



Department of
Primary Industries

A decorative white line-art frame with a scalloped top and bottom, and ornate scrollwork on the sides, enclosing the title text.

HIDDEN
TREASURES
HONOUR ROLL

2018

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

A decorative pink swirl graphic located in the bottom right corner of the page.



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Hidden Treasures is an initiative of Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network.

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ministers' message

We are very pleased to present the 2018 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

This important publication, now in its 9th year, celebrates the 87 women who have been recognised by their peers for the important work they do within NSW rural, regional and remote communities.

This year's theme for National Volunteer Week, 'Give a little, Change a lot,' represented the millions of volunteers who make a significant impact in their communities and on society by giving a little of their time.

We need volunteers like these women in our communities as they play a vital role in ensuring people needing assistance receive it and that local services continue to grow.

That is why the NSW Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network developed the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll – to record and pay tribute to these inspiring women.

The first honour roll was developed in 2010, and since then over 900 rural women volunteers have been recognised.

The continuing high response from people wanting to nominate outstanding volunteers each year is a testament to the strong community spirit that rural Australia is renowned for.

By nominating women volunteers in our community, we are recognising how pivotal, diverse and valuable their role is to our local regions.

The Honour Roll is a testament to their hard work and generosity and we thank them for their passion and commitment to strengthening our regional communities.

Enjoy reading and sharing their stories. We hope they might prompt you to recognise someone from your own community in 2019.




Niall Blair
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade & Industry




Ray Williams MP
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Disability Services



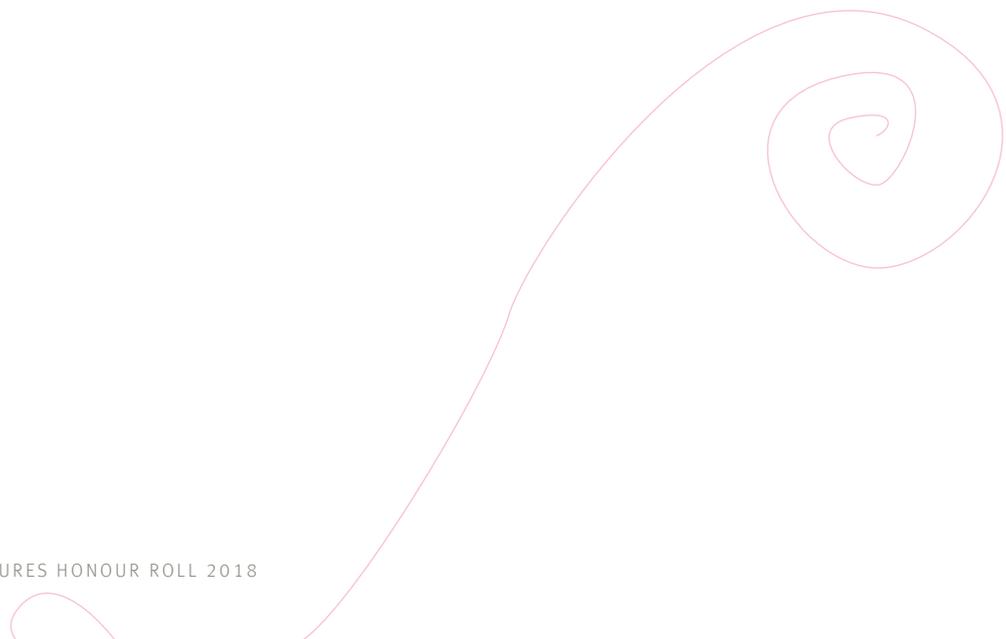
2018 hidden treasures nominees

- | | | |
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| 7 Beverley Absalom
[NARRANDERA] | 12 Natasha Blenkinsopp
[ROBERTSON] | 16 June Day
[MOOBI] |
| 7 Bernadette Allport
[NORTH STAR] | 13 Carol Bonamy
[MCLEAN RIDGES] | 17 Kylie Dunne
[CRABBES CREEK] |
| 8 Caro-anne Badcock
[WOOTTON] | 13 Betty Bradney
[NARRANDERA] | 17 Geraldine Dyer
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| 8 Susan Barnett
[CROPPA CREEK] | 14 Julie Briggs
[NARRANDERA] | 17 Louiza Egan
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| 9 Kylie Bengel
[MOREE] | 14 Krishna Burns
[SOFALA] | 17 Nerida Ellem
[KANGAROO CREEK] |
| 9 Joy Beruter
[TUMUT] | 15 Eileen Cameron
[EDEN] | 18 Genevieve Elliott
[MOUNT MITCHELL] |
| 10 Sharon Bishop
[PICTON] | 15 Robyn Claibourne
[NARRANDERA] | 18 Rose Field
[WOOMBAH] |
| 10 Jill Blackman
[TOORAWEEAH] | 15 Jenny Clarke OAM
[NARRANDERA] | 19 Navanka Fletcher
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| 11 May Blacka
[COBARGO] | 16 Kim Clydsdale
[MERRIWA] | 19 Kathleen Foster
[NARRANDERA] |
| 12 Leonie Blain
[GRAFTON] | 16 Natasha Collins
[URUNGA] | 20 Lyn Frecklington
[PEAK HILL] |

2018 hidden treasures nominees

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|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 20 Jan Frikken
[BATEMANS BAY] | 24 Michelle Hinchcliffe
[ORANGE] | 29 Louise Krieger
[ORANGE] |
| 20 Margaret Gaal
[BATHURST] | 25 Rosalind Hinde
[MITTAGONG] | 29 Joanne Lewis
[LIDSTER] |
| 21 Linda Gant
[CASSILIS] | 26 Margaret Hulbert
[CRABBES CREEK] | 30 Tracey Lewis
[NARRANDERA] |
| 21 Ingrid Gardiner
[COFFS HARBOUR] | 26 Joyleen Hutchins
[NARRANDERA] | 30 Robyn Madden
[CRABBES CREEK] |
| 21 June Gardner
[LAMBS VALLEY] | 26 Amanda Johnston
[SCONE] | 30 Tanyia McBride
[BOORAL] |
| 22 Dianne Gill
[CANOWINDRA] | 27 Margot Jolly
[PARKES] | 30 Linda Milne
[BERRIDALE] |
| 22 Heather Gilmour
[WARIALDA] | 27 Prue Kelly
[BEGA] | 31 June Mullens
[TAMWORTH] |
| 23 Mara Grills
[GUYRA] | 28 Chantal Kemsley
[GLENREAGH] | 31 Megan Nicholson
[CUNDLETOWN] |
| 23 Margaret Harvey
[WALLALONG] | 28 Jacqui Keyes
[CRABBES CREEK] | 32 Marilyn O'Dowd
[CAMBEWARRA] |
| 24 Katie Hazelton
[CUDAL] | 28 Sue Killham
[LEETON] | 32 Brenda Oglivie
[GUNDY] |

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 33 Joan O'Halloran
[COBARGO] | 38 Sharon Robertson
[THE OAKS] | 43 Dawn Vallance
[RAWORTH] |
| 33 Christine Ostermann
[GILLIESTON HEIGHTS] | 38 Judith Robinson
[DARETON] | 44 June Wellsmore
[JINDABYNE] |
| 34 Marion Palmer
[BARGO] | 39 Alison Rutledge
[WOODSTOCK] | 44 Christine Welsh
[TURA BEACH] |
| 35 Narelle Payne
[NARRANDERA] | 40 Carolyn Salter
[WALCHA] | 45 Heather Whittaker
[LEETON] |
| 35 Violet Preston
[GLENIFFER] | 40 Pam Skelton
[EDEN] | 45 Vicki Wilson
[BATHURST] |
| 36 Tracey Quinn
[CRABBES CREEK] | 40 Cindy Smith
[GUNDAGAI] | 46 Val Wood
[GRAFTON] |
| 36 Ruth Ranger
[GRAVESEND] | 41 Jasmin Statham-Smith
[COOMA] | 46 Carmel Yelland
[MANILDRA] |
| 36 Melinda Riddell
[NARRANDERA] | 42 Joan Stevenson
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| 37 Margaret Roberts
[KYOGLE] | 43 Lenore Taylor
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| 37 Mary Roberts
[QUIRINDI] | 43 Eva Towler
[MERRIWA] | |



The following stories celebrate and acknowledge rural women volunteers across New South Wales and were submitted by appreciative members of their communities.

Beverley Absolom [NARRANDERA]

Beverley (Bev) Absolom has lived in Narrandera for the past 70 years. She did her nurse's training at the Narrandera District Hospital, where she worked for many years. She has been married to Ron for 58 years; they have three children who all live in Narrandera, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Bev is a very caring person, who loves to spend time with her grandchildren, playing cards with them and teaching them how to sew, crochet and knit. Being a member of Can Assist, she is often called on to sell raffle tickets and cook for catering events. She volunteers for Meals on Wheels and at Teloca House, the age care facility, where she loves chatting to residents and helps run Bingo. Bev also volunteers for the Narrandera AFL. In the early days she used to launder all the football jumpers after each game, so the line was always full. She now only launders all jumpers for the preseason games, but still launders all umpires' uniforms for the season. She received a volunteers award from the Club in 2014. Bev also works hard for the Narrandera Rodeo Committee every year, with preparation and running of the canteen. The committee runs a BBQ at the local sheep sales and rain, hail or 42 degrees you will find Bev there serving and looking after everyone. In 2006, Bev was awarded life membership of the committee. She is truly a hidden treasure.

Bernadette Allport [NORTH STAR]

Bernadette and Peter Allport brought their three young children to North Star in 1993 from Toowoomba; more were to be born here. With five children to be educated at the local primary school, Bernadette, being a vibrant, lively and curious person, sought early to make friends and make a difference. It wasn't long before the former nurse (general and midwifery) joined the school P&C, and took on the role of secretary. Being part of the community, she also became a committee member and delegate for Tharawonga Mobile Preschool, co-editor of its Frilly Neck newsletter and started organising fundraising functions, trivia nights, dinners and card nights. Bernadette and Peter are keen horse people and have put their energy and time into helping run the local Campdraft since their arrival 25 years ago. Their five children attended the local pony camp where Bernadette was matron for several years and cook on occasions. Bernadette has been a director of North Star Sporting Club twice and relished helping it move forward. Tutoring children is a passion and Bernadette loves to see children discovering new things such as homework club and art workshops. A desire to meet new people drew her to the NSW-North Star branch of the Country Women's Association. She was inspired by many of its older members and their wisdom. Twenty-five years later, she has been branch, cultural, international, secretary and president of its branch and Gwydir Group vice president and publicity officer. An intuitive healer, Bernadette uses her skills in

Bowen therapy and Reiki to assist people on their healing journey or to awareness, in paid and honorary work. She is delighted their five children have become curious and adventurous world and Australian travellers and have used the opportunities given to them. Her greatest skills are communication, writing and making people laugh and noticing and often doing, anonymously, little things that make a difference to people's lives and the community.

Caro-anne Badcock [WOOTTON]

'If you want something done, ask a busy person.' Caro Badcock is a busy person and she gets things done. As well as helping her husband, Michael, on their farm, supporting his captaincy of the fire brigade, working as a statistician and spending time with her family, she has devoted much of her spare time over the past 20 years to making Wootton a better community. She stepped up to the plate when the Wootton Hall was threatened with closure and chaired the Wootton Hall Committee that brought life back into it – organising a celebration of the opening of the Wootton school (closed and transformed into the Wootton Hall), has been instrumental with running the Wootton Community Library, community dinners, dances, working bees and a community noticeboard. She co-edits the Wootton Valley News, a vital form of communication. She also helped set up its Facebook page. She organised community meetings for a Wootton strategic plan, which will put ideas into action and help secure grants. Her

most recent achievement has been, as part of a small committee of the Wootton Community Network, to set up a trust with Crown Lands, which secures our community facilities for the future. She is not afraid to put the case forward to council or other government departments. We are lucky to have this smart, organised, hard working woman in our community. Caro never looks for accolades, a thank you or pat on the back, so I would class her as a real hidden treasure.

Susan Barnett [CROPPA CREEK]

Susie has spent her life sharing, caring and helping others in the communities she has lived in. Born in Barraba she and her inseparable twin sister Kerry followed in the footsteps of their parents, John and Mary Patterson, in becoming part of their local communities. On completing her schooling and business college she entered the banking industry in Barraba. Her job took her to many places in north western NSW, becoming the first female bank manager while working and living in Bingara. Susie became the inaugural secretary of the Barraba Amateur Swimming Club. Her love of horses saw her become the inaugural secretary of the north west branch of the Australia Stock Horse Society in 1970, inaugural secretary of the Moree Campdraft Club, secretary of Gravesend Rodeo Committee, Rodeo and Campdraft secretary and member of the Bingara Show Society, delegate to North West Group of Show Societies and she is currently a member of the Warialda P&A Association. Susie has spent

her life inspiring the youth — she was secretary of the Blue Light Disco in Bingara for many years, was the NAB representative judge of Lions Youth of the Year and a showgirl judge and coordinator. Susie and her husband Doug share a love of their stud cattle enterprise and encourage young people in leadership roles and cattle handling by bringing the local agricultural students from Warialda High School out to ‘Baroma Downs’ for excursions and tutoring. Susie has spent many years in positions on preschool and local school boards, as saleyard secretary at Moree, fundraising for Fairview Retirement Village, Moree and she is the current treasurer of the NSW Braford Society. Susie’s generous nature, inspiration, personality and wisdom make her an outstanding hidden treasure.

Kylie Benqe [MOREE]

Kylie is a proud Kamilaroi woman who was born and raised in Moree. Kylie has volunteered her time to the Moree community for many years assisting services such as the Miyay Birray Youth Service where she is secretary, Thiyama-li Family Violence Prevention Service where she is secretary, Nindethana Aboriginal Corporation, Pius X Aboriginal Medical Service, and the Moree Boomerangs Rugby League Football Club just to name a few. Kylie is always on hand to give our younger generation advice and support on any issue they seek and is living proof that no matter where you come from you can succeed. Kylie is currently the manager of the Dhiyaan Centre, which helps Aboriginal people find their

family trees and history, something Kylie is very passionate about — never making history a mystery. Kylie was the first recipient of the Moree Reconciliation Awards Aboriginal Citizen of the Year and has been nominated for Australia Day awards for her tireless work in our community. She was also awarded a Prime Minister’s Award for service to the Moree community. Kylie is often called upon during times of sadness in our community to comfort and support families who have lost loved ones and help prepare for funerals, which she is always willing to do. Kylie is one of a few hidden treasures in our community.

Joy Beruter [TUMUT]

Joy Beruter is one of those quiet achievers who gets in and does what she can with no fanfare. She has been involved with volunteering for many years – before she came to Tumut 35 years ago and as soon as she arrived. She served on the Tumut Public School P&C for many years even after her children had moved on to Hurlstone Agricultural High School where she started a country parents’ group and was active there for eight years. Joy’s job until she retired was as a support staff person at Gadara School in Tumut (this is a school for children with disabilities). She worked there for 25 years involving herself with much beyond her duties and her official hours. In the mid 1990s she joined the group who managed to save the local picture theatre, now the Montreal Community Theatre. She has been the secretary of the committee for 20 years

and is involved in all aspects of the theatre, from cleaning toilets to helping with live shows (especially with costuming) and learning how to show a digital film. When Tumut Performing Arts Society went into recess, Joy, without any previous experience, collaborated in the writing of a successful play 'If These Walls Could Talk' and owing to unforeseen circumstances ended up producing the play on her own – a history of major Australian events, by decade, since the theatre was built in 1929/30. She also does the catering (volunteer) for special live performances and helps host tours to the theatre (including King William Travel from South Australia for which she also caters) and conducts private tours on request. From the start she has had a strong interest in the theatre's renovation and is the archivist. Joy can be found more often at the theatre than at home and when a job needs doing her enthusiasm kicks in straight away. She has also been involved as a driver for Tumut Community Transport for nine years so far, which mostly involves trips to Wagga and back sometimes leaving at 5:30 am. Joy's energy and commitment and general good humour pervades all her volunteer activities and she rarely says no to a job. How she fits it all in is anybody's guess and yet she still has time to drive two and a half hours to look after her grandchildren when required. Hats off to this amazing lady.

Sharon Bishop [PICTON]

Sharon was awarded the Centenary Medal for services to the veteran community and is a life patron of the Vietnam Veterans Association. She was the first Wollondilly Woman of the Year. She has been an active member of the Lions Club for 24 years including district governor 2016-2017 and has been awarded Lion's highest award, the Melvin Jones Fellow. She has also worked tirelessly for Care Flight and organised Brigade Aid to raise money for the local fire brigades. During the Picton floods, Sharon organised volunteers and also the insurance through Lions to cover them. Susie has owned and operated a community nursing service for 30 years. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed. She has been twice nominated Wollondilly Citizen of the Year and Australian of the Year. She also helps with the Dilly Drought Drive. I am sure there is more.

Jill Blackman [TOORAWEEAH]

Jill is a special lady who has served her community in many capacities over a long period of time, in addition to being a very generous supporter of numerous organisations. All her deeds have been undertaken in a quiet and unassuming manner. In 1987 she was only the third woman elected to Gilgandra Shire Council and was an avid supporter of many tourism and promotion initiatives during her term. In addition to being a wife and mother on a Tooraweenah farm, Jill is also very involved in this close knit

community, taking on the role of secretary of the Tooraweenah Show Society when it was in danger of closing down. Some 40 years later she still assists with the show and is a staunch benefactor of the society. Other activities with which she is involved include: Tooraweenah CWA for more than 20 years; voluntary editor for Tooraweenah's own newsletter the 'Toora Bungles' for nearly 25 years; secretary for Kookaburra Recruiting March Re-enactment in 1986; Tooraweenah Endurance Ride for some 20 years; and Ride for Life for at least 15 years. Jill has recently retired from work as Community Care Centre manager and coordinator after 18 years, although a paid position, her commitment went well above and beyond what was required. With the client always being number one, she expanded the range of services from Meals on Wheels (for which she still volunteers) to a host of other services to assist the frail, aged and disabled of Gilgandra Shire.

May Blacka [COBARGO]

Throughout May's life she has constantly been in the background volunteering within the local community. Notable mentions include during the 1960s when May assisted in fundraising for the building of the swimming pool in Cobargo. This pool was also hand dug by the locals at the time, including May. The pool opened in 1970. She had taken on such a huge project because neither May nor her husband Vinnie could swim. They wanted to see their five children swim. May is very proud of her five children, eight

grandchildren and great-grandchildren. During May's boys' school years, May was always fundraising for both the league and union football clubs. This involved running the canteen for years to feed players and families. May was also president of the Cobargo Golf Club for many years. The club house was the 'Cobargo preschool' building. The land within that vicinity was the golf course, which was always kept immaculate. May was also known to mow the course. May is also known for her pie making, flower arrangements and selling produce from her garden. She has done so for many years to raise funds for our local Cobargo Rural Fire Service. A few years ago May was very busy raising money for cancer research. She raised more than \$1 270 in a short time and refuses to use the excuse of 'age' as she toils with amazing energy to assist a worthy cause. Cancer Research Advocate Bikers (CRABS) members provided a banner for her house and that was all the encouragement she needed. May is also known for visiting the elderly in Cobargo, and giving them a helping hand when they need it. She pops in on them often for company and many times with her arms laden with her baking, fresh produce from her garden or a jar of jam to help them out. Well done May Blacka; you have been a quiet unsung hero of Cobargo who has spent many, many hours helping the community of Cobargo for decades. We salute you.

Leonie Blain [GRAFTON]

As part of an air force family, Leonie spent her childhood in Victoria, the Northern Territory and NSW. After finishing school, she trained as a junior secondary teacher at Sydney Teachers College. She taught at Holbrook Central School, Macksville High School and then Grafton High from 1988 to 2001. During these years, Leonie had two children and also completed a BA, Litt. B in History and a Diploma in Librarianship. Her move to Grafton coincided with the formation of the Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition (CVCC), which was formed to fight a pulp mill proposed for Grafton. Leonie became involved and was one of the original committee members, becoming secretary in 1991, a position she still holds. This was the beginning of a life of environmental activism. As part of the CVCC, Leonie is involved in organising the annual ReWeavers of the Tapestry event that honours local environmentalists. This year, the event will not only celebrate the 30th anniversary of the formation of the CVCC, but also the achievements of the Clarence Environment Centre and the Clarence Valley Branch of the National Parks Association. Leonie will be giving an address at this event. Leonie is also involved with the Grafton Loop of Knitting Nannas and belongs to other local environment groups. Leonie sits on various Clarence Valley Council committees as a community member, including the Climate Change Advisory Committee, the River Monitoring Committee and 'The Wet' (The Water Efficiency Team). She has been a member of Toastmasters for 25 years.

Natasha Blenkinsopp

[ROBERTSON]

A born and bred country girl from Tumut, Natasha senses a community need and wholeheartedly throws herself into making life better; that is part of her soul. In recent years Natasha has contributed to the Robertson and surrounding community with a large involvement in the lives of children. Natasha has served on the committee of the Robertson Community Preschool, secretary (previously) and vice president (current) roles on the Robertson Public School P&C Association and is secretary of the Robertson Hockey Club. While these are the public titles that community members know her for, it is all the tireless behind the scenes work that goes into these roles (and others) that makes Natasha a worthy nominee. She provides whatever assistance is required to anyone who asks: coordinating fundraising raffles and calendars, running events, preparing food, loading firewood and walking the streets gathering donations. Some other examples include: helped organise a formal fundraising ball for Motor Neurone Disease research after the passing of her friend's mother from the disease (2016); contributed to a Rural Fire Service day in the Wallaby Hill neighbourhood (2017) and was a vital team member in organising a trivia night for Robertson Public School (2018). Natasha never seeks the limelight nor has expectations of anything in return for her efforts; this shows Natasha's heart and spirit. There would be countless people in our local community that would have their own stories of how Natasha's compassion and boundless energy has assisted them in some way.

Carol Bonamy [MCLEAN RIDGES]

Carol was born in Murwillumbah in 1948. She grew up on a dairy farm until the age of 13, then the family of six moved to Lismore. She worked at the Lismore Telephone Exchange from 1964 to 2000 at all levels including management and was actively involved in the work social club. Carol was involved in Bangalow Pony Club and is a life member and has held all positions in the club over a period of 25 years. Since 1992, Carol and her quilting group 'Telequilters' have been making quilts for the community. She coordinates 'Quilts 4 Kids', which collects and make quilts for sick children in local hospitals. To date over 1 100 quilts have been given to recipients. She coordinates the gifting of 'Quilts for Palliative Care' and she gives quilts to the Mental Health Units at Lismore Base Hospital. Carol coordinates 'Airing of the Quilts' at Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Museum, which is held annually and is the major fundraiser for the museum. She is involved with making and collecting drainage bags for breast cancer sufferers. Carol's sunny disposition and willingness to make and coordinate quilt makers, who give their quilts made with love, is a huge asset to our community. She also volunteers at 'Our Kids' to raise money for paediatric equipment for Lismore Base Hospital as well as supporting children with special needs in the community. She has volunteered with NSW State Emergency Services for 15 years and delivered Meals on Wheels for 10 years.

Betty Bradney [NARRANDERA]

Betty was recently awarded an Ann Williams Clark Medallion by the Garden Clubs of Australia (GCA) for her long and outstanding service to gardening. The presentation was made by GCA national president, George Hoad, at the Narrandera Club's 40th anniversary celebration lunch. Her long and valuable service to the Narrandera District and the Coleambally garden clubs and her depth of gardening experience, which she is committed to sharing, makes her very much Narrandera's gardening guru. Betty has had a lifelong interest in gardening and at age 92, she continues to be a very valuable member, as well as fostering gardening in the broader community. Having farmed and taught school at neighbouring Coleambally for a number of years, she also maintains strong ties with that town's garden club. She is a true plants woman with a particular interest in native flora and fauna and is an active member of Narrandera Land Care, the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists and the Narrandera Koala Regeneration Group (she takes part in the annual koala count along the Murrumbidgee River at Narrandera). Betty regularly attends garden club meetings and is always active and supportive. She is on the club committee and has taken her turn at holding office. She is a great propagator and brings her plants (labelled with name, uses and care information) for the 'trading table' for which she is responsible. She always has something of interest in her garden, (blooms, succulents, grasses, foliage) which she brings to meetings

for 'show and tell'. She writes a column for the local newspaper, the Narrandera Argus, titled 'The Happy Gardener' and copies of this are handed out at garden club meetings. Betty sells raffle tickets in the main street (in all weather), puts her name down for door/gate rosters for club activities, such as the annual Camellia Show and the annual Open Garden Day and helps set up and take down for these activities. Garden exhibits at the local Narrandera Show have been organised by her. She phones in to the local ABC radio Regional Garden Program and the Narrandera FM radio station to promote these activities. She has also compiled garden club nominations for the Narrandera Shire's Australia Day awards. Betty is also a regular volunteer at the Narrandera Visitor Information Centre. You will also find her all around the town — pulling out noxious weeds and plants that have 'gone wild'. The number of hours she spends on these activities is unbelievable. Betty is a truly amazing 'hidden treasure'.

Julie Briqqs [NARRANDERA]

Julie is a gem who is constantly encouraging and supporting other women to go places in their community and has brought an immense amount of creativity to Narrandera Shire. Julie volunteers with Narrandera Arts & Craft Network and is the chair of this committee. She was instrumental in getting the Narrandera Community Garden (now Narrandera Landcare Community Garden) off the ground — or plants into the ground, rather! Through this unfolding journey of developing the

community garden, Julie nurtured and mentored the newer women members of the gardens through a supportive learning environment. She volunteers with the Narrandera Landcare Inc group as well as donating time as deputy chair of the Western Riverina Arts Board. When Julie was employed as Narrandera Shire Council Tourism Officer, she coordinated the John O'Brien Festival year after year. Julie is a published poet — yet extremely modest.

Krishna Burns [SOFALA]

In 1987, Krishna Burns and three of her mates spearheaded the development of the State Emergency Services (SES) in Sofala. After a flood washed away much of the community, Krishna's brother-in-law knew that there needed to be a group of people trained to respond to emergency situations to protect the community, so Krishna eagerly jumped at the chance. This was only three years after she moved into the tiny town, talk about a go-getter. After several years of success Krishna and a few other SES members realised the community needed a service that could provide emergency medical help while waiting for the paramedics to arrive. You see Sofala is over 40 km from any town in any direction, which means that emergency help is often, if not always, over 30 minutes away. The medical emergencies vary from road crashes to respiratory distress and everything in between. If it wasn't for Krishna Burns the town of Sofala and surrounding areas wouldn't have many of the

residents it has today. After 12 years Krishna is still a big part of the CFR and helps train the new recruits.

Eileen Cameron [EDEN]

Eileen was born on 11 January 1948, and grew up in the inner city suburb of Regent, in Melbourne. She was educated at the Academy of Mary Immaculate, and in her early 20s moved to Eden to marry local Eden man, Alan Cameron. Eileen has always been a hardworking member of the Catholic parish and has volunteered for St Vincent de Paul in Eden for over 25 years. She is also a member of the local Social Justice Advocacy Group. St Vincent de Paul does not have a shop front in Eden, so Eileen visits people wherever they are; in their homes, cars or wherever she can. She is non-judgemental and extremely caring and provides an empathetic, comforting ear to those in crisis. She will visit people at any time, day or night. She not only distributes vouchers for food and electricity, but will do anything the person may require assistance with. The roles she carries out are varied and limitless; everything from supporting people through the loss of a loved one, to helping a person who has experienced homelessness or domestic violence furnish a new home, to helping out at a children's breakfast club. She is well known and loved by many of the Eden community, and most in Eden know to ring her when a crisis arises. Eileen is definitely a hidden treasure who deserves recognition for all she does.

Robyn Claibourne [NARRANDERA]

Robyn ventured from Ohio USA into country Riverina following her love Steve Targett, local Tanta Gold beekeeper. Robyn has enmeshed herself into the Narrandera community as if she were born here. She is always available to help wherever she can donate her time — one of those times was her enthusiastic assistance on the committee of the 2017 NSW Rural Women's Gathering, Narrandera. Robyn and Steve cooked tirelessly on the Rotary BBQ on the Friday night event of the gathering. Other volunteer interests include: Rotary Narrandera, Narrandera Community Radio, Narrandera Community Orchestra, Uniting Church, Ukulele Group, and helping Steve with beekeeping. When she does make some time for herself, she loves travel and burying into books.

Jenny Clarke OAM [NARRANDERA]

Jenny works hard to achieve outcomes for Narrandera Shire. She is a keen partaker in the annual Narrandera Camelia Festival and does her best to ensure Narrandera looks its best. As a councillor with Narrandera Shire, Jenny volunteers on numerous committees within the community. She has been called upon previously to share her story as a woman councillor in Local Government for International Women's Day. Most recently, Jenny was awarded an OAM for her service and dedication to Narrandera Shire.

Kim Clydsdale [MERRIWA]

Kim moved to Merriwa with her family in 2003. Shortly after settling in she joined the Merriwa P&C and became very involved in the school steer team. She also joined the planning committee for the Making Educational Goals Sustainable (MEGS) scheme, which was designed to give year six students the opportunity to experience university before making their respective career choices. Kim is very involved in the broader community as a member of the Country Women's Association and is currently publicity officer for the Merriwa branch. The Festival of the Fleeces Committee is another cause very dear to her heart as is the Merriwa Tourism Committee of which she is an active member. Kim is never happier than when she is promoting Merriwa, which she does at the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre. She is a volunteer at the centre for some days and employed on others. She has a strong interest in the town's local history and is often called upon by members of the community to provide information about the Merriwa district.

Natasha Collins [URUNGA]

Tash joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 2006 as a member of Nana Glen Rural Fire Brigade. As she worked in the local corner store, she was approached many times by the brigade captain to join, and finally did so as a single mum with an infant daughter. During her time with Nana Glen, Tash held the positions of secretary and treasurer and began her crew leader training. In 2012, Tash relocated to Queensland where

she joined Queensland Fire and Emergency Services as an auxiliary firefighter in Cooktown. Tash returned to the mid-North Coast in 2016 with her partner Danny and three children. She joined the Urunga Rural Fire Brigade and was elected to the position of captain in 2017. She is also a permit issuing officer for the brigade. Tash is employed as a teacher's aide at Urunga Public School, but is always available for callouts outside school hours. She prides herself in remaining calm during stressful situations, and being able to balance caring for her children/work/and firefighting. During her time as a firefighter, Tash has undertaken several training courses including crosscut chainsaw and advanced first aid and she also has a medium rigid licence allowing her to drive a Category 1 Fire Tanker. Tash is a valued member of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

June Day [MOOBI]

June Day is a pillar of society and has been president of the Scone and District Cancer Support Group for 10 years. She is dedicated to helping everyone no matter what their needs are, large or small; if they need help June is always, either there herself, or has arranged for someone else to be there or do the job required. Super capable in everything she does, making sure all bases are covered and everyone's needs are catered to. A 'true giver', no matter what is required; help and time are always given willingly to the best of her 'not inconsiderable' ability. June is a devoted wife and mother and a true and loyal friend.

Kylie Dunne [CRABBES CREEK]

Kylie is an important member of the Crabbes Creek Community Hall Committee and holds the position of booking officer. She assists with many of the community hall working bees, updates and promotes community functions as well as updates the local community through media releases of upcoming events.

Geraldine Dyer [BOMBALA]

Geraldine was born in Ballarat, Victoria and moved to Bombala nine years ago due to her husband's work. Since moving to Bombala, Geraldine has been actively involved in the local community. She has been the secretary of Bombala Rotary for the past four years, she works for Snowy Mountain Regional Council (SMRC) in Bombala at the community centre where she coordinates transport needs, and she also delivers Meals on Wheels and has done for the past six years. Geraldine is a driving force behind the very successful Bombala biannual markets. Last year John Barilaro MP presented her with a community award. For the past five years, Geraldine has run the carers support group where she devotes a lot of time to plan successful and meaningful outings. Geraldine is highly respected and relied on among the Bombala community and really deserves this type of recognition.

Louiza Egan [CRABBES CREEK]

Louiza was the Crabbes Creek Hall Committee treasurer for many years and she is now the president of the Film Society for which she holds many events. She assists in the community clean up Australia Day functions and working bees at the hall and is a great pleasure to have in the community.

Nerida Ellem [KANGAROO CREEK]

Nerida Ellem was born and raised in Grafton. In 1965, she married and moved to a farm in Kangaroo Creek with her husband Ken. In her earlier years, Nerida worked in Bloods Stores clothing showroom in Grafton and has also worked casually over many years for the Electoral Office. With more than 52 years of service Nerida, alongside her husband Ken, has been a dedicated member of the NSW Rural Fire Service Kangaroo Creek Brigade. She has also volunteered in numerous other community organisations including the Coutts Crossing Hall Committee, the Coutts Crossing/Kangaroo Creek Sports Club and at the Coutts Crossing Public School. Nerida joined Kangaroo Creek Bush Fire Brigade in 1965 and was the secretary/treasurer of the brigade from 2002 to 2018. Nerida is valued as a versatile, committed, duty-oriented brigade member who is highly active in many aspects of the brigade. She has not only kept the brigade administration in order but she has also

attended fire callouts, provided catering, and has been active in fundraising and community education for the brigade.

Genevieve Elliott

[MOUNT MITCHELL]

Genevieve is an extraordinary human being. She works tirelessly for not only her local rural community but also to end domestic violence and child abuse Australia wide. She is a volunteer firefighter with the Glenn Innes Rural Fire Service (RFS) and deputy captain and secretary/treasurer of the Glenn Innes brigade. She is also a critical response team peer support worker for the RFS. She is the secretary of the local domestic violence action committee under the 'Safe in our Town' umbrella and is working tirelessly to get a youth hub set up in Glenn Innes to address local youth suicide. She is the successful author of the autobiographical novel 'Screaming in Silence', an inspirational story of her battle to overcome her domestic violence and child abusing ex-husband. She has a Certificate IV in Community Services Welfare, Diploma of Counselling and Bachelor of Social Welfare which she puts to tremendous use working with Fighters Against Child Abuse Australia (FACAA). Genevieve is the head of the FACAA court support dog program. Genevieve also works on the Julia's Justice legal reform campaign and has been integral in changing legislation Australia wide. She also finds the time in her busy schedule to compose beautiful contributions for the FACAA social media campaign raising awareness of child abuse and

its ramifications on society. Genevieve lives on a rural property about 30 minutes outside of Glenn Innes. On top of all of this she is always running off to help RFS firefighters debrief from nightmare fires or just rushing in to fight them herself! She is a truly amazing woman and there are none more deserving of this honour than Genevieve. She is truly a hidden treasure of the Glenn Innes area.

Rose Field [WOOMBAH]

Rose was born and raised in Gladesville. In her younger years, she was a state champion runner. She went on to marry and raise three children in Sydney where she was the first machine operator for Arnott's Biscuits. Rose moved to the North Coast in the 1980s, operating a family takeaway shop in Iluka for a few years, before moving to Woombah. As well as having worked as the local mail run contractor in Woombah for many years, Rose has dedicated herself to the NSW Rural Fire Brigade at Woombah and numerous other voluntary community projects. She joined the NSW Rural Fire Service as a member of the Woombah Rural Fire Brigade in 1988. Rose has dedicated over 30 years of service to the NSW Rural Fire Service, 19 years of which were in the field officer position of deputy captain. She has also held the position of brigade vice president and brigade treasurer. Rose has been active attending community engagement events and fire and motor vehicle incidents over many years. She is known for her 'can-do/go-getter' attitude. If someone told her she couldn't do something,

she would make a valiant effort to prove that she could, despite the obstacles. She is a community minded person who shows a high level of commitment to the Woombah Rural Fire Brigade through her continued activity.

Navanka Fletcher [GLEN INNES]

Navanka would give her all to support her community. Born and bred in Glen Innes, she went away to study and then brought her qualification as an events coordinator back to her rural roots. There are many aspects of the community that Navanka has been a part of — since the age of 19 she has been on the Celtic Festival committee, she has spoken on behalf of the community at Rural Women's Day functions, assisted with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter support group, and happily assists wherever she is needed. At the ripe age of 24, she is an excellent representative for the Glen Innes community, and a wonderful role model for other young women.

Kathleen Foster [NARRANDERA]

Kathleen has worked to support children via six years in the Nursing Mothers' Association in two towns, fundraising for a mobile preschool at Boree Creek, as a reading and canteen mum and as a voluntary teachers' and library assistant. Kathleen organised music workshops for high school aged students and supervised AMEB Theory and Musicianship exams. She also participated in a pastoral care program called Parent Assisted Learning (PAL). As a PAL volunteer she met with a participating student once a week to listen to that student and assist them in whatever direction they required. As a member of the Faithfull Red Cross from 1995 to 2010 Kathleen participated in many fundraising activities in the Boree Creek area. She organised the Narrandera Rotary Club's annual Arts Exhibition from 2007 to 2016: preparing, mailing and receiving the entry forms, preparing the exhibition booklet, and receiving, hanging and returning artworks. In 2010, Kathleen became involved in Narrandera Arts & Creative Network Inc. and was chair of that organisation for several years, presiding over a busy arts workshop program. In 2016, Kathleen researched and prepared a booklet for the centenary of the Grong Grong Memorial Hall. All names included on the various honour rolls held at school, churches and halls are now available in the booklet, which includes information on all those listed. The research stretched over about one year, and involved locating information from the Australian War Memorial, National Archives, War Graves Commission, Trove, AIF Project, and other sources including families.

Lyn Frecklington [PEAK HILL]

Lyn is a fifth-generation farmer who grew up on a family farm near Dubbo. After graduating from the University of New England, majoring in economics and political science, Lyn pursued a teaching career, successfully teaching high school students for over a decade before retiring to follow her true passion. Together with her husband Ian, Lyn returned to farm life and rekindled her love of animals and focused on producing high quality stock in the horse, sheep and cattle industries. She has bred and exhibited livestock including Arabian horses, merino ewes, and Angus cattle from their Hollywood Angus Stud property south-west of Peak Hill. Lyn believes the same principles apply to teaching and livestock – ‘there is no excellence without competition’. She has interwoven her knowledge of breeding stock with entering her animals in local and state shows including Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra Royal Shows to successfully promote their cattle stud. In achieving her goals, Lyn has encouraged many younger people who have shown interest in exhibiting cattle to be involved in her show teams. In sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm, many of her trainees have competed in junior judging; cattle parading and herdsmanship; travelled overseas to work in livestock enterprises; become cattle judges and even gone on to create their own cattle studs. Lyn is an extremely well known identity in the NSW cattle industry and is held in high esteem. She has also spent many voluntary hours in her

roles of secretary for the Orana Arabian Horse Association, is an active member of Orana Women in Agriculture, serves as a steward for the Peak Hill PA&H Association and other local shows, and hosts day visits for local schools and university students.

Jan Frikken [BATEMANS BAY]

Jan has been heavily involved in multicultural advocacy and assistance within the Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla regions since 2006. She worked both in a voluntary capacity and a part-time paid position with the Illawarra Multicultural Services (IMS) – Nowra office. Jan has a clear understanding of issues and needs from the multicultural community from directly working in client services, consultations with individual and community groups, and being a part of the community as a migrant herself. Jan is a great promoter and organiser of multicultural events across the Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla regions and since leaving her employment at IMS in 2015 has started her own business. This has not slowed her desire to advocate for many people who experience issues, including family, law immigration (immigration visa) and housing.

Margaret Gaal [BATHURST]

Margaret has been a council ranger for around 37 years and goes above and beyond for not only the animals but for her entire community. She has been recognised by her community by being

included as an original 'Bathurst 200 Living Legend'. Margaret has established a yearly pet de-sexing program whereby Bathurst Regional Council, local veterinarians and the Bathurst RSPCA branch team up to offer subsidised microchipping, de-sexing and vaccinations of cats and dogs for low income earners within the community. Margaret is highly regarded in her field in caring for animals. As the head ranger at the Bathurst Pound, she has worked in a highly male dominated industry and risen to each and every challenge that she has been faced with in a way that many wouldn't. As well as her work, Margaret is the president of the Bathurst RSPCA branch and hosts community events, such as the Million Paws Walk, which continues to grow with hundreds of people attending each year.

Linda Gant [CASSILIS]

After the Sir Ivan bushfire swept through Cassilis and surrounding areas, Linda, through her volunteering work, helped coordinate the Cassilis BlazeAid Camp. BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that brought 250 volunteers to stay in Cassilis and go out each day to primarily help farmers rebuild their fences after the fires. The camp was set up in Cassilis for four months and during this time Linda coordinated the catering. This was an enormous task, organising food and local helpers each day to serve a total of 8 682 meals to 261 volunteers for breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner. Without someone to coordinate the catering, the BlazeAid camp would not have been able to stay in the

Cassilis area for such an extended period. This effort not only had a huge economic benefit for the farming community but also had a positive emotional impact.

Ingrid Gardiner [COFFS HARBOUR]

Ingrid is just completing 12 months as Rotary Daybreak president. In that time she has presided over several community fundraising events including Rymarine, Jetty Swims, and community fundraising places. She is involved with the Collectors Club of Coffs Harbour and has been the main supervisor for the Collectors' annual show. She is a keen gardener and has moved on from 30 years involvement in real estate to around one year changeover in life and now dabbles in collections, antiques, and pieces of art. She has made friends over many years through different places and employment.

June Gardner [LAMBS VALLEY]

June has spent her life caring and helping not only her family but others with her friendship, support and physical assistance. She is always there to help. She is true to the Country Women's Association (CWA) motto – doing her best to make better the lives of women, children and their families. Over the past couple of years she has helped the residents of the 'Currency Lass' with cooking, making curtains and collecting items for their use. She makes small bags containing essential toiletries for Maitland

Hospital to give to patients. She loves cooking, sewing, crafting and knitting, passing on her skills to others and family. Positions held in Maitland CWA have been vice president, handicraft officer, publicity officer, international officer, cookery officer, treasurer, councillor, and raffle organiser. She is also a CWA raffle ticket seller at the Maitland Sale Yards (making hospital bags for adults and children). Her early years as a youth leader with Rural Youth made a big impact on the lives of these children, now grown men and women, who still keep in touch and are so appreciative of her work. She has always been a quiet achiever, working in the background 'doing good' and giving of herself. She has been helping at the CWA tea rooms at the Maitland Showground for 31 years as a CWA member and earlier as a helper and looking after lost children at the Maitland Shows. She was made a Life Member of the Maitland Show. In 2017, she was awarded a Life Member of CWA and is currently vice president of the Maitland CWA.

Dianne Gill [CANOWINDRA]

Learning, insight and value can come from anywhere and anyone, though 'anyone' can give rise to truly remarkable and hidden treasures. I say this for every encounter I have with Dianne Gill – forever feeling like we've only scratched the surface, always learning, always uncovering a surprise and the magic. Although she's quick to point out that she's doing her job, I haven't met anyone who's prepared to do the work as much as Di. You may have read about Di in a

Glove Box Guide to Mental Health or the raw and powerful post *Dusty air and barking dogs* (<https://www.crrmh.com.au/blog/dusty-air-barking-dogs/>), tender and alert to the nuances of human psyche. Di is a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Rural Mental Health. She promotes the work the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program team does to provide information about mental health, supporting those who need help in the wider community. Di speaks at length about the impact knowledge has when someone learns that mental illness is real, that there is help and hope for recovery. It's not only the belief Di has seeing someone leave a course empowered to offer or seek help, but it's a belief that's been given light from within the individual. Unafraid to call out the elephant in the room, Di's skill-set runs as deep as the risk/tolerances and resilience of those she encounters. I'm so fortunate to witness this hidden treasure inspire, encourage, stretch, support, teach and back everyone to such an extraordinary degree.

Heather Gilmour [WARIALDA]

Heather (Woods) Gilmour has spent most of her life on the fertile, agricultural soil of Yallaroi, north of Warialda in northern NSW, an area she fiercely defends as something special. Her life revolves around her husband Wallace, her three children Kim, Richard and Dan, their families and farming interests. Heather and Wallace have retired to Warialda and continue to help the Anglican Church, like they did at Yallaroi in many ways including offering comfort and meals to

the grieving and ill families of the community. Heather loves to play cards with the elderly citizens of the town. A life of service to others includes previous membership of Red Cross (Coolatai), school committees and tuckshops as a parent and grandparent in Yallaroi, North Star and Warialda. She embraced sewing for her grandchildren, making craft and culinary treats. Fundraising for Corinda Craft Centre also brings Heather great satisfaction. It is difficult to overlook her long-standing membership of the Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW as well as her roles as a foundation member of Yallaroi Branch 1960 to 2017 and Gwydir Group president and treasurer. Heather has won many cooking awards at agricultural shows and through CWA at branch, group and state level. Her judging wisdom and knowledge have helped many others. A keen gardener and women of many skills, Heather generously offers help to others often. Pride in her family is obvious; she loves her town and district. Her legacy by life example would be determination, spirit, to give it your best and stand up for your beliefs while helping others. Heather is a hidden treasure unearthed.

Mara Grills [GUYRA]

Mara Grills (nee Presnell) grew up in the Guyra district and married a Guyra man. She lives and works in the Guyra community running their family farms as well as raising three children with her husband Anthony. Mara is the Bald Blair Public School P&C catering coordinator and

working bee coordinator. She is the Guyra Pony camp catering coordinator and is also the Guyra Polocrosse catering coordinator. Mara caters for small schools' cross country events, school welcome BBQs, school presentation nights and community gatherings, the annual Polocrosse carnival and the week-long pony camp and, in 2018, the district pony camp jamboree. She has a little black book that is her catering bible and is a wonderful source for recipes, quantities and contacts. She does an amazing job of coordinating local people to feed so many and is great fun to work with. Mara can whip up a batch of scones, or chainsaw a tree for the working bee, while coordinating a team of women making homemade sausage rolls. She is a treasure for our community.

Margaret Harvey [WALLALONG]

Margaret was born in England in 1940. Her father passed away when she was six years old. Four years later, in 1950, Margaret, her mother, and sister arrived in Australia. In her school years in Lambton she was involved with her church, Girls Friendly Society and Youth Group, and after leaving school Margaret worked in Newcastle at Marcus Clarke's store. Margaret and Ian married in 1961. They have two children and three grandchildren. In 1987, after working in the family's furniture store in Raymond Terrace, Margaret began volunteering at Shortland Wetlands Centre assisting in the café. She was involved with their newsletter, and project 'Egret Watch'. Margaret has a love of nature, birds and

animals. She became a volunteer with Maitland Community Care Services (MCCS), and in her 18 years there delivered Meals on Wheels (MOW), was secretary of MOW Management Committee and the lunch group for the elderly. She is currently with the craft group, raises much needed funds to support further work of MCCS and participates at the Tocal fields days as a volunteer in the children's park. Margaret joined CWA in 2014 and became secretary of Maitland Branch. She enjoys all aspects of CWA, including baking for the local refugees and for the homeless, and making items to send overseas for women and children in Nepal, Cambodia and New Guinea. Margaret enjoys many handicrafts, particularly embroidery and card making. She is a member of the Maitland Show Home Craft Committee and spends many hours there during show week, both in the pavilion and in the CWA tea room. Her work has contributed directly and significantly to supporting hundreds of older members of our community to remain living independently at home among their family and friends. Margaret is a caring lady, who in her own words enjoys volunteering because "it gives you the opportunity to meet new people, to be involved, and most of all to give back to the community".

Katie Hazelton [CUDAL]

Katie has never been one to shy away from contributing to her local community and making it a better place to live. Since her move to the Central West in 1990, Katie has made significant

contributions to the wider community. In her home town of Cudal and as a proud mother of three children, she has been involved at various levels in the Cudal Preschool Committee and P&C committees at both Cudal Public School and Molong Central School. She has volunteered in the Cudal Show Society, the Cudal Country Women's Association and also heads up an organisation called 'Doctor for Cudal', which is designed to encourage a doctor to move into the Cudal community. In 2001 after the birth of her son Henry, she was one of two founding members of the Autism & Asperger's Support Group, Central West. Before this time there was very little information for parents/carers of autistic children. She also became involved in Rainbow Club Orange, a swimming school that helps children with a disability learn to be safe in aquatic environments. Having spent six years in the Army Reserve, and as a former member of the Nursing Corps, Katie is active in the Orange RSL Club helping to organise the hugely successful ANZAC Day parade and being a part of various RSL committees. She also volunteers regularly with Legacy Orange providing pastoral care to families of army veterans.

Michelle Hinchcliffe [ORANGE]

Michelle is passionate about exposing regional youth to opportunities such as good role models and access to education that challenges them and opens their minds to become the best version of themselves. As a working mother of

an only child with additional needs, Michelle is studying at university and is actively involved with VIEW Club and Scouts. Her involvement with VIEW over 13 years has seen her hold positions including publicity officer, secretary and president of the Orange Mountain Evening VIEW Club and she is a current member of Orange Evening VIEW Club and promoter of Learning for Life. Michelle came to Scouts after her son joined in 2012 and has been actively involved since with the following: Parent/Group Support Committee holding positions of publicity officer and secretary. She became a leader in the Scout section in 2013, one of five leaders who took a troop of 30 young people from the Central West Region to the Australian Jamboree at Cataract in 2016. In 2016, she became a region leader for The Golden West Region for two new positions of special needs and member support. She facilitates training and awareness for leaders, and advocates for youth and parents. She introduced and successfully implemented the use of sensory spaces at youth camps to proactively support inclusion and participation of all scouting youth. She recently completed advanced scout leader training and was a presenter at the 2018 Scouts NSW Special Needs conference. She has been recognised for five years of service to the scouting movement and was a recipient in 2018 of the Chief Commissioner's Special Service Award for good service to the scouting movement. Michelle is a hidden treasure.

Rosalind Hinde [MITTAGONG]

Rosalind and her husband moved from Sydney to Mittagong in June 2007, and very soon after she had picked up her various interests from Sydney – The Girl Guides and the Uniting Church. Rosalind is a quiet person; she is seen frequently as a helper at U3A courses, visiting the elderly, committed to the work of the Bowral Trefoil Guild in supporting local Girl Guiding, as well as being very actively involved at the Bowral Uniting Church. She was a member of the local Lantern Club, which raised funds for the North Rocks School for the Blind and Deaf Children, until it closed. She has held various positions since she joined Bowral Trefoil Guild – president, secretary, correspondence secretary, and international secretary. She volunteers herself for whatever activity the Guild is undertaking, and by offering transport enables older members to also attend. She is currently an elder and church counsellor at Bowral Uniting Church (since 2012). She is also on various church committees – co-facilitator of pastoral care and associated visitation at Bowral, co-facilitator of Seniors' ministry, and co-facilitator of collection of non-perishable goods for distribution through Anglicare to needy families in the Southern Highlands. She is also a committee member for raising funds for the Flying Padre Ministry centred in Broken Hill, and a volunteer at weekly propagation and potting of plants by seniors of Bowral Uniting Church, which provides significant funds for funding a church family worker.

Margaret Hulbert

[CRABBES CREEK]

Margaret is a valued member of the Crabbes Creek Community Hall on which she was the vice president and treasurer for many years and takes on the great role for any of our community events as catering officer. She is hard working and well respected in the community and to her family members for all the great efforts she does.

Joyleen Hutchins [NARRANDERA]

Joyleen is a volunteer for the junior Narrandera AFL, Narrandera AFL Senior Netball club and Narrandera Rodeo. Joyleen started in mini league, now known as 'Auskick', when her first son started playing football, while also running a family farming business and bringing up three children. With two other mothers they offered food from an old tin shed and the boys' change room was an old railway carriage. She helped instigate the update of these facilities at the Henry Mathieson oval. She was secretary of the juniors from 1983 to 1996. While secretary of the junior club she was also treasurer of South West Junior football for nine years and a junior sports trainer. She moved on to the seniors where she could still use the sport training certificates she held, but is no longer in this role as the work load for game day football is now more demanding. Joyleen was elected as secretary of the Narrandera Imperial Football Club in 1996, a position she still holds today.

She was a netball umpire when the Riverina Football League first introduced netball as part of the weekly competition. In 2005 Joyleen was awarded life membership of Narrandera Imperial Football Club. In 1980 she became a member of the Narrandera Rodeo Committee. In 2000 she took over as canteen organiser, which she is still doing today. In 2014 she was nominated as rodeo secretary, which she still holds. Joyleen was also awarded life membership of this organisation. Her commitment to be involved has been outstanding, including her dedication and time. Joyleen was also active with her children's school, helping out when asked and volunteering her service to take children to sporting events. Joyleen was honoured for her dedication to AFL with her name being placed on the honour board at Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Amanda Johnston [SCONE]

Teaching at Merriwa Central School since 2011, Amanda has become a valuable member of the Merriwa community. In her capacity as a teacher at Merriwa she always supports community events such as Little Sprouts, Festival of the Fleeces, ROAR Petting Zoo and raising money for charities such as Heart Kids and Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Over the past year, Amanda has worked two days a week at the school but on her days off she comes back to run a breakfast club free of charge. She has planned, organised and implemented this initiative for the benefit of Merriwa students. Being an active member of the Junior League and Merriwa Touch Association she

enables preschool and primary school children the opportunity to learn a sport and be a part of a team. She is Merriwa's hidden treasure.

Margot Jolly [PARKES]

Margot Jolly is the eldest of three children and was born in Griffith. She grew up on a farm between Forbes and Eugowra. After schooling at Forbes High School, she studied at the National Art School in Sydney, going on to work in arts retail, study fine arts and Australian literature, and complete a post graduate diploma in museum studies. Margot worked at the Powerhouse Museum and Historic Houses Trust as assistant manager and as assistant collections manager at Government House, assistant collection manager acquisitions across the Historic Houses Trust and undertook curatorial work. Margot married her husband David and moved to Parkes in 2004 and since then she has volunteered in the shires of Parkes and Forbes, including with the district exhibit at Parkes Show with the Parkes Agricultural & Horticultural Society, where she is still involved each year. Margot joined the Henry Parkes Centre Management Committee and continues this voluntary role. She joined Parkes & Districts Landcare Steering Committee in 2009, and the organising committee for hosting the NSW Landcare & Catchment Management Authority Conference in 2011, sparking involvement with the Kalari-Lachlan River Arts Festival in Forbes. Margot has served on the Landcare NSW Council as the Central West Natural Resource

Management Working Group (CWNRMWG) representative and is currently the Chair. She also volunteers with the Forbes Historical Society, the Parkes Memorial Hill Rejuvenation Association, Eugowra Rifle Club, and Parkes Elvis Festival, and is an enthusiastic volunteer at numerous other community events.

Prue Kelly [BEGA]

Prue Kelly retired to Bermagui in 2004, after a 12-year stint managing a cattle station on the Darling Downs. She was one of the founding members of the community climate action group Clean Energy for Eternity (CEFE) and has been the lynch pin holding the organisation together and enabling it to have such a massive impact. CEFE has raised funds to equip countless Surf Life Saving Clubs, Rural Fire Service (RFS) sheds, and other community buildings with solar PV systems over a 12-year period. CEFE has also organised many public meetings at which experts have shared their knowledge with the local community on the impacts of climate change and what individuals can do. While president Matthew Nott has been the CEFE high profile 'front man', it has been Prue who has put in the hard yards to organise the events, raise the funds and provide the continuity needed to keep the organisation afloat as the enthusiasm and commitment of others have waxed and waned. Her crowning achievement was raising \$25 000 from the local community to make up CEFE's share in the IMAGINE community solar farm, which has now been operating for three years. Prue is also the

community liaison officer for the Tathra RFS and worked tirelessly in that role during the tragic fires in January 2018. Prue is a well-known and well-loved figure in the Bega valley community always willing to reach out with a friendly word or a helping hand. She is indeed a hidden treasure.

Chantal Kemsley [GLENREAGH]

Chantal is a real gem of a woman! She has dedicated the past 10 years to work fulltime (completely unpaid). She and her husband along with their five adventurous farm kids live on site at Sherwood Cliffs Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre. They are the managers of the rehabilitation centre (its been successfully running for 40 years now), helping desperate drug or alcohol addicted people who want to start a fresh life and get clean. It is a not-for-profit charity and everyone who works there are volunteers. It's definitely not a 9 to 5 job, as the staff and 'seekers' (the term used for the people who are in the program getting help) all live together on a farm, 50 minutes west of Coffs Harbour. Chantal is the most multi-tasked, happy go lucky, generous, caring person I know. She facilitates programs, cooks, cleans, gardens, and wrangles the livestock every day for more than 30 people living in the community, all with a smile on her face. Living with drug affected people isn't smooth sailing as you can imagine. Chantal has dedicated herself to helping make a difference in these people's lives. Chantal actually grew up at the centre, her parents John

and Honi Reifler are the founders. They still work tirelessly in the program too but have handed the management over to Chantal and Colin. I want to nominate Chantal as I think she is a selfless human who gives 100 percent in all she does to make this world a better place.

Jacqui Keyes [CRABBES CREEK]

Jacqui has been the secretary for the Crabbes Creek Hall Committee for many years, with her big achievements as one of the organisers of the community's new year's eve party. Jacqui assists with local fundraising for the community hall and working bees as well as local Clean Up Australia Days.

Sue Killham [LEETON]

Sue volunteers as chair of the Western Riverina Arts Board and is vice chair of Narrandera Arts & Craft Network (NACnet). She also donates time to the Narrandera Community Arts Centre. From the beginning of the Leeton Roxy Theatre committee Sue has been involved on this committee. Previously, She was a member of the Country Women's Association of NSW Narrandera Evening Branch. If you gave Sue all the time in the world she would probably travel endlessly and be glued to a book.

Louise Krieger [ORANGE]

Louise is a wonderful, giving, generous human who works as a fulltime mental health nurse at Bloomfield Hospital in Orange. She is also our fulltime, hardworking, exceptionally dedicated WIRES chairperson for the Central West. Louise not only is our chair, she provides back up on every position on our committee, and is a registered shooter. Why this is so exceptional is because Louise has never ever chosen her own life and circumstances over the suffering of an animal. Louise receives calls in the early hours of the morning, sometimes in below zero weather, and leaves her bed to tend to an animal in distress. About two years ago, Louise was overwhelmed by the suffering of animals on roadsides. She decided to learn how to shoot a gun, bought her own, bought a gun safe, and swallowed every ill feeling about ending an animal's life and learned how to painlessly put an animal to sleep. This alone has earned her my utmost respect and adoration for life — as I cannot unfortunately be so brave and put my own fears aside to alleviate an animals suffering. Louise is also solely responsible for starting an education talk in our schools. In her 'spare time', Louise visits primary schools and speaks to children about Australian native animals and our responsibilities for them. This is not paid and is not even part of her committee responsibilities. There are a million other things I could include, but I know I have limited space.

Joanne Lewis [LIDSTER]

Joanne and her husband Geoff were the driving force behind the approval to build a Ronald McDonald House in Orange. Joanne commenced her journey to ensure the house was approved for build prior to 2005. She garnered the support of paediatricians and the community for this project. In 2005, the Board was formed and fundraising began in earnest. Joanne fulfilled the position of board chair for over 10 years, and currently is vice chair. During the years from 2005 through to completion of the build in late 2014, Joanne spent many hours and days advocating and fundraising for the house. In the advocacy and fundraising for the house, Joanne travelled through much of western and far western NSW to speak to community groups, councils and attend fundraisers. Her dedication to ensure that our house was built and opened was unwavering. RMH Orange would not be here today but for Joanne Lewis. Without her we would not have provided accommodation for over 400 families who have stayed with us for over 3 302 nights in a comfortable and nurturing environment. These families would be sleeping in commercial accommodation, cars or beside hospital beds, in what can be a very traumatic time in their family's life. Joanne has also been heavily involved in her community in other aspects from the Orange & Cabonne Business Enterprise Centre, member of the Orange Agricultural College Council, board member of Central West Economic Development Board, regional chairperson NSW Police Customer Council and board member of Bathurst Correctional Centre.

Tracey Lewis [NARRANDERA]

One of the most passionate women in the community, Tracey will fight her all for Narrandera Shire. She is a councillor with Narrandera Shire Council and volunteers with an incredible local initiative — Bidgee Boxing — that is not only helping youths but also others in the community. Tracey is secretary of Bidgee Boxing. She is also a volunteer with the Narrandera Domestic Violence Committee, Narrandera Wetlands Committee, and the Suicide Prevention Group. As well as these volunteer jobs, Tracey is a mum of five children. Putting aside being passionate, she is also crazy (and we love her like that) and loyal, works hard and has hopes for a brighter future for all.

Robyn Madden [CRABBES CREEK]

Robyn was the treasurer of Crabbes Creek Community Hall for many years. She assists the community where ever and whenever possible. She has been assisting with community working bees and branches and local service clubs.

Tanyia McBride [BOORAL]

While raising her children and working with her husband, Tanyia has always been active in the Rural Fire Service (RFS). She has been the captain of Booral Rural Fire Brigade for the past 20 years, holding this position from a time when women were not usually elected in positions of

authority. Tanyia has at times doubled her duties by also being secretary and treasurer. Her family is heavily involved in the RFS; her husband, children, brother and mother are all members and active firefighters. Tanyia has during this time also run the Bulahdelah Driver Reviver station on the Pacific Highway. This involved manning the location during all public and school holidays, working all three shifts on the roster for up to a week. This she does as well as still being available for call outs with the fire brigade. Tanyia's dedication and professionalism is known throughout the RFS.

Linda Milne [BERRIDALE]

Linda Milne was born overseas and moved to Australia when she married her husband Michael, a naval officer. Michael's position in the navy meant they relocated and moved around Australia for many years. They eventually settled and purchased a property in Berridale, NSW. They never had children of their own, however, Linda began to care for orphaned and injured Australian wildlife, especially kangaroos and wombats. Linda created a release site for her joeys and hand raises them from when they are small with no fur. Linda takes on up to 20 animals at a time and on most days goes on as little as two hours sleep due to the demands of bottle feeding and caring for the needs of so many animals. She is one of the only wildlife carers in NSW who will attempt to rehabilitate animals with broken limbs. She also has a permanent fully grown kangaroo living in her release site,

which is blind and missing half its tail. Linda is on call 24/7 volunteering with Looking After our Kosciuszko Orphans (L.A.O.K.O), the local wildlife organisation, to offer support for other carers as the animal coordinator, man the emergency phones, attend to rescues, fundraise, and to pick up animals that have recently been found. She does not say no to any animals and often over stretches herself to ensure they all have a chance. If it wasn't for Linda many animals in the Snowy Mountains would not have been given the opportunity to survive. Her tireless work should be recognised as she is so selfless in her care for the animals, support of other volunteers and the group, without her it would not run.

June Mullens [TAMWORTH]

I have only known June for five years but she is a tireless volunteer and an absolute gem. She helps me about 15 hours a week in the hair salon at Bupa Aged Care on top of all the other organisations she helps out with. She also helps at West Tamworth Public School breakfast club. June has volunteered for Co-care, taking clients to and from medical appointments and shopping trips. She has sold merchandise and raffle tickets for Westpac Rescue Helicopter and volunteered at fundraising events. She has also volunteered at Tamworth Day VIEW Club (learning for life students), Nioka Palliative Care Fundraising Group and Bupa Tamworth Nursing Home in various capacities over a number of years.

Megan Nicholson [CUNDLETOWN]

Megan (Meg) was born in Taree where she spent her school years. She first volunteered at the local pool teaching in the learn to swim program. Megan completed her training as an enrolled nurse in the late 70s and then travelled to Canada as part of the international agricultural exchange program. She then worked in the UK where she met her future husband, Geoff. They started dairying in the Manning Valley in 1988. Megan volunteers in the local dairy community by catering for the dairy symposium farm visit in Port Macquarie and running fundraising events in the community. Meg's main volunteering work, working up to 14 hrs a week, is chairing the Women in Dairy (WID) group, which has proved such a success in helping reconnect the dairy community. This WID group was re-formed in 2015 with Megan as the main driver and it is now looking at supporting projects in the community. Organising monthly meetings within Mid Coast Dairy Advancement Group region has seen Meg lead a strong group of women. In 2017, Meg was part of WID group, who formed a committee to organise a NSW WID Conference, Bale Up, held in the Hunter Valley, which was a resounding success and well supported. Meg is now the chair of the WID committee organising the 2018 NSW WID Conference. She is a firm believer that 'if we have a strong group of women we can support ourselves and our community better', exactly what the WID group is achieving thanks to volunteers like Meg.

Marilyn O'Dowd [CAMBEWARRA]

Marilyn grew up on a strawberry farm and after her marriage she returned to help her parents continue with the wholesale and plant distribution business. Her life of horticulture continues to this day when she started a wholesale herbal and plant nursery in Kentlyn and learnt a lot about the health benefits of herbs. In 1983, she moved her business to the Shoalhaven and decided that she could assist people through combining her knowledge of natural healing therapies by becoming a naturopath and has been helping people ever since. Marilyn shares her passion for gardening at the Bomaderry TAFE and their thriving vegetable garden. In her own garden she grows food for others who are not able to do so as a way to educate people about the value of good food in their diets for improving health outcomes. Marilyn has been a member and treasurer of Slow Food Shoalhaven. In her role as a grassroots volunteer she has been instrumental in developing networks of chefs and producers to promote the ideals of good clean and fair food for all. Recently, she started a new slow food community in Berry – Jervis Bay to develop and help small-scale farmers and artisans. She is a tireless volunteer who spends every day in the service of her community.

Brenda Oglivie [GUNDY]

Brenda, known as Brazie, was born in New Zealand and made Australia home in the early 1970s. She came to work on 'Belltrees', a large cattle property in the Upper Hunter, near Gundy. During that time (50 years) Brenda worked with mostly horses, her first love, and cattle and was very involved with the family. She is always extremely loyal, capable and a hard working person. Brenda has been involved and a supporter of many local organisations and events, such as the Belltrees Gymkhanas, Aberdeen Pony Club camps, Gundy Bushman's Carnivals, Moonan Campdrafts, Australian Stock Horse Shows, Scone Polo Club, and Scone and Ellerston Junior Schools. Brenda was often also a very successful competitor in these sports. Around 10 years ago, Brenda moved into the village of Gundy where she has extended her involvement in the community. She keeps the grassed areas and verges around the little village of Gundy mown and whipper snipped all year round and if neighbours are busy, she will often mow their yards as well. She maintains and waters the grounds and trees around the Gundy church, moving the hoses and watering, especially during the summer months. Brenda is extremely generous with her time and shows great compassion towards anyone going through a tough time, giving physical support often feeding animals, arriving on the doorstep with a meal to help out and to do whatever she can. I believe it could be said that many people in our community will have benefited from the kindness

and thoughtfulness that Brenda quietly practices. Volunteers are all treasures but volunteers like Brenda are the backbone of the community and an absolutely priceless treasure to have in our midst.

Joan O'halloran [COBARGO]

Joan moved to Cobargo with her husband Noel in 1992. She is a very happy and friendly lady with an amazing smile who gives her time generously to help those less fortunate than herself. Her family and friends are extremely important to her. When the local Catholic Church needs to be prepared for a 'community event' Joan is there to set up, arrange flowers and turn on the fans or heaters ready for those attending. Joan also plays the organ at Mass. At Cobargo Ecumenical Service, Joan attends with plenty of soup or a slice ready for a feast. This is also a practice of hers when a member in her community is not well. When a 'local' goes to hospital or into a nursing home, Joan pays them a visit offering help where she can. Joan has been an active member of Cobargo Country Women's Association (CWA) for 25 years. She has held a variety of positions in her branch and has also been treasurer for the Far South Coast Group. She is a valued mentor for new members. Once again, for meetings and events, Joan is on hand with her husband Noel to set up the CWA cottage, preparing a warm and welcoming environment ready for members and visitors. 'Wrap with Love Inc.' is Joan's passion. She is the area organiser for Cobargo, Bermagui, Tilba

and Narooma, supplying wool and collecting knitted and crochet squares. Joan crochets and puts the blankets together then delivers the blankets to the depot, a 90-minute drive away, in Batemans Bay. Joan has been a guest speaker at many volunteer functions and her enthusiasm encourages others to get involved in the causes she represents. The Cobargo Tourist Information Centre has not missed out. Joan is their treasurer and a dependable assistant, ready to provide help to locals and tourists. Australia Day in Cobargo is well attended by community members and, true to form, Joan lends a hand to set up and serve lunch, ensuring nobody misses out. She has continued to be a keen supporter of The Yuin Folk Festival in Cobargo since it began in 1995.

Christine Ostermann

[GILLIESTON HEIGHTS]

Born in Badsachsa, Germany in 1947, Christine is the second eldest of seven children. In 1958 they migrated to Australia on a passenger ship called MS Skaubryn however the engine caught fire and the ship sunk in the middle of the Indian Ocean between Aden and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). They were rescued by a cargo liner called SS City of Sydney that took them to Aden for 12 days before embarking to Melbourne Bonegilla Migrant Camp. From there Christine's family migrated to Greta Migrant Camp just a short distance from Kurri Kurri where her father was the camp's meat butcher. The following year the camp closed, and Christine's family relocated to Bellbird. Christine had to repeat her fourth year of schooling due

to language differences but excelled to year six the following year. She finished her schooling in year eight as her father passed away suddenly and she was needed to work to help with money and raising her siblings. Christine has worked many jobs, including: at 14 years of age she worked at a newspaper shop; at 16, she worked at the international telephone exchange for six years and later went to TAFE to become a bookkeeper and work for many more companies. She's been a cleaner, stay-at-home mum and the bookkeeper for her husband's business. In late June 1966, Christine met her future husband Max and married only seven weeks later. They had five children (four boys and one girl). Christine now has 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She helps her children and family whenever they need her such as child minding, cooking, cleaning, ironing and most often school or sport pickups and drop offs and being their loudest 'cheerleader' at sports. Christine has volunteered for many years in the primary school and high school canteen. She is a life member of the Kurri Kurri P&C and Kurri Kurri Senior Rugby League Football Club. She also volunteered as the treasurer for the Kurri Kurri preschool, primary school and high school, local football clubs, business chambers, and currently for the Kurri Kurri Probus Club. She has many hobbies such as cooking, especially with her Thermomix. She plays bridge twice a week, as well as weekly dinner, trivia and card nights with five close friends. In 2010, her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, with her as his carer in their home. Eighteen months ago, he was placed into fulltime care at an aged care facility, which

she visits every day, often continuing her carer duties in showering, feeding, and dressing him. Christine now lives on her own, however, she is a most caring, generous human being, with no thought of rewards for herself. I am proud to call her my friend.

Marion Palmer [BARGO]

Let me introduce you to my friend, Marion Palmer. A proud 'ten pound pom' who came to Australia with her parents in 1949. Marion grew up in Freshwater, married and brought up her family in Green Valley. She then divorced, married Bill and moved to Bargo in 1977. She joined Wildlife Information, Rescue & Education Service (WIRES) in 1992 and started educating the public and training new WIRES members. She fundraises for WIRES at garage sales and market stalls. She has acted as a bat, snake and animal coordinator. Marion's work with WIRES fluctuates. She does phone duty from 5 pm to 9 am every fortnight, rescues in Bargo, looks after refreshments for weekend WIRES courses and is the animal coordinator. She has fostered sick and injured wildlife and re-located recovered fauna. Marion's kind heart also extends to our domestic cats and dogs. She worked for many years on a Saturday and Sunday to improve the conditions at the council shelter until she injured her shoulder. Marion would volunteer to walk dogs of all sizes, always giving them treats. She would show kindness and attention to the cats and kittens. Marion considers herself a rural woman who volunteers 'because I love all

animals.' The greatest achievement that Marion has made is the education of locals to the value of our Australian snakes by changing attitudes, discouraging the killing by offering to re-locate the snake and giving the snake a chance to continue its life. Marion Palmer is our hidden treasure.

Narelle Payne [NARRANDERA]

Narelle is a Narrandera Shire councillor and a member of the Local Health Advisory Committee (LHAC), which meets monthly at the Narrandera Hospital and works towards improving all forms of medical and health services within the community. Our LHAC has been acknowledged at both regional and state levels. Narelle is also the community representative on the Narrandera COAG Committee. This committee oversees the distribution of federal money that has been gleaned from a federal scheme that allows hospitals to use doctors' Medicare numbers to raise funds from emergency department presentations. These funds must be spent on improving health services for rural and regional communities. So far we have purchased a special chair device that will allow disabled people to access the local pool, a portable ultrasound machine for the emergency department, extra doctor training, and other essential equipment and services. Narelle is a long-standing community representative on the Murrumbidgee Local Health District Quality Assurance Committee, which is a regional committee. She is also a volunteer adjudicator (up to 100 km) for

both public speaking and debating competitions. Narelle has previously donated her time as a guest speaker at a Women of Western Riverina Networking Gathering. And just to throw some quirk in there, Narelle hates boring sandwiches and often puts strange combinations on sandwiches e.g. cold grilled fish and pickled onion/Vegemite, lettuce and fresh tomato/ mashed baked pumpkin and salami ... see a little unusual! Narelle is also a voracious learner and will read, listen to, or watch, any form of media where she knows she will learn something new. As long as she has access to reading material, she could never be bored. Consequently she has the greatest amount of weird and wonderful information stored away in her memory.

Violet Preston [GLENIFFER]

Violet settled in the Gleniffer Valley (Bellingen Shire) in 1966 when she married a local lad, Ivan Preston, where they farmed and raised three children. Violet immediately immersed herself into voluntary work joining the Country Women's Association in 1967 and commenced volunteering for the Bellingen Show in 1974 where she joined the ladies committee, ran the barbecue for five years and was chief steward in the pavilion for 10 years. Violet is an award-winning exhibitor at the show in the many schedules and now sponsors the 'special occasion cakes' class. She volunteered from 1997 in the Junior Cricket Club for five years, was a volunteer for Red Cross for four years and has donated blood for 40 years. She has volunteered

for the Bellingen United Hospital Auxiliaries since 2011 organising fundraising events, baking and making jams and now volunteers in the new hospital café. Violet has volunteered at the Gleniffer School of Arts Hall since 1966 assisting with the maintenance of the building, organising fundraising events, was a member of the then catering ladies team for weddings and functions, cooking and baking including every wedding cake that she decorated with handmade flowers and fine pipe work. For 52 years Violet has baked thousands of her famous scones. She provides local assistance to people with medical needs and is a member of a group making Aussie Hero Patchwork Quilts for our overseas servicemen and women. Violet regards herself as an Indian – just wanting to help people and our communities when and wherever – a true hidden treasure.

Tracey Quinn [CRABBES CREEK]

Tracey has been a great community volunteer for the Crabbes Creek Community Hall contributing countless hours of volunteer service for many years. She currently holds the positions of vice president and hall booking officer. When asked about a task, Tracey is always there willing to help out with smiles and without hesitation. She helps promote the hall within the area and is an outstanding member of the community, which she should be recognised for.

Ruth Ranger [GRAVESEND]

Ruth joined the Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1997 and has been involved with the Gravesend Rural Fire Brigade for over 20 years. Currently she holds the position of brigade president. Over the years, Ruth has supported her husband Lyle, who is the captain of Gravesend brigade, in operational support roles within the RFS. Ruth has raised two children who are now both members of the RFS. She has worked tirelessly over the years raising her children, volunteering, working with her husband on their family property and nothing seems to faze her. Ruth has had her own battles with illness but always does everything with a smile and a kind laugh. She is currently working with the community to raise the profile of the Gravesend brigade, which has resulted in a surge of membership. Ruth has developed close ties between the community and the local brigade armed with a sunny smile and the best cakes you will ever try. She is indeed a hidden treasure of the Gravesend community, a dedicated mother, wife and volunteer member of the RFS.

Melinda Riddell [NARRANDERA]

Melinda was an incredible support to the chair and vice chair of the 2017 NSW Rural Women's Gathering Narrandera. The ultimate personal assistant! We may need extra space for Melinda's volunteering history! Sometimes she volunteered twice a week for Narrandera East Infants School

maths and reading groups, canteen and other activities for eight years. She was a steering committee member to raise awareness to establish a community bank at Narrandera, past director of Narrandera & District Community Bank, past treasurer of the Narrandera Auto Club and is still involved with club activities, helps Easter Hot Rod Club with Narrandera Rod & Custom Run, and helps to stage the Auto Club Poker Run. She is also secretary for Narrandera Rockin' On East 50s and 60s music festival, which is held on the October long weekend every year. Melinda hosts trivia nights to raise funds for this festival. An interesting behind the scenes fact about Melinda is that five years ago she took her son out of school and teaches him at home to suit his personality and he has thrived ever since. Oh and she is a kinesiologist! What a woman!

Margaret Roberts [KYOGLE]

Margaret was honoured as Quota Club of Kyogle's Lady of the Year for 2017/18 for the following: She is a very supportive woman, always caring for others in the several community positions that she has held and is presently holding, including the caring of her late husband. She was involved with the Far West Children's Home in a volunteer capacity earlier in her community life. She has also been involved with the school canteen and volunteered cooking for the primary school. She assists with the cooking of meals for Uniting Church functions, once a fortnight and has been treasurer for this function for many years. Margaret has been involved

with St Vinnies Op Shop for about 30 years and has also been a volunteer relief person for the Anglican Op Shop. She is a great support in assisting with the Pink Morning Tea each year and is a member of the Hospital Auxiliary having held the position of vice president and is also a member of the National Service and currently holds the position of treasurer. Margaret is a past president and current member of Kyogle Lions Club holding the position of welfare officer. She is a great inspiration to the people of Kyogle District.

Mary Roberts [QUIRINDI]

Mary has served as a councillor on the Liverpool Plains Shire for four years. In her time there she has served faithfully with the local library service including the children's story time and still provides this service in a volunteer capacity. Mary has been a member of Quirindi Quota Club filling the position of president over the last few years. Her service over several years as a volunteer for the Royal Theatre in Quirindi is also very much appreciated. The Heritage Village Coffee Shop has experienced her services as a volunteer for around 10 years. Mary also served a term as secretary for the local garden club proving beyond words the value of her services to the Quirindi community as a quiet achiever for the past decade, since her retirement from teaching in Hong Kong 10 years ago.

Sharon Robertson [THE OAKS]

Sharon founded the Dilly Drought Drive in April 2018, a local fundraising group to raise money to buy hay and water for farmers. She also organised The Time Travellers World Fair to raise money for the Campbelltown Steam & Machinery Museum to continue to preserve historic machinery and keep the steam train. She is also the founder and organiser since 2005 of the Light Up The Oaks Christmas Night. Sharon has been involved with the Camden Show as official photographer, photographers coordinator and hall 21C steward, as well as being involved on the committee, with sponsorship and setting up the photography. She started the special needs sections for all ages in photography. Her involvement in photography includes: photographer for Society 389 Children's Charity Club; photographer for Disability Macarthur Temporary Family Care; photographer for the Mater Dei Country Fair since 2012. Sharon also started the Macarthur Storm Chasers and put a team together to inform locals about storms and hot weather/fire season. She fundraised for the World's Greatest Shave Wollondilly for four years raising \$95 000, organised and packed over 100 boxes for the Innisfail Cyclone Book Appeal and fundraised for Father Chris Riley's Tsunami Appeal, packing two shipping containers with beds/cots for the orphanage in Banda Aceh. She was one of the founding members of the Country Women's Association Picton. Sharon was named the 2018 local Woman of the Year as well as being nominated for Australia Day awards.

Judith Robinson [DARETON]

Judith was born and raised in Mildura, Victoria. In 1956 at age 17 she entered the profession of nursing, graduating in 1959 at Mildura Base Hospital as a Division 1 Registered Nurse. Following her marriage to horticulturalist Barry Robinson they moved to Coomealla. While now widowed for many years, Judith continues to reside in the family home where their two children, Michael and Louise were raised. Devastated that a serious workplace injury cut short her successful nursing career, Judith's community service is a fine example of the roles women partake in rural communities and of their strength. Her injury caused her severe pain; however despite this pain she continues to make every effort to remain busy saying, 'when I am happy and busy, I tend not to think so much about my pain'. Learning new skills to assist Barry on their 25-acre grape growing property was a starter in this regard for Judith, with the skills she gained enabling her with the organisation of working bees for the Dareton Primary School Endowment Block. Since then her community interests have been continuous and varied. They include her leadership, labour and a personal monetary outlay. Some examples are, but not limited to: life member, Dareton Primary School Parents & Citizens Committee; member, Business & Professional Women's Club (since closed); region catering coordinator, Australian Red Cross; volunteer, Red Cross Opportunity Shop, Wentworth (she has also held positions of president, secretary and treasurer for the

local branch of the Red Cross); member, Murray Health Service Local Advisory Board (1989-1995) being awarded a Certificate of Service; member, Wentworth Hospital Auxiliary (36 years during which time she held all office bearer positions); member, Coomealla Senior Citizens Club (since 2008) and secretary (since 2011). Judith has taught self-breast examinations to the local women's groups; has been involved in and provided leadership for the Guides and Scouting movements, and she was one of the first to start a Meals on Wheels delivery service for Dareton with her involvement continuing until three years ago when her mobility deteriorated. Judith's favourite delegated duty with Coomealla Senior Citizens Club is to make contact with citizens requiring assistance and then providing it. Her involvement with Anglican church includes being the president of the Guild at Dareton. At her own expense, Judith continues to be the 'card scribe' to many. Preparing this nomination has highlighted to me how an unforeseen circumstance, such as a workplace injury, creates physical, mental, social and financial loss. In Judith's case, with her 10-year professional career over, she moved seamlessly into volunteering with her contributions encompassing community development and health promotion. We are so very fortunate in our community to have benefited

Alison Rutledge [WOODSTOCK]

Alison is a local Cowra woman. She was born in the Central tablelands and married a farmer. She is a blogger, a mother, a farmer and a champion for sustainability and the land. She is a parent and a volunteer at St Raphael's Catholic School and has led the transformation of the outdoor spaces at the school. The project was instigated because of a passion for farming. The project began in 2014 with a small mobile pallet garden for kindergarten. Each year it has expanded. Over the years the outdoor spaces have been transformed into working ecosystems. She has introduced a sustainable vegetable garden, landscaped the whole garden, put in an orchard, bird nesting area, bank revegetation with native species to encourage local bird species and fauna, introduced different play spaces — an outdoor stage, musical areas, resurfacing to include a 100 m track and sculptural elements. The garden has contributed to the school's focus on sustainability, raising issues of climate change and engaging students in the life cycle of 'plant to plate'. Students work with Alison in the garden and she has inspired a new generation of students to have a deeper understanding of ecology and sustainability. From one tiny seed many great things can grow. Alison is a catalyst for change and also for 'sowing the seed' for a new generation to take up the challenge of creating healthy communities.

Carolyn Salter [WALCHA]

On behalf of the Walcha community we would like to nominate Carolyn to be granted this honour. Carolyn, a South Australian by birth, moved to Walcha after stints in Western Australia and overseas with her pilot husband and two children, to run an agricultural aviation business and cattle property. Following the loss of a brother and mother to cancer, an unimaginable blow came with the loss of their 21-year-old son in an aircraft accident. Through this arduous time in their lives Carolyn was instrumental in forming a support group in Walcha to ease the burden on those enduring the pain of illness and loss. This group is nearing 30 years of providing solace, and caring for families and friends in times of need. Complementing this is Carolyn's involvement on the formation committee of compassionate friends, an international organisation that offers support to those who have lost a child of any age. Carolyn has been a driving force behind Walcha's successful relay for life. She has also written two books, 'Hurdles are for Jumping' and 'Once Upon a Shooting Star' that give an insight into personal grief and coping. Not content with just supporting others, Carolyn joined forces with two other ladies to push for the abolition of single use plastic bags in Walcha, and helped to push this nationally. Supporting the local Aero Club, and affiliated charities such as Angel Flight saw Carolyn honoured as Walcha Citizen of the Year in 2007. Though adversity may have been the driving force behind some of Carolyn's nominations it is her humility, smile and happy demeanour that endear her to Walcha.

Pam Skelton [EDEN]

There should be more 'Pam Skeltons' in this world. Pam was born in South Wales and moved to Australia, via New Zealand in 1973. When she moved to Eden, Pam devoted most of her time to providing support to a wide range of people in need. She was also a 'temporary' pastor for the Uniting Church in Eden. Although she did not receive formal training, the Church acknowledged her tremendous contribution to the community. Many years later, she has retired as pastor but she continues to support refugees through home hosting and actively supporting the Social Justice Advocates by providing crisis housing. She also supports the Red Cross program - In Search of Safety. Every week, Pam dedicates time to prepare and deliver food to individuals and families who are struggling. On average, Pam contributes 30 hours per week to support our community and, despite her own ill health, continues to contribute. She can look very tired but her dedication to our community is enormous and she continues on without any thought for herself. She is a shining beacon in our community and it is due to her that other people are now volunteering in Eden.

Cindy Smith [GUNDAGAI]

Cindy Smith is the Gundagai Library Manager and Community Services Manager for Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, and is the lifeblood of the Gundagai community. Besides the

day-to-day running of the library, she runs seniors computer classes, Movies in the Park, organises NAIDOC week, runs seven book clubs and Seniors Week events, organises sound equipment for various events as well as providing ongoing technical support for seniors with their phones and computers. She is the council contact for the Youth Council for which she organises out of town trips and the transport for kids (sometimes driving the bus herself), Youth Week activities and takes representatives to the annual awards. She has also set up community youth radio with Sounds of the Mountains. She plays an integral part in many community groups, businesses, and the functioning of the Gundagai Neighbourhood Centre. She goes out of her way with Christmas decorations in the library and organising Carols in the Park. She recently helped organise the course for the Gundagai Horse Trials, and the ARTHC Tractor Pull, where, as a lady tractor driver, she showed the boys how it's done. On the farm she looks after her menagerie of animals. Beyond all that, in her spare time she runs an EFTPOS repair business, the NRMA – holding the fort while her husband is away on towing jobs – she drives the truck and is licenced to do the roadside assistance herself, and makes cakes/biscuits weekly for her daughter's coffee shop. Always willing to put her heart and soul on the line for a cause she believes in, there wouldn't be anyone in our community whose lives haven't been touched by the hard work and dedication of this hidden treasure.

Jasmin Statham-Smith [COOMA]

Jasmin was a premature baby born in ACT. After being in hospital for several weeks, Jasmin returned home to the rural and nurturing community of Cooma where she has lived and grown up with her Mum, cousins and her supportive grandparents. Jasmin is a people person, avid reader, and humanitarian. She devotes endless hours of selfless community work within her local community and at St Mary MacKillop College, Canberra community, where she is currently completing her Year 12 senior studies. She commutes to the college on a daily basis via bus or vehicle. In Jasmin's formative years she attended St Patrick's Parish School, Cooma from K-10 where her love of community began. This has been enhanced at St Mary MacKillop College where there is a strong focus on reaching out and helping others. During this time, Jasmin has blossomed and grown into a strong, motivated and independent young woman whose desire is to volunteer in communities that she is involved with. She has shown a true dedication and passion for helping others. Jasmin has represented the St Patrick's Parish School and St Mary MacKillop College in many prominent service areas including: St Vincent de Paul Winter Sleep Out, St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal, Relay for Life where St Mary MacKillop College Year 12 2018 team raised a staggering \$12 900 and set a new college record. For several years, Jasmin has also been involved in The Annual Colour Day, which raises awareness of raising funds for

cancer charities, and ambassador for St Mary MacKillop College on information night and 2019 MacKillop Career Expo Evening. Jasmin is a member of The Community Chest Inc. Committee, a non-profit organisation that raises funds for local residents of the Snowy Monaro Region who are experiencing financial hardship and are emotionally in need. Jasmin was the driving force behind establishing Cooma's Interact Club for (12-18 year-old high schoolers), part of the Cooma Rotary Club family where members work within their local community to tackle important issues that they care most about that impact on their community while developing new life skills. Jasmin was selected and travelled to South Korea in 2016 for the International Rotary Convention as part of the Australian South Eastern Youth Delegation where they helped prepare and pack meals for the 'Children of Cambodia' among completing other important tasks. Jasmin's passion, hard work, being a positive role model, and selfless dedication to the communities that she has served in makes Jasmin a hidden gem, a treasure. Jasmin has been acknowledged in 2017 St Mary MacKillop College Perpetual Award for Community, 2018 Senior Young Person of the Year for Snowy Monaro Region, NSW/ACT Semi-Finalist Young Achiever's Freemasons Community Award 2018, and Monaro Service Award 2018 in recognition of her extraordinary contribution to the Monaro.

Joan Stevenson [MANILDRA]

Joan grew up out west in a large family, before moving to Manildra with her husband in 2001 and successfully renovating, opening and operating the Imperial Guesthouse. It was about this time that the future of the heritage-listed Amusu Theatre was very uncertain. As someone with a great desire to preserve history, Joan saw this as an opportunity to fulfil a dream and as a movie lover she was hooked. Joan is the president of the Amusu committee, she is the driver. Joan and her husband work many tireless hours week after week to restore and maintain the Amusu. With a grant secured by a family member they were able to purchase the neighbouring Tom's Garage building to create the Movie Poster Museum. An extremely generous donation of thousands of items plus many more that Joan has collected make this a wonderful addition to the Amusu. The Amusu is Joan's fulltime voluntary job and the pride and joy of her life. Movies are shown in the iconic Amusu on a regular basis, always followed with a beautiful home cooked supper. Joan is responsible for bringing visitors by the busload to Manildra. She is the fabric that holds the Amusu together and we are proud to call her ours.

Lenore Taylor [MERRIWA]

Lenore has given to the community of Merriwa through her enormous talents as a quilter and her passion for the Quilters Group. She uses her expertise and quilting equipment to create and donate numerous quilted items to raise funds for worthy causes. She organises the Hanging of the Quilts for the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces every year. She has arranged and donated quilted items to Gumman Hostel, Merriwa Multi-Purpose Service and Ronald McDonald House as well as donating materials and equipment to the Quilters Group that went on to make a double bed quilt cover that was raffled for BlazeAid. Lenore has also made bags for children in developing countries at Christmas as well as many other projects to support the community and numerous charities over the years.

Eva Towler [MERRIWA]

For the past 20 years Eva Towler has been the smiling face in the main street of Merriwa selling raffle tickets for the Festival of the Fleeces, Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Little Athletics, Merriwa Tennis Club, cricket, football, bushfires and the Red Cross. She can always be relied on to volunteer regardless of the weather. Eva has been president of the Lawn Bowls and Super Veterans Bowls. She is a life member of ladies golf and a long-time member of the Red Cross, Senior Citizens and Hospital Auxiliary.

Dawn Vallance [RAWORTH]

Dawn has been very active in the community both in earlier times with the Rural Youth Movement and for 35 years in the Country Women's Association (CWA) supporting new members and encouraging participation in the Rutherford/Telerah Anglican Church. She has also given many years of service with the RSL Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary and in past years was also involved in community radio. Her entry in the Community Garden competition won and it appeared on the front cover of the 2018/2019 yellow telephone book for the Hunter Valley area. She has been involved in the Rural Youth Movement and as a leader of a local group in the Hunter for over 20 years and was a coordinator of the over 50s' exercise class in the CWA Hall encouraging other women to participate in regular healthy exercise. She has supported cookery competitions and usually receives a certificate. Dawn joined East Maitland CWA branch in January 1982 before transferring to Maitland branch. Positions held at East Maitland branch include secretary, councillor, vice president, delegate to group and state conferences. At Maitland Branch Dawn was secretary, president/treasurer, councillor, cultural officer and delegate to state conference and presently holds the position of president. In 2017, Dawn was awarded life membership of Maitland CWA. She has supported CWA, women and children and the wider community for many years.

June Wellsmore [JINDABYNE]

June is a true Snowy Monaro identity who knows the meaning of volunteering, hard work and helping others. She was born in Cooma and lived on the family property Marcoona at Cootralantra until she married. Being the youngest of four, June did most things on the farm. June left Cooma Primary at 14 years of age to take on home responsibilities due to her mum having a bad accident. She married and moved to the property Ventnor at Gulley's Road where she raised two children and looked after the farm as her husband was often away with work. Twenty-five years ago, June moved to the Ingebyra area to continue working and volunteering. She has lived in Jindabyne for the past 11 years. For 19 years, she has been a driver for Community Transport and spends about 22 hours each week driving residents about the region including going to Canberra so they can attend essential appointments and important events as public transport is not easily accessible. June also volunteers for five hours at the Op Shop in Jindabyne where she helps in the kitchen and shop, and private volunteering takes another 19 hours. At age 78, June gives to her community an amazing 45 hours of volunteer time per week, and she said 'the main reason for committing my time to volunteering is because I want people to live independently in their community, and I hope others will do the same for me when my time comes.'

Christine Welsh [TURA BEACH]

In 2014, Christine moved to the Bega Valley and in that same year joined the steering committee of Pearls Place to establish a social café offering meals to people suffering social isolation in the Pambula/Merimbula area. Seeing a need to get food to charities, and preventing good food being wasted, Christine also established OzHarvest Sapphire Coast, a branch of the food rescue organisation OzHarvest. In September 2017, Christine and her husband Peter set up the Sapphire Community Pantry, a charity providing groceries at minimal cost and free to people suffering food insecurity. The Pantry provides services throughout the Bega Valley with over 90 customers each week and 600 members. The Pantry is more than food, it is also a meeting place where people can come and chat, use free internet, socialise and enjoy free tea or coffee. On Australia Day 2018, Christine received an Australia Day award for Outstanding Community Service nominated by the Merimbula Rotary Club. Christine has also been involved in the following activities: Social Justice Advocates Sapphire Coast, pro-bono career coaching and dispute resolution, distributing blankets to the homeless, the steering committee for the St George Uniting Church's Garden of Eden Project, and chair of the bid committee for the NSW Rural Women's Gathering. Christine is an advocate for the people in our community who are impoverished, isolated and socially disadvantaged. Christine is tireless in her efforts to support, promote and build each of these organisations and as such is a very worthy recipient. The Merimbula and Bega

communities are lucky to have such an inspiring person like Christine, who is a true hidden treasure.

Heather Whittaker [LEETON]

Many have witnessed the energy, outstanding voluntary commitment and community enthusiasm of this quiet, unassuming woman. Seeking no self-praise, she has given a lifetime of voluntary service to the Murrumbidgee and Leeton communities, encompassing decades of membership, executive positions and devotion to the local RSL Sub Branch, RSL Women's Auxiliary, Murrumbidgee Country Women's Association (CWA), Legacy, War Widows and St Peter's Anglican Church. Born in Yass, Heather joined WAAAF at 18 years of age for two years' service. During her service she met Jim Whittaker. They married on his return from the war, settling in the rural community of Murrumbidgee for 53 years, having seven children, moving into Leeton in 1999. At 92 years, Heather still leads by example, helping others in the community with regular visits and assistance to less able members to keep them connected. She participates in commemorative services, assists fundraising, never misses working at CWA Murrumbidgee's Australia Day breakfast, consistently contributes to cooking and craft projects including for RSL with knitted poppies and Invictus Games laundry bags and Anglican Church compassion programs with beanies, jumpers, blankets. She also works in the Anglican Church Op Shop. She was Leeton's sole WW11 veteran marching at Leeton's ANZAC

Day Dawn Service and Main March 2017. This year, a leg injury did not stop her leading the Main March, although in a wheelchair, with local service women supporting 'By the Left'. Leeton's 2018 Australia Day Lifelong Citizen, Heather, has been recognised with life membership by CWA, NSW RSL and NSW RSL Women's Auxiliary. She is patron of Leeton RSL Women's Auxiliary.

Vicki Wilson [BATHURST]

Vicki has been a finalist in the NSW Government Regional Woman of the Year awards for 2018 and is the current Bathurst Region Citizen of the Year. This shows the difference she continues to make to the lives of others through her community commitment. Vicki has a distinguished career in business and commerce, forging a path for women in rural merchandising and entrepreneurship. Town and Country Rural Supplies, Vicki's successful business, began in 1992 and remains in Bathurst today. This isn't just a business for Vicki but a hub of support for community members. In the current drought situation, Vicki is hosting a BBQ each day and inviting farmers in the community to come along for lunch in a bid to show them that support is available through connection with others. For the past 24 years Vicki has contributed to innumerable local organisations such as Rotaract, Quota, the Bathurst Women's Network, The Scots School Highland Gathering, Bathurst AH&P Society and Rockley Rodeo Committee. Vicki has a passion for mentoring and empowering young people, which can be seen

in her coordination of the Young Rural Achiever program and the Showgirl competition at the Royal Bathurst Show.

Val Wood [GRAFTON]

Val and her husband settled in Grafton in 1955 where they opened a caravan park, later expanding to a motel and cabins and a shop. She cooked and did laundry for all her customers. She joined the Country Women's Association (CWA) in 1968 and is still a very productive member. She also worked for Meals on Wheels and the South Grafton Bowls Club of which she is a life member and has been a patron since 1972. She still makes the club's celebratory cakes for their functions. She was a foundation member of the local Mini Mart (a very successful craft outlet) and has been the voluntary secretary for 47 years. Val has sold innumerable tickets to raise funds for the Rescue Helicopter. At the age of 96, Val is still a productive craft worker meticulously making goods for sale and raising money for charity. For many years she has made beautiful gifts, free of charge, for entrants in the Jacaranda Festival Queen competition run each year. Many children go to sleep each night cuddling one of her faultlessly made Bananas in Pyjamas dolls. Val attends CWA meetings and craft days and never fails to provide homemade cakes for us to share at morning tea time.

Carmel Yelland [MANILDRA]

Carmel was born in the NSW Riverina and moved to Manildra with her family at five years of age. She is a mother of three and a grandmother to nine children. Carmel has been involved with the Manildra and district community from an early age. Her membership of the Junior Farmers Club (later Rural Youth Club) spanned seven years in the 1960s, in which time the club donated substantial funds to the refurbishment of the kitchen in the local Soldiers Memorial Hall. She was secretary for six years and club leader for one year, and also a member of the organising committee for the Rural Youth State conference in Orange in 1965. Carmel has been a member of Manildra Red Cross, tennis and netball clubs. She has been a roster worker in school canteens for 16 years and swimming pool and football kiosks for 10 years. She is currently a member of Manildra & District Improvement Association and Probus. She has been a supporter of Country Women's Association and the cricket club. She has also been secretary/treasurer of the Gumble Hall for nine years. She has been a fundraiser for most of these organisations. Manildra Craft Cottage started operations in the 1980s and Carmel has been a member since opening. She supplies the shop with delicious cooking on a weekly basis. She has been secretary for nine years and has been treasurer, a time consuming job, for 10 years. Carmel has been a steward at the Manildra Show for 48 years, along with entering several sections with cooking, flowers etc. She also judges the flower sections of district

shows. Carmel supplies floral arrangements for local functions such as weddings, funerals, and ball and school functions. She also supplies cakes to the Amusu Theatre for afternoon teas/suppers. Being a blood donor is also on her list of contributions to the community. Carmel has been making and supplying Christmas treats to the community nurse for delivery to the older residents for 25 years now. Trees have been planted in the Meranburn (Manildra) cemetery, another project Carmel has undertaken. Carmel is certainly a hidden treasure and while involved in all of the above she still finds time to run the family farm.

volunteer agencies

Volunteers make an extraordinary contribution to Australian society. They are the lifeblood of our community and come from all walks of life. They are working people, students and professionals; they are young people and retirees. They come from every suburb and community and from a variety of cultural, educational and religious backgrounds.

Volunteering is a chance to give something back to the community—to use your skills and experience to make a difference in the lives of people who need assistance the most. For others, it is a chance to develop new skills and experience in a supportive environment.

The following contacts are for key agencies and groups represented in the nominees profiles.

Aboriginal Medical Service

02 9319 5823
<http://amsredfern.org.au>

Agricultural Show Societies NSW

02 9879 6777
www.agshowsnsw.org.au

Angel Flight

Toll free 1300 726 567
www.angelflight.org.au

Arabian Horse Society Australia

02 4577 5366
www.ahsa.asn.au

Arts Council NSW

Freecall (within NSW) 1800 358 594
www.arts.nsw.gov.au

Australian Breastfeeding Association

02 9634 3915
www.breastfeeding.asn.au

Australian Bushman's Campdraft & Rodeo Association

1800 028 992
www.abcra.com.au

Australian Red Cross

1800 733 276
www.redcross.org.au

Australian Rules Football (AFL)

03 9643 1999
www.afl.com.au

Australian Stock Horse Society

02 6545 1122
www.ashs.com.au

BlazeAid

0418 990 172
www.blazeaid.com.au

Cancer Council – NSW

13 11 20
www.cancer council.com.au

Careflight

02 9843 5100
<https://careflight.org>

Clean Up Australia

Freecall 1800 282 329
www.cleanup.org.au/au

Community Broadcasting Association of Australia

02 9310 2999
www.cbaa.org.au

Community Transport

13 15 00
www.transport.nsw.gov.au

Country Women's Association of NSW

02 8337 0200
www.cwaofnsw.org.au

Cricket NSW

02 8302 6000
www.cricketnsw.com.au

Fighters Against Child Abuse Australia

www.facaaus.org

Football NSW – Junior Rugby League

02 9359 8500
www.playrugbyleague.com.au

Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

correspondence@gardenclubs.org.au
www.gardenclubs.org.au

Girl Guides Australia – NSW/ACT

02 8396 5200
www.girlguides-nswact.org.au

Landcare NSW

0458 168 225
www.landcarensw.org.au

Legacy NSW

02 9248 9000
www.legacy.com.au/NewSouthWales

Lions Australia – NSW

info@lions.org.au
www.lionsclub.org.au

Meals on Wheels

02 8219 4200
www.nswmealsonwheels.org.au

NSW Polo Association

0409 764 607
www.nswpolo.com.au

NSW Rural Fire Service

02 8741 5555
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

OzHarvest NSW

1800 108 006
www.ozharvest.org

Pony Club NSW

02 4229 8977
www.pcansw.org.au

Probus

1300 630 488
www.probusouthpacific.org/tags/NSW

Return Services League

02 9264 8188
www.rslnsw.org.au

Ronald McDonald House

1300 307 642
www.rmhc.org.au

Rotoract Australia

(Youth aged 18-30 years)
info@sydneycityrotaract.org.au
www.rotaract.org.au

Rotary Australia

02 8894 9800
www.rotaryaustralia.org.au

Royal Far West

1800 961 001
www.royalfarwest.org.au

Return Services League NSW

02 9264 8188
www.rslnsw.org.au

RSPCA

02 9770 7555
www.rspca.org.au

Scouts Australia – NSW

02 9735 9000
www.nsw.scouts.com.au

State Emergency Service NSW

Freecall 1800 201 000
www.ses.nsw.gov.au

St Vincent de Paul

02 9568 0262
www.vinnies.org.au

Surf Life Saving NSW

02 9471 8000
www.surflifesaving.com.au

The Salvation Army

13 72 58
www.salvos.org.au

Scouts NSW

02 9735 9000
www.nsw.scouts.com.au

United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW

02 9424 5786
www.uhansw.websytle.com.au

Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia

secretary@vfvfranville.org
www.vvfa.org.au

VIEW Clubs of Australia

Freecall 1800 805 366
www.view.org.au

Westpac Helicopter Service

Freecall 1800 155 155
www.rescuehelicopter.com.au

WIRES – NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue & Education Service

1300 094 737
www.wires.org.au

GENERAL CONTACTS

The Centre for Volunteering

02 9261 3600
info@volunteering.com.au
www.volunteering.com.au

Volunteering ACT

02 6251 4060
service@volunteeringact.org.au
www.volunteeract.org.au

Indigenous Community Volunteers

1800 819 542
info@icv.com.au
www.icv.com.au

2019 honour roll: nominate a rural woman

The 2019 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll will be launched at the NSW Rural Women's Gathering to be held at Walcha from 1–3 November 2019.

We invite you to nominate a friend, family member, colleague, community worker—any rural woman who you believe makes your community a better place to live.

Nominations for the 2019 Honour Roll open 20 May and close 2 August.

For more information or to nominate a hidden treasure contact:

Rural Women's Network
NSW Department of Primary Industries
02 6391 3612
rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn



The capacity to care gives life
its deepest significance.

PABLO CASALS



Hidden Treasures is an initiative of
Department of Primary Industries
Rural Women's Network



Department of
Primary Industries