

Balranald Shire Celebrates Australia Day 2018!

Residents from the Balranald Shire gathered to celebrate local Australia Day award presentations held in Balranald and Euston.

Despite the hot weather there was a good turnout at the Balranald Discovery Centre. The Balranald Lion's Club cooked up a delicious BBQ breakfast for the crowd and then the ceremony began.

Sussan Ley, who flew in from Griffith to attend the Balranald ceremony, led the affirmation pledge and spoke of her passion for rural Australia.

Australia Day ambassador Warren Kermond OAM captivated the audience with stories of his life and travels. He urged the crowd to not lose the Australian sense of humour that is unique to our wonderful country.

Warren grew up third of now five generations of a show business family. He gained experience at a very early age in theatre, pantomime, television, and cabaret. Warren is also involved with Variety the Children's Charity.

At the conclusion of the Balranald presentations Warren, along with Cr Purtill & Cr Jolliffe attended Bidgee Haven Hostel for a ceremony, including the recital by Dorothea Mackeller of 'I love a sunburnt country', followed by morning tea.

The Euston celebrations took place at the Euston Multi-purpose Centre. The event began at 12.30pm with a BBQ lunch prepared by the Euston-Robinvale Lions Club.

It was pleasing to see such a large gathering for the event, and the crowd was buzzing with enthusiasm.

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

Recipients of **Special Achievement Awards** were Ryan Bruton of Balranald for his work in the technology field, specifically film making, while Hayley Moore, Isaac Taylor, Larry Costa and Marcus Chirchiglia from Euston received this award for their sporting achievements.

Khy Jess and Mathew Mclvor Kepa jointly received the **Young Sportsperson of the Year** award.

Don Cooke from Balranald received the award for **Sportsperson of the Year** for his achievements in the motorcycle field.

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

Helen came forward to grand applause and made a moving speech thanking those who nominated her and encouraging everybody to get involved in community work.

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



Balranald crowd



Don Cooke with Sussan & Warren



Ryan Bruton with Sussan & Warren



Khy Jess and Mathew McIvor Kepa with Warren



Balranald award recipients with Sussan, Warren and Deputy Mayor Alan Purtill



Hayley Moore, Warren & Issac Taylor