



Media Release

Date: 1 February 2023

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TENTERFIELD COMMUNITY AUSTRALIA DAY 2023 CELEBRATION

The Tenterfield community turned out on Thursday morning to celebrate Australia Day 2023 at the Tenterfield Memorial Hall with approximately 100 people in attendance.

A free breakfast of bacon and egg rolls served up by members of the Tenterfield Lions Club, and a "Physie" demonstration by Tenterfield Physical Culture Club, set the tone for a wonderful morning of celebration in our community.

The main Ceremony commenced at 9.30 am with the Welcome to Country by Mrs Roxanne Bancroft-Stuart followed by an Australia Day blessing by Reverend John Earnshaw. Cadet Able Seaman Taneeka Kennedy raised the Australian Flag, accompanied by Mr Drew Bates singing the National Anthem.

Carmel Cook JP, Senior Electorate Officer representing Ms Janelle Saffin MP, State Member for Lismore, read out Ms Saffin's message to the audience.

Deputy Mayor Cr John Macnish performed the duties of MC for the Celebration, accompanied by the Mayor, Cr Bronwyn Petrie providing the Welcome Address and conducting a Citizenship Ceremony for Miss Vina Sibal and Mr William Sibal who were warmly welcomed as Australian citizens.

Then it was time for the much anticipated Australia Day Awards, presented by Mayor Petrie.

Miss Belinda Fields of Drake was declared **Citizen of the Year for 2023** for her contribution to the Drake community over the past decade (despite her personal battle with ill health). Too numerous to list all her involvements, they include co-founding the Drake Women's Shed, raising funds for the Drake School of Arts and Progress Associations, Community Hall functions, Market stalls and Government Information stalls, and advocating for the local elderly. Belinda's passion for the Drake community which had suffered from bushfires, floods, then Covid lockdowns moved her to create the **Drake Unlocked Xmas in July 2022** community event to rebuild the mental well-being of individuals and reconnect the community.

**Media Contact: Mayor Bronwyn Petrie
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Nominations for Citizen of the Year were also received for Matthew Duff and Benjamin & Kristen Sharpe.

Young Citizen of the Year 2023 was presented to Miss Bridie Makejev in recognition of her dedication to her school and sporting communities, together with her achievements in Civics and Citizenship which included selection in the top 30 in NSW for her essay on Sir Henry Parkes and an invitation to NSW Parliament. Bridie acquitted herself very well as a representative of the youth of Tenterfield and has ignited a greater interest in our history amongst her peers.

Sportsperson of the Year 2023 was awarded to Toby Rolph, a graduate and School Captain of Sir Henry Parkes Memorial Public School. Toby had been an outstanding sportsman throughout his primary school years across Cricket, Rugby and Athletics disciplines. Even when beset by a knee injury in 2022 he continued to compete in discus, shotput and swimming events, and continued to assist the Tenterfield Rugby League Club in a volunteer capacity.

Nominations for the **Community Event of the Year for 2023** were received for:

- **"Stapo Day"**, a Tenterfield Rugby League Club fundraiser for injured player Nathan Stapleton, and
- **Drake Unlocked Xmas in July 2022** Community Event

Ben and Kristen Sharpe accepted the Community Event of the Year 2023 Award for "Stapo Day" on behalf of the Tenterfield Rugby League Club. Kristen had been a prime organiser of the event and Ben worked as chief auctioneer of donated goods after rugby matches on the day. The generosity of Tenterfield community was exceptional with \$130,000 being raised on the day to assist Nathan Stapleton with the significant medical costs from his serious injury.

To conclude the morning's festivities, the Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band provided a rousing end to the Tenterfield community Australia Day 2023 celebration.



A wonderful Australia Day 2023 Celebration

From Left to Right: Carmel Cook, William Sibal, Vina Sibal, Mayor Bronwyn Petrie, Toby Rolph, Kristen Sharpe, Bridie Makejev and Belinda Fields

Photography by Sapphire Daly of Tales & Tones Photography

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