

Let's celebrate  
what's great!

# Australia Day

Awards 2024



**BLACKWATER, DINGO,  
DUARINGA, BLUFF  
& BAUHINIA**



Blackwater JapaneseGarden

# PROGRAM OF EVENTS

## Australia Day Awards

Friday 26 January 2024 Blackwater QLD

### **8.00 am Barbeque Breakfast**

### **9.00 am Commencement of Australia Day Awards**

National Anthem

Welcome speech by Cr. Brimblecombe

Guest Speaker, Peter Dornan AM

Presentation of Awards

Community Event of the Year Award

Junior Sportsperson Award

Senior Sportsperon/Administrator Award

Young Citizen of the Year Award

Citizen of the Year Award

Cutting and Serving of Cake

End of awards

### **10.30 am Gumboot throwing competition**

Junior girls & boys (7 years and under)

Intermediate girls and boys (8-11 years)

Senior girls and boys (12-18 years)

Open adult man & lady



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

## **Advance Australia Fair**

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.



## Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

# WELCOME TO THE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2024!

On Australia Day we celebrate all the things we love about Australia: land, sense of fair go, lifestyle, democracy, the freedoms we enjoy but particularly our people.

Australia Day is about acknowledging the contribution every Australian makes to our contemporary and dynamic nation. From our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been here for more than 65,000 years, to those who have lived here for generations, to those who have come from all corners of the globe to call our country home.

The 26 January is an important date in Australia's history that has evolved over time. Starting as a celebration for emancipated convicts, today it is a day to acknowledge past wrongs and show respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' survival, resilience and enduring culture.

It is also a day we pay respect to the stories, histories and contributions of the Australians who lived, worked and fought for the values and freedoms we often take for granted.

And it is a day we celebrate the diversity of this nation's people with our various cultures, traditions and belief systems.

Australia Day continues to be hugely popular, with 3 in 4 Australians believing it has a bigger meaning beyond being just a day off.

More than half of all Australians participate in Australia Day attending events organised by State Governments, local councils, community groups or getting together with family and friends. In addition, over 16,000 new Australians become citizens on Australia Day.

# AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADOR PETER DORNAN AM

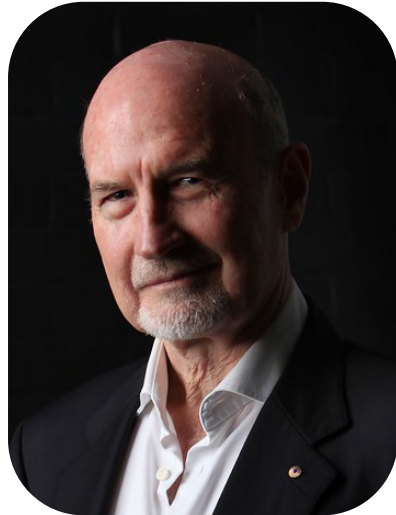
## Peter Dornan AM

**Men's health activist and 2020  
Queensland Senior Australian of the Year**

Following a prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment, and after experiencing depression, incontinence and other side effects, sports medicine physiotherapist Peter Dornan AM put an ad in the newspaper, inviting fellow patients to meet. Since then, he has supported men diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Peter's commitment to helping men share experiences and seek support has helped create a culture change in the treatment management for men with prostate cancer. Receiving a grant to research incontinence – a common consequence in men after prostate cancer treatment – he designed a successful program to treat the condition, and published a book used across Australian prostate cancer support groups. He also developed a nationally and internationally recognised program for managing patients with pelvic pain.

Peter is a director of the Board of the Cancer Council of Queensland, for which he has helped raised significant funds. A successful writer and sculptor, he took up mountain climbing after prostate cancer recovery, successfully scaling Mount Kilimanjaro at age 60.





# COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

## **Blackwater State Highschool 50th Anniversary**

Though its 50th-year celebration, Blackwater State High School significantly influenced the community, fostering a robust connection over its rich history. The milestone not only strengthened community ties but also instilled pride, inspiring present and future generations. Marking contributions to education and community development, the event became a source of motivation. Reflecting on five decades of achievements prompted a deep appreciation for the school's impact on education and student growth. This highlighted commitment resonated with the broader community, emphasizing education's pivotal role in personal and communal development.

## **Blackwater MEU May Day Rodeo**

The Blackwater MEU May Day Rodeo stands as a beloved family event, uniting the Blackwater community. Offering free rides, a bustling canteen, live music, and a courtesy bus, the event was an enjoyable evening for all. The rodeo serves as a platform for local and regional competitors to showcase their talents amidst the support of friends and family. Notably, the event honors Matty O'Brien, Andrew 'Panda' Curtis, Gill Bendall, and Darren Holley with dedicated memorials. Drawing participants and spectators from Central Queensland, it gains national recognition as an Australian Professional Rodeo Association affiliate, spotlighted in Australian Performance Horse Magazine. Generous donations support local organisations, fostering community engagement.

## **The Curragh Community Day**

Coronado Global Resources' Curragh Mine celebrated its 40th anniversary with The Curragh Community Day on September 9, 2023. The event brought together over 1,000 attendees from Blackwater and nearby areas. The day featured guided mine tours, markets, children's activities, live music, and food stalls. With the participation of 22 small businesses, it significantly boosted the local economy and community spirit. The celebration, costing \$100,000, included a \$15,000 donation to local entities, showcasing a commitment to community support. The Curragh Community Day stood out in Blackwater's event calendar, fostering inclusivity, unity, and diversity.

# JUNIOR SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



## Regan Carsburg

Regan, a skilled golfer, has participated in over 20 junior golf events, representing Blackwater and Duaringa. Transitioning to senior competitions, she earned accolades such as the overall golfer for Central Queensland juniors golf, B grade girls gross winner, and junior golfer of the year for 18 holes female nett winner. Regan gained attention by competing in the Greg Norman Junior Masters on the Gold Coast. Beyond golf, she excels in athletics, netball, and touch football at the school and regional levels. Known for her sportsmanship, Regan mentors young golfers extends respect to teammates, and volunteers as a junior netball coach and umpire.



## Rachel Denman

Rachel, a passionate netball player, led her local team to victory, securing the grand final win from last position against the top team. Awarded the most valuable player, she showcased exceptional skills. Representing Blackwater at Central Highlands, Rachel's outstanding performance earned her a nomination for the Stars Program trials in Emerald. Over the past 5 years, she consistently improved, also contributing to her school's netball team. As a role model, Rachel inspires younger players, offering continuous encouragement. Representing netball for three years, she excels in defensive positions, primarily goal defence (GD), demonstrating growing confidence and a heartfelt playing style.





## Mila Rice

Mila proudly represented Blackwater North State School in various sports throughout 2023. Engaging in the Emerald Athletics Club, Emerald Gymnastics Club, Blackwater Netball Club, and Blackwater Swim Club, she showcased her versatility. Serving as sports captain at Blackwater North SS, Mila became a role model, inspiring fellow athletes with her responsibility and politeness. Excelling in cross country running, she achieved remarkable success in various trials, progressing to the State Cross Country trials and State Track and Field event. Mila's dedication, achievements, and double qualification for state events within a year stand as a testament to her exceptional commitment and talent.



## Stuart Taylor

Since the age of 8, Stuart has excelled in athletics, garnering regional and state accolades. From Blackwater, Stuart recently broke the 5m long jump barrier, ranking 4th in Queensland. Stuart qualifies in 100m, 200m, long jump, and high jump for the Chemist Warehouse Australian Track & Field Championships. Despite local facility limitations, Stuart is dedicated in travelling to Emerald and Mackay for practice. His recognition, including the Junior Sportsman Award, emphasizes exceptional commitment. Stuart, representing Queensland, anticipates the national stage at the Chemist Warehouse Australian Athletics Championships 2024.



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

# SENIOR SPORTSPERSON/ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



## **Gary Holt**

For over 15 years, Gary has been a dedicated force at the Blackwater Bandits Football Club. His coaching journey began when his children played soccer, and despite their grown status, Gary consistently coaches today's youth. He actively supports kids at carnivals, marks fields for events, and extends his coaching to schools lacking guidance. Gary's commitment extends beyond coaching; he has served as president, head coach, and field caretaker. His influence goes beyond the field, teaching new members the ropes, managing fields, and training coaches. Gary stands as a role model, illustrating that dedication, support, and knowledge-sharing can sustain a club for kids to thrive.



## **Shannon Maguire**

Shan excels as a sports enthusiast, serving as secretary for the Dingo Rodeo committee and achieving victories in camp drafts like Dingo Ladies and Rolleston Ladies. Engaged in Blackwater's netball and touch football, she coaches the U15's Blackwater Netball team and the Under 12 Dingo Pups touch team. Shan extends her impact to the Bluff Bunnies Rugby League team, earning the Coach's Award. Her commitment to community building includes forming the Dingo Pups Touch team, inspiring children from diverse backgrounds to embrace sports, establishing her as a commendable role model for the Dingo and surrounding districts.



### Nicole Murray

Nicole, at the helm of the Blackwater Rodeo Association, has led for years, notably orchestrating successful events like the Blackwater May Day Rodeo and Brigalow Ball, benefiting the RACQ Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service. Engaging local businesses, she supports events such as the Dingo Race Day and Bluff Races. Upholding her parents' legacy as life members, Nicole secures grants, resulting in significant 2023 upgrades—stainless steel canteen, bar's concrete flooring, new bucking shoots, and a competitors box. Her steadfast dedication to local and rodeo communities, evident in these achievements, deserves recognition.



### Stacey Steinhardt

Stacey, the dedicated president of Blackwater Touch, fosters youth sports by encouraging skill development. Actively involved in touch football, netball, junior rugby league, and senior leagues, she contributes to coaching, canteen duties, and event logistics. Holding level 3/4 referee status in rugby league and touch football, along with netball accreditation, Stacey values referees' crucial role in sports. Stacey's unwavering commitment and infectious smile make her an inspirational role model, especially for women in sports. Her consistent selection for Junior Touch State Championships and participation in the Senior State Competition in Townsville highlight her exceptional dedication.



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



## Tim Steinhardt

Tim, a seasoned referee, recently officiated his 9th A-grade rugby league grand final, marking 11 consecutive years of active involvement. Tim's expertise extends beyond local games; he refereed the Outback State of Origin, the Legends of League game in Blackwater, and the Outback representative competition in Longreach. Tim's prowess also shines in touch football, where he holds a level 5 accreditation, having attended eight consecutive National Championships in Coffs Harbour. Beyond his personal achievements, Tim dedicates himself to nurturing future referees, leading referee courses and coaching the under-13 Blackwater Crushers team, guiding them to the Grand Final for the Matt Scott Shield in Longreach.

# YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



## **Amity Jackson**

Amity's dedication to community service shines through her diverse roles, from manning gates to supporting the canteen and bar during events. Her versatility showcases a selfless commitment to the community's evolving needs, demonstrating an unwavering dedication to the overall success of events. Amity's profound understanding of community spirit is recognized through her active involvement, earning her the High School Community Spirit Award. She serves as a positive role model, coaching teams and educating others on sports, exercise, and ball skills. Amity consistently volunteers, balancing community service with high-level sports and academic excellence, exemplifying outstanding personal attributes and inspiring her community through a commitment to sports, education, and well-being.



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

# CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



## **Bronwyn Dalton**

As the proprietor of our local post office & newsagent, Bronwyn exemplifies the heart of our smaller towns. Beyond employing locals, she actively supports the community's economy through generous donations. Bronwyn's compassion and generosity make her a valuable asset, and her dedication to the aesthetic improvement of both businesses, achieved through thoughtful renovations, contributes to the town's prosperity. Managing two local establishments, she deserves commendation for her multifaceted contributions to community well-being and economic growth.



## **Stacey Steinhardt**

Stacey's commitment to community sports shines through her roles in refereeing rugby league and touch football, coaching netball, and aiding in club canteens. Stacey serves as a positive role model, emphasizing the value of hard work and community engagement. Her unwavering dedication to diverse roles makes her an exemplary figure deserving recognition. Actively fostering a strong community spirit through sports, she mentors the younger generation in refereeing, showcasing a commitment that goes beyond funding limitations. Stacey's substantial contributions to Blackwater contribute significantly to the positive sporting atmosphere in the community.





### **Vere Storch**

For over 40 years, Vere has tirelessly supported various sports groups, sponsoring and actively participating. The annual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, hosted at her Blackwater sports business, is renowned for successful fundraising and fostering a strong sense of community. Vere's commitment extends to employing and training numerous local juniors in her business, contributing significantly to their development. She passionately coaches individuals of all ages in shotgun shooting, promoting sportsmanship and skill development. Maintaining a thriving retail presence in Blackwater despite population fluctuations, Vere's dedication is commendable and appreciated by the community.



### **James Van Der Werff**

Jim, a longtime resident of Duaringa, has dedicated 32 years as a forest ranger, embodying a strong community spirit. He's actively volunteered in various capacities, serving as president and captain of the Duaringa Golf Club, president and 2nd officer of the Duaringa Rural Fire Brigade, secretary and treasurer of the Duaringa Cricket Club, and president of the Duaringa Tennis Club. Additionally, he's contributed to the Duaringa SS P & C. Jim's executive roles demonstrate his admirable commitment, to ensuring the continuity of clubs and fostering a cooperative environment. His selfless dedication, from organising events to cleaning up, reflects a genuine desire to enhance and strengthen the community.



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



## Naomi Withers

Naomi is commended for her remarkable efforts in supporting local indigenous communities. Collaborating with the Blackwater Police Indigenous Liaison Officer and Woolworths Blackwater, she orchestrates monthly essential hampers, sourced from community donations, and delivered personally to Blackwater elders and students at Woorabinda State School. Naomi's unwavering dedication reflects a genuine community spirit, showcasing her commitment to giving back and making a positive impact.



Blackwater Japanese Garden







65 Egerton Street, Emerald QLD 4720 T. 1300 242 686

[chrc.qld.gov.au](http://chrc.qld.gov.au)

