



# Media Release

28 January 2020

---

## TENTERFIELD COMMUNITY AUSTRALIA DAY 2020 CELEBRATION

The Tenterfield community turned out on Sunday morning to celebrate Australia Day 2020 at the Tenterfield Memorial Hall with approximately 200 people in attendance.

“Breakfast on the Deck” with the Granite Belt Community Band, combined with bacon and egg rolls served up by members of the Tenterfield Lions Club, set the tone for a wonderful morning of celebration in our community.

The main Ceremony commenced at 9.00 am with the Welcome to Country by Mrs Roxanne Bancroft-Stuart followed by an Australia Day blessing by Lay Preacher Hugh McCowen.

Congratulations were extended to Mr Col Mann who was recognised in the 2020 Australia Day Honours List with the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his contribution to aged care in establishing both Millrace and Haddington for the people of Tenterfield.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Greg Sauer performed the duties of MC for the Celebration with the Mayor, Cr Peter Petty providing the Welcome Address and conducting a Citizenship Ceremony for Ms Sandra Dobbs, Mr Niti Kocharit, Mr France Dago-oc and Ms Ayla Venizza Waugh who were warmly welcomed as Australian citizens.

Our Ambassador, Dr Jamal Rifi AM indicated his pleasure to be part of the Tenterfield celebrations. He had particularly requested to visit a community that had suffered hardship in the drought and bushfires. He and his wife Lana drove to Tenterfield so that he could see, first hand, the devastation caused.

Dr Rifi expressed his desire for all communities to work together, highlighting the resilience of the Australian people and the need for harmony and understanding. Dr Rifi spoke of the assistance that the Sydney Muslim community has provided in raising funds to support drought affected areas with the provision of hay, and support for the residents and wildlife of Kangaroo Island in the recent devastating bushfires.

Then it was time for the much anticipated Australia Day Awards, presented by Mayor Petty and Ambassador Dr Rifi AM.

Mr Peter Bonner of Liston was declared **Citizen of the Year for 2020** for his long history of public involvement. Peter’s service includes; 33 years as a Director of the former Tenterfield Rural Land Board; 60 years as a member and past office bearer of the Liston/Wylie Creek Rural Fire Brigade; 30 years as a trustee of the Liston War Memorial Reserve Trust; and 63 years as a member of the Stanthorpe Show Society; to name a few.

## Page 2

Nominations for Citizen of the Year were also received for:

- Ian Unsworth;
- Carmel Higgins;
- Rex Holley;
- John Landers;
- Yolande & Joel Soper; and
- Helen Clothier;

**Young Citizen of the Year 2020** was presented to Rachel Cowin in recognition of her dedication to her school community right through her school years, together with her outstanding contribution as School Leader and School Captain in 2019 for which she was awarded The Reuben F Scarf Award for Commitment to Education.

While there were no nominations for **Sportsperson of the Year**, 5 outstanding nominations were received for **Young Sportsperson of the Year for 2020**. These being:

- Erin Crotty;
- Isaac Jones (winner of the 2019 Award);
- Alanna Melling;
- Jake Murphy (winner of the 2018 Award); and
- Elly Anne Petrie.

Erin Crotty was presented with the Award for her outstanding career with the Tenterfield Physical Culture Club. Joining the Club in 2008 and following determination and hard work, Erin reached the culmination of her dreams when she was declared the Australian Champion, Second Year, Senior Girl at the National Physical Culture finals at the Sydney Opera House in November 2019.

**Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year for 2020** was awarded to Karmell Cowin for her 40 years of dedicated, volunteer, service as Wildlife Co-ordinator, caring for, rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing injured wildlife throughout the Tenterfield Shire area.

Fellow wildlife carer Mr Greg Ambrose accepted Karmell's Award on her behalf as unfortunately Karmell is suffering ill health.

Mingoola Rural Fire Brigade also received a nomination for this Award.

Nominations for the **Community Event of the Year for 2020** were received for:

- Liston's Cobb & Co Heritage Day; and
- Debutante Ball.

Caroline Janssens, Chair of the Liston Hall Committee, accepted the Community Event of the Year 2020 Award for the Cobb & Co Heritage Day held in March 2019.

In accepting the Award, Ms Jansen advised that this was truly a community event with the Hall Committee, Progress Association and local community members all working together to ensure a successful event.

At the conclusion of the Awards, Mayor Peter Petty requested all present to acknowledge and thank our volunteer firefighters and SES personnel who have put their lives and safety on the line in protecting their communities during the devastating bushfires of 2019.

Following a Minutes' Silence to remember all those who have perished as a result of these terrible fires, the gathering put their hands together to applaud our local heroes.

To conclude the morning's festivities, Tenterfield's own Dancing DJ, Paul Della attempted to get the audience up to rock and roll to some great Aussie music, following which the pipes and drums of the Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band provided a rousing end to the Tenterfield community Australia Day 2020 celebration.



***A wonderful Australia Day 2020 Celebration***  
***From Left: Deputy Mayor Greg Sauer, Mayor Peter Petty, Mrs Lana Rifi, Ambassador***  
***Dr Jamal Rifi AM, and Mrs Sue Sauer***  
*Photo provided by Peter Reid*