

Australia Day 2017

Residents from the Balranald Shire gathered to celebrate local Australia Day award presentations held in Balranald and Euston. With ideal weather conditions the Balranald Discovery Centre was a hive of activity as at least 200 people joined in the breakfast celebrations.

An Australian Citizenship ceremony started the official Australia Day celebrations with Tony Trinchi and Fiona Scoleri becoming Australian citizens. Tony and Fiona raised the flag whilst the Mayor and Ambassador Corey Payne led the community singing the National Anthem.

Australia Day Ambassador Corey captivated the audience with his passion for Australia, in particular founding the *Future Direction Network* and working with young people from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Corey is extremely dedicated about the youth of today and ensuring they achieve all the success they wish through being able to continue their education.

Corey also spoke about his time as a professional rugby league player and listed his parents as a driving force to his achievements, one of which was being named the NSW Young Australian of the Year in 2013.

At the conclusion of the Balranald presentations Corey, along with Mayor Leigh Byron, Councillors Trevor Jolliffe, Steve O'Halloran and Doug Allen and General Manager Aaron Drenovski attended morning tea hosted by the residents and staff of Bidgee Haven Hostel.

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

Cr Trevor Jolliffe kicked off the Euston celebrations with the raising of the Australian flag whilst the crowd sang the National Anthem.

Award Recipients

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – Albert “Berty” Lansdown

The recipient for Citizen of the Year for outstanding achievements in 2016 is Mr Berty Lansdown.

Berty is a tireless worker who has contributed in many ways over many years to serving the community of Balranald and surrounds.

Berty has been a volunteer driver for Adult Day Care for many years – most Mondays and Thursdays he will drive the bus for the Centre and also on outings, either in town or further afield, such as Mungo National Park or Swan Hill to the cinema.

Over the years, Berty has also taken residents of Bidgee Haven on tours, outings and health appointments.

Berty is an active member of the Balranald Headquarters of the Rural Fire Brigade since 2008. His main role is maintenance officer but he also

- assists driving the Mac semi-trailer (water tanker) at fires or accidents
- Volunteers at and helps teach at the Junior Fire Cadets event held at the Balranald Central School for ten weeks every other year. Berty is an excellent teacher and has an interest in each of the cadet's safety and wellbeing.

Berty plays a very important part at the Balranald headquarters Rural Fire Brigade because of his wealth of knowledge of the district; such as where roads or water tanks are located etc. He imparts whatever advice and help he can to the members and they feel extremely privileged to have a member of Berty's calibre.

Another organisation Berty volunteers for is Balranald Meals on Wheels. He and his wife Lex assisted delivering meals to residents – a much needed service for many years together and when Lex passed away, Berty continued, and to this day still delivers meals.

Berty was the first volunteer driver to be appointed for the Health and Community Care (HACC) service since its inception (at least 12 years ago) and now volunteers for CareWest, who took over from HACC.

Berty is extremely popular and is often requested by clients to be their driver. Bert drives at least once a week, taking clients to their appointments, such as eye or heart specialists or non-urgent door to door transport.

These are some of the things Berty finds time for. Berty is a very well loved and appreciated person by all who know him. He is a very caring and knowledgeable person, and can also tell a good yarn.

Berty is one of those quiet achievers that does not seek recognition for his community service, and is a worthy recipient of the 2017 Australia Day Citizen of the Year award for Balranald Shire.



Corey Payne & Berty Lansdown[/caption]

YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR – Jacob Lister

Jacob Lister has been nominated for Young Sportsperson of The Year for his achievements in sport; specifically cricket.

Jacob has displayed commitment and great sportsmanship in the sporting field of cricket, having captained Balranald Central School and representing the Riverina at the NSW Open Boys State Cricket championships in Sydney recently. He has been a great ambassador for his school and community.

Jacob played in the Swan Hill District Cricket Association (SHDCA) A-Grade competition playing for Nyah District and some of his achievements for the league include:

- 3rd overall for batting in A-Grade
- 3rd overall for Cricketer of the Year in A-Grade
- Named number 3 batsman in the SHDCA Team of the Year
- Represented SHDCA in the Country Mallee Murray State Championship Under 18 Cricket team in Melbourne in 2016
- Represented SHDCA in the Under 21 Country Mallee Murray Cricket Team at Warracknabeal
- Coached the SHDCA under 16 Junior Country Week Competition Cricket Team

Some of Jacob achievements for Nyah District include:

- 1st overall for batting in A-Grade (343 runs)
- 1st – overall for Cricketer of the Year in A-Grade
- Playing in premiership winning team for Nyah District in the SHDCA



Mayor Byron Jacob Lister & Corey Payne[/caption]

SPORTING TEAM OF THE YEAR –

This year, the Balranald Shire Council Australia Day committee was faced with two equally worthy sporting teams for Sporting Team of the Year.

- both teams represented Balranald Central School in their respective categories
- both played and were undefeated at the Southern NSW Netball competition in Leeton
- both progressed to State championships in Dubbo, where they both played against 5 teams – and were again undefeated
- both won their individual categories, those being Central High Schools State Netball Championships 2016 in the OPENS category and Under 16's category.

While some of the girls competed in both the OPEN'S and Under 16's teams, both teams displayed amazing leadership skills and sportsmanship, and with a strong will, some amazing confidence and belief in themselves, both teams won.

The OPEN'S team consisted of: (those in red competed in both teams)

Maddy Militto
Isabella Harding (missing from photo)
Kiandra Dalton
Samantha Renfrey
Madison Jess
Jordyn Jolliffe
Tessa Duryea (missing from photo)
Jada Phillips
Chloe Militto

The Under 16'S team consisted of:

Faith Jolliffe
Bonnie Jolliffe
Isabella Scalora
Sophie Renfrey
Abbie Renfrey
Hannah Morton
Jenae Johnstone
Madison Jess
Jordyn Jolliffe
Tessa Duryea (missing from photo)
Jada Phillips
Chloe Militto



OPENS & U 16s netball teams

Kiandra Dalton was the umpire for this team

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

– Local Balranald band - “Overdraft”

Overdraft was nominated for a Special Achievement Award for their contribution to community entertainment events.

It seems the Overdraft, or the Greenham’s as they are sometimes known, have been playing in their band “Overdraft” for as long as they have been able to draw breath.

Over the years they have entertained the community and other organisations just because they love what they do.... AND with little or no payment.



Overdraft with Corey Payne and Mayor Byron[/caption]

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN SPORT

Hayley Moore

Hayley Moore has been nominated for a Special Achievement Award for her achievements in sport.

Hayley has represented Euston Public School in 100m & 200m running in State Athletics – and Barrier Athletics, swimming and cross country.



Mayor Byron, Hayley Moore & Corey Payne

John Bulzomi

John Bulzomi has been nominated for a Special Achievement Award for his achievements in sport.

John has represented Euston Public School in State soccer and Murray Darling cross country.



Corey Payne, John Bulzomi & Mayor Byron

Marcus Chirchiglia

Marcus Chirchiglia has been nominated for a Special Achievement Award for his achievements in sport.

Marcus participated in State AFL and Barrier Athletics, shotput and discus champion.



Corey Payne, Marcus Chirchiglia & Mayor Byron[/caption]