no such thing as equal opportunity back then! My Mother contacted the Newcastle Morning Herald, quoting “my daughter gained excellent results but can't get in” The following week I was accepted, but not accepted as permanent until 1978

I reported for work at Balranald on 8th February 1955 after a very long journey by train(s), taxi and mail car. The Newcastle Railway took me from New Castle to Sydney. I then caught the Junee Express to Junee and then changed trains to Narrandera. A diesel motor, 2-carriage train got me to Hay. I caught a taxi from the station to the Paragon Café, which was the pick-up point for the Balranald Mail car, then we headed to Balranald via the back way through Maude, Oxley, Homebush and finally Balranald after having opened and closed no less than 23 gates!. The heat was unbearable for the 8 of us, all squeezed into a Ford Customline.

In 1955 at Balranald Central School, I met two male teachers who also played music, and they asked me to join a band. Another band member, a local Balranald man who played violin, banjo and guitar caught my eye. We married in 1956 and had 8 beautiful children. Our lives were full and varied, but always with one outstanding interest being our passion for music, teaching all of our children to play an instrument or two, and of course,

singing. I still have a full appetite for music today; it's ingrained in my blood, and I still play and sing in the Greenham family band "Overdraft".

During my time in Balranald, I started up ladies basketball, and have been involved with the Catholic Church, secretary of Balranald Football Social Club, on the Hospital board, committee member of the Lions, Church and Football Clubs and the first woman Councillor for Balranald Shire Council. I fundraised to establish the Balranald Baby Health Centre, and I am a Foundation member of Meals and Wheels and Home Help, and Foundation Treasurer of the Hospital Auxiliary.

I have also been Director of Balranald Ex Servicemen's Memorial Club for over 12 years, conductor and member of Balranald Sing Australia, member of the Theatre Royal Restoration Committee and Chair of the Balranald Shire Cultural Committee.

Some awards or certificates for recognition I have received are:

- A Certificate of Service from NSW Health Services for Voluntary Service as a Board member of the Balranald District Hospital for 18 years.
- An Apostolic Blessing in 1997 from Pope John Paul II, for services to St. Dymphna's Catholic Church,
- A certificate of recognition from the Deniliquin District of Education for outstanding contributions to Education at Balranald Central School
- An award of Excellence in teaching in 1998 from the Minister of Education at the time, Mr John Aquilina,
- Citizen of the Year for Balranald Shire Council in 2000,
- the Medal of The Order Of Australia in The General Division in 2013 for service to the Community of Balranald,
- Life Member of Balranald & District Ex-Servicemen's Club in 2015.

I have always volunteered my time towards any worthy matter relating to the betterment of our community, such as Deb balls, Masonic or Lions Club functions, Camp Quality, Anzac day, Senior Citizens, Christmas Carols, or especially encouraging many children and young people in their career choices over many years.

I look back at my life to date and wonder how on earth I had time to fit it all in, but I wouldn't change it for anything - I have met some fantastic people; teachers, students, parents, new and lifelong friends.

I am now in retirement, and my retirement gift to myself was a Roland Digital Piano. I lovingly waste at least 2 hours per day on it. In the future I may take on some piano and singing students, babysit, and of course, volunteer my time to all the worthy causes in our Shire.

I would also like to touch on Hannah Campbell-Pegg and her achievements.

Hannah is an Australian Luge athlete and has represented Australia in this unique winter sport of Luge since 2004. Hannah began her career in luge in 2004 at 22 years of age in

Calgary, Canada. Prior to Luge Hannah was in Australia's first Women's Bobsleigh Team, achieving Australia's first women's bobsleigh medal with Bronze in America Cup.

Luge is a winter Olympic sport where athletes travel (on their back, feet first) down an ice track on a sled. The sled has 6 steering points and the track has up to 21 corners. They can reach speeds of up to 146km/hr for females and 156km/hr for males.

Hannah has competed in the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympic Games, achieving 23rd place at both competitions but her proudest luge moment is placing 20th in the 2009 Luge World Championships in Lake Placid, USA.

Retiring from Luge in 2012, Hannah is still heavily involved in the sport and was the coach at the 2012 Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Australia and the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

Last year she travelled with Australia's current team to America, Latvia, Germany and Austria to coach and prepare the athletes for the World Cup season the 2016 Youth Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

Hannah is heavily involved in the running of National sporting body for Luge and in preparing our Australian athletes for the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Korea.

During her sporting career, Hannah completed a degree in Sports Science and another in Teaching. Hannah currently works at NSW TAFE as a Senior Education Officer and resides in Avoca Beach on the NSW Central Coast. Hannah and her husband Mark are very excited to be expecting their first child in May this year.

We all wish Hannah well for the duration of her pregnancy and hope we may have her as our Ambassador in 2017.

My last comment to you all is – Enjoy and make the most of yourself and your life, and don't forget to help anyone you can.