

# Australia Day Awards

..... 2022

Emerald and Gemfields



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



**Central Highlands**  
Regional Council

# Australia Day Awards

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## COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

**Elite Jumping Castles** Various events

**Emerald State High School** Grease Musical

## YOUNG SPORTSPERSON AWARD NOMINEES

### **Gabi Williams**

Gabi has been playing rugby league and netball since she was five. She took up rugby union in 2019 and started weightlifting towards the end of 2020. In 2021, Gabi represented at Capricornia level for both rugby league and rugby union, represented CQ Bushrangers at the Girls 7s Rugby Union State Championships, competed at the State Weightlifting Championships, competed at the National Weightlifting Championships, and received a gold sporting award at the Emerald State High School sports award night.

### **Taylah Tebbatt**

Taylah has proudly represented Emerald, Central Highlands and Capricornia region multiple times for netball, touch football, athletics and cross country. In 2021, Taylah represented Emerald for Capricorn Stars Netball and representative netball. She also trialled and was accepted for the Capricorn Fire Netball team for 2022. In addition to this, she has been an active team player in the youth and women's division of touch football and has represented the Central Highlands for touch football and cross country.

### **Maggie McDougall**

Maggie has been an active member of the Central Highlands BMX Club. Maggie has hardly missed a BMX club night or training session. In 2021, Maggie came second in her age group in the QLD State Series Challenge. She was successful in making the state final and came fourth overall out of 17 riders in her class. Maggie's success and attitude have landed her a sponsorship deal with a Biloela-based business.



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## JUNIOR SPORTSPERSON AWARD NOMINEES

### **Flynn Stewart**

Flynn has participated in several athletic meets in Queensland representing the Emerald Athletics Club. Competing in Longreach, Flynn left with first, second and third place for his events whilst achieving a personal best. When competing in the Mackay Summer Athletic Meet, Flynn broke two records. He was also awarded the Under 8 Emerald Athletic Champion title.

### **Bailey Stewart**

Bailey has participated in several athletics meets in Queensland representing Emerald Athletics Club and in 2021 he broke the record for the 10 years group 80-metre dash.

## SENIOR SPORTS/ADMINISTRATOR AWARD NOMINEES

### **Dias Subaweerage**

Dias is a dedicated volunteer for the Emerald Athletics Club. He offers everyone help, support and encouragement to develop their skills. Dias has obtained his certificate II in coaching to ensure he can offer more training. He has broken and now holds the javelin record in Emerald of 41.68 metres. At competitions, he watches other members of the club and offers them supports and assistance where he can. He holds a role at the local club which is equipment assistance officer.

### **Jill Ryan**

Jill is currently a PE teacher at a local school and organises the annual Interschool Netball Competition. This competition is a true indication of the meaning of sport within a community. Jill runs this competition to encourage the love and enjoyment gained by both girls and boys. Held at the end of the year it has been a fitting celebration of comradeship amongst many.



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## SENIOR SPORTS/ADMINISTRATOR AWARD NOMINEES CONTINUED

### **Andrew Finlay**

Andrew Finlay has been involved with numerous aspects of administration across many different sports in the Central Highlands over the past 20-plus years. His involvement includes tennis, rugby league, rugby union, cricket and touch football. His focus has always been and continues to be on active involvement for all, focusing on positive participation to develop individual wellbeing.

### **Mitchell Lansdowne**

Mitchell Lansdowne is a hard-working, talented, nationally-recognised saddle bronc rider. He works on his family cattle property 70 km west of Emerald. Mitch travels hundreds of kilometres every weekend competing in the Australian Professional Rodeo Association (APRA). He is currently sitting number seven in the national standings. Not only is Mitchell a fantastic bronc rider, he competes in Australian Campdraft Association events. He travels an outstanding team of horses around Queensland and places consistently. Mitchell has won many highly regarded APRA rodeo events, including Richmond, Extreme Broncs, Great Western, Blackwater Rodeo and many others. This year he placed fourth at the Mighty Mt Isa Rodeo Saddle Bronc event.

### **Papa Hartley**

Papakorako (Papa) Hartley is an integral part of the junior rugby union within the Central Highlands. Papa, along with others from the Emerald Rams formed Walla Rugby for junior boys and girls in the under 8 to under 13 age group in Emerald which ran from 1994 to 1997. Papa has coached all ages from walla to opens, Emerald Marist College, Emerald Nogoia Red Claws to Central Queensland Bushrangers representative sides. He has had a massive impact in our region with his high-quality coaching over the years.



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## YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### **Madison Iles**

Madison is a young community leader, currently representing Emerald State High School as school captain. Madi has made significant contributions to the community through this role and her wide range of community activities, including 2016 Interact Sunrise Rotary Member, 2017 Interact Sunrise Rotary Cultural Leader, 2018 Interact Sunrise Rotary Secretary, 2019 Interact Sunrise Rotary President.

### **Pharoah Sullivan**

On 17 March 2021, just after midnight, Rubyvale was hit by a flash flood. Pharoah could be found wading through waist-high water to check on his local community members stuck in their cars in floodwater. This initiative and bravery helped keep his local neighbours calm and safe, he was recognised by the community that night as a local hero.

### **Paige McKenzie**

Paige has continually contributed to the community by assisting in fundraising events for charity whilst participating in the Central Highlands Easter Sunflower Festival. Paige also gets involved in Clean Up Australia Day, Headspace colour runs and was a part of the #bigrural youth advisory committee.

### **Amber Paulson**

Amber is an active and valued positive role model in our community. Amber organised a Clean Up Australia Day group and successfully cleaned up the Sapphire township. She has also volunteered with fundraising for Anakie State School, student council, and the P&C Association.

### **Peyton Watson**

In January 2021, Peyton swam an amazing 32.15 km in 30 days to raise money for the Starlight Foundation sick kids charity. Peyton raised a remarkable \$4,000. She is a member of the Emerald Seals Swim Club, captain of the Emerald Christian College swim team and has represented in swimming in Brisbane.



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## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### **Jessie Pont**

Jessie has been an active member of the Gemfields Local Ambulance Committee for 30-plus years. Jessie has spearheaded fundraising ventures that have seen various improvements to the local ambulance service in Sapphire, providing training to local paramedics and buying expensive equipment.

### **Katherine Hume**

Kate is a mentor and inspirational role model to many. Teaching English at Emerald State High School, Kate has dedicated 23 years of service to the Department of Education and has encouraged and supported student development and leadership for the younger generation.

### **Hayden Akcay**

Hayden is an avid volunteer in our Central Highlands community. Volunteering his time to the local PCYC and fire brigade, Hayden is on call 24/7 and responds with enthusiasm to call-outs. He is determined to keep our community safe.

### **Tamara Walker**

Tamara runs Future Hope, the organisation behind the Emerald Twilight Markets which have been a huge success in our community. She is always looking at ways other community groups can prosper and all funds from the markets are spread across the community evenly.

### **Ross Drayton**

Ross is an active member of Rotary, Queensland Rural Fire Service (Iona Brigade) and various other organisations. He chairs various committees, and is actively involved in the Royal Flying Doctors Service. Ross gives back to the community through his charity work, sponsorships and volunteer work. Ross is also an active member of the National Liberal Party.

### **Sarah Toon**

Sarah has worked tirelessly as a volunteer for the Central Highlands Mothers Group, implementing technology to include isolated mums into group sessions. Sarah provided a valuable link for families that live on properties and those that have had to stay at home/travel for health reasons.



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## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### **Craig Dunsmore**

Craig has an impressive track record for helping community groups, and volunteers countless hours working behind the scenes. He is currently treasurer for the following organisations: Emerald Chamber of Commerce, Emerald Development Organisation, Gindie CH/Talent – Gindie Hall Committee and was treasurer for Emerald and District Historical Association for over 10 years.

### **Tania Paulson**

Tania is an inspirational woman. She is a devoted mother, a wife, a carer, works part-time as a teacher aide and is a very passionate and dedicated volunteer of the community, particularly the Anakie State School and P&C Association. Tania dedicates her time to helping others. If she isn't fundraising, organising, or facilitating an event, she is helping someone somewhere.

### **Anthony Lawrence**

Anthony is the hard-working President of Retreat Creek Campdraft. Anthony works from 4.30 am to 6.00 pm daily, yet still finds time to be a helpful husband and father. Anthony is an inspirational role model to our community as he has actively fundraised and worked with council and at the grounds to prepare and improve the campdraft arena.

### **Loretta Allen**

Loretta teaches the distance education program eKindy for children unable to attend regular kindergartens. Without Loretta, children would miss the great learning curve that kindy provides. Loretta would email hours after her school day had finished with extra help or respond to the children's photos even over her holidays.



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## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### **Carol Ferguson**

Carol Ferguson continues to be one of our most outstanding visitor servicing ambassadors for the region, volunteering at the Emerald Visitor Information Centre for over 31 years! An outstanding achievement and "one of the longest serving volunteers in the whole state of Queensland" (Queensland Information Centre Association, QICA). Carol has delivered on the changes being progressed at the centre and continues to mentor others along the way.

### **Geoffrey Kavanagh**

Geoff has been an integral part of the water reform process in Queensland and an advocate for sustainable water management. The local irrigation farmer was a member of the board of the CRC for Irrigation Futures, and has held positions on a number of water advisory groups and committees. He has also constructed countless props in his shed for the benefit of a local dance school and assists with school events where he can.



## Australian National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.



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