




Department of
Primary Industries

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HIDDEN
TREASURES
HONOUR ROLL

2011

celebrating women volunteers
who give so much to their
rural communities.

A decorative white swirl line that starts from the bottom right and curves upwards and to the left.

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Hidden Treasures is a joint project of Rural Women's Network (NSW Department of Primary Industries), NSW Centre for Volunteering and NSW Office for Women's Policy.

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ministers' message

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate the rural women across New South Wales who give so much of their time to improving our communities and neighbourhoods.

Volunteers are the backbone of our State. Without them, our community-based organisations would be unable to operate and we would not be fortunate enough to enjoy many of the sporting, artistic, cultural and environmental activities that we all participate in on a regular basis.

The passion, commitment and contribution of our State's volunteers is highly valued and is vital in building stronger communities.

The Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network initiated Hidden Treasures to start a record of rural women's volunteering as well as to pay tribute to those who unselfishly contribute millions of hours of unpaid work to our State.

This year's Honour Roll is a snapshot of the broad range of volunteering activities that occur in our villages, towns and rural cities. Whether it is deliveries of Meals on Wheels, fundraising for charities, mentoring of disadvantaged children or supporting refugees, these women truly are the State's treasures.

These women are celebrated for their ability to multi-task and this year's Honour Roll reflects the many roles that the nominees often play.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Hodgkinson'.

Katrina Hodgkinson
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pru Goward'.

Pru Goward
Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister for Women



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Dominello'.

Victor Dominello
Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Hidden Treasures is a joint project of Rural Women's Network (NSW Department of Primary Industries), NSW Centre for Volunteering and NSW Office for Women's Policy.

2011 hidden treasures nominees

- 4 Jo Allen [Nowra]
- 4 Shanelle Anderson [Jerrys Plains]
- 5 Eleanor Armstrong [Orange]
- 5 Joyce Bailey [Rylstone]
- 5 Lynn Baker [Bingara]
- 5 Leanne Barrett [Gloucester]
- 6 Deb Batchelor [Gunnedah]
- 7 Denise Beu [Nowra Hill]
- 7 Rae Bicknell [Yass]
- 7 Constance Binks [Mittagong]
- 8 Penny Boydell [Moree]
- 9 Joan Bray [Kangaroo Valley]
- 9 Annette Bromfield [Yetholme near Bathurst]
- 10 Helen Brown [Suffolk Park near Byron Bay]
- 10 Martha Brown [Orange]
- 11 Gail Butt [Monteagle near Young]
- 11 Rosemary Byers [Ashley near Moree]
- 11 Felicity Cahill [Drake]
- 12 Jenny Callanan [Callala Bay near Vincentia]
- 13 Judy Clark [Cessnock]
- 13 Norma Clarke [Cootamundra]
- 14 Sister Mary Clement [Lennox] [Mudgee]
- 14 Jean Coady [Tamworth]
- 15 Joan Compagnoni [Robertson]
- 15 Audree Dash [Terrigal]
- 16 Kate Davis [Dubbo]
- 16 Cathryn Dawes [Pomona near Wentworth]
- 17 Frances Day [Lockhart]
- 17 Marilyn Dixon [Bingara]
- 18 Susanne Dixon [Kelso near Bathurst]
- 18 Jeanette Dodge [Kiama]
- 19 Dorothy Every [Ben Lomond near Glen Innes]
- 19 Annette Fisher [Gulargambone]
- 20 Kelly Foran [Boggabri near Narrabri]
- 20 Gwen Frazier [Wagga Wagga]
- 21 Colleen Fuller [Gunnedah]
- 21 Rhonda Gallagher [Moree]
- 22 Helen Gee [Armidale]
- 22 May Gill [Kempsey]
- 23 Leila Gillies [Werris Creek]
- 23 May Goodear [Howlong]
- 24 Paula Gray [Gooloogong near Canowindra]
- 24 Anna Habeck [Kiama]
- 25 Joan Harvey [Ulladulla]
- 25 Anne Hastings [Grafton]
- 26 Gail Hayden [Orange]
- 26 Noeleen Hazell [Bookham near Yass]
- 26 Elaine Heskett [Mossy Point near Bateman's Bay]
- 27 Julie Ho [Port Macquarie]
- 28 Marie Hoffmann [Table Top near Albury]
- 28 Nola Honeysett [Dubbo]
- 28 Sharon Howett [Gunnedah]
- 29 Wendy Huddleston [Armidale]
- 29 Wendy Hughes [Gloucester]
- 30 Laurel Hull [Forbes]
- 30 Sharon Huon [Cobar]
- 31 Noeleen Iffland [Orange]
- 31 Janette Jackson [Lovedale near Cessnock]
- 32 Dominique Jacobs [Gloucester]
- 32 Daphne Jermyn [Cobar]
- 33 Judy Jones [Orange]
- 33 Phyllis Jones [Hay]
- 34 Tracey Jones [Tumut]
- 34 Margaret Kay [Tweed Heads]
- 35 Annie Kelly [Orange]
- 35 Michelle Kendall [Dubbo]
- 36 Jeanette Kennedy [Ballina]
- 36 Jessie Kincaid [Jindera near Albury]
- 37 Rita Kurtz [Mudgee]
- 37 Marcia LeBusque [Fortis Creek near Grafton]
- 38 Lynda Leslie [Maclean]
- 38 Sue Litchfield [Numeralla near Cooma]
- 39 June Luscombe [Kangaroo Valley]
- 39 Prue McCarthy [Orange]

- 40 Betty McDonald [Lidster near Orange]
- 40 Nicola McDonald [Dorrigo]
- 41 Robynne McGinley [Macksville]
- 41 Raewyn Macky [Yarranbella near Bowraville]
- 41 Julie McLachlan [Pallamallawa near Moree]
- 42 Margaret McNeil [Holbrook]
- 42 Marilyn McPherson [Holbrook]
- 43 Margaret Maguire [Forbes]
- 43 Elizabeth Markey [Coonamble]
- 44 Joyce Moore [Grafton]
- 44 Chris Moss [Spring Ridge near Gunnedah]
- 45 Jean Muggleton [Inverell]
- 45 Virginia Mulcahy [Scone]
- 46 Margaret Norris [Orange]
- 46 Ruth Offer [Tenterfield]
- 46 Winifred Oslear [Willow Vale near Gerringong]
- 47 Brenda Pankhurst [Bingara]
- 47 Margaret Parslow [Griffith]
- 48 Julie Peck [Orange]
- 48 Charmaine Potter [Yetman near Boggabilla]
- 48 Jean Preston [Delegate]
- 49 Betti Punnett Cootamundra]
- 49 Norma Raymond [Sanctuary Point]
- 50 Robyn Reynolds [Pambula]
- 50 Marie Rheinberger [Yamba]
- 51 Carolyn Rice [Parkes]
- 51 Linda Riley [Mungindi]
- 51 Kimberley Rixon [Gunnedah]
- 52 Gill Robinson [Michelago]
- 52 Pippa Robinson [Tibbuc near Gloucester]
- 53 June Rollan [Long Flat near Wauchope]
- 54 Shirley Rundell [Huskysson]
- 54 Skye Rush [Narromine]
- 55 Jenny Sams [Orange]
- 55 Sandra Scammell Hill [Howlong]
- 55 Bev Schornegg [Adaminaby]
- 56 Beryl Semmler [Holbrook]
- 56 Leonie Sinclair [Culburra Beach near Nowra]
- 57 Tricia Stack [Deepwater]
- 57 Kym Stanford [Mungindi]
- 57 Barbara Steffensen [Lismore]
- 58 June Stevens [Nowra]
- 59 Dorothy Sullivan [Casino]
- 59 Loo Taylor [Beaumont near Kangaroo Valley]
- 59 Susanne Taylor [Woollamia near Jervis Bay]
- 60 Bev Thornton [Willow Tree]
- 60 Coral Tierney [Holsworthy]
- 61 Ellen Townsend [Hay]
- 61 Helen Trustum [Bentley near Lismore]
- 62 June Tupper [Orange]
- 62 Joan Turnbull [Lakewood near Port Macquarie]
- 63 Fay Turner [Yetholme near Bathurst]
- 63 Velma Walker [Vincentia]
- 64 Shirley Waller [Kings Creek near Wauchope]
- 64 Tracey Walton [Wauchope]
- 64 Catherine Warburton [Beneree near Orange]
- 65 Lyn Webster [Nyngan]
- 65 Sandra Webster [Bomaderry]
- 66 Norma White [Kingstown near Uralla]
- 66 Hazel Winkler [Orange]
- 67 Betty Winzer [Holbrook]
- 67 Lois Wood [Goulburn]
- 67 Marj Wotherspoon [Kurri Kurri]
- 68 Sarah Wren [Quirindi]
- 68 Helen Wynd [Goonellabah near Lismore]
- 69 Berenice Youngman [Molong]

Volunteering can have many positive effects such as improving health, reducing social isolation, raising self-esteem and contributing to the wellbeing and unity of our communities. Around 1.7 million people in New South Wales are involved in formal volunteering, through their involvement in community and other voluntary organisations. The following stories celebrate and acknowledge rural women volunteers across New South Wales and were submitted by appreciative members of their communities.

jo allen [Nowra]

Jo joined the Nowra Unit of the State Emergency Service (SES) in June 2006 after a severe storm event with the view of helping her community.

Initially she thought that her clerical and administrative skills would be useful within the Operations area, but her true fame came when she took on the role of Catering Officer.

Jo is someone that always goes out of her way to make people welcome at the Unit and her catering is amazing. She often takes leave from her paid job to prepare the day before any training event. The morning and afternoon teas are always accompanied with homemade delights.

Jo has developed such a reputation around the Illawarra South Coast, amongst other SES Units, that they constantly ask to hold courses at Nowra... purely for the catering!

The Unit holds an annual vote for the 'member of the year' amongst all members and Jo has won the last two years in a row, and the way she is going... it will be a hat trick!

In the last year Jo was appointed as Logistics Coordinator which is a senior position. What she does is typical of many SES volunteers, Jo gives that extra effort, gets things done without fuss and ensures everyone has an enjoyable time. Jo is always first to arrive and the last to leave.

Most treasures are hard to find yet valuable to those who do... Jo is worth her weight in gold and is a hidden treasure for this SES Unit!

shanelle anderson [Jerrys Plains]

Shanelle was born and bred on the family dairy farm in Jerry's Plains. After some time away she eventually found her way back to her beloved farm. She has two teenage children and has been dairying with her husband for several years.

Despite a very busy lifestyle, Shanelle always finds time to give to the community.

She was recently awarded her 10 year medal from the local Rural Fire Service (RFS) and has been a member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) for seven years where she was Treasurer for several years.

Shanelle is always available for catering duties and is currently the Treasurer for the School of Arts Hall committee having been on the committee for several years.

She was a member of the Jerrys Plains School P&C for 11 years while her children were at school and took on the roles of Treasurer and President at various times along with volunteering at the school canteen.

Shanelle gives much of her time to fundraising and no job too big or too small. If one of her friends are in need, Shanelle is the first one to help out.

Small rural villages like Jerrys Plains are kept together by the wonderful, ongoing support of people like Shanelle. She was recognised for her contributions to the community with a 'Citizen of the Year' award a few years ago and she is truly a hidden treasure.

eleanor armstrong [Orange]

Eleanor has been a valued member of the Country Women's Association for 21 years, a Girl Guide Leader for 29 years, member of Trefoil Guild for seven years, and has volunteered with Meals on Wheels for more than 45 years delivering meals to people in need.

She has knitted teddy bears for the Ambulance Service for the last four years and for the last two years has been knitting rugs for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia for women patients to wear over their hospital gowns.

joyce bailey [Rylstone]

Joyce was born in Rylstone. She is a widow with grown children and lives in one of the oldest houses in Rylstone.

Her time is taken up providing transport for local people needing to visit their doctor in towns such as Bathurst, Mudgee, Lithgow, Gulgong and Orange. These trips could take her all day and are generally between 100 and 150 km round trips up to three times per week.

Joyce also works at Anglicare's opportunity shop every Wednesday and is a member of the hospital auxiliary.

lynn baker [Bingara]

Lynn has been a member of the Rural Fire Service since 1994 and is currently the captain of the Bingara Brigade. She is also involved in helping the Service with its Community Education Programs.

Lynn is an active member of the Bingara community and very supportive of younger members growing through their involvement in the Service and is always willing to mentor and help them as needed.

leanne barrett [Gloucester]

Leanne is a quiet achiever who makes an incredible contribution to the Gloucester community lifestyle and wellbeing. She grew up in the Illawarra then attended Macquarie University before moving to Gloucester 21 years ago with her husband Scott.

Leanne has been a volunteer member of the Gloucester Environment Group since inception, Gloucester Arts Council, and was the founding member of the very successful Gloucester Gallery established 11 years ago.

She has organised hundreds of exhibitions, both community based and of regional/state importance and has managed the entire staffing of the Gallery with a team of volunteers.

Recently, Leanne organised the highly successful and very moving 'Courage to Care' exhibition held in Gloucester over several weeks. Many school and community groups found the exhibition a life changing experience.

Courage To Care is a community outreach initiative that demonstrates the importance of standing up to bullying and prejudice whenever it occurs.

This powerful social initiative of inclusion and learning had many of those attending (especially the school students) commenting on the profound and positive impact meeting holocaust survivors had on their lives.

Leanne is a valued artist, tutor, mentor, curator and volunteer for many community groups. She is very involved in the 2011 Gloucester Women's Gathering and is the sole organiser and instigator of 'Yarning the Country'... aimed at developing connections women make at this year's Gathering, by helping to create a knitted landscape for the Gloucester Gallery.

deb batchelor [Gunnedah]

Deb commenced in the Rural Fire Service with the Kelvin Brigade, near Gunnedah, in 2001. Since that time, she has joined both the Gunnedah Headquarters Rural Fire Brigade and Liverpool Range Zone Support Brigade (Willow Tree).

She is actively involved in providing catering during fire fighting and for events held throughout the year. Deb regularly supplies her own cooking equipment and she is not happy unless the crews are well fed with a 'proper meal.'

Deb also coordinates the catering for local and regional training events, as well as responding to calls at all hours of the night for assistance with catering at incidents. She also supports catering for service crews at 'Ag Quip' – the largest agricultural field day in the southern hemisphere which is run annually over three days in August. The Rural Fire Service has a display site and provides fire protection for the event.

Outside of catering, Deb is actively involved in community engagement activities, providing safety advice to residents at events and schools. She goes above and beyond the call of duty. Deb's enthusiasm and support for the fire fighters on the ground makes her a deserving nominee for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

denise beu [Nowra Hill]

Denise was born in Nowra and attended the local schools. She worked at the Shoalhaven Paper Mill, and then locally, before meeting her husband Ken in 1960. They have been married for 50 years.

Denise has been a member of the Shoalhaven Lioness and then the Lions Club of Bomaderry for 30 years. She is an enthusiastic and active member involved in projects such as the annual Lions Carols in the Park for the past 30 years.

Denise has been involved in selling Lions Mints and Christmas Cakes and was the Catering Van Chairperson for 10 years. She has held the position of Youth of the Year and Bulletin Editor for eight years and sat on the Board of Directors for 18 years.

Despite suffering from severe arthritis and now diabetes, Denise continues to produce the Lions Bulletin every month. She has a perfect attendance record and also assists as Secretary for Carols, obtaining sponsorship and gives out programs and candles at the event.

Denise still assists with the Lioness annual Quilt Show where she sells raffle tickets for the whole two day event.

Denise is also the Welfare Officer, making sure cards are sent to sick members. She keeps in touch with partners of deceased Lions and ensures the Club is up-to-date with obituaries. Denise is currently involved in the Lions Memorial which will honour all Lions who have passed away whilst being active members of a Club.

rae bicknell [Yass]

Rae was born in England in 1931 and has been a generous volunteer for decades. Since moving to Yass 10 years ago she has volunteered for many organisations.

Rae has been a Community Transport driver for the Yass Home Living Support Service for 10 years and often leaves Yass as early as 5:30 am to get a patient to Canberra for a 7:00 am appointment returning late that same day.

She helps at the Yass Day Care Centre with activities for the elderly (some are younger than she is!) and provides extra support through the shopping bus service. This involves helping with trips to the chemist, bank and doing the grocery shopping.

Rae does regular phone calling for the Red Cross and is involved in Caring Hands at the nursing home.

She nearly always answers 'Yes' to short notice phone calls when an organisation is in need, and has little time to be idle!

constance binks [Mittagong]

Constance (Connie) was born in Lancashire in the UK. She married in 1949 and travelled with two children to Australia to escape rationing and harsh winters. Connie rose to be Production Manager with Tuta Laboratories – suppliers of medical equipment.

In 1986–7 Connie worked in Tianjin in China for four months for the Red Cross.

After her husband's death in 1988, Connie decided to move to the Southern Highlands: her son Christopher and his wife were already there and the area reminded her of home.

In 1992 Connie became a volunteer for Highlands Community Centres (HCC). She drove for Community Transport and worked in reception in the front office. Connie has been Secretary, President and Vice President on the Management Committee. She also works tirelessly each week assisting people with Emergency Relief. This involves a commonsense, compassionate approach to assisting people in financial crisis. She is also on the NILS (No Interest Loans) Committee.

In the past Connie has been a volunteer at Meals on Wheels (for more than six years) and on their Management Committee. She organises Association memberships and is in charge of room bookings and still does one day a week on reception.

Connie is very typical of the volunteers without whom a service could not function. She is always willing to do that bit extra, coming in early, staying late and filling in for others. In her almost 20 years at HCC Connie has made a really valuable contribution.

penny boydell [Moree]

Penny was born in Moree and has lived all her life in the district. She and husband Stuart operate a mixed irrigation, dryland farming and grazing operation at their 'Cooma' property west of Moree where they raised three daughters.

Both as a young person and now even more so in her mature years, Penny has been a tireless worker for Moree town and district. She has been involved in volunteer organisations such as the Country Women's Association, Meals on Wheels, her local church, the local aged care facility – 'Fairview', the local show and school organisations.

Penny is a great achiever but her outstanding contribution is the way she has gone about providing support for rural women in times of need. She has provided an emotional and wellbeing support network for young (and older) women with families who at times struggle with the demands of living on the land.

Not only has Penny provided a venue for these women to meet and interact but she provides personal support and links to additional professional assistance. It would be difficult to quantify the hours spent volunteering as Penny is always on 'the go' almost every day of the week.

joan bray [Kangaroo Valley]

Joan was born in Brisbane. She was an air hostess with Australian National Airlines where she met and married her husband. They later moved to Sydney and raised four boys.

In 1995 Joan and her husband moved to Kangaroo Valley and became involved in community activities.

Joan has been very a very active organiser of the Valley's ANZAC Day march and service, fundraising for the Children's Medical Research Institute, helping with the Historical Society, Pioneer Park, school canteen, school reading and the Arts Festival.

She contributes to the local newspaper and has researched and written two books recording the social history of the district from pioneering days to the present time which are outstanding gifts to the Valley community.

Joan runs a small property on her own since her husband died eight years ago. More recently she has become involved with the Nowra Older Women's Network and is assisting with the Parkinson's stall at the Tulip Festival in Bowral.

Joan would spend over 40 hours a week doing community work and every Christmas she hosts a 'vintage' morning tea at her home for older people in the Valley. During the year she also finds time to regularly visit some of them for a cuppa and a chat.

Joan is always cheerful and willing to help any person or organisation and is greatly admired by the community. In 2007 she was awarded the Shoalhaven Citizen of the Year Award which was a first for Kangaroo Valley.

annette bromfield

[Yetholme near Bathurst]

Annette (Anne) has lived in Yetholme for 46 years and has spent decades undertaking voluntary work.

She was involved with Kirk Connell Public School for years holding positions such as P&C Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary President, Scripture Teacher, Craft Teacher, Canteen Organiser and providing excursion transport.

Anne is a member of the Bathurst Garden Club, volunteered at the Kelso High School Art Festival and School Canteen for many years and served on the Vestry of St Paul's Church Yetholme for decades.

She joined the Cake Decorating Guild of NSW in 1982 and was Bathurst Branch Vice President. She then served as State Treasurer for 10 years. While on the State Committee, Anne assisted in conducting many competitions. After years of outstanding success, she trained as a Judge officiating at the Sydney Royal Easter and regional shows. Anne has recently become National Judge for the NSW Cake Decorating Guild, all undertaken on a volunteer basis.

Anne has been a valued member of the Yetholme & District Progress Association for 34 years assisting with fundraising and maintenance of the hall. She has catered for balls, dances, weddings, meetings and property sales as well as organised, catered and participated in craft days, exhibitions and community events.

Anne gives so much of her time freely to her community shying away from any form of recognition – describing herself as a ‘back room person’. It is women like Anne who make our community a great place to live. She is a great lady, a great Australian and Yetholme’s hidden treasure.

helen brown

[Suffolk Park near Byron Bay]

Helen has been a long-term community volunteer. In 2002 she joined a Byron Shire Council Volunteer Program and spent months documenting the gravesites at Council cemeteries.

In 2004 she took over the leadership of the Suffolk Park Dune Care Group following the death of her predecessor. Helen has undertaken this role with considerable zeal and has capably led one of the Shire’s most active Dune Care groups. This has involved hands-on regeneration and learning how to identify beach plants, their physical attributes, and how to respond to coastal erosion. Helen was a member of Council’s Coastline Management Committee and Suffolk Park Estuary Management Committee.

She has also been a member of the Byron Shire Council Dune Care Coordination Project Reference Group providing a coordinated direction to Dune Care Volunteer groups operating within the Shire.

Helen has tirelessly campaigned for the protection of the dunes from residential encroachment, recruited new Dune Care volunteers and successfully applied for grants to fund group activities.

She also plays an active role in the Suffolk Park Progress Association and has volunteered much time to Early Childhood Intervention.

In 2009 Helen was recognised as Ballina’s Senior Citizen of the Year. She is an inspirational member of the Byron Shire Community who leads by example and portrays an enthusiasm for being an active and involved community member.

martha brown oam [Orange]

Martha is the Coordinator of the Orange Branch of Camp Quality – the children’s family cancer charity that believes in bringing optimism and happiness to the lives of children and families affected by cancer through fun therapy and education. She has been involved in running the camps, helping with ongoing fundraising and promoting Camp Quality since joining in 1989.

Martha is the Chairperson of the Organising Committee for annual week long camps which support up to 100 children with cancer as well as their families. She has attended 20 week-long camps and has been involved in family cluster weekends.

Martha has raised three children, assisted in the family business and has been involved with the Cabonne/Orange Life Education Van, the Catholic Women's League, the Scout Movement and Meals on Wheels.

Martha is best epitomised by the words of Camp Quality Doctor, David Howe: 'It is always touching to see how Martha's efforts are rewarded with smiles, laughter and hugs from the Camp Quality children (as well as all the volunteers). I can not think of a more inspirational woman than Martha Brown.'

gail butt

[Monteagle near Young]

Gail has been actively involved in the Monteagle Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1969. She has fought endless fires and assisted with communications, catering and Brigade administration.

Gail and her husband Keith were instrumental in the procurement of a catering trailer for the Monteagle Brigade. This trailer is fully stocked at all times and can be activated at a moments notice. Gail has cooked many tasty meals from this trailer during fires, training courses and other emergencies and has been known to empty her pantry and fridge of bread, biscuits, tea, coffee, milk, cold meat, eggs and other food stuffs to ensure fire fighters are well fed and watered.

Along with catering, she and Keith have also manned the Monteagle Communications Base from their property. 'Fairfields' is in a very prominent location overlooking a number of

districts. Other RFS brigades have come to rely on the Monteagle Base for a range of critical information needs. Gail is always on hand to take radio calls, find additional resources and respond to crew welfare concerns.

She is a truly kind-hearted, hardworking country woman committing an enormous amount of time to others. Gail is never backward in offering assistance and would put herself out before asking others to help.

She would never boast about what she does in the community, preferring to stand back when the accolades are being handed out. Gail really is a hidden treasure and an asset to her community and the RFS.

rosemary byers

[Ashley near Moree]

Rosemary (Rosie) has been a member of the Ashley Rural Fire Brigade since 1997 and is currently the Vice President. She is also a member of the Amaroo Catering Unit which is responsible for supplying catering at big incidents or during training events. Rosie also helps with district communications during big incidents and supports her partner who is a Group Captain of the District.

felicity cahill [Drake]

Felicity has lived in Drake for over 20 years and has a passion for supporting the community. She has been consistently dependable in her

volunteer capacity, sometimes putting it above all else. Felicity has been referred to as the 'Secretary of Everything' at Drake for many years.

Beyond her duties as Secretary of the Drake Rural Fire Brigade (RFS), Felicity has played a key role in running the organisation, whilst also being an active fire fighter.

In August 2000 Felicity suffered a serious long-term back injury when a burning tree fell on her. Although recovery was slow and painful, this did not prevent her from continuing her non-physical volunteer duties. Having significantly recovered, Felicity is back fighting fires whenever needed.

Without Felicity's contributions of time, energy, expertise and physical presence as Secretary of the Drake Village Resource Centre since its inception, it may have closed many years ago.

The West of the Ranges Landcare Group and the Drake Progress Association was in a similar situation until she came to the rescue.

In 2010 Felicity was awarded Citizen of the Year, by Tenterfield Shire Council in recognition of the many hours, days, months and years she has devoted to the Drake community.

jenny callanan

[Callala Bay near Vincentia]

Jenny's service as a volunteer with Shoal Coast Community Legal Centre has been immense since she first joined the organisation in 2000, particularly through her role as a Management Committee Member and Treasurer.

Jenny joined Shoal Coast in its infant years and has contributed to the development of a well respected community legal centre, providing valuable free legal services to residents of the Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley local government areas. In 2011 this included an expansion to women living in the Bombala, Cooma-Monaro, Palerang and Queanbeyan local government areas.

Having a consistent Treasurer who has had the time and commitment to the role, has been enormously beneficial to the organisation.

Jenny attends the office on a weekly basis to assist with approving financial transactions – wages and accounts, as well as checking records to ensure these are consistent with our Financial Code of Conduct. She is also a friend to the staff of Shoal Coast and makes the effort to get to know each and every staff member visiting the office, as well as attending staff and management planning and development days.

Jenny is a real asset to Shoal Coast and a volunteer at heart due to her involvement in a broad range of activities which contribute to the Shoalhaven community as a whole.

judy clark [Cessnock]

Judy has lived in Cessnock all her life and has held a career in nursing in the medical and emergency department at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri hospitals. In this role she is well remembered for her help to younger inexperienced nurses.

After retiring, Judy took on fulltime volunteering. She has been involved in Toastmasters International, holding many executive roles including Divisional Governor covering a huge area from Coffs Harbour to Narrabri and Maitland. Judy is involved in speech craft, public speaking and presentation skills for Komatsu Apprentices. Her program has been so successful that Komatsu are introducing it throughout Australia. Judy introduced the speech craft program to Cessnock High and adjudicated and mentored students in speech contests. She has recently become involved with Cessnock City Council events, the Mayoral School Debating, Mayoral Academic Challenge and other Council education activities.

Judy is the current Chair of the Board of Northnet (a community based, not-for-profit employment and training organisation), having joined in 2004. During her first year as Chair, Judy was also acting CEO through a difficult transition period – unpaid of course! She is still mentoring the current manager.

Judy joined the board of Cessnock Community Transport in 2004 and for the last two years has worked as a volunteer on the Christmas Day lunch for the homeless in Cessnock, serving around 200 needy, lonely people on that day. The City

of Cessnock is a better place with this wonderful genuine lady who gives her time freely for the good of the community.

norma clarke [Cootamundra]

Norma moved to Cootamundra in 1952 as a school teacher where she married a local and raised her three boys.

Norma is a valued member of the Cootamundra Management Committee and volunteer for Bradman's Birthplace and Memorabilia Cottage. She is involved in the daily activities of the Cottage as well as preparing for its future. Norma is always one to put her hand up wherever something is needed to be done.

New residents to town are welcomed by Norma and others during an inaugural Welcome to Cootamundra Afternoon Tea held in September. This event has been greatly assisted by Norma's organisational capabilities.

Other groups to benefit from Norma's volunteering include Meals on Wheels, which she has supported for over 40 years; the Cootamundra Garden Club where she has been the tour organiser performing the role with great aplomb.

Norma has been involved with the ventures of the Muttama Creek Regeneration Group since 2008 and has belonged to the Cootamundra Historical Society Inc. since its inception in 1987, filling many executive positions within that society.

sister mary clement (lennox) oam [Mudgee]

Sister Clement of the Bathurst Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy was born in Mudgee. She retired from teaching in 1985 after dedicating 40 years to Catholic Education in Bathurst Diocese having taught in several schools with many years spent at St Matthews Catholic School, Mudgee.

Sister Clement has always been extremely community minded, volunteering her time and expertise willingly. Although retiring from fulltime teaching in 1985, she continued to volunteer, in several capacities within the Mudgee community. She continues even today, as a Catechetic teacher, in local Primary Schools and as a volunteer for the local St Vincent de Paul Society.

Until about five years ago, it was Sister Clement's regular practice to ride her two-wheel bicycle around town – to teach Scripture or do visits for the St Vincent de Paul Society. She has always combined her teaching with a strong commitment to the lonely, sick, frail and aged within the local community and visits around 40 people each week.

These days Sister Clement, at age 86, continues to be active getting about town in her motor scooter, making visits to individuals in their homes, in hospital or in the local nursing home. Her contribution to the local community was formally recognised when she received an OAM in the Australia Day Honours of 2001 for service to the community of Mudgee and to the Catholic education system.

jean coady [Tamworth]

Jean had a happy childhood growing up on the land in Crookwell where she developed a passion for the Australian environment. While at Sydney University she met her husband and pursued her passions of science and education with a teaching post in Queanbeyan where she helped create a volunteer Multi-Cultural Centre.

Jean has lived in Armidale, Narrabri, Goulburn and Tamworth, moving with her husband's work. While focusing on raising their family and working, she squeezed in volunteering along the way; helping in classrooms, as Treasurer of Narrabri Preschool and on the committee of West Tamworth Scout Troop.

Momentously, in 1993, Jean attended a Landcare meeting and within minutes 'joined up' and was nominated as an Educational Officer. When Landcare's future was uncertain, this quiet 'mover' became President of the Tamworth Regional Landcare Association. Through her ongoing commitment and encouragement, the Association is now growing.

As part of a group of environmentalists, Jean spearheaded the establishment of a Coledale Gardening Group and a 'Sustainability Expo' in 2009. The Expo was an outstanding achievement with thousands of visitors now attending this annual event in Tamworth to build their understanding of sustainable living.

Jean's passion for the Australian environment and its future means she volunteers hundreds of hours throughout the year. She has devoted hours

to the Urban Landcare Group, the Peel Wetlands Landcare Group and the Tamworth Bird Watchers. Her hard work, wisdom and quiet strength can always be relied upon and has helped to sustain and grow these groups.

joan compagnoni [Robertson]

Joan – 90 years young is a valuable member of the Robertson and Southern Highlands community. She was born in Mosman and moved to Robertson 44 years ago. Joan had seven children, 16 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren. She is well known and highly regarded for the time, effort and devotion she has given to numerous volunteer and community groups she has been involved in over the past 60 years.

Joan was awarded the Wingecarribee Shire Council Citizen of the Year award in 2000 in recognition of her volunteer work and long term contribution to the Southern Highlands community.

Joan has been, and still is, involved with Meals on Wheels. She has been a very active member of the Robertson Senior Citizens and Community Association, Robertson Community Centre Management Committee, the Robertson School of Arts Committee, the Ladies Fellowship of the Robertson Anglican Church. She volunteers at Jumping Joeys Playgroup and attends the Robertson Primary School every week to assist with their reading program.

In 2000, the Year of the Older Person, Joan represented the Robertson Senior Citizens and Community Association on the Seniors Working

Group to organise the Seniors Week Celebrations. She has remained on the working group and continues with organising Seniors Week activities as well as participating in the updating of the Wingecarribee Seniors Directory.

Joan sadly lost her husband Ken after 66 years of marriage this year. She is very involved with her family but continues to also give generously to the community.

audree dash [Terrigal]

Audree is a tireless volunteer for the Motor Neurone Disease Association of NSW (MND NSW). She first got in touch with MND NSW when one of her children was diagnosed with this debilitating disease in 1995. After her son passed away, Audree began volunteering by participating and now coordinating a Support Group.

Audree is a member of Trefoil Guides, maintains a strong connection to her church and also assisted in the care of her neighbour.

As a MND Support Group Coordinator, Audree books the venue and guest speakers, collects donations, organises raffle prizes for fundraising, lobbies government, keeps a list of member birthdays and special dates for celebrations. She ensures afternoon tea is available, coordinates assistance from other volunteers, collects brochures to share information and invites local media to help increase public awareness of MND.

Although the group meets every second month, Audree spends all her energy and spare time preparing for it and compiling the Central Coast MND Newsletter. She would spend approximately 10–20 hours a week as a MND volunteer.

Audree was integral in assisting MND NSW run an Education Day in the region – booking the venue, organising catering, printing nametags and helping clear up.

She is a great ambassador for both volunteering and MND NSW. Audree was successful in gaining a small government grant for Carers used to cater for a special lunch at a local park. Audree continues to visit MND members residing in nursing homes in the local area.

kate davis [Dubbo]

Kate is an exceptional woman and mother. She grew up in western NSW before studying psychology and developing a lifelong commitment to disadvantaged youth. For 35 hours a week Kate co-ordinates social inclusion programs, including Links to Learning. She started Links in 1999 which is providing early school leavers with opportunities to continue their education.

Links develops skills in literacy and numeracy, communication, confidence and self-esteem, while also developing basic workplace skills. Although the Dubbo program is considered to be the Links benchmark for the rest of NSW, demand far outstrips resources. But Kate won't let these kids down. She volunteers up to 20 hours each week mentoring students so they develop the skills to cope with life and society's expectations.

She has a unique ability to relate to and engage teenagers otherwise considered 'no-hopers'. These kids are challenged by significant social and mental health issues, but Kate's work literally saves their lives. She greatly respects the youth she works with and engages with their families. Kate spends her own time visiting them at home, and parents often call her after hours seeking help to cope with their difficult and disengaged teenagers. She helps the kids through everything from criminal and relationship problems to finding direction in their lives.

This level of support comes outside of paid work hours. Kate goes well beyond her job role because she knows that she is very often their last hope.

cathryn dawes

[Pomona near Wentworth]

Cathryn was born in Adelaide and was the eldest of five children. She was raised on the family property 'Kooloola' near Swan Reach in South Australia and attended the local school before moving to Kabra Boarding College in Adelaide to study business.

Cathryn first worked in an office and then on station properties. She met and married her husband Darryl while working as a governess at 'Boarder Downs'. Two years later they bought a dried fruit property at Pomona near Wentworth and raised four children.

Cathryn has held numerous volunteering positions within the community including being very involved with all her children's sports and school canteens including St. Francis, Coomealla

High School, Wentworth Junior Football Club, Wentworth Tennis Club and Murray Darling Swimming Club. She was Club Captain and is currently Treasurer of the Wentworth Tennis Club.

Cathryn is Pomona Irrigation Trust's Secretary, Publicity Officer for the Wentworth Agricultural Show Society and Secretary of the Wentworth Catholic Parish. She was the Secretary of the 2010 Wentworth Rural Woman's Gathering and worked tirelessly to help her committee host a very successful event which won Wentworth Community Group of the Year.

Cathryn continues to help run the family's fruit enterprise while working part-time at the Wentworth Tourist Information Centre. Visitors to the area couldn't have a more welcoming and smiling face to greet them.

Nothing is ever too much trouble for Cathryn and she was honoured by her community by being named Wentworth Citizen of the Year in 2011.

frances day [Lockhart]

Frances (Fran) moved to Lockhart as a teenager. She met and married a local farmer and had three children.

Fran started a ballet school in the 1980s organising teachers, venues, students, costumes and an amazing annual concert. Over its 10 years the ballet school attracted over 300 students. Many of her students completed examinations and became ballet teachers themselves.

Fran was Secretary of the local Committee when Lockhart won the 2009 NSW Tidy Town competition and was asked to host a weekend of entertainment, awards and dinners to celebrate. She worked tirelessly all year to bring the weekend together ensuring it was an outstanding success despite floods which devastated the town three weeks prior to the event.

For many years Fran was Secretary of the Progress Association and succeeded in securing eight community grants, including a forklift for the Lion's Club, support for the Men's Shed, a grant to paint the entire main street shopping façade, and funding for signage at the town entrance.

She also organised an eco-industrial forum to enhance the development of a new business park which attracted many participants and top speakers.

Fran established a local patchwork group which involved over 50 volunteers and helped them coordinate a magnificent Shire centenary quilt which depicts the district.

She has represented the town on many other committees and been a driving force behind a recent impressive art project where metal sculptures will be 'planted' at the town's entrance promoting the region's past and building community pride.

marilyn dixon [Bingara]

Marilyn (known as Mash) has given her time freely over the years to ensure that any community event is catered for and able to go ahead.

Mash is both a school Patron and a committed supporter of the local P&C and was awarded the Gwydir School's Education Week Award for her long-term tireless contribution to the Bingara Central School P&C.

Mash's contributions over time are immeasurable and are the foundation of what keeps small communities rolling and able to continue with community minded social programs.

Examples of community organisations where Mash has volunteered her time and energy include; being a supporter of the Bingara Lions Club activities, Bingara Swimming Club, Minor and Senior League, Ladies Auxiliary and Bingara & District Cancer Support Group and many other local fundraising activities.

susanne dixon [Kelso near Bathurst]

Susanne (Sue) was born and educated in Bathurst and currently works in the Information Technology section at the Bathurst Campus of Charles Sturt University. In February 1996, she joined the Bathurst Unit of the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) as a volunteer and in this capacity has provided exceptional service to the community.

Sue is an accredited rescue operator with the State Rescue Board of NSW and has attended many rescue incidents over the years.

She spends approximately 20 hours per week in her role as Deputy Local Controller for the Bathurst SES Unit – training for and responding to rescues and other emergency incidents such as floods and storms.

Sue has dedicated herself to the training and assessment of other SES members for road crashes and vertical rescues both in Bathurst and with other units within the Central West Region and around NSW. Sue has represented the SES on a number of occasions in national rescue competitions as a member of a SES rescue team.

Without the effort and dedication of SES volunteers such as Sue, the community would not be as safe. She is a great asset and a valued member of the NSW State Emergency Service.

jeanette dodge [Kiama]

Jeanette was born in Annandale and lived in Summer Hill until she married and moved to Glenfield where she had six children. Jeanette worked for the railway followed by the Health Insurance Commission, before moving to the Illawarra where she worked at university and TAFE.

Jeanette started volunteering in 2002 after a friend asked for transport assistance to attend a social group in Kiama. She soon discovered there was a need for volunteers at the Illawarra In Home Support Centre.

Jeanette is involved in the Centre-based daycare program for frail older people, including those with mild to moderate dementia. The program provides opportunities to participate in structured activities and interact socially. Jeanette also volunteers for the Kiama social bus trip which takes socially isolated older people on fortnightly outings.

Jeanette is the Illawarra In Home Support Volunteer representative For the Illawarra and attends regular training sessions and meetings. She actively mentors new volunteer recruits and produces the Illawarra In Home Support Volunteer Newsletter.

dorothy every

[Ben Lomond near Glen Innes]

Dorothy has lived in the Ben Lomond area for over 50 years where she and husband John run a Farm Stay within a prime lamb, beef, cattle and wool growing business.

Dorothy has been a very active community volunteer for many years and is heavily involved with the Glen Innes Severn Tourist Association. She has been the Honorary Treasurer for over 10 years but takes on many extra roles as well.

She is the first Board Member to put up her hand to take on any extra projects and is currently working on a Town and District Map for the Emmaville and Deepwater areas. This has required meetings with locals and driving the designer around to obtain vital information for the publication.

Promotion of Glen Innes and the surrounding areas is very important to Dorothy. She is the bus driver and caterer for tours run by the Visitor Information Centre always providing lovely slices and cakes baked in her country kitchen.

Dorothy has worked hard to secure grants for Association projects including the very successful advertising sides created for a local truck company.

Dorothy works as Head Steward on the Handicraft Section of the Glen Innes Show and is only too willing to assist anyone who wants to enter an exhibit and is not sure what to do. For the last couple of years she has been organiser of the Ben Lomond Exhibit at the Glen Innes Show.

anette fisher [Gulargambone]

Annette was born in Gulargambone and attended the local Central School. After completing a hairdressing traineeship she continued to provide local hairdressing services.

Annette married local grazier Paul and together they manage their property and have raised three children. She has been an outstanding giver to the Gulargambone community.

Annette was an entrant in the Miss Australia contest raising thousands of dollars for this worthy charity.

Her early focus was on school and sports related activities. When her children left home Annette began to extend her volunteering.

She was a foundation member of Gular Flying Ahead and worked tirelessly on the now famous 'Flying Galahs' village trade mark.

Anyone who frequents 'two eight two eight' knows of Annette's continuing involvement with this award winning Café, Art Gallery and Function

Centre. She was the driving force behind the concept leading to a bounty of state and national Awards and recognition for the Gulargambone community.

Her bright smile welcomes all and belies an enormous work ethic. Annette has spent thousands of hours working on quality control and creating delicious menus and world standard coffee. She has been Office Bearer, Secretary and Manager of Events and Functions since 'two eight two eight' began.

Annette mentors trainees and is dedicated to educating local children to increase their employment opportunities. She recruits, trains and supports volunteers who work at 'two eight two eight' which has contributed over \$200,000 to Gulargambone. The Community salutes Annette and thanks her for her generosity.

kelly foran [Boggabri near Narrabri]

Kelly is a local Narrabri hero. Seven years ago while pregnant, she suffered excessive headaches and vomiting and was taken to Dubbo Hospital. Three days later she was diagnosed with a brain tumour and sent to Sydney to have it removed. Two weeks later she gave birth to Jake who was born with a hole in the lung and other complications. After three weeks in intensive care the family returned home.

In a short time Kelly returned to the city needing more surgery. She came home an insulin-dependent diabetic struggling to talk, walk or eat unaided after suffering a slight stroke.

Within a week she was flown to Sydney again with meningitis. After another operation Kelly returned home with Muscular Dystrophy.

After 12 months she and partner Dave were getting on top of life when they discovered Jake had a tumour and had to have his right eye removed.

David and Kelly's fruitless search for a friendly face and helping hand while navigating health facilities in cities prompted her to create a website called Friendly Faces Helping Hands: www.friendlyfaces.info. The website ensures rural people having to go to city hospitals have access to resources and support when they most need it.

Kelly and Dave manage cattle and stock horses on the family farm. She is also a member of the State Emergency Service, has held positions on Fairfax School's P & F Committee and centenary committees, the Maules Creek Recreational Reserve Trust and the Ooranga Family Mobile Resource Unit.

gwen frazier [Wagga Wagga]

Gwen was born in Taree and moved to Old Adaminaby when she was about three. Her father worked on the Snowy Mountain Scheme until 1970 when the family moved to Cooma. Gwen attended Eucumbene Primary and Cooma High Schools. She worked in a pharmacy for many years in Cooma and at 21 moved to Wagga Wagga, working in a fabric/sewing store for the next 23 years.

Gwen currently volunteers at an Aged Day Therapy Centre in Wagga Wagga two days each week for seven hours per day. She always gets in early and has a wonderful rapport with the elderly, displaying heartfelt empathy.

Gwen has natural coordination skills and assists in running the leisure exercise activities. She puts her sewing experience to great use during craft session and helps staff with odd sewing jobs too. All participants love Gwen and visa versa! Her caring attitude is always positive, nothing is ever too hard and she is willing to try (almost!) anything.

Gwen's reliability and dedication to the Centre over the last 10 years has been significant. Why does she volunteer? 'For the enjoyment of helping others,' she says. That says it all. She is a real hidden treasure.

colleen fuller [Gunnedah]

Colleen was elected to Gunnedah Shire Council in 2004 and became Deputy Mayor in 2008. She is engaged in many Council activities including environment, crime prevention and finance committees. Colleen is Council's delegate for the Association of Mining Related Councils and is the Local Government Women's Association Country Vice President.

She is Chair of the Namoi Community Conservation Advisory Committee, Northwest Community Care Project Advisory Committee, Namoi Local Government Group and an active member of many other diverse local and regional boards and committees.

Colleen's commitment to the welfare of Gunnedah and its residents is demonstrated by her contribution to the Children's Crime Commission, Gunnedah Mental Health Suicide Prevention Committee, Gunnedah Rural Fire Brigade, Grandparent Committee (President), Meals on Wheels (Chair), Justice of the Peace, Day View Club member, Village Homes Committee, Challenge Disability Services member, National President of the Miners Support Group Australia, Gunnedah Miners Support Group (President), Gunnedah Hospital Advisory Board (Chair), Namoi Conservation Consultative Committee (Chair), Domestic Violence (Chair), Child Protection Committee, Gunnedah Zonta Club and Gunnedah Retired Mine Workers member.

For many years Colleen has assisted women in crisis and actively works with health, law enforcement and educational institutions to create an environment for women to achieve and contribute to the community. She is known as a mentor and a safe port of call for women and girls in crisis, providing support to those experiencing domestic violence or mental health issues.

rhonda gallagher [Moree]

Rhonda has been a member of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1992 and is currently the Treasurer for the Moree Brigade. In 2008, she received an award recognising her 15 years of service.

Rhonda is an active member of the Amaroo Catering Unit which is responsible for providing catering at serious incidents and training events. She also provides Community Education support when required.

Rhonda was responsible for organising a barbeque to raise funds for a family at Pallamallawa who lost their home in a fire. She is a valuable member of the Moree volunteering community.

helen gee [Armidale]

Helen was born in Bellingen and grew up in Newcastle. For the past 30 years she lived and worked in the New England area.

Helen has a long history of volunteering. She was involved with the Red Cross Aid Detachment, volunteering in hospitals, children's homes and at various community functions, was a First Aid Instructor for 10 years and a Sunday School Teacher for over 30 years.

Helen was a member of the pioneer Red Cross Youth Team in Papua New Guinea, working in children's camps and organising and hosting children to visit Australia. She has also been a volunteer in Youth Hostels Australia.

Helen has been volunteering for over 40 years in many musical activities for the Newcastle and Tamworth Association for Deaf Children.

She was an organiser of the Tamworth Suzuki workshop and supported many organisations such as the Armidale Music Foundation Annual Choral Workshop and The Armidale Orchestra with catering and fundraising.

As a member of the Zonta Club of Armidale, Helen has been willing to take leadership positions and was President for two years. She has organised many fundraising activities for the club such as a concert with Peta Blyth and an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Helen is a caring, community-minded person who enjoys doing things for others, and throws herself wholeheartedly into any organisation in which she is involved. If there is a job to be done, Helen is the first to offer assistance and can always be relied upon.

may gill [Kempsey]

May was born in Gilgandra, moving to Kempsey 35 years ago. She has six children, 17 grandchildren and eight great grand children.

May volunteers as Unit Controller for the Kempsey State Emergency Service (SES). In her 23 years with the SES, she has been involved in building community resilience and ensuring measures are in place to protect life and property. She has been in command, supporting the community during multiple flooding events and disasters.

May's involvement with the Kempsey Indigenous Patrol has helped to build rapport with local Aboriginal elders and their communities. She welcomes anyone wishing to serve their

community no matter their background. Her Unit truly reflects the makeup of the local community with several Aboriginal members.

May's ability to build relationships to benefit the entire community is well known – she always 'goes the extra mile' to assist those in need. She and the SES team have worked tirelessly to build resilience in all marginalised groups who are at a higher risk during natural disasters.

May's in-depth knowledge of flooding and the needs and issues of the community are highly regarded. She has built an extremely good relationship with the Kempsey Shire Council working closely with the Mayor and elected members to ensure robust and regular exchanges of information leading to strong support by local government to the three shire SES Units. May has made a significant contribution to creating a safer and more resilient Kempsey community.

leila gillies [Werris Creek]

Leila was born in Kandos and moved to Werris Creek in the 1950s where she worked in the Railway Station Refreshment Room for many years. Leila married her husband Alf and moved to the family property becoming involved with the local Bush Fire Brigade. Her brother-in-law was the Fire Brigade Captain and Alf was also a member. Females were not included as members of the Brigade at that time.

Whenever there was a fire, a call would be made to Leila who would alert her brother-in-law and husband. She would also phone the local farmers to notify them of the fire and its location before

organising sandwiches and drinks for the men. This was common practice until she became an 'official' member of the Brigade. Her son who lives next door is now Captain, and Leila still takes calls whenever he is away.

Leila has spent endless hours organising fundraising events for the Werris Creek Brigade and has made herself available to be 'on call' 24 hours a day for over 45 years!

may goodear [Howlong]

May fondly recalls working as a telephonist for the Post Master General's Office prior to marrying her husband and raising their children in Melbourne. She also worked at an electroplating firm and 22 years ago retired to the small community of Howlong to enjoy the Murray River and golfing. May joined the Golf Club and soon made many life-long friends – still helping cater for events.

One of May's greatest joys is volunteering for 'Hands On' at Oolong Hostel with Red Cross. She takes great pleasure in chatting with the 'oldies' about the old days, whilst painting their nails. She was recently awarded a 10 year service medal for her efforts.

May has also been volunteering as a driver for Kalianna Community Transport for 12 years, delivering Meals on Wheels for eight years and volunteers at the local opportunity shop weekly. She is always happy to help out, often filling in at the drop of a hat. On occasions she also lends a hand gardening for Tidy Towns and takes an elderly friend shopping.

Recalling the words of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, May believes, 'being involved is a very rewarding life'. May volunteers because she likes making a connection with other people, 'it gives me a high and creates a lot of joy in my life'.

A few years ago the 'Girls from Oolong' awarded May the Good Neighbour Award in the local Grapevine Newsletter, recognising the many ways she contributes to her local community.

Paula Gray

[Gooloogong near Canowindra]

Paula was born in Gundagai and raised in Forbes. She discovered her leadership abilities as a School Sports Captain, a member of Rotaract and as a Rural Youth Leader.

She and her husband raised four boys and run a mixed farm, voluntarily sharing their conservation farming techniques with others.

Paula has held executive positions on the local P & C, Playgroup and Western District Rural Youth. She ran her own coffee house and introduced annual on-farm Stud Ram Sales at their property.

She is currently involved in many committees, organisations and community groups. Over the years Paula has been involved in the Gooloogong Historical Society (Treasurer), St Malachy's Catholic Church Council (President), National Party Branch (Secretary), and Gooloogong Public School (Patron). She also assists with the Rural Fire Brigade, Landcare and the Log Cabin Hall Committee.

Paula has acquired a substantial amount of funding and coordinated many local projects and events including the Back to Gooloogong and Women's Land Army weekends, Son's of Gooloogong signage, Rail History and Memorial Walkway initiatives and is on the planning committee for a new bridge.

She is also pivotal in collecting, compiling and archiving the history of the district.

Paula gets a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from helping her community and has been volunteering for over 40 years instilling a lot of pride in the village. She has a passion to preserve and showcase Gooloogong's history and enjoys helping and guiding young farming families.

anna habeck [Kiama]

Anna's volunteer work began as a young member then Club Captain of the Kiama Downs Surf Lifesaving Club before moving her focus to the Kiama State Emergency Service (SES) Unit.

The Kiama SES is the combat agency for storms, floods and tsunamis, and Anna is trained and able to perform all duties associated with these roles. The Unit is also the accredited General Land Rescue Unit for Kiama providing land, road crash and vertical rescue services to the community.

Anna joined the Kiama Unit in 2005 and has maintained constant membership since that time. She is a key member of the rescue crew and is willing to give freely of her time and expertise whenever called upon to do so, often in atrocious

conditions – especially during rescue operations. As part of the Kiama SES team, Anna represented NSW in the National Rescue Competition in July 2011, competing against all other states in Australia.

Anna has a Bachelor of Science (Advanced) Honours – Geosciences and is currently completing a PhD in Earth & Environmental Sciences. She is a key younger member of the SES and her community, providing inspiration and guidance to all around her. Her experience and achievements are significant for a younger woman and she is most definitely a hidden treasure.

joan harvey [Ulladulla]

Joan was born in Yass in 1941. She moved to Manly in 1959 and worked at Mark Foy's as a secretary. As a single mum with two children she eventually moved to Ulladulla.

Over the last ten years Joan has volunteered her time and expertise to the Ulladulla District Community Resources Centre where she provides a minimum of seven hours each week, working as Treasurer and making sure everything is in order. She is a great asset.

Joan works well with other volunteers and no job is too small or too troublesome for her. Without people like her, community centres and groups would not be able to operate.

anne hastings [Grafton]

Anne was born and raised in Grafton. She still resides in the same house that she grew up in as a child, attending to the beautiful gardens that surround it.

Anne has been a volunteer on the Grafton Art Club committee over the past year. Whilst there she was encouraged to enter her work in local competitions and has won several prizes.

Anne has been volunteering with the Grafton Community College for the past five years assisting staff in many aspects of office operations such as answering phones, setting up contact lists, organising resources for special events, using publishing programs to create artistic and eye-catching flyers and advertising for the College.

Every six months the College sends out a coloured brochure advertising all of the courses offered in the upcoming months. Anne has taken on the responsibility for the production of this brochure which is distributed throughout the Clarence Valley. The work involved in creating these brochures is time consuming and painstaking, exhibiting her great talent with design, colour and originality.

Anne carries out these tasks brilliantly and achieves set deadlines on a weekly basis. She prefers to work quietly in the background and never seeks recognition for her outstanding contributions. The College could not produce the amazing flyers, advertisement and brochures without her creative contributions.

Sue has been co-opted by MBF as a community advisory person and is a member of the Cooma Hospital Advisory Board.

As a member of the NSW Farmers' Association Cooma District Council, Sue has been instrumental in highlighting the destruction caused by wild dogs both locally and statewide, meeting with relevant State Ministers and the National Parks & Wildlife Service which resulted in positive control measures being implemented.

Sue wholeheartedly attempts to address community needs as they arise and would spend at least two days a week working in her volunteering roles.

june luscombe [Kangaroo Valley]

June moved from Sydney to Kangaroo Valley in 1973 with her husband and two girls to run a large property. They initially became involved with the annual Valley Show, Lions Club and the local Rural Fire Brigade to meet people and help with community activities.

June loves to volunteer and no task is too onerous or time consuming. She has been a long time helper at the Pioneer Park, which is operated solely by volunteers. Magnolia Cottage has been another of her interests for 25 years and she regularly takes older residents to Nowra for weekly shopping.

June is a Life Member of the Show Society, honoured for her tireless devotion to the organisation over many years.

A highlight of her achievements has been her 25 year role as Catering Manager for Children's Medical Research in the valley. For many years she organised a volunteer catering service for weddings, balls, birthday parties and other social events raising large sums of money for the community.

June has a keen eye for business and continues to steer the catering for annual Melbourne Cup and Jeans for Genes Day events. The attendance at Champagne Luncheons is over 100 so getting it right is June's speciality.

She is well liked in Kangaroo Valley and is worthy of the highest praise for her willingness to continue to devote more than 30 hours a week to volunteering and is acknowledged as a sincere and hard working member of this community.

prue mccarthy [Orange]

Prue was born in Sydney but has spent most of her 35 years living in Orange. She has had cerebral palsy since birth and was one of the first people with a physical disability to enter mainstream education in Orange. Prue won the Orange Junior Citizen of the Year award in 1987.

Since leaving school she has earned a Bachelor of Social Science (Social Welfare) and is currently studying towards a Law Degree.

Prue is passionate about advocating for people with disabilities. She walked into the Orange office of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CPA) in 2008 wanting to talk positively to people, especially children, about disability.

She worked as a volunteer to establish the *Just Like You!* disability awareness program which goes into local schools talking about disability in a positive way.

As a result of her hard work, dedication and amazing network of supporters the CPA was given a small grant from Newcrest Mines to grow this program. This money pays for Prue to coordinate the program for half a day a week but Prue continues to volunteer her own time to extend the program delivery. *Just Like You!* has been presented to hundreds of school children and would not exist without her.

Prue is an outstanding ambassador for rural women and people with disabilities. She is wellknown and loved within her community. Everyone applauds her work and she is a worthy nomination for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

betty mcdonald oam

[Lidster near Orange]

Betty has been a member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) for 58 years and a Foundation Member of Meals on Wheels for 64 years where she currently holds the role of Convenor.

She has been a member of the Girl Guides Association for 44 years and is a Foundation and Community Member of Orange's Abbeyfield House for Ageing. Betty is also a founder of the Rural Women's Access Group and a member of Associated Country Women of the World.

She is very involved in the local community serving on a multitude of boards and committees including: Board Member for Wontama Aged Care, Royal Life Saving Examiner, Foundation Member for the Farmsafe Committee, Rural Women's Access Group Member, Rural Counselling Central West and Committee Member and Chair of the Small Town Communities Project in the Cabonne Shire.

Betty is an active member and Elder of her local Uniting Church and is a Life Member of Nashdale Primary School and Orange High School. Betty was also a member of the organising committee for the first NSW Women of the Land Gathering which was held in Orange in 1993.

nicola mcdonald [Dorrigo]

Nicky is a quiet achiever volunteering in a range of important community organisations despite having to cross over 50 km of rough terrain to get to town. She is the type of woman who goes about her business without wanting the recognition she deserves.

Nicky is the Deputy Controller for the Dorrigo State Emergency Service (SES) and has been an active member for over eight years.

As a busy mum of two active sons, her early voluntary work was dedicated to school canteen and transporting children.

Nicky was the only member on the Dorrigo Soccer Club taking on all committee roles to keep the club going. She came to volunteer at the SES to get adult conversation and contribute skills.

Nicky is an active long standing member with the Tyringham Bush Fire Brigade and even though her children have grown up and left the area, she has taken on the role as Secretary/Treasurer for the Dorrigo Youth Clinic which addresses mental health issues for rural and isolated youth.

Every year Nicky provides home-grown daffodils to the Cancer Council for fundraising. One year she gave money when she didn't have any flowers.

Nicky also runs a working farm and is always happy to lend her truck, equipment or share practical 'knowhow' on the right time to impregnate a cow or the best type of material to fix a roof. She is an invaluable practical community focussed woman who deserves to be included in this year's Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

robynne mcginley [Macksville]

For 10 years Robynne (Roby) has been involved in The Technology Centre. She was there from the first discussion where a number of community members came together to address the many disadvantages of a town with a low economic base.

Roby has been a member of The Technology Centre Board over this time and since retiring has volunteered to work in the Centre one day a week.

She is also an advocate for people with a disability and has taught community members to train their dogs for over 30 years.

raewyn mackY

[Yarranbella near Bowraville]

Raewyn is a most valued volunteer. She shows initiative, never has to be asked to do something and is not afraid to do menial tasks in order for Bowraville Technology Centre to run smoothly.

The Centre is a not-for-profit organisation and Raewyn has been instrumental in coming up with cost saving ideas and procedures that have been financially beneficial.

She is also a Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteer, putting her own life at risk in order to save the property and livestock of others.

Raewyn truly is a hidden treasure and the Bowraville Technology Centre could not function as well without her.

julie mclachlan

[Pallamallawa near Moree]

Julie has been an active member of the Pallamallawa Bush Fire Brigade since 1990 and currently holds the position of Deputy Captain (since 2009). In 2008 she received a 15 Year Long Service Award. Julie is deeply involved in the Pallamallawa community and keeps everyone updated of the current fire season and protection strategies.

margaret mcneil [Holbrook]

Margaret first moved to Holbrook in 1963 as a nurse. She married Tom and together they raised three children.

In 2007 Margaret was a 'Champion of our Community' with her photo on the cover of the Albury District telephone directory.

Margaret volunteers for the Holbrook Health Service six days a week ensuring all residents are prepared for their meals and she also assists with feeding.

She is an original member of the Meals on Wheels service and has been serving them for 40 years. She is also a member of the Aged Services Committee which provides accommodation for retirees.

Margaret has held and is presently, an Office Bearer for the Returned and Services League (RSL) Women's Auxiliary, Friends of the Hostel Foundation and the Laurel Club. She is the holder of the highest Rotary award, the Paul Harris Fellowship.

Margaret is a Lay Chaplain for the Anglican Church, assisting with Pastoral Care and church services at the Nursing home. She assists those in need through the church and helps in their opportunity shop.

Margaret believes that volunteers provide a necessary role in our community and she is an inspiring example to others.

marilyn mcpherson [Holbrook]

Marilyn has lived in the Holbrook area all her life. Her mother died when she was about 18 months old and Marilyn was fostered by Minnie, one of her mother's best friends.

Leaving school she began work at Holbrook Stores as an assistant in the clothing department. Marilyn was always cheerful, polite and helpful to those she served.

Her kind nature saw Marilyn become involved with the local hostel when Minnie couldn't manage at home. She was always available to assist at the hostel fete, baking and helping people by purchasing clothing when they couldn't get to the shops. Marilyn continues to be part of the Friends of the Hostel Group, assisting where necessary with baking and keeping involved to ensure the Hostel caters for the ageing community.

Minnie spent time at the Harry Jarvis Wing Aged Care Facility before her death. Marilyn would come to assist with feeding her and always offered assistance to any other residents who could not manage. She has continued to volunteer her time for the past 18 years coming to feed in the morning and/or evening, only missing a day if busy with her family or is unwell. The residents enjoy Marilyn's visits because she takes the time to say hello to them all and enquire about their wellbeing.

She has volunteered with Meals on Wheels for many years and doesn't seek recognition. Marilyn is a kind and caring hidden treasure with a bright personality.

margaret maquire [Forbes]

Margaret was introduced to the Mater Aged Care Nursing Home when her husband was admitted with Dementia. She lost Gordon last year but has continued to be a valued volunteer of the Mater family.

Margaret moved to Forbes when she married in 1956, raised a family and created a home on the family farm where she still lives.

Life changed dramatically when Gordon became ill. It was very difficult for the family to cope with 'the new Gordon' and all the challenges when someone develops Dementia. In true style and dignity, Margaret adapted quickly visiting regularly and becoming close to staff, residents and their families. She also became a member of the Mater Board and Ladies Auxiliary.

When families lose someone in a nursing home it is often very hard to return. Margaret knows how important volunteers are and continues to be involved on committees and visits regularly. She is often found with her sewing machine mending resident's (and staff!) clothes.

Nominating Margaret for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll gives all the staff an opportunity to thank and acknowledge her for the hard work, dedication and love she shows to everyone at the Mater.

Margaret always rolls up her sleeves when needed and has a smile and kind word for everyone. These qualities are very valuable in an environment that can be very challenging, lonely

and often sad. It is people like Margaret that ensure a quality of life is available to the elderly who deserve happiness, peace, security and love.

elizabeth markey [Coonamble]

Elizabeth (Liz) has been involved in the regional Moorambilla Choir since its inception, and even now in its sixth year, is still heavily involved. Even while in Germany having medical treatment, Liz has been instrumental in organising the Moorambilla Voices aspect of the Festival, making sure children have scholarships when they cannot afford to attend.

She has also been a member of Coonamble Streets Ahead Committee for a number of years and for the last five years she has been an Executive Member as well as President for many years.

Street's Ahead aims to bring performances to Coonamble. They manage the community markets and Christmas Carnival and have been the driving force for many local projects such as the River Walk Project and The Nickname Hall of Fame to name a few. Liz truly is an inspiration to many who have had the pleasure of working on committees with her.

She has had a lifetime of active involvement with her church and parish and in the last decade her children's school.

Liz has been involved with teaching music to Coonamble High School children and devoted her own time to supporting the music teacher at the high school.

Even though Liz is fighting cancer, she is still very much involved with the Coonamble community which fondly holds her in the greatest regard and considers her a hidden treasure.

joyce moore [Grafton]

Joyce was born in Casino and moved around as her father worked on the railway. She worked in Sydney before marrying a railway worker and again moved frequently while raising four children.

After Joyce's husband passed away, she participated in volunteer training before taking up a rewarding role visiting the elderly in a nursing home providing companionship and contact with the community around them. She also delivered library books to people who could not get out themselves and volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

About 16 years ago, CRANES Community Support Programs were very fortunate to have Joyce begin volunteering at the Grafton Sunshine Club.

The Day Respite Centre for the Aged and Persons with Dementia sees Joyce tirelessly volunteer two days a week for about five hours each day. She has clocked up over 7680 hours and is as passionate and giving as the day she started.

Over the years, Joyce has undertaken kitchen duties, assisted clients with activities and most importantly, shared her kind and generous nature with everyone.

She has exceptional doll making skills and a couple of years ago demonstrated and helped the ladies make a doll each, which they entered in the Grafton Show. The joy and recognition of such an accomplishment is still reminisced about today!

Having the pleasure of Joyce at the Sunshine Club is a magnificent gift and all she seeks in return is smiles on the faces of the people whose lives she makes an imprint on.

chris moss

[Spring Ridge near Gunnedah]

Chris first joined the Spring Ridge Rural Fire Brigade in 1994. She has held many positions with the Brigade including fire fighter, Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Captain. She is also a member of the Liverpool Range Zone Support Brigade – responsible for support roles to over 50 brigades across an area of over 18,000 square kilometres. Chris has held the position of Senior Deputy Captain of the Support Brigade.

Chris' active involvement in the community engagement side of the Support Brigade sees her educating school students, particularly in small rural schools in remote locations, on fire safety. This is largely undertaken on her own.

Chris regularly represents the Liverpool Range Zone at regional and state conferences relating to community engagement, and her longterm involvement in the Rural Fire Service (RFS) provides a comprehensive background that can be shared with newer members.

Chris has assisted in community liaison activities during large hazard reduction burns whereby information on the progress of burning, and other fire safety information, was relayed to private residences adjoining the areas.

Through her long association with the RFS, and in particular her focus on community safety initiatives to school students in remote and isolated locations, Chris is a truly outstanding example of a hidden treasure.

jean muggleton [Inverell]

Jean was born in Inverell and continues to live and work there. She is a genuine hidden treasure who has given much to her community.

For the past 22 years Jean has volunteered for the Inverell State Emergency Service (SES) carrying out her duties with pride, dedication and excellence.

She has undertaken a multitude of roles and responsibilities within the SES and has been involved in a wide range of tasks, including the delivery of training, managing storm and flood operations, providing support for other emergency services and participating in community events.

Jean is an active SES Trainer and Assessor and has developed new training approaches for skills delivery. She is an active member of the Region Training Support Team and goes above and beyond what is required of her to create opportunities for other volunteers to develop their skills and involvement in the community.

Jean volunteers around 80–100 hours per month. She has found new skills and longterm friendships along the way and her commitment and energy to assist her community is endless.

virginia mulcahy [Scone]

Virginia was born in England and her family migrated to Australia in 1951. She was educated at East Hills and commenced work as a legal secretary. After marriage she and her husband managed a hotel in Eden before coming to Scone in 1985 where they owned and managed a hotel and later a motel.

After retiring from the motel, Virginia became a committee member of Strathearn Village Aged Care Facility and has been Treasurer for almost three years. She has been very involved with fundraising for the Village, organising fashion parades, luncheons, golf charity days and raffles.

For five years Virginia has also been a Board Member of Transcare in Scone – a community organisation which provides support in various areas including Meals on Wheels in which Virginia is also involved.

Virginia joined the Ladies Probus Club of Scone and became a committee member followed by Tour Organiser (a joint position), which she has held for over four years. This position involves many hours of research and organisation. The trips are always well planned and most enjoyable.

For many years she has helped with collections for the Scone & District Cancer Support Group on Daffodil Day.

Virginia is a very thoughtful, kind and considerate person who is always willing to lend a helping hand and never looks for accolades. She has a great sense of humour and is liked and respected by all who know her – a true hidden treasure.

margaret norris [Orange]

Margaret was born in Orange and has stayed here all her life. She has been married for 53 years and raised four children.

While her children attended school, Margaret worked in school tuck shops at De La Salle, St Mary's and James Sheahan. She was also on the P & F committees of these schools.

Margaret has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for over 24 years and volunteers as a 'Friendly Visitor' through Orange City Council.

Margaret works with the Sisters of Charity, volunteering to work with disadvantaged people and has been teaching scripture in public schools for 18 years. She also attends scripture classes at Anson Street Special School.

ruth offer [Tenterfield]

Ruth was a volunteer with the Redcliffe State Emergency Service (SES) before moving to Tenterfield. She joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 2003, wanting to try something new but not to be on the 'frontline'.

Ruth now coordinates the catering team at the Tenterfield Fire Control Centre. The busiest times are winter, during the training season, where

her team provides morning and afternoon teas, lunches and sometimes other main meals to keep the Fire Fighters going. During major incidents and activities the catering team could be feeding up to three shifts of volunteers or over 600 meals per day.

Apart from her services in the RFS, Ruth also participates in a weekly women's mentoring program for young Indigenous women aged between 14–16 years, providing a guiding light and great advice for them to live by.

Over the last six years she has been Chief Steward for the Photography Team for the Tenterfield Show.

winifred oslear

[Willow Vale near Gerringong]

Winifred (Winnie) was born and bred in Neryla, a small rural community near Moss Vale. As a young girl she worked on farms and later with intellectually disabled people before returning to dairy farming at Willow Vale on the South Coast where she took out the Australian Title for the fastest hand milker.

Every year Winnie takes part in a volunteer program called 'Cows Create Careers.' She donates calves to local high schools to educate students about dairy farming.

Winnie is a true hidden treasure of the Shoalhaven and truly worthy of acknowledgement in the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

brenda pankhurst [Bingara]

Brenda is a valuable community member who uses a significant amount of her free time to contribute to the community and town, and has done so for decades.

Her long list of community involvement includes volunteering for the St Mary's Parish of Bingara for more than 40 years while raising four children and assisting her husband on the farm. She has been President, Secretary and Treasurer of the P & F Committee and Catering Officer. Brenda also contributes to the annual Parish Fete.

A few years ago Brenda was invited by the P & C Association to become a patron of the Bingara Central School in recognition of her many years of support given to the school and the community.

Brenda has been the hostess of the Bingara and Willoughby Exchange Program welcoming and entertaining many students during their visit to the community. She was also instrumental in fundraising for Bingara's aged care facility, Touriandi Lodge, and has at one stage held the position of Chairperson.

Once a junior member of the Bingara Pony Club, Brenda has been an active member ever since, helping out in numerous ways.

She has also played an active role in the Bingara Show Society for the past 20 years, catering for judges, stewards and gate personnel during the Annual Show, assisted in fundraising for the Bingara & District Cancer Support Group and has been an active member of the Bingara Girl Guides.

margaret parslow

[Griffith] – deceased

After careers as a telephonist, share-farmer, shearer's cook, wife, mother and grandmother, Margaret (Marg) decided to give into repeated requests for her to join the local Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Group. This was no mean feat as Marg hated horses.

Marg's love of children ensured that she was able to leave her personal bias for the four legged animals in the background and become a valuable and reliable volunteer leader. She encouraged and nurtured her riders to independence and delighted in the rewards.

After about ten or more years 'Danny' was donated to the RDA and Marg fell 'in love' becoming his regular leader and forming a firm friendship with this pint-size pony with attitude. She described him as being as old, small and placid like herself. What Marg didn't realise was that Danny loved her just as much and his questionable attitude completely disappeared when she was in charge.

After 22 years of constant devotion to task and reliably appearing every morning with high school helpers and donated bread for volunteer lunches, Marg sadly passed away during a heart operation.

So dependent upon Marg's dedication was the RDA that the first week after her passing they had biscuits for lunch and muddled through lessons without any helpers from the high school. She truly was a hidden treasure.

julie peck [Orange]

Julie has been a member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) for 45 years and has held positions of Secretary and Treasurer. She has been an active member of the Girl Guides Association for 35 years and was Treasurer for 31 of those years.

Julie has volunteered for Meals on Wheels for more than 40 years delivering meals to people in need on a monthly basis and has been a past Treasurer for Canobolas Highland Pipe Band and St James Presbyterian Church. She is also a life member of the P&C Associations for Nashdale Primary and Orange High Schools.

charmaine potter

[Yetman near Boggabilla]

Charmaine has always been linked to the land. She was born in Roma and attended the local Catholic School.

Charmaine married, raised three children and has four grandchildren. The family have lived in the Yetman district for over 30 years.

Charmaine works for Home & Community Care and the NSW Disability Service, caring for the elderly, disabled and ill in our community. She is always available to her clients and their families if they need help, often outside her working hours. She would volunteer as many hours as she is paid.

Charmaine also ensures the elderly, isolated and disabled are able to attend social outings such as garden and market days, shopping trips to town and church services. In any community these events are a lifeline.

She is an active member of the Country Women's Association (CWA), the State Emergency Service (SES) and the local Rural Fire Brigade (RFS). She was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Fire Brigade for many years and is now the Brigade's local representative to the RFS.

Charmaine is always willing to attend meetings, help organise training days and is often one of the first fire fighters or SES members on the scene of a call out.

She is also a member of the Coolatai Crafty Ladies who last year raised over \$4000 for cancer treatment and palliative care. Charmaine is a tireless worker and a treasured friend to many.

jean preston [Delegate]

Jean runs a sheep farming property with her husband Gary on the edge of the Kosciusko National Park, west of Delegate. This area is a remote rural location that has suffered substantially over the past 15 years from drought and rural decline.

Jean is the Captain of the Corrowong Rural Fire Brigade, a position she has held for the past four years. As a member of the Brigade for a number of decades, she has also held roles as Deputy Captain, Secretary and Treasurer.

As with so many other rural communities, the local Rural Fire Brigade is the focal point of the community. Jean has been a strong leader and advocate for the Brigade and the community, and has the full trust and respect of her fellow community members. She has achieved this within an environment where gender equality is not automatically recognised.

Jean was the first female to be elected to the position of Captain across all 33 Monaro Brigades.

It is a well known saying across the community, that the only person who works harder than Gary, is Jean.

betty punnett [Cootamundra]

Elizabeth (Betti) was born and educated in Cootamundra and returned after retirement as a school principal in 1992.

She is a founding member of the Heritage Centre which was established in 2001 as a community Centenary of Federation Project. The Centre aims to recognise the unique history of Cootamundra and district through the collection, research, preservation and exhibition of objects, photographs, written and electronic materials.

Betti has been a driving force in the implementation of the initial idea for the museum and the creation of the Heritage Centre. She turns a hand to anything that needs to be done at the Centre.

She is the Secretary, Treasurer and Roster Coordinator involved in the day-to-day running of the Centre as well as planning for its future expansion. Betti is in charge of the Centre spending countless hours by herself.

She organises the exhibitions and displays and undertakes research required to ensure factual information for displays.

The Bradman's Birthplace is another project that benefits from Betti's involvement as a volunteer and committee member. She has volunteered for many years and serves on the Committee.

Betti is a founding member of the Cootamundra University of the Third Age (U3A) where she is currently tutoring Mah Jong and Cryptic Crosswords classes.

Other groups to benefit from Betti's volunteering capabilities include the Cootamundra Local History Society Inc, Meals on Wheels, Cootamundra Soup Kitchen, Muttama Creek Regeneration Group and the Save the Children Fund.

norma raymond [Sanctuary Point]

Norma was born in Sydney and lived there with her family before moving with her husband and three children to Sanctuary Point on the south coast.

She is a valuable community person, a member of the senior ladies tennis club and has worked tirelessly raising money for Camp Quality.

Now retired, Norma organises a giant raffle to aid cancer research and looks after children for working parents.

She works for an animal wildlife organisation and does voluntary house cleaning for the elderly. Norma is on the volunteer roster for disabled tennis players and is a true valued champion to the community.

robyn reynolds [Pambula]

Robyn was born in Shepparton, moving to Pambula at the age of three. She attended Pambula Primary and Eden High Schools. Robyn worked as a Doctor's receptionist/bookkeeper and then cleaner for a motel after her three children started school.

She is very community minded and started volunteering in her mid-20s at the Pambula Surf Life Saving Club. Robyn's role with emergency services began as a member of the State Emergency Service (SES). While catering for volunteer Fire-Fighters she met her husband Peter and became a Rural Fire Service (RFS) member in 1999.

Robyn and Peter opened a camping/outdoors business in 2003 and she now devotes most of her spare time to the RFS.

She is actively involved with the community engagement team delivering awareness presentations as part of the RFS commitment to protecting the wider community from the impact of bush fire.

Robyn has held positions of Secretary and Treasurer and is currently Senior Deputy Captain of Pambula Brigade. In 2011 she received an 11 year Long Service RFS Medal.

Robyn's has an outstanding record of qualifications matched by her involvement and dedication to the Pambula Brigade. She is an accredited Assessment Advocate, Advanced fire fighter, Village fire fighter, Rural Fire Driver and Senior First Aider as well as Crew Leader at all levels (safety, village and wildfire).

In Robyn's 11 years as a RFS member, she has attended more than 200 call outs – a truly outstanding effort and a worthy hidden treasure.

marie rheinberger [Yamba]

Marie grew up in Coonamble but enjoyed many holidays with her parents in Yamba on the north coast. When Marie married she shared her love for the Clarence Valley region with her fishing mad husband. Eventually they moved to Yamba opening up a bait and tackle shop where she was kept busy running the business and raising eight children.

After the children were off her hands, Marie turned to helping the community. She was involved in raffles, garage sales and other functions to raise funds for the Cancer Council. She is a member of the local Catholic Church and participates in its various functions and activities.

Marie organises the local Wrapped with Love group as well as teaches adults and children to knit at a weekly class at the local library. She has visited many people in their homes delivering library books and Meals on Wheels.

carolyn rice oam [Parkes]

Carolyn was born in Windsor and started her career as a hairdresser. In 1967 she married Colin and moved to a farm at Cookamidgera where they raised three sons.

Carolyn has always been committed to supporting her community, juggling a busy farming lifestyle with volunteering.

Currently Carolyn is Chair of Parkes Rural Women's Gathering (to be held in October 2012) and Co-Chair of Opera at 'The Dish' (a large open-air event with proceeds going to the McGrath Foundation). She also sits on the Lachlan Health Services Board, delivers Meals on Wheels and cares for grandchildren and her ageing mother-in-law.

In 1988 Carolyn joined Parkes Quota Club and was elected International President in 2005. Despite a challenging, often confronting leadership journey, she found encouragement and support from mentors and friends. 'Nothing is beyond our reach if we reach out together', became her Presidency theme. She has held many local, national and international positions in Quota and is the current Publicity Officer and Catering Coordinator.

In 2006 Carolyn was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in recognition of her selfless volunteer service to others.

She is a remarkable lady and many look to her for guidance, wisdom and inspiration. Carolyn is well respected and admired in the Parkes community and beyond.

She has a smile and kind word for everyone and is always willing to help no matter what is asked. Carolyn is most worthy of being included in the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

linda riley [Mungindi]

Linda has been a member of the Mungindi Bush Fire Brigade since 1992 and is currently the Brigade Treasurer. In 2008 she received a 15 Year Long Service Award and in 2009 a Commissioner's Unit Citation for Service. She received this Award for acting promptly and professionally during a suspected arson attack in which three properties were saved.

kimberley rixon [Gunnedah]

Kimberley was born in Tamworth and has lived in the Gunnedah area for most of her life raising five children, largely on her own. She is self-employed running two successful local businesses – massage therapy and is a marriage celebrant.

Kimberley has been a volunteer with the Gunnedah State Emergency Service (SES) for over eight years and originally joined to spend time with her daughter, also a long serving volunteer. Kim is now an accredited Rescue Officer and

qualified Flood Boat Operator. She is the Deputy Local Controller for the Gunnedah Unit providing strong leadership for her fellow volunteers. In addition to these roles Kim is also the Unit Administration Officer managing the finances.

Kim's roles require her to regularly undertake training and administrative duties occupying over 25 hours per month of her personal time.

In the multiple recent local flood events in Gunnedah, Kim was the Operations Officer responsible for critical prioritising and tasking requests for assistance. She has also provided assistance to other communities impacted by natural disasters including a deployment to southern Queensland when Ipswich was damaged by severe storms.

Kim sacrificed time with her family during the New Year of 2010 when Brewarrina received over 200 mm of rain in a short period, and suffered large scale overland flooding. She was deployed for a week in inclement conditions to help establish an operations centre to coordinate the many requests for assistance over an area of thousands of square kilometres.

gill robinson [Michelago]

Gillian (Gill) was born and raised in England. She graduated with a degree in Agricultural Zoology before heading off to live in New Zealand working as a parasitologist and subsequently as a nutritionist. Later, she moved to Canberra and was a technician at the Australian National University,

a student nurses aide at Canberra Hospital and eventually the Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Architects.

Since retiring to live at Michelago, Gill has been giving between 15–20 hours of her time each week to volunteer for the following: Treasurer of Michelago Region Community Organisation, Treasurer Michelago Landcare, Coordinator of Michelago Mayfair, Driver Reviver helper at Ingelara, Salvation Army opportunity shop volunteer and is an active member of the Colinton Rural Fire Service (RFS).

Gill feels that Australia has been good to her and wants to give back to her community. Her courage was displayed when as a member of the Colinton Rural Fire Service, she fought the terrible Ti Tree fire near Michelago two years ago.

Gill will always help members of the community who need a hand, whether it's assisting them with their garlic harvest or shearing their sheep – her list of new skills just keeps on growing! She does it all with a good sense of humour and her enthusiasm for these pursuits has encouraged others to join in.

Gill is a gem and it would be grand to have her volunteer work acknowledged in the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

pipa robinson [Tibbuc near Gloucester]

Pippa arrived in Australia from the UK in 1969 with husband Steve. She started her career as a Registered Nurse, later graduating

with a Visual Arts Degree. She was the Founding Director of Watt Space Gallery before becoming the Arts for Health Coordinator for the John Hunter Hospital – encouraging healing through creativity, art and social inclusion.

Pippa moved to Tibbuc near Gloucester in 1993 and became involved in various community groups including the Gloucester Environment Group, Gloucester Arts Council, Gloucester Gallery and the Gloucester Poets.

In a voluntary capacity, Pippa was the instigator and coordinator of the tiled seating and table in ‘the meeting place’ created by Gloucester children, footpath and planter box mosaics in the main street, story gathering from aged care residents at the local nursing home, and many other public art projects. Her involvement with local school children to create public art attests to her generosity of spirit.

Pippa recently received a prestigious Alumni Award from the University of Newcastle for her work in the community.

She has recently given hundreds of volunteer hours to create a rainforest environment with artworks for the 2011 Gloucester Rural Women’s Gathering. Pippa made sure community groups, Indigenous artists, children and adults with disabilities and many others were an integral part of the project.

Pippa’s three sons and their families give her great pleasure and she is a wonderful grandmother full of vitality and creativity. Pippa’s home is open to all and she is truly a hidden treasure.

june rollan

[Long Flat near Wauchope]

June has supported many community and sporting organisations in her local community for over 30 years through her wonderful community spirit.

She has worked tirelessly with the P&C and School Canteen at Yarros, Long Flat and Wauchope schools during and long after her own children had progressed through their education.

June continually undertakes many volunteering roles including organising Christmas celebrations and working on committees for the local football club, tennis club, Upper Hastings ladies auxiliary, and the sporting and community centre. She also organises the debutante balls at Ellenborough, Kindee Long Flat and Birdwood Halls.

Whatever is happening, June is there to help with everything, from selling raffle tickets to cooking food, serving and cleaning up.

June is always first on call to assist people in their time of need providing sandwiches, cakes and other food for families, celebrating the life of loved ones at funerals.

She is constantly there for her neighbours whether it is minding children before and after school or cooking for those who are sick or disabled.

June spends much of her own money putting together hampers or having cakes decorated for special occasions. She is always working quietly and putting everyone else first. The local communities are fortunate to have her.

shirley rundell oam [Huskisson]

Shirley was born and raised in Melbourne. After completing school she wanted to attend teacher's college but because of financial necessity went to work for a sporting company instead. This led to her volunteering for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and sparked her lifelong interest in sport and fitness.

While training for a multiple sclerosis charity bike ride, she was involved in a serious accident. While recuperating someone suggested she volunteer at Havenlee School where she has been a well-loved and appreciated helper ever since.

For 15 years Shirley has been a volunteer at the school for a minimum of two days a week and usually more when needed. She assists with feeding and caring for the 43 students, helps in the classroom, with excursions, special days and organises fundraising events.

Shirley is of great assistance to the teachers and ancillary staff at the school picking up whatever duty or tasks that need to be done with the students, all of whom are severely disabled youngsters from five to 18 years of age.

A navy widow, Shirley is also active in several other organisations including the local Returned and Services League (RSL) Branch and the Vietnam Veterans Association.

For 10 years Shirley competed in the City to Surf Race and this year was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM). She is certainly a hidden treasure to all who know her.

skye rush [Narromine]

Skye has been the President of the Macquarie Matrons Committee for the last four years and a committee member for eight. She has led her team to raise thousands of dollars for Angel Flight and West Haven (2011 beneficiary).

Each ball takes two years of planning and requires the recruitment and retainment of a willing volunteer committee of up to 18 women. Her role is to motivate and inspire the group to work for the entire period and reach fundraising goals.

Skye never misses a meeting. She coordinates several sub-committees and carries it all off with grace and good humour that promotes enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Skye is always prepared, professional and fair in her presentations and inspires confidence in the committee, contributors and the community in general.

She manages to do this while teaching part-time at Trangie Central School, being the Secretary of the Narromine Junior Soccer Club, coaching

Narromine Under 11s soccer, being actively involved in her husband's business and being a loving wife and mother of two.

Her dedication to the community is admirable and she is never too busy for anyone. She is a very worthy nominee for the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll in recognition of all her hard community work.

jenny sams [Orange]

Jenny began volunteering as a young teacher and then as the wife of a country school principal. She organised the gymkhana at Reeds Flat for three years, coached netball teams in many country towns and taught craft and reading in schools.

In recent years Jenny has been a Lifeline counsellor, a member of View and Quota International (current President). She also volunteers for Meals on Wheels, teaches craft to mentally ill people at the O'Brien Centre, helps with the Orange Eisteddfod, Cancer Council Pink Ribbon Day and Relay for Life. Jenny is also a Way Finder at the Orange Hospital, a No Interest Local Scheme consultant and works at the Orange High School canteen.

Jenny spends between 15–20 hours volunteering each week and believes volunteers have a role to help people in need, she has the time and it is personally rewarding.

sandra scammell hill [Howlong]

Sandra moved to Howlong in 1993 and immediately started working for the community in a voluntary capacity. Her contribution covers a wide span of interests including: assisting the organisation of the St Thomas Flower and Rose Show, supporting St Vincent de Paul, Howlong Skateboard Children's Committee, the successful proposal to have a permanent doctor located in the town, successful application to have a licensed pharmacy and the proposal to have an Ambulance Station situated in the town (ongoing). She is a Trustee of the Mechanics Institute, Voluntary Day Manager of the Opportunity Shop and Editor of the National Servicemen's Association Albury/Wodonga Branch Bulletin.

Sandra's main time-consuming voluntary contribution is her role as Editor and Chairman of the Howlong 'Grapevine' Magazine Committee. Besides being the Editor, she also attends to advertising and layout. The magazine is published on the first of the month and has a distribution of over 650 copies. She is a very worthy nominee to be included on the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

bev schornegg [Adaminaby]

Beverly (Bev) is a member of the Adaminaby Branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) and has rarely missed a function in the time she has been a member. Bev's cooks and serves lunch to Autumn Leaves, and helps cater and prepare for weddings, birthday parties, wakes etc.

Bev assists with the annual Quilt Show and catering for clearing sales and the like.

She performs a vital role in auditing the books of the Adaminaby School P&C and has assisted the school by teaching German to the children for at least four terms over the last two years. She is Treasurer for the 1st Alpine Scouts and assists with various fundraising activities.

Bev is the Treasurer for the Snowy Scheme Collection Inc., which is an opportunity shop and she is working hard to establish a museum to show the collection. The buildings are now erected and are slowly being filled with artefacts of the Snowy Hydro work. She supervises all the payments and ensures they meet all the various funding requirements.

When there was a threat to her beloved Italian classes with University of the Third Age (U3A), Bev volunteered to go on the Committee to ensure they could continue.

The Adaminaby Easter Fair could not go ahead without the committed volunteer work of people such as Bev who attends meetings, comes up with worthwhile ideas and not only helps with all the preparatory work, but then gets up very early and works hard on the day.

beryl semmler [Holbrook]

Beryl has lived in the Holbrook district for many years with her family. She cared for her husband until he went into residential care. Beryl visited to support the staff with her husband's care and continued to visit after his death.

She plays the organ and piano twice a week at the Anglican Church (also weekly for church services) and for sing-a-longs for the local hostel and nursing home.

Beryl volunteers six times a week at the Nursing Home assisting with feeding the residents.

On her 'day off' she plans and coordinates The Market Place opportunity shop for the Anglican Church.

Beryl was a member of the Anglican Parish Council for many years and lives to serve other people. She is very quiet and unassuming and a loyal friend to everyone.

leonie sinclair

[Culburra Beach near Nowra]

Leonie was involved in the initial consultation undertaken by Illawarra Legal Centre regarding the need for a Community Legal Centre to service the unmet legal needs of the Shoalhaven and South Coast. Shoal Coast opened its doors in 1999 and Leonie has been a founding member of the Centre's Management Committee since that time.

From commencement of the Legal Centre, Leonie has taken on key roles as Vice President and then President when the long-standing President retired in November 2006.

Over the past 10 years Leonie has been a strong advocate for the role of Community Legal Centres in improving access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people living on the South Coast.

She has supported Shoal Coast not only through the Management Committee but directly through providing mentoring and support for solicitors when required. Despite being an extremely busy and well respected private solicitor, Leonie has always provided quick responses to any questions put to her. She has a wealth of specialist knowledge in Family Law, Wills and Probate. Leonie has also assisted the Centre by accepting referrals of legally-aided clients with difficult cases which she has fitted into her very busy private practice.

Leonie has supported all aspects of the role of the Management Committee, attending meetings and planning days, undertaking performance appraisals with staff on an annual basis, and assisting with resolving conflicts when these have arisen within the team at different times, for more than 10 years.

tricia stack [Deepwater]

Patricia (Tricia) is known for her energy and passion, tackling everything she does with a smiling face. She does paid work one day a week, but gives between 35–40 hours to volunteering the rest of her week.

Tricia has been Secretary of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Deepwater Brigade since 2008 and is also an active fire fighter, having attended over 40 incidents in her many years of service.

As Secretary and now Treasurer of The Tooheys Deepwater Jockey Club Cup Meeting, Tricia helps coordinate and organise the Five Race Program, Fashions in the Field Awards and the other attractions of Deepwater's Annual Race Day.

She has also been the Secretary of the Deepwater Progress Association since 2008, helping coordinate and organise Deepwater's Annual Scarecrow Festival and Carols in the Deepwater Domain events.

kym stanford [Mungindi]

Kym has been a member of the Mungindi Bush Fire Brigade since 1995 and has held the position of Captain since 2001. Kym is a recipient of a Commissioner's Unit Citation for service for the great fire protection work she did when there was a suspected arsonist lighting several village fires. A total of three properties were saved.

barbara steffensen [Lismore]

Barbara has worked all her life as a volunteer in the field of companion animal welfare. She was born in England and has lived in Australia since the early 1970s.

Barbara is the founder and President of the Animal Rights & Rescue Group (ARRG) which is based in Lismore.

ARRG is a charity established in 1994 dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of abandoned, neglected and abused companion animals. ARRG also works closely with three local

council pounds, rescuing animals from 'death row' and works with other agencies to help and support existing pet owners during times of crisis.

ARRG provides a comprehensive telephone help and referral service for all animal matters including wildlife rescue and cruelty complaints about domestic animals and livestock.

Barbara is an innovator and motivator to others. She is a special person and her knowledge, wisdom, networking and negotiating skills are crucial in insuring a second chance for the animals. ARRG's 'no kill' philosophy and foster and adoption policies are radical and truly humane.

The group receives moral, financial and practical support from the local community and further afield and is trusted because of its efficiency, effectiveness and integrity.

Barbara is a hidden treasure for her unstinting dedication to the welfare and rights of those who cannot speak for themselves and her continuing positive attitude in what is often a dispiriting and sometimes shocking environment.

June Stevens [Nowra]

June was born in Tasmania and grew up in Launceston. She originally trained as a Secretary and married Peter before moving to Nowra in the 1970s.

June became involved in volunteering at the Nowra Neighbourhood Aid & Information Cottage, which, through her advocacy work, became the Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Centre. She also

became involved in a group which lobbied the NSW Government for funds to establish the Nowra Family Support Service 30 years ago. It now has offices in Nowra and Ulladulla – assisting families with young children in crisis.

June retrained as a counsellor in her mid 40s. She became Director of Lifeline Illawarra in the 1990s and subsequently National Director of Lifeline.

On retirement 10 years ago, June joined several community organisations and is currently on the Board of Southern Cross Community Housing, Nowra Family Support Service Inc. Management Committee and is an active member of the Uniting Church Council. She works as a volunteer in the Wesley opportunity shop, and is also on the Illawarra Uniting Church Regional Committee.

June is compassionate and non-judgemental and genuinely cares for those who are less fortunate. Her contribution to volunteering in the Shoalhaven requires her to attend monthly committee meetings for Nowra Family Support Service Inc. and Southern Cross Community Housing, plus additional hours helping to select new staff members, attend executive meetings and fundraise.

June is also an active member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) and spends about 15–20 hours a week volunteering.

dorothy sullivan [Casino]

Dorothy was born in Lismore and attended school there. After completing her education she worked in an office before marrying a dairy farmer. Dorothy is the proud mother of three children and doting grandma to five grandchildren.

She joined Casino Show Society 40 years ago and is now a Life Member.

Approximately 20 years ago Dorothy saw a need to support the Windara Disability Service and became an original member of 'Friends of Windara' to help with many fundraising functions. She has been an active member of Casino Country Women's Association (CWA) for 20 years taking on various roles.

When the Anglican Church opened an opportunity shop 20 years ago, Dorothy was a willing volunteer.

Dorothy's love of gardening saw her join the Casino Garden Club for which she writes a monthly newsletter. She has also been a longterm member of the successful Casino Beef Week committee.

Dorothy is a very busy lady, especially as her husband Col is the Mayor of Richmond Valley Council, and she has many duties and functions to attend in this role. Her reasons for being such an active volunteer are family tradition and a genuine desire to help others.

loo taylor

[Beaumont near Kangaroo Valley]

Louise (Loo) is a treasure who works behind the scenes in our Rural Fire Service (RFS) both on the ground and in logistical roles.

She is a big support to the Kangaroo Valley – Remexio Partnership and works hard fundraising. She does this tirelessly and without thanks. [After the destruction and killing which devastated East Timor in September 1999, a small group of Kangaroo Valley residents felt a need to help. A partnership was discussed with an East Timorese village, Remexio (a small village in the hills about one hour's drive south of Dili) and the Kangaroo Valley – Remexio Partnership was born.]

Loo has also helped with identifying walking trails around the Kangaroo Valley area assisting with the design and placement of signage and was a committee member of the Kangaroo Valley Tourist Association.

susanne taylor

[Woollamia near Jervis Bay]

Susanne (Sue) was born in Kempsey. She attended Pre-school at Rosewood on the western side of the Snowy Mountains and her first memory was riding a dinky inside the house due to snow. Sue spent her childhood in Sydney and now lives in Woollamia with her husband and two children.

She is Leader at the Huskisson Girl Guides and has volunteered for four years encouraging and preparing girls for life by offering exciting adventures and new skills. She has worn many Guiding hats including Guide Leader, Region Guide and Liaison Ranger Leader and was awarded the Boronia Award with the Girl Guides Association for her efforts in building her district from 10–50 Guides.

One of the reasons for Huskisson Guides phenomenal growth, in a climate where Guides are diminishing, is Sue's amazing enthusiasm for 'The Game of Guiding'. Girls and the other Leaders look forward to attending meetings each week because of her approach to fun and learning. Sue has made it a priority to gain qualifications and plan extra activities the girls will enjoy such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award that provides meaningful challenges.

Sue has organised a regional event for 300 children, helped Huskisson School with literacy and numeracy education and runs a children's program with the local church.

Her sense of humour and compassion make Sue a worthy nominee for the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

bev thornnton [Willow Tree]

Beverly (Bev) has been a long standing active member of the Willow Tree Rural Fire Brigade where she has held positions of Secretary and Treasurer. She is highly regarded for her support to Brigades and incidents through catering.

Bev has also been involved with the Murrurundi and Liverpool Range Zone Support Brigades, where her expertise in catering support is arguably among the best in the State.

She has supported local incidents involving a few personnel, right up to the ongoing provision of catering to bush fire emergencies involving large numbers of local and out of area fire fighters, as well as Incident Management Team personnel involved in the coordination of the fire fighting operations.

Bev is always ready to lend a hand and her can-do attitude at any time of the day or night makes her a truly deserving nominee for the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

coral tierney [Holsworthy]

Coral was born and raised in Queensland and moved to Sydney when she was 17. She boarded with her future mother-in-law and then married the youngest son. Coral and Roger raised three healthy children despite being advised that Coral would not be able to have children due to her disability.

She has been volunteering with Narellan Congregational Community Services since 1993 assisting with day activity outings and with the neighbour aid phone-link service over the years.

Coral continues to volunteer three days each week collecting money, ringing clients for a chat, cooking when needed and many other tasks within the organisation (her custard is the best).

Coral has faced many health issues herself, having contracted polio as a child. She has had hip replacements, knee replacements, shoulder replacements, stents in her heart – our very own bionic woman. She is often in pain and never complains.

Narellan Congregational Community Services was very young when Coral started volunteering. Initially she was head cook and bottle washer and assisted the then manager take groups of client on holidays from time-to-time.

Coral continued to volunteer during her recovery from her many surgeries by calling her phone-link clients. She has been a member of the governance body and members committee for a number of years and has always been a vital and treasured member of the service. Coral will be 81 in October this year.

ellen townsend [Hay]

Ellen and husband Ray have been farmers in the Boyd area for well over 50 years. She has been a tireless volunteer with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1960 and held the position of the Boyd Brigade Deputy Captain. She is currently Brigade Permit Officer.

Ellen initiated a radio check in the Murrumbidgee Shire. Every Sunday all the trucks within the Murrumbidgee Shire are checked. She coordinated this until 18 months ago when she decided to slow down a bit. Ellen has always been supportive of any newer members stepping up to try and fill her shoes.

She instigated a phone tree process for when fires start in her area and ensured everyone kept their tree updated and knew what to do. Ellen has also been an active fire fighter on the ground when there were fires in the area.

helen trustum

[Bentley near Lismore]

Helen was born at Tuckurimba, attended the local primary school and then Lismore High. She worked on the family farm for a couple of years before commencing nursing training at a hospital in Coraki.

Helen married Allan and moved to Bentley where they established a Charolais Stud and raised their two sons.

She has won many community awards including Australia Day Citizen of the Year, Royal Australian Historical Society Certificate of Achievement, Lismore Electorate Woman of the Year, Advance Australia Helpful Citizen Award for Casino Hospital Centenary and was recognised with a Centenary Federation Medal in 2003. Helen is a Life Member of the Casino Show Society and was the first woman to become a Life member of the Charolais Society.

She has been the custodian and an active member of the Richmond River Historical Society since 1979 with 10 history themed books to her name.

Helen has been the Coordinator of the annual Bentley Art Prize since 2006. From small beginnings it has grown to be one of the most

prestigious art prizes on the north coast. All proceeds of this event go towards the upkeep of the Bentley Public Hall, a focal point for the entire community.

June Tupper [Orange]

June is a very hard working woman. While teaching fulltime at a local Christian school, she put in long days to give her students the best possible education. Even so, she still found time to play a vital role in her local church.

Since retiring from teaching, June has continued to give her time to volunteering. She serves regularly with Meals on Wheels through Mountain Hope Church and each week helps to set breakfast at a local school. She serves as a Board Member at Mountain Hope and most weeks is there helping to set up for church services.

She and her husband have been on many mission trips to various parts of the world including Rwanda doing whatever they can to help others.

She is always one of the first to open up her home to others, is selfless, kind hearted and compassionate – always putting others before herself.

June truly deserves to be on the 2011 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

Joan Turnbull

[Lakewood near Port Macquarie]

Born and raised in a farming family, Joan is the quintessential country woman. She displays all the attributes we have come to associate with the best of Australian rural women. A wife for 40 years, mother of three, grandmother of six and great grandmother of two, Joan is never happy unless she is busy. She gives generously of her time to family, friends and organisations.

Joan is a great cook renowned for her sponges which have raised a large amount of money over the years for different organisations. She can be found at Kendall Show Society stalls serving tea and scones and volunteering at the John's River markets.

While her children and grandchildren were at school she volunteered at their tuck shops and although she no longer has family attending local schools, she continues to volunteer at the Camden Haven High tuck shop.

Joan's creative talents are on display at the Laurieton craft shop where she regularly volunteers. Her delightfully decorated diaries are a highlight with friends who receive them at Christmas time.

Joan was a foundation member of what is now known as the Kew Women's Bowling Club and has been an active bowler for over 25 years. Over the years she has served on the Board of the Camden Haven Golf Club before its amalgamation and also on district and club bowls committees in a variety

of volunteer roles including President. She is a coach and umpire and is still active on committees at club level. She is truly a hidden treasure.

Fay Turner [Yetholme near Bathurst]

Fay was born in Forbes and moved to Bathurst around 1954. After her husband died in 1966, Fay continued to work in the family business. Besides family and work she has undertaken decades of volunteer work in Bathurst and Yetholme.

Fay was honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Bathurst Junior Farmers/Rural Youth Club during the 1960s and remained involved mentoring young members. She has been a Justice of the Peace since 1982 and has strongly supported the St Pauls Anglican Church at Yetholme, helping to host and cater for a range of fundraising dinners and activities.

In the past three years Fay has become involved in Cancer Council's Bathurst Relay for Life catering for the Survivors' Afternoon Tea as well as serving on the Breast Cancer Pink Ribbon Day stalls.

One of Fay's outstanding achievements has been her involvement with the Yetholme & District Progress Association. She joined shortly after its inception and has been Secretary for over 30 years, Treasurer for a number of years and President of the Association's Ladies Auxiliary for many years, while making plans for the erection of the Yetholme Community Hall. She has been responsible for keeping the Association's financial records and minutes, helped to organise all types of fundraising activities such as dances, balls, market stalls, trivia nights and concerts, catered

for dinner, lunches, auction sales as well as involvement in organising and catering for local government activities such as Australia Day.

Velma Walker [Vincentia]

Velma was born and raised in Queanbeyan where she lived and worked until her marriage to Ralph. His occupation as Ambulance Superintendent saw them transferred to Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Condobolin and then to Sydney before retiring to Vincentia. No more uniforms and time to relax – or so they thought – until they were both invited to join the local Rural Fire Service (RFS).

During that time she held the positions of Treasurer, Community Education Officer and was honoured with a Life Membership. Her present position is Deputy Captain Logistics Section of the Shoalhaven Headquarters Rural Fire Brigade and she received the State Rural Fire Commissioner's Commendation for support of the Region South Incident Management Exercises and for assisting with logistics in other areas during the 2003 bush fires.

As a volunteer Velma's hours are flexible but she is usually in the office by 8 am five days a week and leaves around 5 pm. This increases during the bush fire season which will often include weekends.

Following Ralph's death in 1993, Velma continued to help others. She is a member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) where she has held many positions at all levels and is currently on the State Executive.

Velma gives of her time freely and loves what she does, expecting nothing in return.

shirley waller

[Kings Creek near Wauchope]

Shirley was born in 1930 and grew up in the Hunter. After raising a family of four girls she started volunteer work and this has continued with her move to King Creek a number of years ago.

Shirley has worked for the Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul Society, Meals on Wheels and the Uniting Church where she cooks meals for the less fortunate of the community. She prepares a lot of the food in her own home.

Shirley does all this at aged 80 and still runs her little farm with eight miniature horses. She does her own fencing, repairs and mowing on the ride-on mower.

Shirley is a most humble person and is always the first to volunteer to drive friends on outings.

tracey walton [Wauchope]

Tracey was born and grew up in the Hastings District and also spent a lot of her life living at White Cliffs where she was a valued member of that outback community. She has raised two sons who have both become recognised volunteers within their own right.

Tracey is a volunteer fire fighter with the Headquarters Brigade located in Wauchope and is very active attending fires and motor vehicle accidents. She is also a volunteer member of the Hastings Communications Brigade and mans the

Fire Control Centre during weekends. Tracey also provides secretarial support to Headquarters Brigade in addition to her fire fighting.

She gives many volunteer hours to her community and even out of the fire season Tracey volunteers 25 hours a week. During fire season she can be doing 35 hours or more each week. Tracey also attends the District Captain meetings which are held quarterly, taking and preparing the minutes.

She comes from a family of fire fighters and is highly regarded by all members of her Brigade. Fighting is physically difficult and during large fires volunteers can spend up to 12 hours at a fire. Tracey provides unquestioning support to her fellow fire fighters and has attended training in advanced fire fighting, village fire fighting and first aid. She has also been a trainer with the District Communication Brigade.

Tracey is a hidden treasure within the Hastings District and is very worthy of this honour.

catherine warburton

[Beneree near Orange]

Catherine (Cathie) is a corporate lawyer raised and educated in Sydney. Since moving to a small property near Orange in 2004 with her partner, she has quietly engaged in one-on-one volunteer work to improve the lives of others.

Cathie was involved in the Shine for Kids program – supporting children of prisoners. She has helped her ‘mentee’ navigate through family struggles and stay focused on school for many years.

More recently Cathie has taken on a different challenge by supporting a recently arrived Sudanese refugee woman and her family through a local government migrant initiative. Cathie often uses her lunch hour to help with small tasks like helping to complete paperwork and has even taken leave to support the family while her 'mentee' proudly became an Australian citizen in Dubbo.

It is people like Cathie who silently work selflessly behind the scenes, to help individuals, from a range of backgrounds overcome obstacles and make the most of the opportunities Australia has to offer. It is good to be able to recognise such a hidden treasure.

Lyn Webster [Nyngan]

Lyn lives in Nyngan with her daughter and partner Kerry. She is involved in many organisations on a voluntary basis.

Lyn is on the Committee of Nyngan Senior Rugby League, Nyngan High School, Western Studio of Performing Arts and Nyngan Hospital Nurses Association. She organises the fashion parade each year for Nyngan's Annual Show and this year is running the Annual Debutante Ball.

Lyn sits for hours selling tickets for different associations and volunteers to work behind the bar for different groups who are fundraising.

She has a fulltime job at the Nyngan Hospital as an enrolled nurse and cares for her elderly mother who lives across the road from her. Lyn often

volunteers to drive patients to Dubbo (a round trip of 320 km) to attend doctor appointments and attends to Dialysis at Nyngan Hospital each year.

Lyn voluntarily coaches up-and-coming swimmers twice a week and has a great affinity with kids.

People call on Lyn all the time as she is so giving and capable. She ran the kitchen for the Nyngan Rugby League Easter Challenge this year which catered to 300 boys over three days – a huge job.

There are so many things Lyn does that people do not know about. She is a real angel. People like her are the real hidden treasures of small communities. She really deserves to be recognised and is a real diamond in the bush.

sandra webster [Bomaderry]

Sandra has lived in Bomaderry all her life and has always been involved in the community. She commenced volunteering at age 17 and was involved in the community for a few years until family commitments put her volunteer work on the back burner.

As her children grew, she became involved in Girl Guides and became a Cub Master. Her interest in Guides has been lifelong and she enjoys helping in any way she can.

Sandra was also involved as a volunteer on the P&C Committee at both the Bomaderry Primary and High Schools. She volunteered in the school canteens and continued this work even after her children had left.



Hidden Treasures is a joint project of
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Family &
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