



Department of
Primary Industries

A decorative white line-art frame with ornate, swirling flourishes at the top and bottom, enclosing the title text.

HIDDEN
TREASURES
HONOUR ROLL

2016

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

A decorative yellow swirl line that starts from the bottom right and curves upwards and to the left, ending near the center of the page.



ISSN 1838-4099 (Print)

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development 2016. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development as the owner.

Recognising that some of the information in this document is provided by third parties, the State of New South Wales, the author and the publisher take no responsibility for the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of any information included in the document provided by third parties.

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

Rural Women's Network
NSW Department of Primary Industries
161 Kite Street
Orange New South Wales 2800

Telephone 02 6391 3620
rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn

ministers' message

We are delighted to present the 2016 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll, celebrating the contribution of 90 women across NSW.

This is the seventh year this important publication has been produced, recognising the role volunteers play in our everyday lives.

The stories included in this year's Hidden Treasures recognise and pay tribute to those women who give their time, expertise and energy to wide ranging social and community organisations and initiatives.

Volunteering helps form the fabric of communities – particularly those in small and isolated towns and villages where resources can be limited.

This is a chance for us to both acknowledge and thank these women for their efforts and for their generosity of spirit.

The 2016 nominees add to the growing list of more than 800 volunteers who have been identified since the first Honour Roll was published in 2010.

The Honour Roll is an important showcase of some outstanding women, and we encourage you to read and share their stories.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niall Blair'.

Niall Blair
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ajaka'.

John Ajaka
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Multiculturalism



2016 hidden treasures nominees

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 Christine Adams
[BROKEN HILL] | 14 Lynnette Butterfield
[OBERON] | 19 Julie Gittoes
[GUYRA] |
| 7 Jude Ahearn
[POTTSVILLE] | 14 Kristen Clancy
[NARRANDERA] | 20 Marion Gosper OAM
[CUDAL] |
| 8 Diana Akers
[WOY WOY] | 14 Charmaine Collins
[BROKEN HILL] | 20 Martha Gouniai
[BROKEN HILL] |
| 8 Carole Bayley
[WONGARBON] | 15 Jackie Corby
[TARALGA] | 21 Irene Hancock
[MURRINGO] |
| 9 Beverley Belt
[TAMWORTH] | 15 Noelene Cosgrove
[TARALGA] | 21 Kerry Heather
[ULLADULLA] |
| 9 Lois Blake
[TUMBARUMBA] | 15 Nancy Cowley
[KYOGLE] | 21 Sharon Hibbens
[WEE WAA] |
| 10 Vicki Blinman
[MANILLA] | 16 Janet Daley
[BROKEN HILL] | 22 Marion Hockey
[COOTAMUNDRA] |
| 10 Eleanor Blows
[BROKEN HILL] | 16 Julie Dowleans
[WEE WAA] | 22 Thelma Hodgson
[COPMANHURST] |
| 11 Natalie Bramble
[DUBBO] | 17 Cathy Duncan
[MOREE] | 23 June Howard
[GWANDALAN] |
| 11 Fay Brandon
[NOWRA] | 17 Maureen Faviell
[BRAIDWOOD] | 23 Nicole Howden
[COWRA] |
| 11 Christine Bryant
[REPTON] | 18 Louise Fisk
[HILLSTON] | 24 Patricia Hughes
[BUNDANOON] |
| 12 Marea Buist
[YAMBA] | 18 Linda Fittler
[WERRIS CREEK] | 24 Janette Hyde
[PORT MACQUARIE] |
| 13 Kay Burton
[SPRINGWOOD] | 18 Mary Gaston
[YETMAN] | 25 Ida Jarvis
[GOULBURN] |
| 13 Amelia Butler
[BROKEN HILL] | 19 Glenda Gibson
[MANILDRA] | 25 Elaine Johns
[BROKEN HILL] |

2016 hidden treasures nominees

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 26 Janice Jones
[MOSS VALE] | 32 Jenny Middleton
[CANOWINDRA] | 38 Betty Scanlon
[HILLSTON] |
| 26 Karen Kemp
[BROKEN HILL] | 32 Josie Middleton
[NARRANDERA] | 38 Iris Schofield
[NARRANDERA] |
| 27 Janice Lang
[EWINGSDALE] | 32 Anika Molesworth
[BROKEN HILL] | 39 Ellen Seaman
[CROOKWELL] |
| 27 Marlee Langfield
[COWRA] | 33 Anita Morrison
[FORBES] | 39 Gill Shepherd
[TARAGO] |
| 28 Helen Leamon
[TAMWORTH] | 33 Marion Murray
[COONAMBLE] | 40 Shirley Shoemark
[BRAIDWOOD] |
| 28 Janice Limn
[CESSNOCK] | 34 Desley Newell
[BOOROWA] | 40 Jeanette Simpson
[TARALGA] |
| 28 Jean Lloyd
[GOULBURN] | 34 Carrie Oakley
[BROKEN HILL] | 41 Denise Slingsby
[GRAFTON] |
| 29 Patricia Maclaren-Smith
[EAST LISMORE] | 35 Katrina O'Brien
[COOTAMUNDRA] | 41 Robyn Styles
[TAMBAR SPRINGS] |
| 29 Susan Maisey
[ARMIDALE] | 35 Denise Perry
[BIGGA] | 41 Lesley Sumsion
[BROKEN HILL] |
| 30 Beryl Mannion
[QUIRINDI] | 36 Fay Pithie
[ULLADULLA] | 42 Dawn Sword
[LENNOX HEAD] |
| 30 Elizabeth McGregor
[MUTTAMA] | 37 Louella Polson
[PORT MACQUARIE] | 42 Patricia Templeton
[BYRON BAY] |
| 31 Heather McLaren
[LOCHINVAR] | 37 Judy Prenzel
[BROKEN HILL] | 43 Lorraine Tindall
[RAWORTH] |
| 31 Cheryl Meuret
[BROKEN HILL] | 37 Dianne Roche
[NYMAGEE] | 43 Liz Tomlinson
[NARRABRI] |

- 44 Ruth Trappel
[BOLWARRA]
- 44 Joan Tye
[NORTH NOWRA]
- 45 Beatrice Voysey
[MERRIWA]
- 46 Margaret Walker
[BEN LOMOND]
- 46 Jean Warburton
[KYOGLE]
- 47 Laurel Whitby
[MERRIWA]
- 47 Marion Wilkins
[ABERDEEN]
- 48 Colleen Wills
[QUIRINDI]
- 48 Yvonne Woodcock
[LIGHTNING RIDGE]
- 50 Volunteer Agencies



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

Christine Adams [BROKEN HILL]

Christine was born in Broken Hill, Australia's only nationally heritage listed city, and is a member of a mining family whose connection to the region began in 1887. Her heritage is her passion and she plays a significant voluntary role in the collation and sharing of the city's mining, pastoral and migrant stories. She is often called on to research for different organisations and meet with the media and money holders because of her willingness to share her stories. This historical contribution to Broken Hill has never been recognised. She holds an Advanced Diploma in Applied and Local History and is the author of publications such as *Way out West: Pastoral Stories of Western NSW* and *Sharing The Lode: The Broken Hill Migrant Story* – most written for love, not money. She is the volunteer curator of the Sulphide Street Railway and Historical Museum, supporting a team of passionate volunteer history buffs. The museum houses the railway, hospital, migrant and transport museums and is the spiritual home of the Silverton Tramway Company that provided passenger and freight service to Broken Hill from 1888 to 1970, closing when rail gauge was nationalised. The volunteers are currently cataloguing its collection and housing important memorabilia in a dedicated archives room. Christine is also a councillor for Broken Hill City Council and a volunteer secretary

of the newly established U3A. In 2013, she was awarded an Australia Day Citizenship Award for service to the Broken Hill community. She has also held volunteer roles with the West Darling Arts Inc and the Broken Hill Migrant Heritage Committee.

Jude Ahearn [POTTSVILLE]

Jude was born in Bundaberg, Queensland and at 17 she left school and moved to the Gold Coast with her parents and sister where she worked with an architect. She later lived in Sydney and Melbourne where she worked as a bookkeeper for a transport company before returning to the Gold Coast, where she worked for a construction company for 12 years. Jude has been a member of the Murwillumbah Hospital Auxiliary branch for the past six years and secretary for five of those years. For the past two years Jude has taken on the duties of the assistant treasurer of the auxiliary as well. Jude is so committed to her secretarial duties with the auxiliary that her partner has said he has to fight for the home office! Jude loves to crochet and donates her beautiful work, rugs and garments to the auxiliary to raise funds for the hospital. Jude travels from Pottsville to Murwillumbah very early on Sunday mornings to load her vehicle with donated goods to take to the market stalls for the auxiliary to sell. Jude and her partner do a lot of travelling around the country but she continues her secretarial duties from afar. Jude and her family have travelled to 31 countries through Europe. Jude works tirelessly for the auxiliary; no job is too big or too small as she is so organised and just

gets on with it. Her efforts don't go unnoticed and are truly valued and appreciated by the hospital management, staff and our members.

Diana Akers [WOY WOY]

After leaving school, Diana worked as a hairdresser in Queensland for 18 years. She moved back to Sydney, where she was born, and managed three hairdressing salons. Diana started a family on the Central Coast and worked in a range of jobs and industries before her health problems forced her into retirement. When Diana knew that retirement was fast approaching, she saw an ad in the local newspaper for the Central Coast Cancer Wig Library or Wig Wam who were looking for volunteers and she thought she would give it a go. Wig Wam is funded by generous donations from individuals and community groups. Each year approximately 160 women experiencing hair loss as a result of cancer treatment are provided with wigs, hairpieces, turbans and scarves and given expert advice and support on how to wear them. Diana has been volunteering for eight years and has not looked back. It takes about an hour to fit the wigs and if people come in before they lose their hair, the service can support them through the process. Diana currently dedicates up to 16 hours each and every week to this fantastic service and says that she loves seeing someone leave looking happy and confident after they have been fitted with a wig.

Carole Bayley [WONGARBON]

Carole joined the Wongarbron Rural Fire Brigade of the Orana Team in January 2000. Following a period as a volunteer she was elected brigade deputy captain in 2004 and brigade captain in 2006; a position that she still holds. Carole has been heavily involved in major local fires and has been deployed interstate on many occasions including as a strike team leader for several fires of national significance. Carole is heavily involved in local RFS training activities and is an active participant in community engagement events. She was a founding adult member of the Orana Cadets program in 2007 giving significant time to young people in the program. The program is aimed at helping young people connect with their community and develop a sense of social responsibility while learning bushfire fighting and other key life skills. Carole trained and has led the Orana Cadets to three NSW state championship events and is currently preparing for a fourth. She has also led the Orana Cadets to four national championship events. Carole is strongly committed to the ongoing support of an Orana Cadet currently receiving treatment for leukaemia at the Sydney Children's Hospital and has been instrumental in local fundraising events to support the family. She is extremely committed to her community and volunteers eight hours or more each week. She is married with four children, has a fulltime job and also supports her husband's building business performing the key office functions.

Beverley Belt [TAMWORTH]

Beverley (Bev) grew up in Melbourne, Victoria and moved to NSW at the age of five. Bev spent much of her adult life as a wife to Peter and mother to their three boys. Peter's life as an Officer in the Australian Army meant that they travelled extensively, including to the USA, England and Papua New Guinea. Bev is tiny in stature but a veritable giant when it comes to quietly identifying, and serving, the needs of her community. Bev has supported a number of community organisations with her time, enthusiasm and life skills beginning with International Literacy Year in 1990 helping school age children to achieve confidence in reading. She was a founding member of the Tamworth Farmsafe Action Group in the late 1990s, creating community awareness of the alarming statistics of accidents involving quad bikes, tractors and firearms on rural properties. Bev's 'baby' has long been first aid. She joined St John Ambulance, Tamworth in 1998 and had the honour of becoming a Member of The Order of St John in 2009. In the intervening years, Bev was a first aider at World Youth Day in Sydney, 2008, at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006 and recounts the excitement of seeing elite competitors. On a local level, Bev has diligently provided first aid and training to others, culminating in the presentation of her 12 years service medal by the then Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir, followed by her Bar for 17 years service in 2015. Bev has for many years applied her organisational and people skills to various other

community groups including social activities for The Stroke Recovery Group, The Tamworth War Widows' Guild (later becoming a social club) and the Tamworth Aged Day Care Centre. Bev is also recognised as a treasured hospital and nursing home visitor of our valued veterans and war widows/widowers of the Returned and Services League of Australia Tamworth Sub-Branch. We are, indeed, a richer community for having such a selfless, perceptive and entirely likeable hidden treasure aka "the lady with the chocolate frogs".

Lois Blake [TUMBARUMBA]

Lois (nee Brennan) was born in Lockhart in 1951 and has been on the land all her life. She has been part of the fabric of the rural community in and around Lockhart, Milbrulong and Tumburumba where she has lived since marrying her husband Murray in 1969. Lois has raised two children who are now community minded adults with great careers in their chosen fields. Lois is the undisputed matriarch of the Blake and Brennan families. In the face of the worst of tragedies within her own family she has ensured all affected have remembered the joys of life while encouraging them and the wider community to support one another and help ensure we leave our community in better shape than we found it. She has been key to the upbringing of three beautiful grandchildren and assisted countless families before and after her retirement in coping with the loss of loved ones. Lois contributes to the community by baking tirelessly for street stalls that raise money for schools, pony clubs etc and has been a member of the local friends

of the hospital fund raising committee since its inception in 2005. As a proud daughter-in-law I am continually inspired by the number of people that say “Lois Blake — what a lovely lady... did you know she did this or that for my family or friend when something was needed?” For all of these reasons and more I do believe Lois Blake is a true hidden treasure.

Vicki Blinman [MANILLA]

Vicki was born in Warren and grew up around the Oak Flats and Shellharbour areas. She now lives in Manilla where she met her husband and raises her three children, the youngest of which has special needs. Vicki started her career as a clerical assistant and now works with her husband running a karaoke business throughout the north west area. Vicki is a volunteer for the NSW State Emergency Service, following in her father's footsteps. She has been a member for more than 15 years and performs the dual roles of Tamworth Regional Local Controller and Manilla Unit Controller. She has received her 15-year NSW SES long service award and national medal in recognition of her distinguished service. Vicki volunteers around 20 hours a week at her unit and is a senior member of the region training team, often travelling to different units on weekends to assist with developing new members. Vicki is a dedicated and passionate volunteer with a driven focus for helping people in need during times of crisis and developing fellow volunteers through training and support. Through her leadership and drive she is responsible for increasing the number of volunteers at the Manilla

Unit, which in contrast to many country units, has a strong youth representation. Vicki is also the current secretary of the Manilla and District Country Music Association, a position she has held for the past 15 years. This association look to promote country music and assist artists to develop their craft.

Eleanor Blows [BROKEN HILL]

Born and bred in Broken Hill, Eleanor has been volunteering for her community for 30 years. She was instrumental in getting the mobile breast cancer bus to Broken Hill. As chair of the Domestic Violence Committee (DVC), for the fight against violence against women and children, Eleanor's involvement continues to grow and evolve since its commencement in 1985. The DVC established the Reclaim the Night marches that initially took place in the park with small numbers attending. Today the march takes place in the CBD and is well attended by the community, necessitating the police to block intersections for the marchers. The DVC committee also runs Purple Ribbon Day and Stop Domestic Violence event, which runs for 16 days during November and December each year. Eleanor arranges International Women's Day events and arranges the many high profile speakers who willingly attend the functions. Eleanor's other passion is her involvement in aqua classes run twice a week at the local YMCA Aquatic Centre. Starting as a participant 10 years ago, and having experienced the benefits of the exercise classes, she is now a volunteer leader. The classes are free and run through the Far West Local Health District. In 2015, as a nominee

in Broken Hill Australia Day Citizen of the Year Eleanor was awarded the 2015 NSW Senior Volunteer of the Year and has been nominated in the 2016 NSW Premier's Recognition Program.

Natalie Bramble [DUBBO]

Natalie grew up in family businesses with parents who believed in contributing to the community through volunteering and sponsorship efforts. Since her move to Dubbo in 1997, Natalie has been actively involved in supporting non-profits through managing and improving events such as the Rotary Christmas Fair and Rotoract Antique Fair and has been an active member of community non-profit boards including the Macquarie Conservatorium of Music and the Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre. All her volunteering efforts are skills based, where Natalie offers her consultancy and business development expertise to the non-profit and social enterprise sector. It was her work as a consultant that led to her identifying the inequality of access to knowledge, tools and professional development opportunities in regional and remote communities. Her frustration led her to volunteering her time and seed funding, a contribution of \$225 000 over the past four years, to create and cofound a non-profit organisation that delivers online education – both expert to industry and peer to peer. Importantly, the business model she developed returns profits for sector education and provides a revenue stream for non-profits who share information and knowledge. Community Courses Online has been a beta for more than a year and is now live. This

means that non-profits and social enterprises will be able to receive affordable training, adopt best practice principles, keep staff and volunteers engaged and become self-sustaining.

Fay Brandon [NOWRA]

Fay has been a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) for more than 30 years, working on site for more than 25 hours a week. Fay is a mentor to our younger volunteers and has been a cornerstone to ensuring the success of our fundraising throughout the Shoalhaven area. Fay always makes herself available to assist in any aspect of our Vinnies centres and has been instrumental in the establishment of two new centres in the last five years. Fay's knowledge and experience are irreplaceable and her dedication is second to none. Fay never asks for nor expects recognition of any kind. Fay is a fine example of an admirable country woman who never expects anything in return for her time and efforts. Without Fay's efforts and quiet achievements, St Vincent de Paul centres in the Shoalhaven would be nowhere near as strong today.

Christine Bryant [REPTON]

Christine's father received an OAM for his dedication to the Surf Life Saving Club and it was here Christine gained her attitude to volunteering. Marrying a teacher, she assisted at the one teacher school in Euchareena with sport, reading, sewing and anything else that needed to be done

to assist her principal/husband. For the next 10 years, with children growing, P&C secretary, fundraising, scripture teaching, president of the local steering committee and Girl Guide leader, all followed. In 1988, she joined Repton Bush Fire Brigade, one of only three female members. She was treasurer for nine years, is currently a permit officer and deputy captain and is very involved with community engagement, visiting schools and public functions, informing residents of fire dangers. Christine has assisted at more large bush fires (including Coonabarabran and interstate) than any other member in Repton Brigade. Her smiling face is always on the truck at local call outs, when she is available. In 2006, her volunteer work with refugees began. Her involvement with North Coast Settlement Service takes in many roles, assisting refugees in their new daily life, helping solve problems with school, housing and financial hardship. For the past four years, she has run the refugee education and driver instruction program funded by St Vincent de Paul. Amidst her busy life, she has also given 17 years as a wildlife carer, looking after koalas, possums and any other wounded waif that finds its way into her home. She was also their treasurer for three of those years, while still attending the calls in her locality and helping refugees settle in their new homes. Her volunteering goes beyond hours, extending into years. Christine really has the heart of a volunteer and is a Repton hidden treasure.

Marea Buist [YAMBA]

Marea was born and grew up in Orange. She lived there until she married when she moved to Griffith, and then Dorrigo, before arriving in Yamba 17 years ago. Wherever she has lived, Marea has been involved in volunteer work such as the P&C, sporting organisations, Meals on Wheels and her local church. Since coming to live in Yamba, Marea has been involved in, and extremely committed to, the Port of Yamba Historical Society. She was curator of the Yamba Museum between 1999 and 2006 and president until 2015. Marea is now museum manager and curator. Marea estimates that she would spend 40 hours per week on work for the museum and nominates her greatest achievement as working with, and training, museum volunteers as well as introducing digital technology to the organisation. The museum now has 60 volunteers, including many who come from Centrelink and stay long after their required time. There are 25 different roles within the museum and Marea takes particular care and pride in matching volunteer's skills and interests with their role. The Yamba Museum often hosts special exhibitions. One of these was the Vision4Change exhibition that came about through Marea's involvement with the local Indigenous community, in particular the Yaegl elders. Other exhibitions include Ghost of WW1 and Beneath Gallipoli. Marea is also involved with many other local organisations. She is Museums Australia Far North Coast Chapter coordinator and a member of the Museums and Galleries NSW Volunteer Reference Committee.

Kay Burton [SPRINGWOOD]

Kay was born in Kyogle, left school at 15 and worked as a bookkeeper. Married to a school teacher, Kay lived in many NSW country towns, finally settling in Springwood. At the age of 40, she trained as a teacher and began a 25-year teaching career. Kay started volunteering as a teenager by raising money for spastic children as Miss Northern Rivers. While a country school teacher's wife, Kay voluntarily taught sewing, coached netball teams, provided first aid and sewed the school band uniforms. Kay is a life member of the Faulconbridge netball club in recognition of her work as coach, umpire, committee member and president. For more than 40 years she has supported the Springwood swimming club, as committee member, swimming official and volunteer swim teacher. At the 2000 Sydney Disabled Olympics, Kay volunteered as an official timekeeper. Currently a member of the Phoenix Masters Swimming Club, she is a club official and still successfully competes at national and world masters level. Kay has successfully lobbied for improved sporting facilities in the Blue Mountains community. For the past four years, she has been a tireless member of the Zonta Club of Nepean Valley, a service and advocacy club empowering women and girls both locally and worldwide. Kay has set up the Days for Girls committee whose members sew and assemble washable sanitary/hygiene kits for girls who miss school days in developing countries. It is due to her drive and energy that this project distributed more than 100 kits to Indigenous Australian girls

and to girls in Kenya in the past 12 months. Kay is an inspirational member of our community and is a worthy hidden treasure.

Amelia Butler [BROKEN HILL]

Amelia arrived in Broken Hill 42 years ago from Fiji, married a local man and brought up four children. With all the demands of being a working mother she still found time to volunteer and be involved with her children's school and sporting clubs. Amelia has been a volunteer for 29 years. She has volunteered with the Australian Red Cross and Salvation Army, the Broken Hill Hospital Kiosk Auxiliary for the past seven years and as a director with the Democratic Club for 11 years. When Amelia was not helping at the local opportunity shops, her role as a director of the Demo Club included running raffles that benefit local charities. Amelia has rallied another director to join her in becoming the club's official hospital visitors, visiting inpatients at the Broken Hill Base Hospital. Amelia enjoys volunteering with the Broken Hill Hospital Kiosk team on Saturdays and is justifiably proud of the work the kiosk does. This work enables the kiosk to make significant contributions to the Broken Hill Base Hospital, donating \$188 000 in 2015 and to date in 2016 they have donated \$131 000 to purchase much needed hospital equipment. Amelia won the 2015 Broken Hill City Council Volunteer of the Year – Community Award and was a nominee in the 2015 NSW Volunteer of the Year. In 2016 she was nominated in the NSW Premier's Recognition Program.

Lynnette Butterfield

[OBERON]

Born and educated in Beverley Hills NSW, Lynette (Lynne) came to Oberon more than 40 years ago after her marriage to Steve. Steve was a life member of the Rural Fire Service and Lynne became involved. Raising two daughters, Lynne gave freely of her time to Black Springs Public School participating in the volunteer reading program and Small School Sporting programs. For a facility with fewer than 20 students the success of these programs was heavily reliant on parent participation. Lynne officially joined the RFS as a serving member 16 years ago attaining the rank of Deputy Captain – Black Springs Brigade. She has attended many emergency events such as fires, motor vehicle accidents and other duties as required. Concurrently, Lynne has been a dedicated member of the Oberon Show Committee. Country shows in rural towns involve many volunteer hours. Lynne has held the positions of president, vice president (current), and served on the Ladies Auxiliary Committee, Grounds Committee and Show Committee. As a result of her dedicated service, Lynne was awarded Life Membership of the Society in 2016. As an active club member, Lynne assists annually with the Highland Steam and Heritage Fair, a huge event for the town involving an enormous number of volunteer hours by the members. Lynne dedicates at least 20 days per month to volunteer work, more when the annual show is scheduled. Lynne's volunteer ethic is driven by a love of people and her town, an unselfish team player who adds much to the social fabric of Oberon.

Kristen Clancy

[NARRANDERA]

Kristen has given much of her time and passion to be vice chair of the 2017 NSW Rural Women's Gathering Committee Narrandera. She also lovingly donates much time to improving what is offered to members and guests at the Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Charmaine Collins

[BROKEN HILL]

Charmaine's many years of volunteering is evidence of her love and caring attitude for the community she serves. Charmaine has volunteered, formally and informally, including at her children's schools and parent groups to local committees. However with her retirement this has morphed from sporadic volunteering into two committed and much loved roles. This year will mark 21 years of volunteering for the Broken Hill Hospital Kiosk and apart from working with the Monday team of volunteers from early in the morning; Charmaine is also the assistant treasurer for the kiosk. The kiosk achieves magnificent donations each year and has donated \$131 000 for the 2016 year to date. Charmaine donates her time, energies and considerable skills to the kiosk and not satisfied with volunteering each Monday, Charmaine became the assistant treasurer in 2008. Charmaine's other passion is her volunteering role with the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS); her involvement with CVS spans 15 years. Charmaine currently visits two people in local aged care facilities on a weekly

basis. These visits can vary from taking them out shopping, for coffee, on outings or just sitting with them and chatting. Charmaine is a serial and seasoned volunteer; she commits to a cause and works tirelessly to achieve the best outcome for the organisation and the people. Charmaine was nominated in the 2015 Broken Hill City Council Volunteer of the year and in the 2015 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. She is a nominee in the 2016 NSW Premier's Recognition Program.

Jackie Corby [TARALGA]

Jackie has always lived on the land and is very involved in running the property with a love of horses and dogs. Every two weeks for the past eight years, Jackie has visited the local aged care facility to entertain the residents with old time music and songs. Jackie assists the residents in preparing a concert for Christmas when their families visit. The residents are very enthusiastic in this project.

"I do enjoy Jackie's visits and singing with us at Sunset Lodge. She is such a nice person and brings us much joy and news of the district. I have known Jackie and her family for some time even went to school with her mother."

Noelene Cosgrove [TARALGA]

Noelene was born in Sydney and came to Taralga as a child. She joined the pony club at an early age, became secretary of the club and has been volunteering at the yearly camp for many years.

She also volunteered for many years as assistant secretary for the Annual Australia Day Rodeo in Taralga and Goulburn. A dedicated worker for our community, Noelene has volunteered in aged care for a number of years. She is a very caring person who goes beyond the call of duty and has a very strong following. Noelene is an active supporter of family and friends. She is always ready to help out with her family and grandchildren, caring for one who has special needs. Nothing is ever a trouble to Noelene. I know her to be kind, generous and helpful. She also raised money in our community for breast cancer, getting people to donate bras, and hanging them up on our main street. She is passionate about raising money for charity and gives her time freely – nothing is ever too much for her. She transports anyone who needs it, to doctors and hospital. Noelene has helped out on numerous occasions when I was ill driving me to appointments and every Thursday for five months drove me to Campbelltown for chemo. Noelene is a member of our friendship club that knits rugs and raises money for charities. She is always the same in nature, making people feel comfortable around her. A person to be trusted and her integrity cannot be questioned. Taralga is fortunate indeed to have Noelene, a very worthy recipient for Hidden Treasures. Noelene is a very lovely lady.

Nancy Cowley [KYOGLA]

Nancy was born in Kyogle, and is a wife, mother to four children, grandmother, friend to many, good Samaritan and a great neighbour. Nancy is a very unassuming and caring woman; she

commenced working as a midwifery nurse in the old Maternity Hospital, then at Kyogle Memorial Hospital, as a general nurse and would often take home washing for patients whose families were not available to do this for them. After her retirement she took on various voluntary positions in the community. She was a member of the Kyogle Hospital Auxiliary and delivered library books to the house bound. An active member of the Kyogle Garden Club, she is one of the original members of the Border Rangers Day club where she still helps with the club. Nancy is also a relief Meals on Wheels deliverer for Care Connections and continues to help with the aged at the Whiddom Home for the elderly, (previously called Kyogle Court) and is the president of the Friends of the Court Group. Nancy was recently awarded Lady of the Year by Quota International of Kyogle Inc. Nancy cares for her sick husband and really loves visits from her family, especially the grandchildren.

Janet Daley [BROKEN HILL]

Like most women who bring up a family in the outback, life is not easy. The pressures of working a property, home schooling children (Janet also home schooled neighbours' children as well) and dealing with environmental issues such as living through many years of droughts are not for the faint hearted. Janet not only survived these obstacles, she thrived, raising a successful family and forging her nursing career. Janet epitomises informal and formal volunteering. As a patient family support (PFS) volunteer Janet provides a support service to patient's carers

and families in traumatic circumstances. Janet is called out by emergency department staff at the Broken Hill Base Hospital to assist the families of critically ill or deceased patients. Janet provides comfort, practical and emotional support to the patient's family and friends. In addition to her formal volunteering with the PFS team, Janet's informal volunteering roles see her looking after her neighbours. She assists isolated and lonely members of the community, most of who no longer have relatives living in this remote area or are the last of their generation. I think it apt that Janet has the final words on what she considers her volunteering roles are all about: "I feel the art of giving has its own innate, fulfilling psychological and spiritual rewards. I see the benefits that my giving achieves". She was awarded a Certificate — 2015 NSW Premier's Recognition Program and is a State Finalist — 2014 NSW Health Volunteer and NSW Volunteer of the Year Award.

Julie Dowleans [WEE WAA]

Julie was born in Tamworth and has lived at Wee Waa most her life. She is a real country person. Julie has worked for years with the elderly in Wee Waa until her health stopped her working. She is involved with volunteer groups including Meals on Wheels and the garden club at Wee Waa. Julie is a volunteer radio announcer at community radio station 2MaxFM 91.3 Narrabri where she has two shows of her own as well as serving for the past year as secretary on the committee. Julie is President of Namoi Echo Museum, which she

gives a great deal of her time to. Julie has and always will love the elderly. Her dedication in everything she does is outstanding.

Cathy Duncan [MOREE]

Cathy was born and grew up in Moree, NSW and she has dedicated her life's work for the benefit of others. Cathy is passionate about the Moree community and her Aboriginal people and this is reflected in her tireless dedication to her numerous commitments. Cathy was the founding CEO of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES) an Indigenous managed non-for-profit recruitment company. Cathy and fellow AES founder, Dick Estens, along with then ANZ CEO John McFarlan were responsible for the first Aboriginal school-based trainee in the banking industry. The school-based trainee program is now a national strategy, which has been adopted by all four major banks and has changed the lives of thousands of families throughout the country. Cathy is the chair of Pius X Aboriginal Corporation, chair of the Beyond Empathy Local Reference Group and a member of the Moree Reconciliation Action Plan Committee and the Moree Reconciliation Group. Each year Cathy helps coordinate and facilitate the celebration of Reconciliation Week in Moree, which entails more than 100 hours of volunteer work to see it succeed. It is only July, yet Cathy has already volunteered more than 200 hours of her time towards Beyond Empathy. Cathy gets involved at every level as she chairs meetings, lobbies ministers, cooks BBQs, mentors and supports staff and so much more. Cathy is a true asset to the Moree and wider community,

as she is a generous and selfless individual who continues to devote her time, expertise and kindness to our community.

Maureen Faviell [BRAIDWOOD]

Maureen was born in Goulburn. She taught Sunday school at the Goldsmith Street Methodist Church in Goulburn. She worked at Manfred & McCallum Accountants in Goulburn from 1959 to 1963. Married in November 1963, she moved to Braidwood and worked for solicitor Mr James Garvey for three years. Maureen was the President of Country Women's Association Younger Set from 1964 to 1965 and was the Brownie Guide from 1964 to 1974. She was on the steering committee for the Braidwood preschool in the 1970s. She received her Girl Guide Local Association 25-year service badge. She is a life member of the P&C at Braidwood Central School and is a life member of the Braidwood Servicemen's Club Board. From 2000 to 2006, Maureen was on the steering committee and served as a board member to set up Bendigo Bank in Braidwood and Bungendore. She has been an entry steward for ring events for the Braidwood Show Society since 1971. Maureen was on the committee to re-build a new club house at Braidwood tennis courts. She has been involved in the Braidwood Torchbearers since 1966 and since 2002 has been a Legatee with Goulburn Legacy.

Louise Fisk [HILLSTON]

Louise was born in Hillston, raised on the family farm and educated at Hillston Central School. While in high school she became involved with the local Lions branch and was elected to be an exchange student and went to New Zealand for a month. In 1991, she was voted Junior Citizen of the Year for the Carrathool Shire Council. Upon leaving high school she enrolled at Griffith Base Hospital and studied and became an enrolled nurse. After a period, she moved back to the Hillston District Hospital and became involved with the Hillston Lions Club. About this time, she married and had two children and was involved with the Lions, the local show committee, aged care facility and Meals on Wheels. In 2007, she was nominated and won the Carrathool Shire Senior Citizen of the Year award. Louise moved from nursing into medical administration. This gave her more time for her young family and for her community work. Since 2000, Louise has been the secretary and/or treasurer of nine different organisations and the Red Bank Aged Centre for 12 years. Her expertise and dedication has seen the rebirth of the Hillston Show Society and the re-furbishing of the race course show ground buildings. Louise is now the coordinator of Carrathool Shire Aged Care and it is in this position that her care for her fellow people has really come to the fore. Her commitment to caring for the needy within the Hillston community is unending.

Linda Fittler [WERRIS CREEK]

Linda grew up in the Emerton area near Mt Druitt. She moved to Werris Creek in her late teens. Over the years, Linda has supported many local school and sporting groups. However, her main volunteer work has been with the Werris Creek Rural Fire Service. Linda has been an active firefighter since July 1997. She has attended fires, motor vehicle accidents and other non-fire related incidents over the past 19 years. Not only is she an active firefighter, she is also the treasurer for the brigade and has held that position for the past 13 years. Linda has organised open days and other fundraising events for the Werris Creek brigade, which in turn has allowed the brigade to purchase items to benefit all brigade members. She is a very valuable and respected member of the team and has made a major contribution to the brigade's success over her 19 years of service.

Mary Gaston [YETMAN]

Mary has contributed selflessly to the Yetman community since she came as a young mother in 1973. Rural community life, its activities and raising a family have kept her busy. Mary is rarely still, and her beautiful garden and helping others is her passion. Mary and her husband Tod have two grown children who were educated in Yetman and Warialda – this gave Mary the opportunity to be involved in schools – canteen mother, pottery and handicraft teacher. Mary has also had a lengthy involvement and commitment in local religious education at Yetman. She has

received a Papal Award for her dedication. Mary has high personal standards and values, which she nurtures in the best way she sees fit for the greater benefit of the community she serves.

Glenda Gibson [MANILDRA]

Glenda was born in the district and is married to a local farmer. She is the mother of six and grandmother of 20. An active member of the Bocobra Rural Fire Brigade Glenda organises brigade meetings, coordinates food for the fire ground, and mans the radio when necessary. Glenda has been very involved with the local school where their children attended for more than 20 years. She has been, and still is, a very active exhibitor of the Manildra Pastoral Association Show, especially in the floral and photography sections. She has been a canteen worker at local football matches and a fashion parade model for various fundraisers over the years. Glenda has been a very capable day care mum for more than 15 years and is currently working two days a week at a local childcare centre. Glenda is a founding member of the Manildra & District Improvement Association, our local progress association, and at present is our very capable secretary. She has been able to source many grants for the beautification of our village. A hands on person, if you need a job done, ask Glenda for assistance. A quiet achiever, Glenda is a valued member of our community – the town and district is a much better place for having her as a resident.

Julie Gittoes [GUYRA]

Julie is a great contributor to the Guyra community. She has been a member of the Guyra Lamb & Potato Festival Committee for 30 years and has been secretary for 25 years. She originally combined the position of secretary with organising the stall holders and the entertainment (there is now a sub-committee for these tasks) as well as purchasing the food for the canteen and organising the volunteer roster. This is no mean feat as there are two different shifts each day of the 10-day festival. Julie deals with different volunteers and temperaments all day every day and does this in a calm and quiet way. She also has to oversee the cleaning of the toilets and the removal of rubbish. Julie is the principal of Bald Blair Primary School where she has been for 17 years. She was a teacher at Drummond School Armidale for 11 years and a casual teacher at Guyra for two years. For the past five years Julie has run a free homework centre two afternoons a week at Bald Blair Primary School and has been the secretary/treasurer for the Guyra Tennis Club for 20 years. She is a very valued community member of our community.

Marion Gosper OAM

[CUDAL]

Marion moved to Cudal in the 1970s to take up a role as a primary school teacher at Cudal Central School. She met and married a local fellow and fortunately this kept Marion in the district. Today, she is a mother to two children and a very helpful grandmother to four little ones. Over the years, Marion has been involved in and volunteered her time with a number of groups and committees such as the school P&C and children's sports clubs. Marion has worked tirelessly as a member of Australian Red Cross and holds the position of treasurer. She was a key founder of the Cabonne Food, Wine & Cultural Centre, which opened in 2001 in Cudal's old General Store and operates on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays using volunteer labour. The store prides itself on selling local produce and products, as well as hosting a meeting space, free lending library and café. Marion is secretary of this organisation. Marion spent many years researching her book Servicemen from the Cudal District. Along with Rev Jeanette, she re-established our ANZAC service. This is now a huge district event attracting visitors from far and wide. In 2009 Marion was awarded an OAM for service to the community. For more than 10 years Marion has produced the Cudal News, sourcing and compiling news and arranging printing and distribution. She is a volunteer driver for Cabonne Community Transport, organiser of the Cudal Anzac Day celebrations and Toogong Dawn.

Marion is an outstanding hidden treasure. The Cudal community feel very fortunate to have such a generous, hard working person in our district.

Martha Gouniai

[BROKEN HILL]

At the age of 26, Martha moved to Broken Hill in 2015 as a fulltime volunteer with the Baha'i Faith promoting community development and capacity building, leaving behind her family, friends and career. Since arriving in Broken Hill she has been heavily engaged with the Aboriginal community covering Wilcannia and Menindee. For more than a year she has been running a weekly local Baha'i children's class with a group of Aboriginal kids helping them develop generosity, kindness and unity. She also runs a junior youth group with Indigenous youth, supporting them in being of service to their community. Together they made gifts and visited a local nursing home, offering their gifts and spending time with the residents. Martha also runs youth training camps, inviting young people to develop their own capacities to work with children and junior youth and start their own groups. Faced with a myriad of obstacles and setbacks, Martha has shown relentless determination and resilience to continue to work for the betterment of others. With great love, compassion and care she has become a real part of the life of the community, always putting the needs of others before her own. As her mother I can't express how proud I am of her remarkable achievements.

Irene Hancock [MURRINGO]

Irene has been a volunteer and a permit-issuing officer of the Murringo fire brigade for 11 years. She also volunteers her time in the SWSZ District office five days a week and assists in the planning and implementation of the new centralised dispatch system that will soon come on line in the area. She helps to manage the private fleet in the area, is an active member of the Murringo brigade, and attends incidents on a regular basis. She is an avid member of the SWSZ support brigade and one of the leading members for the introduction of more female membership in the RFS. As a volunteer with the Young Heritage Motor club for the past five years, she registers all the cars in the club. She is an active volunteer member of the Rural Fire Service Association in Division 8 where she is secretary and representative on a statewide consultative committee for community engagement for Region West. She has been a member of the community engagement group in the SWSZ for the past six years.

Kerry Heather [ULLADULLA]

Kerry grew up in Cheshire, United Kingdom on a farm. Her first job was as a telephonist at British Telecom (then called General Post Office). She came to Australia in 1969 and travelled for two years working at temporary office jobs and picking apples in Tasmania. Kerry settled in Western Australia in 1971 until 2000 when she and her husband retired to be grey nomads. They became

caretakers of a horse property for five years before buying a home in Milton. Kerry volunteers and teaches sewing and has volunteered at the Ulladulla & Districts Community Resources Centre for 15 years. She has a wide variety of skills and hobbies and believes her decision to come to Australia was a good one. She has been on committees, worked at the front desk and is willing to lend a hand for any task. She is one of the centre's hidden treasures – Kerry takes our room bookings and manages to slot everyone in, coping with visiting services, enquiries and questions and she can still have a smile, a joke and a compliment for other co-workers. Kerry will always find time to help others.

Sharon Hibbens [WEE WAA]

Sharon has been a volunteer member of the NSW Rural Fire Service since September 2004. During this time she was a member of the Wee Waa South Rural Fire Brigade later the Wee Waa Yarrie Lake Rural Fire Brigade, and now called the Yarrie Lake Rural Fire Brigade. Sharon has been a very resourceful volunteer assisting where and when she can. Her record keeping for the brigade has been exceptional. During this time she has been an active trainee participating in many courses and has been very proactive in the local community education program. Sharon holds the position of brigade secretary with Yarrie Lake Rural Fire Brigade, a position she has held for fourteen years. She is a very valuable member of her brigade and is a regular participant in brigade activities. Sharon is a true asset to the NSW Rural Fire Service and her community. She is always in

good spirits, and willing to assist in any way that she can. Sharon is a very worthy hidden treasure. We need to acknowledge her community spirit as a volunteer, her record keeping skills, and as an essential emergency service member for her Brigade.

Marion Hockey [COOTAMUNDRA]

My hidden treasure, Marion Hockey, is an amazing woman. Marion was born in Cootamundra and has lived here all her life. She raised two children as a single parent and is now a grandmother and an extremely proud great grandmother of three. Marion has devoted her life working in a voluntary position at the Salvation Army Family Store in Cootamundra for the past 24 years in a management position. Marion is a gifted knitter and has spent her adult life knitting for Angel Care Premi-Babies and Operation Christmas Child, a charity that sends gift-filled boxes to children in developing countries. Sadly for Marion, her ill health has forced her to step back from her management position and she is unable to continue her prize-winning knitting. She is a very worthy recipient of a Hidden Treasure award and it would mean the world to her.

Thelma Hodgson [COPMANHURST] [Posthumous]

Thelma passed away before her daughter could tell her she was nominating her for this honour. Thelma Joyce Hodgson (nee Way) was born in

the Hunter Valley in July 1917. Following the death of her husband she moved to the Clarence Valley in 1977 to live with her daughter. Thelma held the most important job, a number one mum, grandmother and great grandmother. She held no gold plaques, just a golden heart that radiated love to all her family and those she met throughout her life journey. Thelma was a quiet achiever and constantly supported her husband and family behind the scenes, her voluntary efforts and love touching many over the years. She helped establish a distribution centre at the caretaker residence at Waterloo Brickworks in Thornton during the historic 1954 flood, enabling displaced families to have food, clothing and temporary shelter. She cooked for them and cared for friends and strangers alike who emerged from the ravaged bushland after their homes had been swept away in floodwaters. She supported her husband Harold G Hodgson while as secretary he endeavoured to build up the almost defunct Protestant Alliance Friendly Society (PAFS) 'Pride of the East Lodge No 83' East Maitland. The Lodge provided members in hardship with affordable medical, hospital and funeral funds. Thelma drove her husband around Maitland as he signed up members, swelling the membership within six years. In the 1957 Youth Year campaign, the small lodge became state champion during the first year with Harold as secretary, helping organise the biggest Christmas party in the history of Maitland. The reward for both Harold and Thelma was to see Thelma make Lodge history, and at a special ceremony became the first Worshipful Mistress of the Lodge. Thelma provided a daily lunch order service from the caretaker residence, cooking pies and mushy peas, snags, sausage rolls, hot dogs

and cakes on her fuel stove for the employees of the Brickworks who were isolated in the bush from shops. Thelma nursed her daughter back to health during two battles with cancer while living with her in the Clarence Valley. A diminutive woman with a wicked sense of humour, a constant sparkle in her eyes, and a love for people – the world is a better place for her sojourn through life, but a sadder place for her leaving. Thelma spent her last years residing at St Catherine's Villa, Grafton, leaving this world in 1916 in her 99th year.

June Howard [GWANDALAN]

June is an exceptional woman who spends all her time helping others. Born in Wentworthville she attended the local school and later went on to business college to study shorthand and typing. She worked as a junior with an insurance company, and worked her way up to being in charge. As a child she belonged to the Junior Red Cross. In 1971, she moved to Gwandalan and joined the Country Women's Association. In 1983, she joined the Toukley & District Art Society and in 1985, the Porcelain Painting Association. In 1985, June joined the Gwandalan Lioness Club and has worked very hard for the district and held many positions during this time, and at present is the president and a life member. As a member of the local Anglican church, June has been a constant worker for those in need. She is a parish warden, a chalice assistant and a lay preacher. She has also been part of Christians Together (a group from the Anglican, Catholic and Baptist Churches) who worked to raise money

to help people in need with food vouchers. June is a member of Women of Worth and raises money for underprivileged women in Uganda, by lending them small amounts of money to start-up businesses that enable them to feed their families. June is an exceptional woman and we are very proud to know her.

Nicole Howden [COWRA]

Nicole (Nikki) moved to Cowra and jumped straight into a volunteer role with the Cowra Information & Neighbourhood Centre (CINC). She established a support group for mothers who had lost unborn or stillborn angel babies, after the loss of her daughter Chance in 2011, with the program being auspiced under CINC. The group has grown to supply hospitals nationwide with bereavement packages for grieving families. Her involvement as a volunteer with CINC has grown each year, with Nikki's ability to jump onto any program or lend a hand where needed. She is a volunteer board member, holding the position of treasurer and secretary. She coordinates Tax Help, Community Conversations within Bilyara, Cowra's aged care residence and was a lead coordinator in Cowra Bring Healthy back — a health challenge that saw more than 500 community members change their health habits in early 2016. Nikki is always one of the first to be involved when the call for help is put out. A day rarely passes where we don't see her in the centre. Nikki is a mother to four other children aged from 21 down. She is a fulltime carer for her eldest son who has cerebral palsy. Despite any struggles in her family life, Nikki is able to put a positive and infectious vibe

into the community, motivating people to become involved in CINC activities and groups. Nikki is an extremely deserving hidden treasure.

Patricia Hughes [BUNDANOON]

Patricia (Patsy) moved from Sydney to Bundanoon a little over eight years ago. She describes herself as a city escapist; however, she has had an ancestry on the land and has always had an interest in remote communities. Patsy joined the committee of the Bundanoon Highland Gathering 'Brigadoon' seven years ago, and for the past six years has been the coordinator for the many stalls at the gathering. For eight years Patsy has been a member of the Southern Highlands Endurance Ride committee and is responsible for the volunteers catering for this event. Other community involvement includes membership of the Country Women's Association, Exeter where Patsy has been the branch international officer for four years. There is also time for volunteering and participating in concerts with Serendipity the Choir and courses of interest with U3A. While living in the city, Patsy was a leader, trainer and adviser for Girl Guides NSW & ACT from 1962. For 24 years she was a leader with the lones section of Guides, ensuring girls and young women in rural communities throughout NSW were able to participate in the Guide program and grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. Patsy was a foundation member of the Alpine Trefoil Guild based in the Snowy Mountains region. She transferred her city guild membership to Bowral Trefoil Guild when she moved and

has served as the president, ensuring the guild remains connected to and of service to the local community.

Janette Hyde [PORT MACQUARIE]

Despite wanting to be a teacher, Janette left school at 15 in an effort to support her family financially. Her early work experience included being office junior for the Governor General Lord de Lisle at Admiralty House in Kirribilli. Janette and her husband moved to Port Macquarie in 1975 where many wonderful opportunities presented themselves. Janette's employment with Port Macquarie RSL and Panthers Club for 34 years prompted her to become involved with the welfare of others in the greater Port Macquarie region. Janette was determined that on retirement she would not retire from working with the community. Janette continues to serve the community in a number of roles: member of the Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association for 25 years and has acted in the role of president for the last 10 years; life member and board member of the Chamber of Commerce for the past 10 years; vice president for the past six years and life member of the Port Macquarie Advisory Committee. Janette has dedicated her time and continues to play an active role in many other local committees, organisations and events such as: Bravehearts Mid North Coast, Salvation Army, Hastings Business Women's Network, Beatles Festival, Annual Christmas Street Parade, Port Macquarie Museum and the annual NSW State Touch Football Championship. Janette's involvement in the Port Macquarie community has

been outstanding. She is truly our hidden, much revered and respected treasure, highly worthy of the Honour Roll.

Ida Jarvis [GOULBURN]

Ida was born in Cowra in 1938 and moved to Liverpool, Sydney in 1964 to train as a nurse's aide, where she lived at the nurses' quarters. She also worked at the Eastern Suburbs Hospital, now known as Marion College, for two years and worked in various nursing homes until 1974. She cared for her husband until he passed away. In 1995 Ida moved to Goulburn. It wasn't long before she started to go to the Uniting Church with her sister Evelyn and attend fellowship groups. It was here she met Jenny Chalker and became a volunteer in the Wesley Centre kitchen. The idea for the cafe started after a fruit market set up shop in the Wesley Centre car park in 2007. Jenny Chalker asked Rev Wakefield if she could start serving scones and jam while the markets were on. He thought this would be a good idea and over time this progressed into also offering lunch. While the fruit market ceased in 2011, the cafe is still going strong and is open every Friday from 12 noon to 5 pm and run by a small group of volunteers, Ida being one of them. As Ida doesn't drive, she mostly walks to wherever she needs to go and every Thursday she volunteers tirelessly to assist in the preparation of sweets, soups and sandwich fillings for the next day, and then she is back again on Friday when the centre is open. You will always find Ida with a smile and ready for a friendly chat.

Elaine Johns [BROKEN HILL]

A Broken Hill local, Elaine has volunteered for 51 years with the Broken Hill South Football Club (SFC) and 15 years with the Broken Hill Hospital kiosk auxiliary. Elaine is a hard working mother of three and grandmother of five; she is kept busy with her large and loving family and friends, but has always found time to volunteer. She is described as a 'gem' and is respected for her hard work and commitment to the causes she volunteers for, but more than that she is liked by all who know and work with her. She nurtures the volunteers she supervises and is always willing to give anyone a chance and people respond to her kindness and flourish under her guidance. In her long history of volunteering for her community she has never sought any type of recognition for her work, but has naturally received acknowledgements from the SFC over the years. She is a quiet, shy and dedicated individual who selflessly shares her time and talents with organisations that she loves and the community she cherishes. Elaine was nominated in the 2015 Broken Hill Council Volunteer of the Year, is a nominee in the 2016 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award, and in the 2016 NSW Premier's Recognition Program. She was awarded the "Top Roo" award in 1988 for her volunteering with the SFC and was AFL Volunteer of Australia in 2002.

Janice Jones [MOSS VALE]

Janice's (Jan's) country life began in 1963 when she married and moved to live on a dairy farm at Robertson. Jan spent the next 22 years teaching at local schools, with four to five years out to raise young children. She taught multi-grade classes, and for the last five years of her career she was teacher-in-charge of a two-teacher school at Tallong, which was part of the Disadvantaged Schools program. After returning from five years in PNG and the Solomon Islands, Jan taught at the Southern Highlands Christian School in Bowral for 12 to 13 years. Jan has been actively involved with her local church in Robertson, Tallong and Moss Vale. She was the organist for 25 years at Robertson and in recent years has been on the pianist/organist roster at Moss Vale. Since retiring 10 years ago Jan has been teaching religious education at two local schools. In a busy life dedicated to family, teaching and church Jan found time to spend many, many hours volunteering with the Girl Guides. Since 1974 Jan has been a leader of youth and adults. She was a trainer of leaders, a role model to Guide members and a wonderful mentor to many. Jan says: "I hope I have been able to contribute in a positive way to the lives of very many children, some of whom I have met up with again as young adults, and been happy to have been part of their earlier lives."

Karen Kemp [BROKEN HILL]

At the core of Karen's voluntary work is the generous nature and love that she has for her community. She has a long and varied history of volunteering for the Broken Hill community. Since 1996, Karen has been involved in a student exchange program called American Field Service (AFS), which involves 60 countries worldwide. Karen joined the Far West LHD Patient Family Support Team of staff volunteers in 2013. The scheme assists the family of critically ill patients in the emergency department, giving emotional support and comfort to the patient's family in their time of need. This program is close to Karen's heart as it complements the passion she has for her nursing profession and in helping the patients and their loved ones who use the services of the Broken Hill Base Hospital. Karen is truly unique. Her commitment and dedication to volunteering is matched by her passion for her numerous roles and her willingness to give her time, whether it's in assisting exchange students to achieve their dreams; or giving comfort and support to families who may be traumatised at the prospect of dealing with a serious illness or by the death of a loved one. Karen is the 2015 NSW Health Volunteer of the Year; State Finalist — 2015 NSW Volunteer of the Year — Adult Category; and Nominee in the 2016 NSW Premier's Recognition Program. She previously received the Premier's Certificate of Appreciation (SA) Volunteer of the Year for her work with the AFS.

Janice Lang [EWINGSDALE]

Janice (Jan) was born in Mullumbimby, the only daughter in a family of five children. Her schooling and the start of her employment were at Mullumbimby. Jan married Ron and they had five children. Together, they went into partnership with life-long friends in the successful Sunnybrand Chickens for 36 years. Jan's parents were community minded and volunteered in numerous community organisations and Jan followed in their footsteps. She joined the Parents Association serving as president, vice president and secretary and also volunteered at tuck shop, concerts and craft. Jan taught Catechist at primary school for 30 years. When her children were students at the local Catholic high school, Jan was a voluntary driver taking students to the local nursing home. Jan has led an active life in her church for more than 40 years as secretary and a pastoral associate visiting the bereaved and taking parishioners communion. Jan was involved in the local pony club for 25 years. She joined United Hospital Auxiliary holding various executive positions for 20 years and contributing in all the fundraising events. Jan volunteers at St Vincent de Paul shop in Byron Bay and her passion for assisting others shines through. When a need was identified at Byron Aged Care, Jan joined from 2009 to 2015 and was the chair for four years. Jan spends at least 10 hours each week as a volunteer. We salute her and her good works.

Marlee Langfield [COWRA]

For a 21-year-old, Marlee from Cowra, has achieved more, and participated in her community to a greater extent than many do in a lifetime. From a young age Marlee worked alongside her parents on the family property, so farming is indeed in her blood. Educated in Cowra, Canada and Bathurst, after completing her HSC Marlee choose to study by distance challenging herself and improving her knowledge achieving qualifications in agriculture and management. In 2015 she was awarded Western Region Trainee of the Year for excelling in Certificate III in Agriculture. Recently, she was the guest speaker at the 2016 Training Awards and inspired the room with her knowledge of the industry she loves and spoke from the heart about her passion for the land. Other achievements include: 2014 Cowra Show Junior Rural Achiever and 2016 Art4Agriculture Grain Research & Development Corporation Young Farming Champion. Marlee is an inspirational young farmer and a gem within her community. Since leaving school she has spent valuable time volunteering and assisting with Morongla and Cowra Show Societies, Country Women's Association, Australian Red Cross, NSW Poll Dorset Championships, Headspace and NSW Farmers and supported many other community projects and cultural events. Some active roles she has taken on so far include: general committee member, chief steward, caterer, publicity officer, cultural officer, photographer and the list goes on. In recognition for her volunteer work Marlee was awarded the 2016 Cowra Young Citizen of the Year.

Helen Leamon [TAMWORTH]

Since 1982, Helen has been a longstanding volunteer with Girl Guides NSW & ACT in Tamworth. She dedicates much of her time to ensuring that girls and young women have the opportunity to develop into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. Helen is also the learning and development advisor for the Northwest Inland Region, sharing her knowledge and experience with other leaders within the organisation. She is passionate about the outdoors and readily gives her time to taking girls and leaders camping, often travelling long distances to do so. Helen is a quiet achiever and is extremely worthy of recognition for the many years of service she has given to her community, with her time volunteering to Girl Guides NSW & ACT just one of the ways she gives back to her community.

Janice Limn [CESSNOCK]

Janice was born and lives in Cessnock, where she enjoyed a career in nursing. She married Graeme and had three children. They have been married for 52 years. They are very proud grandparents and great supporters of their children and grandchildren. Janice has been an active member of Cessnock VIEW (voice, interest and education

of women) Club, which works for The Smith Family to raise money to educate disadvantaged children across Australia in a Learning For Life program. She has been a member for 41 years and has held various committee positions including president. Janice started as Brownie Leader in March 1978 and the girls named her 'Blue Wren'. She received a warrant in September 1978 as assistant Brownie Leader with 1a Brownie pack. Janice became Leader in Charge in September 1981 with 1a Brownies. She became Acting District Commissioner in June 1982 and received a Commissioner's Warrant in September 1982. In 1986 she received a Good Service Award and in 1988 finished guiding and was presented a 10-year combined services award. Throughout her guiding years she attended nine Guide camps and five Ranger regattas and was Blue Wren (1978), Brown Owl (1981), District Commissioner (1982) and member Local Association (1987).

Jean Lloyd [GOULBURN]

Jean was born in Belmore, Sydney and moved to Goulburn in 1984. She has been with the Goulburn Quota Club for 25 years as: president (twice), minute secretary, correspondence secretary, treasurer, committee chairs fundraising programs, district governor, district secretary/ treasurer, secretary of member South Pacific area scholarship, and committee member of region finance committee. Having been a Legacy Ward herself and a member of Goulburn Legacy since 2006, Jean is currently the first female President of The Legacy Club of Goulburn Inc. from 2015–2017. Her community involvement includes:

community volunteer for Meals on Wheels; Street Van Blood Bank; musical mornings at Waminda Nursing Home; conductor of U3A Choir; 12 years as a judge for Lions Youth of the Year; judged the Miss Show Girl and secretary of the year Guiding; district commissioner in Forbes and Goulburn Guide Guider; Trangie President of Guide Association; Forbes executive member of P&Cs at children's schools. Jean has produced musicals for children and coached and managed softball, netball and hockey teams:

Patricia Maclaren-Smith

[EAST LISMORE]

Pat is a founding member of U3A in Lismore, which is a volunteer organisation encouraging senior citizen community participation in learning and sharing of life experiences. Pat was a member of the original steering committee, which began in 1994 and has given more than 20 years' service to U3A undertaking many rolls including president of the local branch and also president of the NSW network. Pat is truly inspirational and very involved with a hands on approach. Being a natural leader, Pat has been instrumental in bringing positive change and learning to many senior citizens in the community. She has been involved in other charitable organisations including the Australian Red Cross. Her contributions have been extraordinary and Pat is well known and respected in the Lismore community for her many years of charitable service. It is my pleasure to nominate Pat for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

Susan Maisey

[ARMIDALE]

Born and raised in Sydney, Sue was a nurse by trade, always helping those around her. After her two children were born, working night shifts at a nursing home and being around for her young family became tough, so she and husband Cameron moved to Armidale. Her daughters are thankful every day to Sue and Cameron for the tree change and the opportunities it has given them. Sue's eldest had severe anaphylaxis to several foods, and Sue became a super mum to make sure nothing that touched her child's lips would cause a reaction and possible death. Sue navigated the stressful world of her child's constant danger and taught her how to be careful. After the move to Armidale she left nursing to help in a different way; she became a teacher's assistant in the high school hospitality department, and an amazing friend to every child that walked into her pantry office. Six years ago Sue joined the ranks of the Rural Fire Service, volunteering her time in her days and nights. After fewer than two years in the RFS, Sue became the captain of the catering brigade. She also volunteers her time to other organisations such as Zonta International Days for Girls. We all know a hidden and unsung treasure, but Sue doesn't do it for recognition or fame. She does it to show her family she is a loving, hardworking and proud mother working to make a difference to her part of the world.

Beryl Mannion [QUIRINDI]

Beryl was born and raised in Quirindi and married a water drilling contractor, George. At their recent 50th wedding anniversary celebrations, George claimed “Fifty years ago, I won lotto when I married Beryl”. Quirindi and district has been just as fortunate as George for the presence of Beryl. During her children’s school years, Beryl was an active member of Mother’s Club and P&Cs and in the early 1980s became secretary of both the Quirindi Basketball Association and the Quirindi Garden Club, and also joined the Willow Tree Country Women’s Association. In the 1980s, Beryl helped set up the local Arts and Crafts Shop and in the 1990s, was an inaugural member of the committee that established the Quirindi Rural Heritage Village and Museum. She is still the secretary for the village’s annual rally and swap meet. Her interest in gardens saw her become a member and also newsletter editor of the NSW Floral Art Association in 1991. She has exhibited at the Quirindi Show for 60 years and from 2003 to 2008, was chief steward of the horticultural section. For many years, she has been a member of the Retirement Homes Committee and actively served on the building subcommittee. On joining Lions in 1997, Beryl almost immediately became newsletter editor for Lions District 201N1 and for 10 years from 2003 was secretary of the local club. Currently she is chairperson of the Youth of the Year committee. In 1993, Beryl was elected to Liverpool Plains Shire Council, serving also as the Tourism Committee chair. For her last three years as a councillor (2003-2004) she took on the role of deputy mayor. Between 1973 and 1995, Beryl

was a journalist for the Quirindi Advocate. She has always been motivated by a belief that service to the community will help to make the community a better place for all who live there.

Elizabeth McGregor [MUTTAMA]

Elizabeth was born in Holbrook, growing up in Holbrook and Henty. Upon leaving school Elizabeth worked for the Westpac Bank in different country towns in NSW. She has lived in Muttama for the past 27 years on a working family farm and is a loving mother of four. Elizabeth works at Uralba Hostel Aged Care Facility in Gundagai. She has been volunteering for the past 15 years on committees in Muttama including as treasurer for the Muttama Hall Committee, treasurer and committee member for the Tennis Club and secretary for the local Rural Fire Service, also starting up a rural fire service support group after a major fire. Elizabeth volunteers around six hours a week to these causes and more in the summer months with the Rural Fire Service. The McGregor family have been a huge part of the Muttama community for the past five generations and Elizabeth is eager to keep the Muttama legacy going for future generations. She is always first to have her hand up when anything is happening in Muttama and always puts 100 per cent effort into all projects. Elizabeth is a very valued member of the Muttama community, and we would love to see her recognised for her valuable contributions and the love she puts into our community.

Heather McLaren

[LOCHINVAR]

Heather was born in Sydney and grew up in Maitland. She attended and was a prefect at Maitland Girls High. She attended Newcastle Conservatorium of Music/Newcastle University gaining her Bachelor of Music/teaching degree. She began her teaching at Albury North High School and completed her 30-year career in education at Hunter Valley Grammar School as deputy head of school. Heather is a founder and patron of the Maitland City Choir since 1986. She is the president/musical director of the choir, which performs for civic functions and delights the community with concerts at nursing homes, retirement villages, the local hospital and Christmas carols for Morpeth Combined Churches and many others. For many years Heather has been a board director at Hunter Valley Grammar School and Secretary of the Maitland Black & White Committee of Vision Australia that raises funds for the visually impaired in the Hunter. She has been past president of Maitland Ladies Golf Committee, past president of Maitland Sunrise Rotary Club and is a member of the Maitland City Community Awards committee, and Art Gallery, Friends of Tocal and Maitland Regional Museum Committee. Heather has also in her retirement been a member of VISE (Volunteer in Isolated Student Education). Heather sponsors many music prizes for students at local primary schools and high schools. Heather's family (husband Alan, sons Jonathan, Adrian and Neil and their wives and eight grandchildren) are totally supportive

and proud of her commitment and dedication to her many hours of volunteer work throughout the community.

Cheryl Meuret

[BROKEN HILL]

Cheryl has been volunteering for the Broken Hill community for more than 25 years and has volunteered in a wide range of roles and for many organisations. She has volunteered with the Broken Hill Hospital Kiosk Auxiliary for 11 years and holds the office of president. Cheryl's volunteering journey began with the usual sporting club volunteering when her children were young and she has been involved with nearly every sporting club in Broken Hill. She has a 20-year history with the South Footy Club and received their 'Top Roo' award for her dedication to her roles with the club. Working with the Community Visitors Scheme was also a very rewarding role for two years. Cheryl also volunteers with the Burke Ward School doing canteen and reading duties and the Southern Cross nursing home. Cheryl's achievements are personal in that she does what she does quietly and very few people know of the extent of her volunteering or the commitment she has made to her community over the years. Cheryl is president of the Tigers softball team and apart from all the duties that this role entails she also helps with fundraising so that the team can take part in the Masters Games. Cheryl was nominated in the 2015 Broken Hill City Council Volunteer of the Year; is a nominee in the 2016 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award and nominated in the 2016 NSW Premier's Recognition Program.

Jenny Middleton [CANOWINDRA]

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jenny Middleton since moving to Canowindra three years ago. Jenny is an integral part of this wonderful little community. She, as the saying goes, “keeps the motor running”. She heads the Country Women’s Association (CWA) in Canowindra, which has just totally renovated its kitchen and rooms, with most of the fundraising done by Jenny and her crew of workers. The CWA does lots of catering at the Canowindra Bowling Club. She and I got together last year to save this club, and with a lot of fundraising we put a new dishwasher, tables, new carpet/curtains, spruced the club up and made it into a going concern. She organises Christmas lunch for all the battlers every year on Christmas day and provides a wonderful atmosphere. She does countless hours of volunteer work – Meals on Wheels and CWA to name a few – a wonderful lady respected and loved by the whole town and a lady I am proud to call a great friend.

Josie Middleton [NARRANDERA]

Josie has spent her life volunteering and serving her community in Narrandera. She finds great satisfaction and pleasure doing things with and for others. Josie has limitless energy and volunteers across various sectors of the community. She began volunteering back in the late 1970s when she had her first child, Scott. Josie began volunteering at the Narrandera Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club. In 2006

she was awarded the centenary medal for long and voluntary service to the NSW learn to swim campaign in Narrandera and surrounds and is a life member of the club. Josie was inducted into the Narrandera Shire Sportsperson Hall of Fame for her athletic achievements and currently sits on the Narrandera Sportsperson of the Year committee. Since 1980, Josie has volunteered for Scouts, was district commissioner for three years and is currently a group leader. Josie has been delivering Meals on Wheels for 36 years. This year she has the role of chief stewardship for the Narrandera Show Society and is the current treasurer of Narrandera Arts and Creative Network. Since 2010, Josie has been part of the Narrandera Nattering Nitters who meet weekly to knit or crochet blankets for Wrap With Love. In 2001, Josie was awarded the Narrandera Shire Citizenship Award for outstanding contribution to the community. Josie has also received a Certificate of Appreciation to Australian Volunteers for contribution to community, awarded by John Howard, Kay Hull and Mal Brough.

Anika Molesworth [BROKEN HILL]

It was her family’s experience on their Broken Hill outback sheep stations during the decade-long millennium drought that introduced Anika to farming and the inter-connectedness of rural systems – providing the impetus for her to pursue a career in building resilience in farming to present and future challenges. Anika is the 2015-16 Australian Young Farmer of the Year and tirelessly represents young farmers in the media

and as a presenter at numerous conferences, including the Paris COP21 United Nations Climate Conference. She voluntarily established and maintains the Climate Wise Agriculture website to promote change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and is a strong advocate for greater adoption of renewable energies in agriculture. Her Master of Sustainable Agriculture research was based in Laos, where she worked voluntarily with some of the world's poorest farmers. Her PhD research is helping to improve soil fertility in water constrained environments to enhance food production while reducing environmental footprint. Her studies involve working with farmers in Laos, Cambodia and the Riverina in NSW. Keenly interested in the conservation of natural and cultural heritage in farming communities, Anika voluntarily founded and manages the International National Trusts Organisation's (INTO) Sustainable Farms program. INTO Farms promotes agricultural best practices together with heritage conservation on farming properties around the globe, including NSW National Trust farms. Exchanging knowledge internationally through INTO Farms helps people learn about food production, heritage conservation, safe guarding ecosystems and fosters vibrancy in rural communities to better ensure their sustainability.

Anita Morrison [FORBES]

Anita has been a tireless community worker for Forbes and has served on more committees than I can count. Her energy and enthusiasm have made her the key organiser in many of these committees. Anita has service in excess

of 10 years for the Forbes Sportsperson of the Year committee, is a long serving member of the Forbes Preschool fundraising committee, and has 10 plus years as secretary of Little Athletics, Forbes Netball Committee, treasurer of the Forbes High School P&C, Parkes Netball Committee, Forbes Touch Football Committee, Forbes Neighbourhood Watch committee, and the Forbes Australia Day committee. Anita is also heavily involved in the Forbes Eisteddfod. In 2013, Anita was runner-up in the inaugural Volunteer Sporting Spirit Award for her work with the Forbes Touch Football Association and Forbes Little Athletics. Anita worked for Forbes Shire Council organising NAIDOC celebrations, International Women's Day and similar events. She now works at Forbes High School to improve children's education and also works as a member of the local press with the Forbes Phoenix.

Marion Murray [COONAMBLE]

Marion brings fun, common sense, experience, and generosity to many events. Coonamble is made a better place by the work she is involved in, quite often in a behind the scenes capacity. She is a splendid example of how the power of altruism and volunteering benefits individuals, groups and whole communities. Together with her husband Selwyn and family, she arrived in Coonamble in 1986, from their previous properties in the Cudal and Peak Hill areas. She is involved with several small local groups as well as others that have waxed and waned over the years including the Country Women's Association, a life member of the Coonamble Show Society

and has been nominated for Coonamble Citizen of the year. Through her consistent support, many of these groups have significantly benefitted financially, especially important when a dollar can be hard to find. She is involved at many levels of these groups too — as part of the executive or general committees providing great advice and ideas, through to being hands on as a ticket seller, kitchen hand, cook, server and sweeping up afterwards as well — she has the uncanny knack of knowing what is needed, before anyone else has even thought that far ahead. Marion does all these things through good seasons and bad, while still providing physical support in the farming business with her husband. Always reliable, Marion will turn up, with homegrown flowers, home baking (although she will tell you she doesn't cook!), willing hands and a warm smile.

Desley Newell [BOOROWA]

Desley has been a volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for 11 years and in that time she has been actively involved in the brigade of Kenyu Goba Creek in the former Boorowa Shire. She also volunteers in the Harden district office of the NSW RFS and helps manage the fleet servicing of the 83 fire trucks and manages the volunteer participation in all fire-fighting courses. Desley

also works closely with the Captain of the Kenyu Goba Creek brigade in the management of fires in that area and is the safety officer for our tree fellers when they go out to drop fire affected trees. She helps run the farm with her partner and is often fencing and doing sheep work. She has achieved her long service medal with the NSW RFS for 10 years of dedicated service.

Carrie Oakley [BROKEN HILL]

Carrie has only been in Broken Hill since 2004, but has become a well-known local business woman. What is not as well known is her passion for helping people, volunteering and her social conscience. Carrie has a long history of informal volunteering, not that she would necessarily call it that; she just helps people and gives a hand to people less fortunate than herself. Her contribution to the Broken Hill community cannot be easily measured. She contributes her time and often funding, through her businesses, to the Domestic Violence Committee activities. Along with local and interstate guest speakers of note, Carrie has addressed the annual International Women's Day event. Carrie joined the Broken Hill Hospital Kiosk in 2015; not long after joining the Saturday kiosk team she was nominated and unanimously elected to assistant secretary on the kiosk executive. As she became more involved with the hospital's volunteers, Carrie offered to donate the hot pink polo shirts for the Dementia/ Delirium & Palliative Care (DDPC) volunteers. She was so impressed with the feedback from the DDPC team and staff about the team's new look she donated polo shirts for the Patient Family

Support staff volunteers. Carrie is an unusual mix of determination and drive combined with a generous empathic character that makes her an exceptional volunteer and member of her community. She is a nominee for the 2016 Broken Hill City Council Australia Day Award and Volunteer of the Year Award, nominee — 2016 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award and nominee 2016 NSW Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program.

Katrina O'Brien

[COOTAMUNDRA]

Katrina (Kate) was born in Dubbo, NSW. She married Michael O'Brien from Cootamundra and had three children as well as caring for a stepson. Kate and Mick are now very proud grandparents of a beautiful little girl. Kate is a volunteer at the Salvation Army Family Store in Cootamundra where she works tirelessly from 9 am to 3 pm four days a week. As assistant manager, Kate has a large number of volunteers under her care and each person is in awe of the way Kate not only conducts herself in this position, but also assists her family, friends and holds voluntary positions in her church. I am overjoyed to nominate Kate for Hidden Treasures. She is a quiet achiever and very deserving of this recognition.

Denise Perry

[BIGGA]

In October 1998 our family packed up our lives and moved to the small village of Bigga. Mum and Dad took over the local hotel and quickly integrated themselves into the community. Mum found plenty of ways to become involved with the township. She helped out at our primary and high schools where she could, volunteered her time on sporting days and excursions, and when we'd all left school, she sponsored the local sports teams. Mum joined the SES a year or so after she moved to Bigga and has been an active member, and now controller of the unit, for more than 16 years. She played an integral part in setting up the community first response and has been a selfless volunteer (24/7) for 11 years. She works alongside NSW Ambulance providing lifesaving emergency medical help to her remote community. Mum is also involved in helping out all other areas of the small community of Bigga. She helps arrange the Easter markets, activities for the kids and BBQs. She has been involved with the ANZAC Committee for 10 years and helps arrange the ANZAC march and most importantly, lunch. Mum got roped into selling badges for Legacy and quickly became firm friends with Dave Harrison. Throughout their long and cherished friendship, she cared for him and loved him as a father. Mum would help arrange Legacy golf days, Legacy lunches and would also transport Legacy ladies and Dave Harrison to and from various functions. When Dave became unwell and had to move into the town of Bigga, mum looked after him as one of her own. She would make him lunch and dinner every day, walk him home

at night and travel with him to all of his medical appointments. She was absolutely devastated when he passed away. Owning the hotel in town has meant that mum has been able to open the doors to our home via our livelihood. There is always a meal and a drink here for those that need it most. We have welcomed people into our home when they have needed it, sometimes for just a night, sometimes a week, maybe a month, and asked nothing in return. Our mother is the most caring, selfless and generous person we know. She is compassionate and full of empathy for everyone. She would never ask for attention or credit for anything she has ever done. She does it because she cares about everyone she meets. She has always taught us to be mindful of the people around us and to always offer a helping hand. Over the past few years, our father's health has worsened and mum has been fully committed to not only caring for our Dad full time, but also taking over the hotel. So with what little spare time she has from being totally self-employed, a fulltime carer to our father and a very supportive mother, she dedicates the rest of her life to her small community for no other reason but for the love of it. She will always be very giving and extremely kind. We are so proud of her and all she has achieved, and so thankful that she has instilled the same values in us. Our mother is a role model to us and for others and deserves any and all recognition that she gets. Mum will be the first person to open her heart and her arms to anyone in need. She has driven people to town after they've broken down or had a flat tyre; she's sat with people in our town all night after they're lost a family member. She's arranged meals for the sick, taken on the lost and looked out for

anyone who has crossed her path. She does what she does because she loves it, not for the attention. Nominator Gary Ridland would like to add that Denise also prepares food and drinks for the bushfire fighters. Gary expressed that Denise has been great for the community helping anyone in need with enthusiasm and passion.

Fay Pithie [ULLADULLA]

Born in Geelong, Victoria, Fay worked and grew up in towns in Victoria. She started her working life in a bakehouse as cake decorator, later moving to the Northern Territory as a public servant for the Department of Transport & Works. From 1964, Fay volunteered with the fire brigade for six years. She also sat on committees for baseball and holiday programs and volunteered for vacation care for seven hours per week. Fay is our centre's Hidden Treasure. Not only does she make the perfect sponge and oodles of scones whenever we have an event, she is willing to open the centre when someone is sick and she loves to help people. She has volunteered at the Ulladulla and District Community Resources Centre since 1996 on the committee or in other ways. Fay has been nominated for the Australia Day Awards, Healthy Cities and Community Housing volunteer awards among others. She is a 'jewel' among our gems and deserves to be congratulated.

Louella Polson [PORT MACQUARIE]

Louella (Loulou) volunteers for People Builders Care Centre. She is amazing and has a passion to help those who really need it. Loulou has worked so hard for the past three years — shopping for and putting together more than 100 Christmas hampers to help the needy in our community, as well as on a weekly basis for more than five years going to pick up bread then distributing it to those who had no other food. Loulou has worked with: Drug & Alcohol services to run an information day on foetal alcohol syndrome; Department of Family & Community Services as a support person going to court and supervising handing over children; advocating for youth allowances with Department of Human Services; working with social workers at numerous hospitals; communicating with many stakeholders from friends to family members and working all hours of the day and night with the Department of Housing when one of the members of our girlpower group was sick in hospital. Loulou is instrumental in running our girlpower group to gather women who are alone in our community and her vision is to reach out to women overseas in the future. Loulou at times has put her own life on hold to help others in their distress. She is truly a hidden treasure to all of us.

Judy Prenzel [BROKEN HILL]

Judy has lived all of her life in Broken Hill. She is a warm, kind and giving individual, a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She has been a regular volunteer at the Broken Hill

Hospital Kiosk, dating back to working at the old Thomas Street Kiosk and doing the ‘trolley run’ to the old hospital on the hill. Judy’s kiosk volunteering is one of many of her concerns. She has been volunteering with the South Football Club for more than 30 years — working tirelessly for the club as a fundraiser and supporting all the club’s functions. This service has brought many happy times to the club members as well as raising valuable revenue for the club, which is an institution in Broken Hill. She says she loves the club and the boys — she is “red and white all the way and will be until the day I die”. Judy has also volunteered for 20 years at the St James Mart and is always there to help in its essential and passionate work for the people of Broken Hill. Her joy at helping the broad spectrum of ages in our community is infectious and her efforts assist them in different ways. All of her roles are of great value, influence and impact the Broken Hill community making it a better place to live and belong. Judy was a nominee for 2015 Broken Hill City Council Volunteer of the Year, nominee 2016 NSW Volunteer of the Year, and nominated for the 2016 NSW Premier’s Recognition Program.

Dianne Roche [NYMAGEE]

Dianne (Di) has lived in the Nymagee area for 30 years and her preparedness to volunteer is invaluable in ensuring the survival of many aspects of the village of Nymagee. Di has been involved in Nymagee Progress Association (now secretary), Nymagee Public School P&C, Christmas Tree, Nymagee branch of the Cobar Town Library and now supervises monthly art classes for

local women. For the past 20 years Di has been involved with the Voluntary Bus Drivers Scheme — committing one day a week to drive locals to Cobar for shopping and medical appointments. Trips to enable locals' access to garden shows, Country Women's Association events and expos are also organised by Di. She has always put her artistic skills to use for the benefit of others, designing backdrops, costumes and props for school plays. Di is always willing to share her knowledge to help others with their art projects, including card making, scrapbooking and the creative use of recycled materials. Whatever the function, she is always there with a cake or two or three. Di has spent countless hours making sure the old school building is maintained and cared for. In dry times she has even been seen carrying buckets of water to the small trees in the village park and school grounds. Locals are never forgotten on their special occasions or birthdays when a card or a gift or even a photo from Di and family arrives. Apart from her outstanding commitment to her community, Di supports her husband Terry in the everyday running of their property. Di is the volunteer extraordinaire.

Betty Scanlon [HILLSTON]

Betty has been an active member of the Hillston community for 74 years. Born in West Wyalong the eldest of ten children, she left school at 14 to assist her mother with the family. At 18 she began work in the drapery section at the Nall Jackson store. She knitted socks and made camouflage nets for the war efforts and fundraised through a Queen competition. Betty has served on the

following committees: 12 years as secretary with St Joseph's Catholic School; 12 years as secretary for the Catholic ladies guild; 23 years' service to Australian Red Cross; 33 years' service to the Country Women's Association as president, vice president, publicity officer and hall attendant; 23 years' service with Hillston District Hospital as president, vice president and patron; 25 years with Meals on Wheels and 25 years with Probus club as publicity officer. Betty is an outgoing friendly lady who enjoys helping others. In her younger days she worked on a street stall every week, the locals would ask, "who are we raising funds for today Betty?" With her sight now failing she is unable to be as involved, however, still enjoys the monthly meetings of several organisations and the many lifelong friendships she has made through her charity work over a lifetime. Betty moved to Queanbeyan for eight years and worked for the West Queanbeyan hospital in the 1970s before moving back to Hillston due to ill health. Despite not having a driving licence and often walking to meetings she remained a strongly involved and valued member of these groups. I feel Betty is a worthy nominee for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

Iris Schofield [NARRANDERA]

I was born in Beechworth, Victoria, moved to Wollongong, where I married and had three children. I participated in fundraising for the children's schools, sport clubs and was treasurer for the 1st Koonawarra Scout Group. On moving to Yanco with my second husband and family, I became involved with the Yanco Progress

Association, the Hall Committee, where I was secretary for some years, assisted with other fundraising efforts for the community and was a member of the Yanco Powerhouse Museum for several years. At age 54, through TAFE, I gained my Certificates III and IV in Aged Care and Workplace Training and Assessment — all in 12 months. At this time I volunteered at Narrandera Nursing Home visiting residents who had no family close by. I became a personal carer for clients in their own homes and I continue to visit some of them socially. I recently joined Soroptimist International Narrandera assisting with all their projects including overseeing weekly exercises for patients who have come through the Hospital Cardio/Pulmonary Physiotherapy system. These patients are over 65 and need to keep an exercise program for their health. I strongly believe in social interaction for seniors. I am also a member of the Narrandera Domestic Violence Committee. I have been the secretary/treasurer of the Leeton Senior Citizens for five years, organising monthly morning teas, Christmas lunches and regular bus trips. I am a Narrandera Nattering Nitters member, and we meet weekly at the library to knit blankets, 'Trauma Bears' and knit to order.

Ellen Seaman [CROOKWELL]

Ellen was born in Bigga. She is a Legatee, Goulburn Legacy (2006-current) and a current committee member of Crookwell Meals on Wheels — delivering meals to the elderly and disabled in the community. She is a staunch member of the Crookwell Anglican church community and plays

a leading part in catering for church gatherings and at funerals. Ellen assists with upkeep of the Crookwell cemetery. She assists in transporting local residents to Goulburn, Sydney and Canberra for medical treatment. She received a Crookwell Rotary Club's Community Service Award in July 2016. Ellen visits patients on a weekly basis in Crookwell Hospital and residents on a weekly basis in Crookwell Viewhaven Lodge Nursing Home.

Gill Shepherd [TARAGO]

Gill was born on Canvey Island, England. She migrated to Australia with her parents and two siblings when she was five, settling in Albany, WA. Gill has always had a connection with horses and to further her passion in dressage, she moved to the east coast of Australia, settling in Canberra in 1989. She met her husband Neil in 1990 and in 1998 moved to a 27-acre property six kilometres outside Tarago Village to continue her work with horses. She soon became involved within the community, volunteering time and energy to many community group activities in Tarago. She continues to work tirelessly as secretary of Tarago Sporting Association (TSA) and as a member of The Tarago and District Progress Association Committee, the local Hall sub-committee and the editorial team for the monthly newsletter Tarago Times. She is an active member of St Andrew's Anglican Church and a fire fighter in the Tarago Brigade of the Rural Fire Service. In 2004 she was awarded Volunteer of the Year in the ACT for her work in the equestrian area during the 2003 bushfires. Gill has also established

weekly yoga sessions in the village. She is a prize winning cook, photographer, needle-worker and cross stitcher. In her spare time Gill enjoys music and reading and horse riding. She was made an honorary member of the Tarago Country Women's Association (CWA) for a year in recognition of her community work and she has continued her membership. She currently holds the office of vice president. Gill is a certified saddle fitter and soft tissue therapist for horses. She is also a school bus driver. Her involvement in fundraising for the community is ongoing and extensive having recently compiled the CWA recipe book, A Taste Through Time, and assisted with the local preschool's recipe book, A Taste of Tarago. She is our 'Tarago treasure' and is seen as a great role model for the young people who ride on the bus through her positive, encouraging, diplomatic and discrete attitude. She is always supportive, and compassionate and ready to help out in ways that people aren't always aware of. She says she may be our "treasure" but her husband Neil is her "treasure chest".

Shirley Shoemark [BRAIDWOOD]

Shirley was born in Moss Vale and lived in Robertson with six brothers and sisters. She worked on her father's dairy farm and moved to Wagga Wagga in 1946. She was married on 19 January 1950. She was a Cub Leader at Airport Base Air Scout, Wagga Wagga. Shirley moved to Braidwood in 1966 and quickly took up volunteering in the town. She is a life member of Braidwood P&C and Braidwood Golf Club. In 1999, Shirley won an Australian Senior

Recognition Award and an Australian Medal Award for sporting achievement in transporting juniors to Goulburn for a Pro. She assists in Braidwood student sports afternoons. Shirley was awarded a life membership with Braidwood Showground for announcing events. She has been involved in Braidwood Torchbearers since 1960 and is a current Legatee involved in Goulburn Legacy. Shirley plays the organ at the Braidwood Uniting Church every Sunday and has been vice president and patron of Braidwood Hospital Auxiliary for more than 40 years. She is also the treasurer of Uniting Church Fellowship.

Jeanette Simpson [TARALGA]

Jeanette and her husband bought a country property about 20 years ago and moved from the city to Taralga. She soon became involved in many organisations in the town – Country Women's Association (CWA), Historical Society and the Australian Red Cross and she often holds functions at her home to raise money and social outings. She was involved with the local retirement home, Phillip Chalker Sunset Lodge, where she visited and entertained residents by taking them for car trips. Nearly three years ago, Jeanette purchased a local grocery store and newsagency and continues to generously and quietly help local organisations – Red Cross, CWA, Historical Society, Garden Club, Lions, Art Show – as well as helping many people. Jeanette is extremely kind to the elderly and infirm. She goes out of her way to assist them and make things

easier for them. The entrance to the shop had very steep steps so she had a ramp and automatic door installed at the side.

Denise Slingsby [GRAFTON]

In 1978, Denise was a candidate in the Grafton Jacaranda Festival. In 1981, she took a week from her employment and started to drive the Jacaranda Queens to various functions during the Jacaranda Week festivities. Denise has continued to do this each year except 1990 when she was chosen as the Matron of Honour for the Jacaranda Queens' party. Denise has many a girl having a meltdown during this week and she looks after them, carries tissues, lollies, water, wet ones and lot of other things to help them cope. There are usually 80 functions to attend in the week and it is usually very hot. Denise gives herself to this cause unselfishly. She helps many other people in many different ways.

Robyn Styles [TAMBAR SPRINGS]

Robyn was born in Boorowa and grew up in the Taree area before moving to Tambar Springs in 2000. A carer for her late husband, Robyn has now retired but continues her volunteering passion. She is a dedicated and passionate volunteer who has volunteered since she was 14 across many different organisations. Robyn currently volunteers for the NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) and NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS). She has been a volunteer with the

NSW SES for more than 15 years and performs dual roles as the deputy unit controller and training officer for the Tambar Springs unit. She has also received a 15-year SES long service award. Robyn volunteers around 20 to 25 hours a week at her unit. She is always willing to travel to assist other units and regions around the state when natural disasters occur. Robyn joined the NSW RFS in 2014 as a volunteer firefighter and she is also the brigade's call out officer. Her outstanding achievement is her dedication and skill to the role as a community first responder (CFR). This role provides medical assistance until paramedics arrive from Gunnedah or other larger towns. Robyn is often called out to perform this role two to three times a week and will always be the one who turns out no matter what time of day. She uses her passion and dedication to ensure the unit remains one of the most capable CFR units in the state.

Lesley Sumsion [BROKEN HILL]

Lesley was born in Broken Hill and loves living in its friendly community. She did her nurse's training at the local hospital and on her retirement decided to volunteer for the community she loves. In addition to her volunteering role with the library, Lesley joined the Dementia/Delirium and Palliative Care Team (DPCT) from the inception of the service, which is based on the principles of person-centred care. She supports the physical and emotional needs to enhance the wellbeing of inpatients and offers comfort to their families and carers. Not satisfied with the excellent work she does as part of this team, she gives up her time to

undertake many hours of specific dementia and palliative care training. Lesley recently accepted the role of carer/consumer representative on the Care of Confused Hospitalised Older Persons (CHOPs) committee. The committee meets monthly to discuss implementation and ongoing improvements for the care of the hospitalised older members of our community. Lesley's contribution and interaction with clinical and non-clinical staff demonstrates the professionalism and mutual respect they have for one another. Lesley was nominated as part of the DDPC team 2015 Broken Hill City Council and awarded Team of the Year; nominated as part of the DDPC team in the 2015 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award – won regional award and was a state finalist. She is a nominee in the 2016 NSW Premier's Recognition Program and in the 2016 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award – Individual Category.

Dawn Sword [LENNOX HEAD]

On 18 January 2003, Dawn and her husband Bob were trapped in their Canberra home surrounded by flames. They had no warning of the approaching fire and had no option but to run through fire to safety. They lost their home of 18 years and all of their belongings that day. They also saw and felt the devastation the Canberra fires left in its wake – including the death of their neighbour. Dawn and Bob made the decision to relocate to the Ballina Shire, but the memory of what others did to help them after the bushfires came with them. Dawn says the experience “made me think there is a lot that I can do.” Since arriving in Ballina Shire, Dawn has

been extremely generous with her time spending endless hours in various roles and fundraising initiatives for community groups such as the East Ballina Lions Club, Meals on Wheels and the Lennox Head View Club. Dawn is always supporting and encouraging other volunteers and assisting those less fortunate. “It's a joy to do it,” she says. “There are huge rewards for yourself as well.” After being named Ballina Shire's Citizen of the Year 2016 before 550 people who attended the formal ceremony she said, “I am truly proud to be a Ballina Shire citizen.” Dawn is a wonderful ambassador for the Ballina Shire community and demonstrates true Australian spirit and tenacity.

Patricia Templeton [BYRON BAY]

Patricia (Trish) was born in Tamworth and grew up in the New England region before leaving to study nursing at Prince Henry and St Margaret's Hospitals in Sydney. Then she set out to see the world and nursed in California where she met her husband James. Trish and James settled in Byron Bay in 1970 where they raised their children. She volunteered at the local preschool for seven years before working at Byron Bay Primary School for 23 years. Trish joined the Girl Guides and was a member for 30 years as Guide leader, Ranger Guide leader, district leader and region arts advisor demonstrating her wonderful skills in communication and leadership. Trish has been an elder of the Uniting Church for many years and organised the Uniting Sewing and Social group, which brings together very talented members of the local community to undertake projects that

add to the colour of our local community and to have fun and make people laugh. This group donates to many different causes through their quilts and sewing. Anyone new to the town or from overseas is made welcome and assisted in the settling in process. Trish is a volunteer at the Uniting Church Opportunity Shop where she performs many acts of social justice every week. Trish is a Justice of Peace and performs this role for the community. This very unassuming woman gives at least 20 hours of volunteer time weekly. We are all proud of Trish and her good works.

Lorraine Tindall [RAWORTH]

Lorraine was born in Canberra and is married with four children. She completed a Diploma of Fine Art at Seaforth TAFE and lived and worked in Sydney until retirement in 2000. Lorraine undertook further study at the Newcastle TAFE after she moved to the Maitland area. She has been involved in a number of community activities including her involvement with St Mary's Anglican Church and as part of her commitment to the church she undertakes floral arrangements for the church, funerals, weddings and special church occasions. She is a long-term member of the Maitland Region Society of Artists Inc and holds the executive position of catering officer for art exhibitions and functions, undertakes floral arrangements for exhibitions and works as an artist and sculptor. Lorraine is a school coordinator with Tenambit Public School organising joint exhibitions with the students each year and also becoming part of the school art program for these exhibitions. She is also

involved with the Maitland Region Society of Artist's Year 11 Scholarship organising and working with public high schools in the Maitland local government area – schools in the region can submit the work of three students to be judged and the society funds materials for the prize winners, which are available for the students to use in Year 12.

Liz Tomlinson [NARRABRI]

Liz sees a need and mends the gap. Born into a Narrabri farming family with volunteering and caring a way of life, she learned to notice the needs of others as a preschooler at her mother's side delivering hot meals to the elderly (pre Meals on Wheels). She has actively demonstrated her belief in community involvement through numerous positions held and charitable works for almost six decades while at high school, university, and as a parent of school aged children. She currently keenly represents her community at federal and state levels of the NSW Farmers Association, as chair of the Make it Work Foundation, that focuses on young adult training for regional population retention, and contributing many hours to the Yarrie Lake Landcare group. Always considerate of others needs while a Coonabarabran based Rural Financial Counsellor, she shared her own time assisting clients beyond her work description while lovingly caring for her seriously ill invalid husband. As a single parent of three, substituting for funds she did not have to contribute to weekly giving, she volunteered as the Vicar's administration assistant. A passionate advocate for the farming

community, she is forthright in demanding that the inequitable Internet service for rural people is not ignored, raising it at every opportunity, and highlighting its relevance in modern day communication for all Australians. Qualified in economics law, management, adult education, and policy development and skilled in advocacy and negotiation, she puts all her skills to use every day in numerous community positions. With gratitude we nominate Liz Tomlinson, our hidden treasure.

Ruth Trappel [BOLWARRA]

Ruth was a member of the Safety House scheme in the 1970s; president of the Mothers' Club, St Joseph's Primary School, East Maitland (1975-1978); president, Mothers' Club, St Joseph's College, Lochinvar (1982-1986); and on the Mothers' Club committee, St Peter's Secondary School. Ruth was also the supervisor at an International School in Rabaul, PNG in 1979-1980 and a Pink Lady at Maitland Hospital. She researched and published a family history book on the Trappel family in 1990 and has been a member of Maitland & District Historical Society since 1985 and president since 2009. She was a volunteer at Morpeth Museum (2006) and the Morpeth Museum management group 2006-2013; a member of the Maitland City Council Heritage Group (since 2004); a member of Maitland & District Genealogical Society, Paterson District Historical Society, Gresford Historical Society, Royal Australian Historical Society, Canterbury & District Historical Society and National Trust, Museums and Galleries –

Hunter Branch. Ruth has also been a committee and membership officer with the Association of Independent Retirees, Maitland Branch since 2008 and a director and owner of a small business in Maitland Area from 1989 to 2003. Her interest in history and genealogy saw her volunteer with Maitland's Women Time Capture committee from 2007-2008; devote time to cataloguing the Harry Boyle Historical collection at Maitland Council Library as well as working on the Local Strategy Project Group and the Hall of Fame Committee. Ruth also volunteered with the Catholic Parish & Diocesan Pastoral Councils for the Chisholm region 2009-2013; was a member of Public Advisory Board, Maitland Private Hospital; a Steamfest community volunteer; an advisory group member for the 60th anniversary of Maitland '55 Flood'; committee member with the SES, Hunter Local Land Services, and the "Lest We Forget", Passchendaele-Centenary Commemorations (October 2017); and a member of the George Boyle White committee. Ruth worked in Papua New Guinea as supervisor at Rabaul High School for International Students and local Indigenous staff at Royal Yacht Club. She was also a member of the inaugural committee who wrote the policy and guidelines for medical and contaminated waste for Australia and New Zealand.

Joan Tye [NORTH NOWRA]

Joan's husband worked in banking and the country service took them to many towns in NSW, where Joan always became involved with the local community. During the 60s and 70s Joan

gave many hours of volunteer time to schools working on canteens, P&C committees and sports days. Joan began teaching School Religious Education at this time and retired in 2010 after 42 years. In 1970, Joan re-joined the Girl Guides. During her long association with guiding she held a variety of roles including Unit Leader, Region Leader and member of the State Finance Committee. Joan enabled many girls and young women to appreciate the outdoor lifestyle and she participated in 14 state camps or jamborees as well as being leader in charge at local and regional camps. Joan is a member of Bowral Trefoil Guild and booking officer for North Nowra Guide hall. Joan's managerial skills are shared with many other organisations. She chaired the Southern Tablelands Regional Women's Committee of the National Trust and was commended for 15 years of service. Joan has served in many positions with the Garden Club of Australia for more than 36 years. Since 2006, this wonderful hidden treasure has been serving her community in North Nowra. Her volunteering activities include being the timekeeper at the Shoalhaven Eisteddfod and working one day a week as the receptionist at All Saint's Community Care. Joan continues to be a part of the Parish Council. Joan is admired and valued by everyone who meets her.

Beatrice VOYSEY [MERRIWA]

Beatrice is one of those tireless willing workers whose name pops up on countless community committees. She is adept at running a meat raffle to collating all the point scores for mountains of entries to the annual Merriwa Springtime Show –

year in, year out – always with superior accuracy and good humour. Her attention to detail and organisational flair is something the Merriwa community has greatly benefited from over the years. Beatrice has taken on numerous roles and committee positions for local community and sports groups including the Merriwa Sports Club, Merriwa Ladies Bowls, Anglican Church, Trinity Markets and the Merriwa Show. Merriwa Sports Club president John Rindflesh said Beatrice was quite simply “the backbone” of the club. “She has served on the committee in numerous positions, runs the books, does the stocktake and coordinates all our fundraising. We’d be lost without her,” he said. Others agree, including former Merriwa Show president Peter Walker. “My first impressions of Beatrice were of an individual who was particularly thorough. As I progressed my way through the show becoming president some 30 years later, I experienced the attention to detail and always the loyal help Beatrice had to offer as our secretary. She gave the job up in my time as president but just kept giving to all the sections that she has nurtured for the past 20 or 30 years. Even after receiving a life membership, she still was there supporting and helping the various sections. It gives me considerable pleasure to support Beatrice in any award she is nominated for,” he said. Beatrice is a quiet achiever, with exemplary skills and a tireless work ethic, always willing to get the work done without a fuss or need for accolades. We are proud to nominate Beatrice for her outstanding contribution to the Merriwa community. Thank you Beatrice for all that you have done, and continue to do for our town.

Margaret Walker

[BEN LOMOND]

Margaret (June) contributes to the community both as a member of community groups and as a caring citizen. Her contribution to the Ben Lomond Country Women's Association (CWA), the Ben Lomond War Memorial Hall Committee and the Guyra Show is significant. June has served both the Ben Lomond War Memorial Hall Trust, as a trustee since 1996 and treasurer from 2007-2012. As a member of the Ben Lomond CWA she has served in many roles, particularly as treasurer, a position she has held since 1994. We acknowledge the difficulty and responsibility associated with managing the financial affairs of a public organisation, as a representative of, and on behalf of community groups, and we thank June for undertaking this role for more than 20 years. June has served the Guyra Show committee as assistant steward in the cattle section for many years. June's livestock skills are utilised through her involvement in the cattle pavilion at show time, when she participates at an organisational level and shares her skills with others in the industry. Her commitment to the Guyra Show means that she supports the broader industry through the allocation of her time and skills to the cattle section at show time. She also makes a significant contribution to the community by offering help to individuals within the community by undertaking a sensitive and compassionate role that is discreet, but very important. June is an astute listener, a carer and confidante to some citizens of our community especially where their own capacity is challenged. She responds

appropriately to her observations, as the circumstances that challenge folks are sensitive, especially to those experiencing a diminishing capacity for independent living. June offers her assistance in a subtle, friendly, helpful way that enables individuals to maintain their respect and sense of community, which helps the community to maintain its equilibrium.

Jean Warburton

[KYOGLE]

Jean and her husband Graham came to Kyogle some 20 years ago and she quickly volunteered her time and energies to community work. She has been involved in her church with the Family Group, cleaning, picking up attendees, and catering for funerals and functions. Jean has a wonderful way of networking within the community, connecting people and promoting functions, bus trips, events and activities, as well as fundraising and selling raffles tickets. Jean joined the Kyogle Quota Club in 1996 and has held several positions within the club. Jean was recently awarded Lady of the Year by Quota International of Kyogle Inc. She worked at the original Day Club through the HACC Flexible Service and continued to volunteer with them in various capacities such as social support worker; organising and providing Share A Cuppa for lonely and shut in people, bringing them together for some socialising over a cuppa. Jean has been very active with a number of organisations including: KAMS — Kyogle Acoustic Music Society; Tidy Towns Committee; Kyogle Youth Ventures (one of the foundation members approximately 12 years ago), which is part of Kyogle Youth Action;

Australian Red Cross personal support volunteer in 1999 with the emergency services arm, (completed the psychological first aid training in 2014 and has been on standby alert twice); volunteers at the Banksia Day Centre and recently volunteered to assist with the bus outings for the Northern Rivers Community Transport.

Laurel Whitby [MERRIWA]

Laurel is a mother to more than a dozen children in whom she takes great pride. She has lived in Merriwa for many years and recently as her brood has grown older, she has become a volunteer with the Merriwa Rural Fire Service, which is a very active rural brigade attending many bush and grass fires as well as motor vehicle accidents. Laurel is an on-call member who gets called at any time and she always cheerfully turns out. Laurel also has a job as a rural postie delivering the mail around the greater Merriwa district, which is a bonus when she is in the fire truck, as she knows the district so well. I nominate Laurel for her enthusiastic contribution to her local community through her volunteer work with the RFS.

Marion Wilkins [ABERDEEN]

Marion was born in Boorowa, married and had two daughters. They lived in Sydney for 10 years and moved to Aberdeen 43 years ago. She has always been community minded, starting from when her children were in school,

she has been on committees for school fetes. Marion would spend many hours writing to large companies asking for donated goods to make into sample bags – these were a great success. She was secretary of the local Ratepayers Association, helped the Neighbourhood Watch get established, and for many years was the community representative interviewing volunteers wishing to join the local fire brigade. She was citizen of the year in 1999 in Aberdeen. Marion helped establish Treasurers, which became Aberdeen Community Caring, an organisation that receives donations and uses the proceeds to put back into their community. For 10 years she was co-editor and proofreader for the local free monthly newsletter “Whisper”. In 1980 Marion joined Aberdeen Red Cross Branch, holding office bearers positions very capably. She was an extremely active member, receiving many Red Cross awards for her dedicated work, a long service medal (10 years), a service award in 1997, and a 20 years bar in 2004. In 2012, Marion transferred to Berrigan Red Cross branch after the closure of the Aberdeen branch. She has become our “Fundraising Queen” and received an outstanding Red Cross Service Award in 2014. She is an incredible member, selling Red Cross merchandise, sending box after box packed with saleable goods for our Red Cross Shop, to organising bus trips with all the proceeds coming to Berrigan Red Cross Branch, to go towards very worthy appeals. Her monthly volunteering hours are impossible to calculate but one thing is for certain, this amazing lady is a hidden treasure to her community in the Hunter Valley and also in the Riverina area.

Colleen Wills [QUIRINDI]

Colleen's volunteering began in 1963 when, after the death of her mother, she volunteered with the Wallsend Baptist Church pensioner's program. This involved cooking and serving a hot meal once a week (at a cost of 2/6 per person). Later she initiated a similar program at Georgetown Church of Christ. After her marriage in 1978, she moved to Quirindi and continued her community activities. She played the piano for regular sing-a-longs at Elmswood, Quirindi's first retirement home and since its incorporation with Eloura Retirement Home, has continued these activities there. At this time, Colleen's membership of the Country Women's Association (CWA) gave her access to funding to provide another of her community interests – reaching out to people with disabilities in schools, community groups and their own homes. Since the 1980s, Colleen has organised countless morning teas, lunches, excursions and musical events for handicapped people to get them out into the community to enjoy life. She has also organised many functions for elderly people, whether they reside at Eloura or still live in their own home. One of her most popular events is the OBE lunch (Over Bloody Eighty) at one of the local restaurants. As well as holding official positions in the local CWA, for several years, Colleen was president of the Namoi group and also state vice president for three years. Through the CWA, she has also initiated and organised support for groups as diverse as the local preschools, the dementia unit at Eloura and medical students seeking both scholarships and rural placements. In 1995, Colleen was

elected to the Liverpool Plains Shire Council and remained a councillor for 17 years. Her current big project is initiating and setting up a community garden in the grounds of the Quirindi Uniting Church, which shows so clearly that she is not yet ready to stop, or even slow down, her community involvement. Quirindi and the Liverpool Plains Shire are all the better for her presence.

Yvonne Woodcock [LIGHTNING RIDGE]

Yvonne is a true hidden treasure, often flying under the radar with her generosity, kindness and support. Yvonne spends so much of her time making other people's lives richer. She goes to great lengths to provide local families with essentials such as fresh fruit and vegetables and often gives those in need special treats just to make someone's day special. She volunteers her time with the breakfast club at the local school and also obtains and collects donated food for the breakfast club. She is an active member of the local church and spends many hours as a substitute grandmother for several local children, encouraging them to attend places such as the local library and church with her. Yvonne never expects anything in return as she finds seeing others with a smile on their face the best reward.

volunteer agencies

Volunteers make an extraordinary contribution to Australian society without being paid—not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. Volunteers 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.

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

Australian Red Cross

Freecall 1800 812 028
www.redcross.org.au

Country Women's Association of NSW

02 8337 0200 (8am–4pm, Mon–Fri)
info@cwaofnsw.org.au
www.cwaofnsw.org.au

Domestic Violence NSW

02 9698 9777
admin@dvnsw.org.au
www.dvnsw.org.au

Girl Guides (NSW & ACT)

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

Headspace

03 9027 0100 (National Office)
www.headspace.org.au

Legacy

1800 Legacy (534 229)
marketing@legacy.com.au
www.legacy.com.au/volunteer

Lions

02 4940 8033
www.lionsclub.org.au

Lioness Club

02 4940 8033
www.lionsclubs.org.au/members/lioness

Little Athletics

02 9633 4511
admin@lansw.com.au
www.littleathletics.com.au

Meals on Wheels

02 8488 7167 (8am–4pm, Mon–Fri)
www.mealsonwheels.org.au

Museums & Galleries of NSW

02 9358 1760
info@mgnsw.org.au
www.mgnsw.org.au

National Trust

02 9258 0123
info@nationaltrust.com.au
www.nationaltrust.org.au/volunteers-nsw

NSW Rural Fire Service

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

NSW State Emergency Service

1800 201 000
www.ses.nsw.gov.au/volunteering

St John Ambulance NSW

1300 360 455
www.stjohnnsw.com.au

Samaritan's Purse: International Relief Australia – Operation Christmas Child

1800 684 300
www.samaritanspurse.org.au

Scouts Australia – NSW

1800 726 887
info@scouts.com.au
www.nsw.scouts.com.au

Soroptimist International

02 8096 6072
hq@siswp.org
www.siswp.org

St Vincent de Paul

02 9568 0262
vinnies@vinnies.org.au
www.vinnies.org.au

The Salvation Army

13 72 58
www.salvos.org.au

The Smith Family

1300 397 730
volunteer@thesmithfamily.com.au
www.thesmithfamily.com.au

United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW

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

View Club of Australia

1800 805 366
view@thesmithfamily.com.au
www.view.org.au/get-involved/volunteer

War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW

1800 451 615
guild@warwidowsnsw.com.au
www.warwidowsnsw.com.au

WIRES

info@wires.org.au
www.wires.org.au

Wrap with Love

02 8399 3000
wwl@pacific.net.au
www.wrapwithlove.org

Zonta NSW

districtsecretary@zontadistrict24.org
www.zontadistrict24.org

GENERAL CONTACT

The Centre for Volunteering
02 9261 3600
www.volunteering.com.au

2017 honour roll: nominate a rural woman

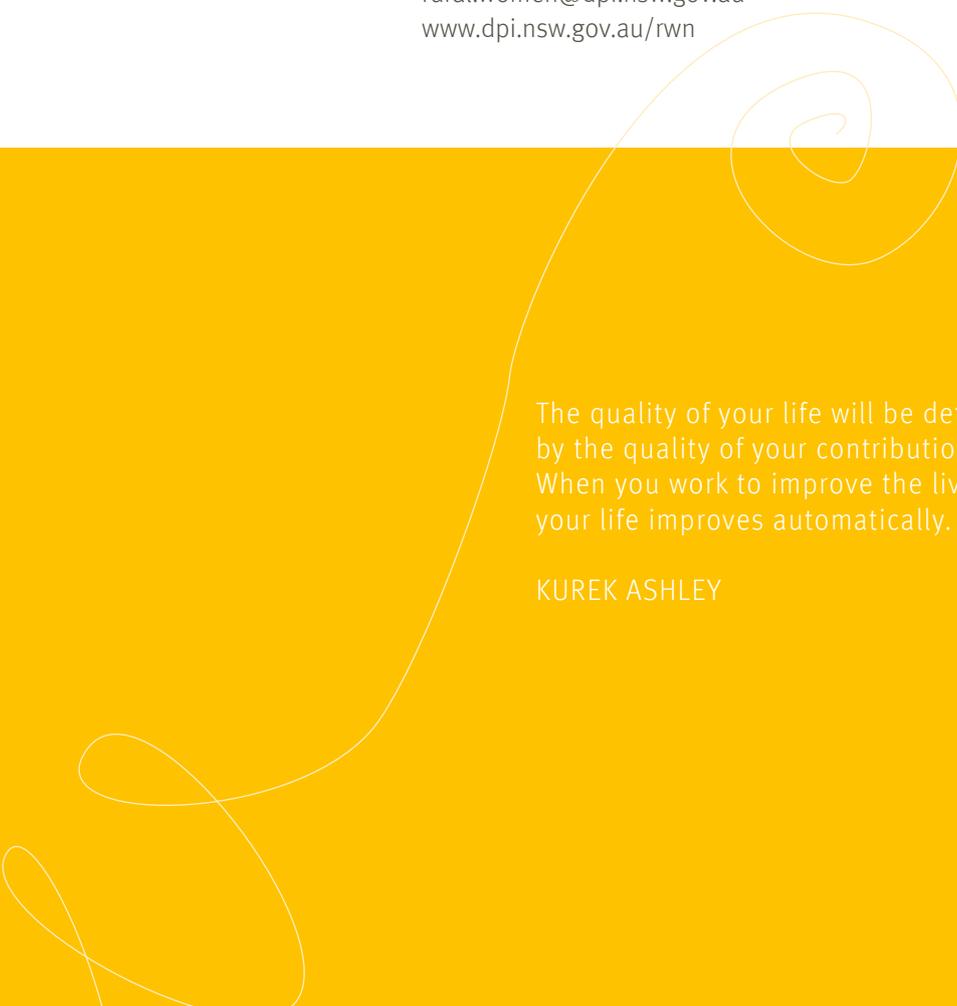
The 2017 Honour Roll will be launched at the NSW Rural Women's Gathering to be held at Narrandera from 27–29 October 2017.

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 2017 Honour Roll open 8 May and close 28 July 2017.

For more information or to nominate a hidden treasure contact:

Rural Women's Network
NSW Department of Primary Industries
02 6391 3620
rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn



The quality of your life will be determined
by the quality of your contribution.
When you work to improve the lives of others,
your life improves automatically.

KUREK ASHLEY



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



Department of
Primary Industries