



Department of
Primary Industries

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

HIDDEN
TREASURES
HONOUR ROLL

2017

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

A large, light-colored decorative swirl that starts from the top left and curves down towards the bottom right, crossing the horizontal boundary between the red and grey background sections.



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

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ministers' message

We are delighted to present the 2017 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll, celebrating the valuable work of 103 female volunteers from across New South Wales.

These women have devoted their time and skills to improving the lives of others and once again, we have an Honour Roll of inspirational stories. Each story unique and each story acknowledging the important work they do to improve our rural and regional communities.

The Honour Roll provides a lasting legacy and is a chance to thank these women for the enormous amount of support and generosity they provide.

The 2017 nominees add to the growing list of more than 900 rural women volunteers who have been identified since the first roll was published in 2010.

Volunteering can have many positive benefits such as improving health, reducing social isolation, raising self-esteem and contributing to the wellbeing and unity of our regional communities.

The Hidden Treasures Honour Roll presents some wonderful examples of outstanding women. We encourage you to read and share their stories and importantly, to consider the opportunities and roles you could play within your own community.



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

Niall Blair

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



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Williams'.

Ray Williams MP

Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Disability Services



2017 hidden treasures nominees

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 Kim Allwood [DUNGOG] | 12 Judy Charlton [NARRANDERA] | 19 Stephanie Greacen [SAWTELL] |
| 7 Iris Barry [YETMAN] | 12 Joan Clancy [NARRANDERA] | 19 Sally Green [MANDURAMA] |
| 8 Kimberley Beattie [NARRANDERA] | 13 Joy Coggan [JUGIONG] | 20 Francene Halliger [QUIRINDI] |
| 8 Suzanne Bibby [CASSILIS] | 13 Natalie Cole [TURONDALE] | 20 Dianne Hand [DENILQUIN] |
| 8 Marie Blundell [QUIRINDI] | 14 Margaret Dekkers [MANILLA] | 20 Sandra Harlor [WARRAGAMBA] |
| 8 Beryl Brain [GRONG GRONG] | 14 Kathy Denning [COWRA] | 21 Jane Harrison [ELLANGOWAN] |
| 9 Tracey Briggs [WALLABADAH] | 15 Lisa Duerinckx [REPTON] | 21 Kirsty Harris [MOULAMEIN] |
| 9 Jo-Louise Brown [COBAR] | 15 Suzanne Duggan [MERRIWA] | 22 Roxy Heckendorf [NARRANDERA] |
| 9 Kim Brown [PARKVILLE] | 16 Patricia Ford [GOULBURN] | 22 Barbara Heckman [WINDELLA] |
| 10 Barbara Campbell [MERRIWA] | 16 Dorothy Foster [DEERVALE] | 23 Margaret Hocking [NARRANDERA] |
| 10 Stacie Carroll [YANCO] | 17 Shirley Fowler [WAUCHOPE] | 23 Doris Hoffman [WELLINGTON] |
| 11 Jane Carter [NARRANDERA] | 17 Freida Frankham [CESSNOCK] | 24 Vanessa Hoffman [NARRANDERA] |
| 11 Narelle Chaffey [SOMERTON] | 18 Tammy Galvin [NARRANDERA] | 24 Kay Hopton [SCONE] |
| 12 Veronica Chandler [COONAMBLE] | 18 Margaret Gilligan [BREWARRINA] | 24 Lyndall Horne [BERRIGAN] |

2017 hidden treasures nominees

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 25 Joanne Horne [WEE WAA] | 30 Carolle Leach [COLINROOBIE] | 35 Virginia Marshall [BOWRAL] |
| 25 Susan Howland [YAMBA] | 30 Charmaine Lee [LEETON] | 36 Nadine Mattiske [WIRRINYA] |
| 26 Patricia Hughes [CORAKI] | 31 Gwen Lee [NARRANDERA] | 36 Dorothy McCabe [GOULBURN] |
| 26 Sharon Hutchinson [NARRANDERA] | 31 June Lennard [CESSNOCK] | 37 Fran McDonald [NARRANDERA] |
| 26 Shirley Jensen [NARRANDERA] | 32 Marilyn Limbrick [WAGGA WAGGA] | 37 Fran McLaughlin [NARRANDERA] |
| 27 Sue Jogeever [PORT MACQUARIE] | 32 Norma Little [GENEVA] | 38 Sheila McNamara OA [QUIRINDI] |
| 27 Simone Joliffe [EUBERTA] | 33 Noeline Lummis [CURBAN] | 38 Gwen Meyer [SANDY HOLLOW] |
| 28 Janice Kapeen [CORAKI] | 33 Anna Madden [Wee Waa] | 39 Judy Mussared [MINNIE WATER] |
| 28 Vanessa Kapeen [CORAKI] | 34 Kath Mahy [NARRANDERA] | 39 Ann Murray [MANILDRA] |
| 29 Jodie King [TEMORA] | 34 Marilyn Manning [NARRANDERA] | 40 Leonie Napier [YANCO] |
| 29 Julie Knight [BOURKE] | 34 Josie Marks [NARRANDERA] | 40 Jo-anne Newberry [TAMWORTH] |
| 30 Mary-Anne Lattimore [NARRANDERA] | 35 Shirley Marks [GILGANDRA] | 40 Kerry O'Connor [Coraki] |

41 Margaret O'Connor
[TAMWORTH]

41 Tania Peene
[MACLEAN]

42 Marion Phelps
[KYOGLE]

42 Ellen Pippin
[IVANHOE]

43 Carla Pittman
[DUBBO]

43 Jennifer Potts
[BALLINA]

44 Roslyn Press
[GEURIE]

44 Lee Reavley
[NARRANDERA]

44 Teena Redman
[WOODBURN]

45 Sharyn Rowlands
[NARRANDERA]

45 Jodie Ryan
[YANCO]

46 Joy Schulz
[THE ROCK]

46 Naomi Schmidt
[SILVERTON]

47 Ruth Shanks AM
[DUBBO]

47 Lola Shearer
[MOREE]

48 Joan Smedley
[EVANS HEAD]

48 Pip Smith
[WELLINGTON]

48 Kerry Sproston
[NARRANDERA]

49 Robyn Stockdale
[COROBIMILLA]

49 Rae Stove
[MERIMBULA]

49 Frances Wallace OA
[QUIRINDI]

50 Barbara Warburton
[BROKEN HILL]

50 Margaret Waters
[ARMIDALE]

51 Sybil Watson
[INGLEBURN]

51 Jodie Wilton
[CASSILIS]

54 Volunteer agencies



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

Kim Allwood [DUNGOG]

The youngest of six children, Kim was born in Newcastle and grew up in a family where money was tight. At the age of four the family home was destroyed by fire, and during this time they were supported with public housing. Kim attended the local Catholic school, where her love of learning began. She worked in the engineering industry for over 20 years with her ex-husband – together they built a small business while raising six sons on a farm in Dungog. Since moving to Dungog 30 years ago, Kim has been very involved in the community. She held the position of Regional Scout Leader for five years and has been involved in the local P & C groups, both as president and treasurer. Kim also assists with the local rodeo and raises funds for community causes. Later, as a single mother to her six boys, Kim lost everything and her local community provided her with much needed support and assistance. Over the past 18 months Kim has helped the local community centre with the Bounce Forward project, assisting people who have lost their homes due to the floods. She also helps with the Horse Tails program for children in need, plus she assisted the local education centre in organising a ball to raise funds for adult literacy, and other programs. Last year Kim worked 300 hours in

these voluntary programs, while undertaking her Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Intervention. She does it all because she loves helping others, and because she understands first hand what it's like to be in need. This year Kim was honoured with an Australia Day Volunteer Award. She says she 'loves giving back to the community.'

Iris Barry [YETMAN]

It's the unforgettable smile, laughter, warmth and humanity that make encounters with Iris Barry memorable. A people person, mother to four and wife to John, Iris comes in contact with many others every day. As Manager of the Council Caravan Park, she lifts hearts and souls with her genuine interest in helping travellers, and also through her chats with them about their lives in general. It's her caring ways, and her offers to help others, whoever they are and wherever they find themselves, that make Iris a hidden gem, a treasure. This is whether it's through the businesses that she and John have run in the past, or raising and encouraging her family to succeed and grow, or her endless hours of selfless community work. Her work for the community is especially applicable to the CWA. Iris has been the NSW Yetman Branch Secretary, Treasurer and Cultural Officer. She's touched even more people through her role as Publicity Officer to the surrounding Gwydir CWA Group. Iris finds moments to help others wherever she is. On the Yetman Reach of the McIntyre River she's a true Hidden Treasure.

Kimberley Beattie [NARRANDERA]

Kimberley grew up in Narrandera NSW, and is one of those quiet achievers who can easily fly underneath the radar. Kimberley has volunteered on many local committees and has worked tirelessly to achieve local environmental, social and economic outcomes. She's currently self-employed in her business of web design/creation, social media management and blogging training. Previously, she was employed by Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated as a Regional Landcare Facilitator for the Riverina region. Kimberley's most recent committee role has been as Communications Officer for the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. Other committees Kimberley has worked in include: The Narrandera John O'Brien Festival, Narrandera Landcare Community Garden, Narrandera Landcare Inc., Narrandera Koala Committee, Narrandera Visitor Centre, and an artist-led organisation called The Cad Factory. She is also the Community Engagement Representative for Women of Western Riverina Networking (WOW).

Suzanne Bibby [CASSILIS]

Suzanne is a member of our small Rural Fire Service Brigade in Cassilis. She holds the positions of Secretary/Treasurer, Deputy Captain and Rural Fire Service Association Delegate, Community Liaison Officer, First Aid Officer and Junior Member Coordinator. On top of all that she works part time at the Coolah Aged Care hostel

and is the mother of nine kids — five of whom are now adults, plus four younger ones. She also devotes time to helping her elderly mother-in-law. I nominate Suzanne because she works hard in everything she does, and is a caring and kind person to all.

Marie Blundell [QUIRINDI]

Marie Blundell has served on the Quirindi CWA Branch as Branch Treasurer for many years, at the same time as caring for her grandson, who suffers from autism. Marie also is coordinator of the Branch's Trash and Treasure stalls, which raise funds for the local community for a wide variety of projects. These stalls save a lot of good second hand goods from being sent to landfills, at the same time helping those less fortunate in our community.

Beryl Brain [GRONG GRONG]

Beryl is a role model for many women in the Grong Grong, Narrandera and regional area. She's previously held a role as State Vice President for the CWA of NSW, and is also the Sturt Group Secretary. If that's not enough, Beryl also sits on the Community Advisory Group for the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health (CRRMH). Beryl is Team Leader for the Sponsorship/Funding sub-committee of the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. She's also involved

in the Narrandera Shire Council Australia Day Committee. Beryl runs a successful family sheep property at Grong Grong with her husband Peter.

Tracey Briggs [WALLABADAH]

For this nomination I pick my mum. Born and raised in Quirindi NSW, Tracey Briggs has volunteered and worked for the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for many years. In fact for as long as I can remember she's been involved with organisation. All through my primary school years she was part of that community, and after moving back to the area in 2013, she re-joined. Tracey volunteered most days of the week working in the RFS office at Willow Tree, as well as visiting primary schools to teach them about fire safety. Because of her hard work and dedication, she now works in this role in a paid capacity. In her role as a member of the Community Education section of the RFS she works to involve the community, plus publicises fire safety information. As well as this she helps with cadet training. All this involves a lot time, including days and nights. She still spends most of her weekends and time off volunteering and helping with extra work, purely because she loves doing so. She gives her all. I truly believe she's worthy of this nomination!

Jo-Louise Brown [COBAR]

Jo-Louise is always volunteering her time for the Festival of the Miners Ghost, Auto Club, Pot Pullers nights and other activities held in Cobar. Her work that she does for the Auto Club is amazing. She organises the whole event, including insurances and paperwork, as well as selling raffle tickets most weekends to raise funds for the Club. At every function she is there completing registrations, in the canteen, or scoring, and stays until midnight or later on event nights. She'll always help when an event is scheduled, such as the Pot Puller Variety Night (she's been involved for over 10 years), which annually raises much needed funds for locals in need. She also assists with events such as Seniors Week dinners, where she sells tickets at the door. She always helps at the Festival of the Miners Ghost, and any other event for that matter. She certainly is a Hidden Treasure in Cobar.

Kim Brown [PARKVILLE]

Kim was born in England and emigrated when she was a toddler. After initially living in Esk Qld, the family moved to Parkville, and at an early age she went to school in Scone. She became a nurse, resigning after marriage and children. Kim worked for Scone and District Pre-School for over 25 years and during this time she always found time to volunteer with many organisations. These included both the primary and secondary schools, with canteen, reading and gross motor program duties. She also delivered fire safety awareness

programs while volunteering with the Rural Fire Service (RFS). Kim has been a keen member of the local Parkville Tennis and Social Club for the last 30 years and has held the position of Secretary for the past 10. In this role she assisting with raising money to build the tennis courts, as well as pitching in to help build them. She also assists with Clean-Up Australia and The Biggest Morning Tea. Kim has been an active member of the RFS for over 30 years, holding down positions as First Aid Officer and Deputy Captain, and she's been Brigade Captain for the past two years. She's also an RFS Community Engagement Officer with the Zone Support Brigade, delivering fire safety programs to schools and community events, as well as attending fire situations and holding open days at the shed. Kim also volunteers at the Food Pantry, helping those in need. Kim's commitment to serving her community is endless.

Barbara Campbell [MERRIWA]

Barbara is a wonderful example of why local voluntary contribution is so important. Often referred to fondly as 'Aunty Barb', there are hardly any in the Merriwa community whose lives have not been impacted in some way by her inspiration and dedication. Since the 1960s her passion for the pastoral care of our youth is evident, not only from her involvement with St David's Uniting Church, but with scripture in local schools, as well as the Auslife Program in the Secondary Department of Merriwa Central School. Barbara is also the creator of the annual primary school church play. She's a prime mover in fundraising for St David's and is involved with street stalls, the

Samaritan's Purse, the local branch of the CWA and Christmas Carols in the Park. Her enthusiastic involvement as a member of the Festival of the Fleeces Committee for the past five years was recognised with Barbara being awarded the 2016 Pam Power Award. When Barbara isn't working on her numerous committees, or raising orphan lambs on the family property, she spends time with the elderly. She's truly an inspirational contributor to our community and an undisputed Hidden Treasure.

Stacie Carroll [YANCO]

Stacie is a crowd entertainer and mover who keeps the team of the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee constantly laughing. She's the coordinator of the awesome registration satchels for the Gathering. Stacie has worked tirelessly, enthusiastically and with real passion to do all she can for this event. Another of Stacie's previous volunteer roles has been with the Local Health Advisory Committee of Leeton. A little known talent of Stacie's is that she is an avid line-dancer! Stacie was born in Narrandera into a large family, the 10th and youngest child. She moved to Sydney when she was three years old and attended Petersham Girls High School in her senior years. She then worked in retail until she met David, who she married in 1990. They started a family and moved to Leeton in 1996 with their three children, later settling in Yanco in 2006. Stacie has been a volunteer at three different schools in the local area, and has assisted with work social clubs. Stacie has volunteered for over 20 years. In 2009 Stacie started work as a cleaner

at the Yanco Agricultural Institute, and in 2015 took a position as a Domestic Service Officer for the Department of Primary Industry. Stacie has also been a carer for her dad for the past nine years. This is a full-time commitment. She's also been taking him to the Leeton Men's Shed four days a week for the past eight years. The Men's Shed supports men's health and wellbeing, addressing cancer and other health issues. It holds functions and fundraisers throughout the year, which Stacie attends and supports. Stacie is a caring, kind person who enjoys doing things for others, throwing herself wholeheartedly into any situation.

Jane Carter [NARRANDERA]

Jane moved with her husband and flock of Corriedale sheep to a beautiful part of the Narrandera district, from Crookwell NSW. She's taken to being involved with the Narrandera/Uroley/Gillenbah communities like a duck to water. It was difficult getting Jane to agree to being nominated for this honoured role as she is a quiet achiever. She's the Workshop sub-committee Team Leader for the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. She's been super-excited about being involved with this event, and has met many women through her volunteering work on the committee. Jane is also a rural romance author who is about to publish her third book.

Narelle Chaffey [SOMERTON]

Narelle (Nell) was born in Moree and spent her childhood on a farm in Gravesend. She completed her schooling at Gravesend Public, Calrossy and Inverell High School before continuing her teacher-librarian studies at the University of New England. Nell's teaching career began in western Sydney, before moving to Gunnedah, Tamworth, Manilla, and finally Somerton. She currently works as a teacher-librarian at Oxley High School in Tamworth NSW. Nell has lived on a farm at Somerton for the last 35 years with her husband, raising four children. Her interests have always been focussed on the natural world, history, family and learning. Nell has volunteered in various capacities over the years. Her volunteering has been influenced by her interests and has included work within her school community, pony clubs, supporting a school in Kenya and being an active member of the local community group — Somerton Hall and Recreation Grounds. She's also played a role in a number of Landcare groups for many years, and as a landholder and educator her contributions have been invaluable. Nell currently volunteers with Tamworth Regional Landcare Association (TRLA) for approximately 10 hours per month as Secretary. She's also written units of work for teachers on Grassy Box Woodlands. Nell volunteers because she believes communities (both human and natural) are important. She likes to create opportunities, build networks and make the world a better place. We believe that she certainly achieves this.

Veronica Chandler [COONAMBLE]

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs Veronica Chandler most of my life. She was our Administration Officer through my high school years — I was in school at the same time as her children. Veronica was born in Wongarbron NSW, and married her husband Brian in 1979. They have two adult children. What makes Veronica so unique is her drive for life and her limitless ambition. During her 22 years as Administration Officer at Coonamble High School she was more like a friend, always helping others. She was never judgmental or biased in any way, shape or form. Veronica chose a new path in May of 2015 when she started studying for a Bachelor of Business Management degree at Charles Sturt University. She graduated with honours and now holds the position of Grants and Events Officer at Coonamble Shire Council. Veronica has overseen many wonderful community projects in Coonamble, and although I moved away from my home town many years ago, I really see the difference she has made to our small community. All this by the way of battling bowel cancer, but that barely broke her stride. I now live in the city with four children of my own and I sincerely hope that my three daughters grow up following the lead of women like Veronica. She's truly an inspirational woman.

Judy Charlton [NARRANDERA]

Judy is a fabulous supporter of women, having achieved professionally and personally. She's been an active and valued member of Soroptimists Narrandera branch and is often spotted with the team preparing food at many of the events where the Soroptimists have volunteered. Judy is the former CEO for Narrandera Shire Council and most notably, the first female CEO for the Shire. Her leadership qualities have been crucial on the rocky journey to steering the Council away from amalgamation. She has been an encouraging and inspirational member of the Women of Western Riverina Networking group, sharing her talents with others. Judy's mentorship and leadership is something that's truly worthy of recognition. Her support for the community definitely shouldn't be hidden beneath the surface.

Joan Clancy [NARRANDERA]

Joan grew up at Shepparton Vic, before moving to Narrandera. She has spent most of her life here, living in the beautiful area of Gillenbah on a sheep grazing property with her husband. Joan worked at Narrandera's Teloca House aged care facility for many years, before taking up volunteering with Can Assist. Joan is a keen knitter of children's clothing and her exceptional creations can be seen on many a newborn in the district. She used to supply her beautiful knitwear to the former Petrol Pump Clothing Store in Narrandera. She has three children, nine grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Joy Coggan [JUGIONG]

Joy Coggan is one of those women that every community needs. She's lived on her Jugiong farm for 50 years and has been involved in the community for all of that time. She's involved in many community organisations and groups, and she puts her heart and soul into several major Jugiong events. These most notably include the Bi-annual Arts Festival and the Jugiong Writers Festival. Joy never hesitates to learn new skills. Our Jugiong Writers Festival began several years ago, all due to Joy's connection to women in the area. At the time we had six published women authors around Jugiong and each of us didn't know of the others' existence, though Joy did. She brought us all together and organised a fair in Jugiong to sell our books and promote our work. After this event we realised we had a lot of talent in the area, and the Writers Festival was born. Joy has been the catalyst, ensuring that we stay focussed on the Festival. She took on the role of developing our website, learning many new skills. She also undertakes the work of treasurer and secretary. She runs our successful short story competitions and assists with our Small Skills Day. Without Joy there would simply be no Festival. We recently had our second Festival and it was a resounding sell-out success, with authors such as Di Morrissey and Stan Grant attending. Joy is our rock, ensuring everything runs smoothly. This is only one example of Joy's community involvement. She's more than a Hidden Treasure – she's an absolutely priceless treasure.

Natalie Cole [TURONDALE]

My mum was born and raised at the edge of the bush in Hornsby Heights. She spent more time outdoors tackling the ticks and leeches than at the chores she had to do at home. By the time she moved to Turondale she knew the bush like the back of her hand, which came in handy when she decided to join her Local State Emergency Service (SES). This opportunity led Mum to meet my father. Their relationship blossomed, and low and behold five daughters came of it. While we were growing up she was extremely involved in our school lives, and is still the P & C President of the Dubbo School of Distant Education. However, these responsibilities have not in any way diminished her love for the SES. Jumping right into it when she saw the need in the local community, she has become a Community First Responder, qualified in Road Crash Rescue and Flood Rescue as well as a member of the Rural Fire Service. In these roles she has attended bush and house fires, saved properties, rescued people from flood waters, attended hypoglycaemic episodes, cardiac arrest, hypothermia, trauma, motorbike and car accidents, anaphylaxis and more. She's helped a huge range of people, from infants to 87 year olds. It's no surprise that she and her husband have saved over 50 lives in this rural community. She spends roughly 15 hours a week in all her volunteer roles. Without her the community of Turondale as well as Dubbo Distant Education, would be vastly different.

Margaret Dekkers [MANILLA]

Margaret Dekkers (nee Sinclair) was born in Warialda, lived in Sydney prior to her marriage, and moved to Manilla in 1968. She was a Girl Guide leader from 1964 in Sydney and then became a leader in Manilla. She was awarded the 20 Year Long Service Award in 1992, after holding various positions in local guiding, and keeping the Association alive by filling various positions which needed her support and experience. She also held camping and leader training qualifications. Margaret was awarded the Association's Banksia Award for meritorious service within a local area in 1996. As a parishioner she is involved in the activities of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church – a Sunday School teacher from 1977–2000, Kids Club leader 2000–2015, as well as Youth Camp leader. She is on the Church Committee of Management, and for the past 12 years is a volunteer in the op shop. She has been a Meals on Wheels volunteer since 1969. She regularly visits the elderly and lonely. Since 2013, she has been a Court Support volunteer for people awaiting hearings. She was a scripture teacher 1980–2016 at the local school, reader/writer for exams, camp helper, and worked on the canteen roster for six years. She was a Pony Club Volunteer from 1980–1989, and has been a member of the Country Women's Association Manilla Evening Branch for 13 years. A highlight is her support for the education of children, particularly with reading and social skills. Since 2003 she has been part of Born-to-Read, a group that organises three day experiences for local schools with well-known authors or illustrators of children's books.

She facilitates 'reading corners' at local events and arranges for books to be given to newborns. She's also initiated a weekly children's story reading group for children in the local library.

Kathy Denning [COWRA]

Kathy was born in Essex, London and migrated to Australia with her family as a Ten Pound Pom. She went to Hornsby High and on leaving school worked at Myer in Sydney. She married in 1977, and in 1983 moved to Cowra with her husband, who had to complete one year of country service. She fell in love with Cowra and stayed. She's a founding member of the Cowra Antique Vehicle Club, and has been Secretary for many years. She works tirelessly for the Club, raising money, cleaning the Cowra Railway Station and the Cowra Antique Vehicle Clubrooms. She often spends her own money to purchase items for the Club, especially items for raffles. She organises events and meals for visiting clubs, does all the shopping, and helps with catering and serving. She even arranged for a carpet donation from the Cowra Services Club for the railway station. She was recently involved with the construction of a Driver Reviver building in Cowra, obtaining donations from Woolworths and setting up a raffle. She works a regular Driver Reviver midnight to 6:00 am shift, and helps out wherever possible. Never has she asked for payment or reward for any of her community work. For a few years she also helped Holman Place Special School. She's a friend to everyone, and loved by many.

Lisa Duerinckx [REPTON]

Lisa joined the Repton Rural Fire Brigade in 2012 after making a tree change to the Bellingen area. Her initial interest in the Brigade was ignited when she often from her nearby home heard laughter coming from the station. This resulted in Lisa and her husband John attending a brigade social event and led to them both signing up as dedicated members of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). Lisa is an active firefighter and has quickly moved through the ranks during her time in the Brigade, holding the positions of Deputy Captain and Senior Deputy Captain. She's now in her second term of being Brigade Captain. She shows great leadership qualities and is well respected by all members. Before joining the RFS, Lisa was an AUSTSWIM instructor, teaching swimming and water safety to babies, children, adults and people with disabilities. As a member of a scuba diving club she assisted youth with brain injuries to discover the underwater environment. This experience in devastating illness and injury led Lisa to implement a fitness program in her brigade in 2016 – something that's hopefully set to become an ongoing initiative. One achievement Lisa is particularly proud of is her attainment of a heavy rigid truck licence, enabling her to drive a Category 1 fire tanker and proving that girls can do anything! Lisa thoroughly enjoys volunteering and believes that if everyone did just a little bit for their community the world would be a better place.

Suzanne Duggan [MERRIWA]

Sue has devoted 19 years of service to the aged community of Merriwa. For most of this time she has been Supervisor of Gummun Place Hostel, where she continues to go above and beyond the call of duty, making herself available to staff, medical professionals and residents and their families, regardless of the time of day or night. Sue does an outstanding job assisting family members of hostel residents, at a time when they need it most. She sensitively helps residents and their families make the often challenging decision to transition to a care facility from their own homes. She is also the one to let families know when their loved one has passed away, and offers support through the grieving process. She is involved in fundraisers for the hostel and is always looking for ways to generate funds to enhance the amenities and comfort of residents. She strives to keep her skills up-to-date. She stays involved in the local community and liaises with other aged care facilities to network and find ways to continually improve the hostel and overall wellbeing of residents. Sue was recently a finalist in the statewide NSW Regional Achiever Awards in Wollongong, in recognition of her services to aged care and the community. This is an honour she richly deserves.

Patricia Ford [GOULBURN]

Patricia was born on a property at Quirindi on the Liverpool Plains in NSW. The property was covered in cyprus pine, and Clydesdale horses were used to run it. Young Patricia needed to stand on a 44 gallon drum to help harness these horses. She attended a small school, before going to Sydney to train as a nurse. Patricia married Keith, a printer, and they had three children. Patricia joined the Mothers' Club and P & C, and was known to stop traffic on Parramatta Road to allow school children to cross. After her children were grown up Patricia and Keith moved to Ulmara. She worked in the Post Office for two years, until he became very ill and she resigned to care for him. Following Keith's untimely death, Patricia's second daughter's marriage failed and Patricia moved to Sydney and made a home for her daughter and two granddaughters. This she did for 12 years. She worked for Australia Post at the same time, retiring in 1994. Patricia then lived in Bungendore for a short time, joining Queanbeyan Legacy. From here she travelled to Sydney at weekends to care for her sister-in-law and to attend TAFE, to learn machine knitting. She became Secretary of the Canberra Knitting Club and Chief Steward at the Canberra Show. This position she held for 10 years, finishing in 2012. Patricia then became Resident Judge for Machine Knitting at the Canberra Show. In 2008, after a car accident, Patricia moved to Goulburn where she became more involved with Legacy. She joined the Rosemary Club, became their Secretary and helps with Appeals Week each year. She organises amazing bus trips for the Legacy widows. Her

organisation is meticulous. Patricia still attends a small widows' group and the War Widows Guild in Sydney. She's very aware of service personnel who need assistance returning to civilian life. 'Legacy has been very good to me and I'm giving back now,' she says.

Dorothy Foster [DEERVALE]

Dorothy joined the Deervale Rural Fire Brigade in 2002, as one of the Brigade's first female members. She is an active firefighter and has held many positions including Deputy Captain, Permit Issuing Officer, Training Officer and Junior Member Coordinator. She has also supported her husband Mark during his 14 years as Brigade Captain, and six years as Deputy Group Captain. This is in addition to raising her seven children and spending time with her eight grandchildren. Dorothy has been a notable advocate for the Brigade in securing equipment through grant submissions. Her proudest achievement within the Brigade was successfully lobbying for additional lighting equipment, resulting in increased safety and better working conditions for the volunteers attending motor vehicle accidents during foggy nights on Waterfall Way. She also recently ran a very successful recruitment drive, signing up 13 new members and improving the health of the Brigade, to better respond to the needs of the community in times of emergency. Dorothy is passionate about holistic health within communities, and strongly believes the essence of a community is the ability of its individuals to look after one another. Dorothy is a highly valued member of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Shirley Fowler [WAUCHOPE]

85-year-old Shirley Fowler has volunteered in the Wauchope community for over three decades. Shirley was born and schooled in Sydney and lived there until her retirement from paid work in 1985. She then moved to Wauchope with her late husband, originally settling in Huntingdon. For over 30 years she volunteered at Huntingdon Public School, teaching scripture and sewing. She has watched children go from being primary school students to parents with kids of their own, and then her teaching the second generation. One of the highlights of her volunteering has been sewing the students' costumes for various eisteddfods and productions, and seeing the pride in the children's faces as they performed. The experience has been all the sweeter when the school students have actually used their newly acquired sewing skills to sew their own costumes. Although she's scaled back her volunteer work in the last few years, Shirley continues to support the Beechwood Uniting Church as a lay preacher, and with conducting funerals. She likes to keep her mind active by planning church services. Shirley believes that volunteering has allowed her to stay connected to the community and keeps her feeling young. It is her belief that giving back as a volunteer is mutually beneficial as it helps everyone out — the community and the volunteer. Shirley started volunteering because she wanted to help others. Somewhere along the way she realised that she was getting as much out of it as she had given.

Freida Frankham [CESSNOCK]

Freida Frankham was born in Kitchener, an outer suburb of Cessnock in 1932. She was schooled in Cessnock and secured her first job at a general store in Aberdare (another outer suburb) which catered mainly to the mine working population. She has been a very active member to many community organisations and service clubs. Although now well into her 80s, she can still be seen around the community of Cessnock selling raffle tickets and sewing, knitting and cooking for the underprivileged, as well as providing self-made craft items for prizes. Frieda has been a very active member of Cessnock VIEW Club and was recently presented with a service badge representing 50 years of membership. She has held the position of Secretary of this organisation. Frieda continues her involvement with the Cessnock Hobbies and Handicrafts annual exhibition by exhibiting and assisting with the organisation of the series of events. Her involvement with the community has been quite varied. She has been a member of school P & C, and assisted with taking the trolley of supplies to aged care residents in one of our local aged care facilities. Frieda has been a involved with her two children's needs during their schooling and adulthood and now enjoys her five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Frieda belongs to that priceless category of women who will do anything to help a friend or a person in need, as well as serve the community whenever she can be of service.

Tammy Galvin [NARRANDERA]

Tammy Galvin is the Chair of the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. She was instrumental in securing the event for Narrandera, as the Rural Women's Gathering celebrates its 25th anniversary. Tammy is a true lady of the land, spending many of her early years' droving cattle with her family along the travelling stock route, before moving away from home to complete a degree in environmental science. Tammy now manages the family beef and sheep property, and together with her partner operates a contract sowing and harvesting business while working full time in an agricultural and environmental advisory position with the NSW Government. Tammy is also an active member of the Narrandera branch of Country Women's Association, a member on the Narrandera Domestic Violence Committee and an elected councillor on the Narrandera Shire Council. This young human dynamo is extremely dedicated to empowering and connecting women in rural areas. She established and coordinates the Women of Western Riverina Networking (WOW) group, which connects women through social and business channels across the western Riverina. Despite all this, Tammy would tell you her most important role is that of mother to her five-year-old daughter. She's educating her by example, empowering her to become part of the next generation of strong, compassionate and community minded young women.

Margaret Gilligan [BREWARRINA]

Margaret has lived in Brewarrina all her life. When she left school she worked in the local hotels and the bakery until she got married. In the early days she was alone a lot as her husband often worked out of town. Margaret and her husband raised their family in Brewarrina, and Margaret always had lots of other children around as well. She always had a pot of stew, soup or curry on the go for them — she never knew how many she would have to feed. For 30 years Margaret supported the Brewarrina Return Services League (RSL) by selling raffle tickets every Friday night and on Market Sundays. She is currently Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary and the Catering Officer for the RSL. Margaret also plays an active role in the Anglican Church as well as the Historical Society, and through these organisations has raised funds for the church restoration. She cleans the church voluntarily, and arrives half an hour early on Sundays to ring the bell, letting people know that the service is on that particular day. Margaret has a strong sense of family and community. She made us feel welcome when we moved here and also made sure we knew how to access the services of the town she's proud to call home. She's definitely a Hidden Treasure.

Stephanie Greacen [SAWTELL]

Stephanie (Steph) Greacen is a devoted member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). She joined the RFS in 2012, when she moved back to the Coffs Harbour area after completing tertiary studies in childcare and primary school teaching. She's previously been a member of Nana Glen and Eastbank Rural Fire Brigades, and is currently a member of both Red Hill and Mid North Coast Support Rural Fire Brigades. Steph originally joined the Service for the social aspect, but quickly discovered her passion for firefighting. She has held many positions during her time, including Training Officer, First Aid Officer and Permit Issuing Officer, and is currently the Brigade Captain for Red Hill, providing leadership for 30 members. She has also held the position of Secretary for Eastbank, Red Hill and the Rural Fire Service Association Division 2 – all at the same time! Steph has attended many local fires, including two significant fires at Nana Glen, as well as being deployed to the Blue Mountains fires in October 2013. She has also participated in the Region North Exercise and the 2012 State Championships, and assisted in providing fire protection for the Coffs Harbour events of World Rally Australia. In addition to this she has been involved in many community engagement events including the Orara Valley Fair and Get Ready Weekend. She's currently promoting Gratitude Day – a local thank you day for emergency services.

Sally Green [MANDURAMA]

Sally Green was born in Blayney and went to school in Sydney for her secondary education. When she came home she worked in the bank before she married at 21. Sally has raised three children on the family farm with her husband and has seven grandchildren, all of whom live close by. Sally has always worked on various committees in the district – the P & C when the children were at school, Carcoar and Blayney Hospital Boards, View Club Blayney and for the past six years the Carcoar PA & H Society as Treasurer. She became treasurer of the show society six years ago and has revitalised this previously fairly quiet committee. Sally has been able to get various grants to improve the Carcoar Showground for all the groups who use it throughout the year. She's done an amazing job with the show schedule; it's the envy of many show societies in the area. Sally and her husband like to get away from the Central Tablelands winters, but they must be back by early August (according to Sally), when the action really gets going for the Carcoar Show, held on the last Saturday in October. Sally's commitment is second to none and she seeks nothing in return. Sally Green is a true Hidden Treasure.

Francene Halliger [QUIRINDI]

Francene Halliger has been a devoted member of Quirindi Country Women's Association (CWA), Quirindi Show Society, Quirindi Arts and Craft Shop, Quirindi Heritage Village and Quirindi Historical Society for many years. She's shared her many talents teaching women a great variety of handicrafts at the CWA. Francene is a tireless volunteer in all the above organisations, contributing her numerous skills such as spinning and weaving. She's played a major role in many handicraft projects with the CWA, including Knitting for the Needy. She's also been a volunteer at the Arts and Craft shop for a very long time.

Dianne Hand [DENILIQVIN]

Dianne (Di) was born and raised in Deniliquin, devoting her entire life to her much loved community. She's been actively involved in numerous non-profit and volunteer organisations in Deniliquin since the 1960s, continuing her volunteer work while raising her children and working in the insurance industry. Her contribution had a major impact on so many people and organisations in the area. She was instrumental in the Girl Guide movement, especially in fundraising and the establishment of the new Guide hall in the mid-1980s. When the Deniliquin community opened the Disability and Day Care organisation, Yallambie, in the late 1980s, Di started volunteering, and was the voluntary Treasurer for over 10 years. Di has been actively involved in Meals on Wheels in Deniliquin, for which she

has delivered meals weekly since 1992. With a high family risk of cancer, Di was approached to become involved in cancer research. For the last 10 years she has travelled to Bendigo, where she has undergone tests, been given medications for trials and participated in research data collection. Di has been a driver behind successful Rotary Club events such as the Deniliquin Ute Muster, Australia Day Breakfast, Deniliquin Fishing Classic, the Annual Deniliquin Easter Art Show, the student exchange program and countless fund raising events. A board member of the Deniliquin Rotary Club for 20 years, she's only one of two recipients of the Paul Harris Sapphire Pin. Since retiring in 2015, she has continued to volunteer tirelessly, and has increased her involvement in charities such as Days for Girls, which provides sanitary kits for African women. Di has sewn hundreds of these kits, and encouraged the Deniliquin Rotary Club to become involved. She knits clothing for the Angel Babies project, for deceased, newborn and premature babies. Since 2015 she has knitted over 500 sets of beanies and booties, but who's counting?!

Sandra Harlor [WARRAGAMBA]

Sandra was born a twin (fraternal) in Guilford in 1957 at the Royal North Shore Hospital, moving to Mulgoa in her teens. Sandra has three sisters, four daughters and six grandchildren. In 1975 Sandra married Mark and moved to Warragamba. Sandra's husband lived with an acquired brain injury and she became his primary carer until his death in 2011. Sandra then cared for her mother-in-law, who is currently 94-years-old and

resides in nearby Warragamba. In the 1980s and 1990s Sandra volunteered on Warragamba's P & C, Mother's Club, Netball Club, Swimming Club and Pony Club. Sandra volunteered at the Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre Management Committee for 25 years, taking on various roles during her term. Sandra is currently a member of Wollondilly Shire Council's Economic Development, Tourism and Heritage and Australia Day Awards Community Advisory committees. She's spent five years advocating and lobbying for an inclusive play space to be built, with a memorandum of understanding signed in 2014 to build the play space in Civic Park Warragamba. Sandra sees the realisation of this as her greatest and proudest achievement. She volunteers on average 15 hours each week. Sandra's extremely giving and has a great deal of knowledge and expertise in different areas. Wollondilly Shire Council is very appreciative of Sandra's continual contributions, not only to her local Warragamba community but also to the broader Wollondilly Shire. Sandra is very deserving of this recognition.

Jane Harrison [ELLANGOWAN]

Jane was born in Perth, before moving to Melbourne and then Sydney. She married John Harrison after he graduated from university as a geologist, specialising in oil exploration. They moved to Canada in 1953 and had two children there, before returning to Australia in 1959 to Adelaide. John worked in the central Australian deserts on the gas fields. The family then moved to Sydney in 1966, while John worked in Papua New Guinea. Over the next 20 years Jane and John

lived in Thailand, Indonesia, The Philippines and New Zealand. They finally retired to their property at Ellangowan near Casino in northern New South Wales. John passed away several years later and Jane immersed herself in the local community. She was President of the local Country Women's Association for three years and Secretary for 20 years. She was President of Civilian Widows for many years and joined the local Probus club, View Club, Loral Club and Quota Club. She was Secretary of Ellangowan RFS Brigade for 23 years. Jane was awarded a Long Service Medal by the Rural Fire Service. In 2011 she was the local electorate Woman of the Year, 2011. She has three grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Kirsty Harris [MOULAMEIN]

Kirsty is a volunteer for the Moulamein Football Netball Club and has worked tirelessly. She helps run the netball competition, turns snags on the BBQ and undertakes scoring, coordinating, applying for grants and many other tasks, ensuring the Club remains financially viable, and also a great place to be. Kirsty volunteers countless hours each week and has done so for many years — so much so that she has been made the youngest life member in the Club's history! Kirsty is a single mum and her two kids have been a big part of the Club as well, but even now that the kids are older, Kirsty still remains integral to the running of the Club. It would be fantastic to see her recognised for her tireless efforts in this small rural community. Without people like Kirsty the Club would really struggle.

Roxy Heckendorf [NARRANDERA]

Roxy was born in Corowa, the eldest of five girls. She was raised on a farm, and loved her cattle and sheep. She belonged to Latch Workers, where she made small quilts for premature babies and quilts for sick children in Sydney Children's Hospital. In her younger years she was a member of the Australian Red Cross and her church guild. Her husband was Mayor of Narrandera and a local councillor, and she supported him in these important positions. She joined Soroptimists International, Narrandera and has been an active member, becoming President and Region Delegate. Roxy raises money and helps raise awareness to support women's health and education issues. Every Tuesday and Thursday local Soroptimist members supervise self-paced exercises at Narrandera District Hospital for those who have been in hospital as cardio/pulmonary patients, and those who have come through the Stepping On program. She is an active participant in New Vogue dancing — participating in and organising weekly and other regular events. Roxy is currently on the Narrandera Domestic Violence Committee which raises awareness and provides information to the local community. She is a member of the local Garden Club, which meets each month and donates the proceeds of their monthly raffle to our Friends of Cypress committee, for the supported housing scheme. Kurrajong members of the local garden club have their gardens open annually to the public, thereby raising funds to donate to the local Can Assist committee, for the ongoing support of local sufferers of this insidious disease.

Barbara Heckman [WINDELLA]

Barbara grew up in Geelong Victoria. She studied at Matthew Flinders Girls' School where she held the positions of house captain and prefect. She was involved in the Girl Guide movement, as a Brownie, Guide and then as a Brownie Leader. Her first job was with the National Bank of Australia, Geelong Branch. In the Newtown Methodist Church, Geelong she was active in Sunday School teaching, Youth Group, leader of a club for young girls and also participated in tennis and netball teams. Barbara has travelled extensively, visiting the UK, USA and Canada several times, plus Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Japan and France. She is married to Earl, who is Assistant Governor, Rotary District 9670 and has two married daughters and four grandchildren. Barbara and Earl moved from Geelong Victoria to Maitland in January 1984, where they became actively involved in the community. Barbara joined the East Maitland Girl Guide Support Committee and joined Maitland Meals on Wheels (MMOW) as a meal delivery volunteer. She held a number of positions at Meals on Wheels including Management Committee Secretary and President until MMOW merged with other services to become a Maitland Community Care Service in 2008. She also participated in art classes at Maitland TAFE, completing a four year Certificate of Painting course.

Margaret Hocking [NARRANDERA]

Margaret (Marg) and family moved to Narrandera in 2000, when she began work with the Little Connection Playgroup as Craft Supervisor. During this time she collaborated in applying for successful grants to purchase heaters and paint for improvements. Marg then moved on to help at the local school canteen, plus assisted with reading, writing classes, athletic days, yearly school fetes and was a recorder at the regional athletic carnivals. Her volunteer years have also been spent being a member of the Tourist and Tidy Towns Board, organising the annual John O'Brien Poetry Festival (including the parades) and selling tickets and booking venues. She was Secretary of both the Riverina Vintage Machinery Club and the National Historic Machinery Association for one year — organising rallies, displays etc. Marg joined the local Railway Committee as Secretary and was instrumental in obtaining new signage for the station, plus the use of a rail motor for a special anniversary. She volunteers at the local library, conducts holiday craft for children and started a knitting for a charity group making rugs, beanies, and trauma bears for those in need. She also organised a fundraiser for her granddaughter to go to Canada to compete in athletics with other young Australians. In 2009, Marg and her husband Allen started up Narrandera's own Vintage Machinery Club, once again organising display day outings, raffles, and attending regional meetings. She's a true volunteer and a most worthy recipient of the title Hidden Treasure, who doesn't know the meaning of the word boredom.

Doris Hoffman [WELLINGTON]

Doris (known as Marie) Hoffman has spent her entire life in Wellington NSW. Her commitment to the community began in childhood through the Girl Guides Association, in which she attained a Queens Guide Award. She resigned from adult leadership with over 25 years of service, receiving the Good Service Award (1987). She was a leader with Girl Guides in isolated areas through distance programs, and she initiated and edited the *Lone Guides Magazine* for many years. Marie was also involved locally as a camping and badge trainer and assessor. Her community involvement has been vast and varied. She has sat on committees for public buildings extensions, railway gardens, Council Access Committee, Careers Expo at the High School, Wellington Tourist Office, early editions of Wellington Diary, coordinating the Olympic Torch Relay, and large social events. She has supported vulnerable community members for more than 20 years as a volunteer for Tele Aid (checking in each morning via phone) and as a guide at the Oxley Museum for seven years. Marie also published *What's on in Wellington* — a monthly guide to local businesses, activities and events, for many years. She also instigated Welcome to Wellington morning teas for new residents. Marie has been publicity officer for the local Probus Club and the Wellington Amateur Theatrical Society. Family time has included volunteering in relevant school, sporting and scouting groups. She also served as the community representative on the High School senior staff selection committee. Her project for 2017 is to produce a book entitled Memories of Wellington.

Vanessa Hoffman [NARRANDERA]

Vanessa was involved in providing comments for the submission for Narrandera to host the NSW Rural Women's Gathering in 2017! Vanessa has also volunteered with St Joseph's School Narrandera P & C committee. Vanessa is dedicated to helping her community.

Kay Hopton [SCONE]

Kay was born in Binnaway, country NSW. She attended primary school there and Coonabarabran for high school, then Dubbo to complete TAFE. Kay then worked for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Coonabarabran, then Muswellbrook, followed by Scone. Kay has one child, Stephen and after losing her first husband Geoffrey in 1991, Kay is now happily married to Chris. Over the years, Kay has volunteered for many organisations, including 31 years with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and 20 years with the State Emergency Services, both of which she is still helping. Kay's banking knowledge has been helpful in holding the positions of Treasurer and Secretary for the Parkville RFS Brigade, the Parkville Social Club, the Wingen Bushman's Carnival, Upper Hunter Junior Rodeo and Kingdon Ponds and Tributaries Water Users Association. Kay is a very dedicated person, serving her community.

Lyndall Horne [BERRIGAN]

Lyndall was born in Tamworth, and was involved with the Rural Youth Organisation from 1975–1986. After marrying Peter in 1986 she settled in Berrigan and had three children. She's always been community minded and has worked for the following organisations: St Columba's School P & F 1994–2007 (holding the positions of Treasurer, President and Uniform Coordinator and also Library Aide, 2000–2010); Berrigan Guides, Treasurer 2000–2003 (during International Year of the Volunteers in 2001 she was instrumental in Berrigan Guides receiving an International Year of Volunteers Small Equipment Grant for \$4,975); Finley High School, P & C 2001–2008, Treasurer 2007–2008 and Canteen Secretary 2004–2008; Finley Scouts Treasurer 2006–2009; Berrigan Agricultural & Horticultural Society, Treasurer 2009–2010 and Secretary for the last four years. Lyndall has been successful in lodging and receiving volunteer grants in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2017 for the A & H Society. In 2008 she joined Berrigan Red Cross Branch and has been an outstanding member, taking on the role of Treasurer 2009–2017. She has been our Fashion Extravaganza coordinator since 2009. In 2011 she was awarded a Red Cross Service Medal and in 2014 gained the Distinguished Service Medal for her dedication to Red Cross. Lyndall has written volunteer grant applications for us in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, and each year we have been successful, due to the quality of her applications. Berrigan Red Cross Shop has gained much needed equipment, and Lyndall has made it a very pleasant and safe place to volunteer.

Running a Red Cross Shop five and half days a week and a Fashion Extravaganza annually keeps our treasurer very busy. We are delighted to have such an efficient, dedicated lady in our branch. Her monthly volunteering hours are impossible to calculate, but one thing is for sure — this amazing lady is a Hidden Treasure.

Joanne Horne [WEE WAA]

Joanne (Jo) has been a volunteer member of the Myall Vale Rural Fire Brigade since 2003. In that time Jo has held the position of Brigade Secretary/Treasurer from 2005–2012. In the 2012 she handed the secretary position on but still remains as Treasurer. In the early years of her membership, Jo was more of a support member, often delivering welfare to the members when they were at incidents for long periods of time. In recent years Jo has proven to be more active, often being the first one at the station with the doors up and truck ready to go. Jo's husband Peter is the Brigade Captain and Jo is a great support to him in this role. Jo came to Wee Waa from Sydney in 1994, taking a relief position at the Wee Waa High School as the home economics teacher for seven weeks, and has never left. She has made the town her home and raised their three children here. Jo still works part time at the Wee Waa High School and is known for her computer skills and mentoring the Wee Waa High School Robotics Team. Jo is involved in many community events including Junior Youth Group and Girls Brigade (a girls' youth group), through the Anglican

Church. Jo also marches for the Rural Fire Service every year on Anzac Day. With gratitude we nominate Jo Horne as our Hidden Treasure.

Susan Howland [YAMBA]

Susan was born and educated in Melbourne. She moved to Yamba in 1973 after nine years living in Europe. During her time in Holland, Susan was impressed with the Dutch commitment to social justice, and on her return to Australia she was shocked as a young mother to see the lack of services for mothers and children. This led her to a lifetime of working for social justice. Her early years in Yamba saw Susan successfully campaigning for a community hall with areas for playgroup, mothers and babies and pre-school classes. She started a support group for new mothers, which became affiliated with the then Nursing Mothers' Association. Susan became a volunteer breastfeeding counsellor and mentored two Indigenous women as trainee breastfeeding counsellors. Susan was a playgroup leader and organised Children's Week events. During this time, Susan had five children, supported her husband with his art and gallery business and completed a Bachelor of Social Science degree. She reared a granddaughter and is now rearing a teenage grandson. Susan worked as a community worker with Clarence Valley Council for 25 years. She was a founding member of the Lower Clarence Women's Group, which became Clarence Valley Women Incorporated (CVWI). She has been President of CVWI since 2008. Now retired, Susan is an advocate for improved mental health services in her work with the Light up the

Darkness committee and her role on various other health committees. She's also involved with Maclean Country Women's Association. She devotes approximately 20 hours per week to her volunteer roles.

Patricia Hughes [CORAKI]

Coraki's Patricia Hughes is a 'salt of the earth' lady of great passion. Patricia can succinctly identify issues requiring attention within the Coraki community, before quietly carrying out the necessary work to bring about change. Armed with all sorts of information, Patricia coordinates the opinions and the assistance of others to make things happen for Coraki. Driven, she is awesome at taking a dream – a plan – to fruition. Such was the case in the founding of the new Health One Facility in Coraki, which opened in April this year. Patricia was also Secretary for many years of Coraki Village Voice Inc. This organisation did many great things for Coraki, including obtaining improved signage at Glebe Bridge and additional public seating, organisation of the Coal Seam Gas Survey, and running ANZAC Days and Australia Day Celebrations in Coraki. Currently she is President of The United Hospitals Auxiliary of Coraki which now fundraises for the new Health One Facility, formerly the Campbell Hospital. She is a member of the Coraki Country Women's Association. On a personal front Patricia is the full-time carer for her 92-year-old mum. Patricia is a wonderful example of an active, motivated and selfless person who is passionate about her community. She is extremely deserving of the accolade of Hidden Treasure.

Sharon Hutchinson [NARRANDERA]

Sharon has been involved with the submission and gathering ideas for the 2017 NSW Rural Women's Gathering at Narrandera. As a Reiki practitioner, Sharon has been the source of balance for many in the community! Sharon has been a nurse who has been valued for her work at Narrandera District Hospital for many years before she recently moved to a nursing position at the Narrandera Medical Centre.

Shirley Jensen [NARRANDERA]

Shirley is a Narrandera girl from birth. She married the love of her life, Harry and together they ran a nursery with great passion for many years. Gardening is one of Shirley's great loves, and she spends endless hours tending the garden. Many still go to her for advice on plants, gardening and weeds. Shirley is a tireless volunteer with the Narrandera branch of Can Assist. She has been spotted rain, hail or shine seated at the Narrandera Farmers Markets raising funds for families in need of assistance when a family member is suffering cancer. Shirley has given so kindly to her community over the years.

Sue Joqeever [PORT MACQUARIE]

Sue was born in Lismore. At the age of 17 she was nominated as a Rotary Exchange Student to Iowa, USA. Sue and her beautiful family, wanting to be closer to other family members, relocated from Sydney to Port Macquarie a few years ago. In her current role as a real estate agent she thrives on providing care and support during what can be a very stressful time for many people. She's a strong believer of giving back to the local community, and she loves being involved with causes close to her heart. She's very proud to be a founding committee member of Luminosity Youth Summit, a program aimed at making a difference to our youth. Sue is an active member of the Rotary Sunrise Club and contributes passionately to community projects both locally and abroad. She's been involved with the Hastings Women's Business Network for some years, and is well recognised for the inspiration she provides to other women in business. Sue was integral in establishing, If We All Had Wings, a not-for-profit organisation created to support local families facing financial hardships during their cancer treatment. She has also hosted a sleep out for the Make a Difference charity, to raise money to help support the homeless. Sue is extremely deserving of a place on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

Simone Joliffe [EUBERTA]

Simone Joliffe was born in Wagga Wagga, and her mother and stepfather farmed at Ladysmith during her formative years. Simone volunteers a lot of her time to other people in need of assistance, particularly within the agricultural industry. She is currently participating in DairySage for the second time. This is a formal industry mentoring program in which mentees are supported for a period of six months. The mentees are generally younger members of the industry, not necessarily farmers, who have a vision for their own continued engagement and future in the dairy industry. They are seeking guidance, support and personal development. Regular one-on-one meetings are held, in which Simone volunteers her time to discuss business ideas, share her knowledge of the industry and put applicants in touch with people in her network who are able to assist. Simone is well respected within the industry and currently holds Director positions with DataGene and Australian Dairy Farmers Ltd. Simone was the President and Chair of Australian Dairy Farmers for the 2015/2016 period and is a member of many other relevant committees, councils and groups. She was a founding member of the Young Cattleman's Union at the University of New England in 1997. As I write this submission, Simone is currently hiking through the Kimberley in WA as part of the Australian Rural Leadership Program. As someone who gives much of her time to assist others to reach their goals, she is a very deserving candidate for the Honour Roll.

Janice Kapeen [CORAKI]

Sisters Janice and Vanessa Kapeen are strong, proud, hard working and amazing long-time Aboriginal women in Bundjalung country at Coraki. They're sisters by blood, and because they are so close in so many ways I include them here as one unit, for that's the way they usually function in their community work. Dedicated to country and their mob, they for many years, along with their mum Alvina and dad Russell Kapeen, have been leaders and advocates for the Aboriginal members of the Coraki and Box Ridge community. Both ladies are active in the Land Council on the riverbank in Coraki. Janice has worked for many years in collaboration with her dad on the Land Council, working in a secretarial capacity. Vanessa helps out in the organisation as required and has been a teacher's assistant in the classrooms of Coraki Public School for many years. Vanessa and Janice are cheerful, friendly women who socialise easily and work hard and well together. They organise public functions such as NAIDOC Week in Coraki and other community events, most notably Coraki Australia Day Celebrations in 2014. They are proactive for their people and are beautiful role models. Both are mums – Vanesa with grown up children and Janice with much younger ones. Both ladies are naturally artistic and have won art prizes for their work in the Coraki Art Prize. Some of Vanessa's paintings currently hang in the Two Rivers Café on Richmond Terrace in Coraki. These women have a truly remarkable and precious family and community bond. They practise mindfulness and show courage by example in continuing in the

excellent footsteps of their parents and elders, to make Coraki, and the world, a better place. They're always fun to be around, talking and laughing, and with their community spirit they're treasures who should be brought to light.

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work in the Coraki Art Prize. Some of Vanessa's paintings currently hang in the Two Rivers Café on Richmond Terrace in Coraki. These women have a truly remarkable and precious family and community bond. They practise mindfulness and show courage by example in continuing in the excellent footsteps of their parents and elders, to make Coraki, and the world, a better place. They're always fun to be around, talking and laughing, and with their community spirit they're treasures who should be brought to light.

Jodie King [TEMORA]

Jodie King has been a member of the State Emergency Service (SES) Temora unit for over three years. Her volunteer hours range between six to 35 hours a week, depending on the weather and the calls we get to SES. She is a mother of three; her oldest is also with the SES unit while the other two are still in primary school. Jodie grew up in New Zealand and moved to Australia over four years ago with her family. While in New Zealand she worked for Parliament in office duties until her husband went to work in Australia shearing, when she thought it would be nice to join him. I have seen Jodie at her finest. She always puts her hand up to help the community and friends in any way she can. She works hard and is very dedicated to helping others. When the phone rings for a job she's up and ready to go, and we could not be as good a unit without her support and the many hours she puts in. She is in charge of the unit a lot and when she is things

honestly could not go more smoothly. I truly hope you consider her, as she is a wonderful role model who never asks for anything in return.

Julie Knight [BOURKE]

Julie was born in Cunnamulla Qld, when her parents were working on sheep station. She lived in Weilmoringle NSW during her primary school years and later moved to Bourke, where she resides today. She is of Aboriginal descent from the Kooma and Kamilaroi tribes. She's married with five children and 15 grandchildren. Julie has always been a fine advocate for those who are disadvantaged and less fortunate. She has gained enormous respect and has built a rapport amongst non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people in her community and surrounding districts. Julie is a founding life member of the Bourke Aboriginal Health Service, which celebrates its 30 years of service in September 2017. She was instrumental in getting funding support for the first ever night patrol, consisting of a group of women under the name of Naddri Ngalli, which means My Mothers Way. This was very successful in reducing the crime rate and getting kids off the streets and taken home, or taken to alternate safe houses. Julie also ran cultural camps for disadvantaged kids who had never been out of Bourke, with trips to coastal areas of NSW and QLD, all self-funded. Julie is an advocate for women and men in domestic violence situations and was instrumental in the inclusion of men in the Reclaim The Night program. Through support programs this not only worked with the victim, but also with the perpetrator. She was instrumental

in setting up the very first campaign against domestic violence in sport in Bourke — it has now spread Australia wide. Julie is very kind and gentle and has an extremely compassionate nature. She has worked and volunteered tirelessly for 30 years in her community and certainly deserves this recognition.

Mary-Anne Lattimore

[NARRANDERA]

Mary-Anne was involved with organising the NSW Rural Women's Gathering when it was held in Yanco 20 years ago, and is now helping to organise the event in Narrandera this October. Her experience is highly valued on this committee. Mary-Anne enjoys travel, photography, music and spending time with her husband, two adult children and extended family. She also assists with Leeton Rotary. In previous times Mary-Anne has been involved with local Landcare groups, and if there are ever any questions about growing lucerne, she's the one with the answers. Mary-Anne worked as an agronomist with NSW Department of Primary Industries for 35 years, and since retiring four years ago has worked as a wool and grain producer with her husband at Narrandera.

Carolle Leach

[COLINROOBIE]

Carolle is a hidden treasure of the Colinroobie Range. She is one of the secretaries of the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. Carolle was on the 1995 NSW Rural Women's Gathering Committee and became the assistant to the coordinator for this Gathering. Carolle also is a team member of the workshops and program sub-committees for the Narrandera Gathering. Together with her husband, Carolle owns and operates a dryland property producing fat lambs, wool and cereals. Having a long association with agriculture and working for Tocal College as a recognition of prior learning officer, Carolle helps people achieve their dreams of attaining qualifications that are often life changing. Carolle is also a Justice of the Peace, servicing the local community.

Charmaine Lee

[LEETON]

Charmaine is originally from Kalaru (near Bega) on the far south coast of NSW. She's lived in the Riverina for the last 21 years and in Leeton since 2007. Charmaine has worked for the NSW Department of Industry since September 2010 at the Yanco Agricultural Institute site, in various administrative roles. Since 2015 Charmaine has been employed as the Accommodation Manager and is responsible for the day-to-day running of a 15 room motel, 14 room bunkhouse, commercial kitchen/dining room and various conference and training rooms. She manages a team of three domestic service staff. The facilities

at Yanco Agricultural Institute are available to all government agencies, business and community groups and individuals. Charmaine is an active member of the Yanco Agricultural Institute Work, Health & Safety Committee and has held various positions on the Yanco Agricultural Institute Social Club Committee, for which she's currently Secretary. Charmaine was on the organising committee for the Cancer Council's Relay for Life, held in Leeton in March 2016. She's a devoted wife and mother to three children. Charmaine has given her time kindly and keenly to the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. Her roles on the committee include Team Leader for Program Coordination and she's also part of the sub-committees for Registration, Guest Speakers, Catering, Publicity, Venues and Decorations. Charmaine is looking forward to seeing 18 months of planning come together for a fantastic weekend in Narrandera in October 2017.

Gwen Lee [NARRANDERA]

Gwen is a foundation member of Soroptimist International, Narrandera club, was inaugural Treasurer and has been a continuous member ever since. Gwen served as Soroptimist Riverina Region President and Club delegate to the Region for many years. Gwen was awarded Life Membership of the Narrandera Club for her outstanding service. As well as participating in the usual duties the club undertakes, such as donut making, catering for the annual Open Garden visits and supervising the exercise program at the Narrandera hospital for people who have had cardio/pulmonary problems, she also makes, sews and fills emergency toiletry

bags for the hospital. These are given to people who have been unexpectedly admitted. Gwen is a member of the Narrandera Race Club Committee, where she is an active and dedicated supporter, and has been for many years — including with her late husband Thomas Lee, OBE and Life Member. In recent years Gwen has joined Narrandera Probus in which she is a very involved member, having served on the executive. In this capacity she organised bus trips and other activities. Most recently Gwen organised and hosted a public display in the Narrandera Arts Hub of her sewing career, which spanned some 60 years. Visitors were amazed and dazzled by the quality and huge diversity of her rare talent, ranging from China painting, felting, patchwork, embroidery, quilting and silk painting, to fine sewing of christening gowns. Gwen has given sewing and patchwork lessons to residents for many years, held in the Narrandera Library.

June Lennard [CESSNOCK]

June Murial Lennard was born in 1931 in the city of Cessnock. She was educated at the local primary school, high school and business college. Her interests included tennis, which she played as well as serving on the committee. June is a keen soccer fan and a great supporter of her local club, Cessnock City Hornets. June served on this committee for seven years when her husband, former international player Jack Lennard, coached all four Cessnock City teams. June served as Treasurer of the Women's Committee, washed and repaired the team shirts, and served in the canteen at every home game. Since 2003, June

has donated an annual trophy: the Jack Lennard Memorial Award for the Rookie of the Year. While June was busy with these commitments she was also working as the manager's secretary, from 1972 until she retired. June has been a member of the Anglican Church at Cessnock all her life, and has contributed to the life of the parish of St John's by working in the parish office, compiling rosters for weekly readings for parishioners, organising annual services and assisting with administrative matters generally. June's volunteer work also includes being a Telecross Volunteer for the Red Cross. She has also been a member of Cessnock VIEW Club for over 45 years, working for the Smith Family, as well as serving as Treasurer and Booking Secretary. June continues to serve at community functions representing VIEW by attending and presenting awards at school ceremonies. On the home front, June has cared for extended family members in need. She has four children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Her younger grandchildren are often at her house, and she is still seen collecting them from school.

Merilyn Limbrick

[WAGGA WAGGA]

Merilyn is a passionate member of the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. Originally a Grong Grong girl, she is very supportive of farming families and communities. Merilyn plays an important role as the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) Coordinator for the Murrumbidgee Local Health District. She is an active participant in her community.

Norma Little

[GENEVA]

Norma has been honoured as joint Kyogle Quota Lady of the Year 2016/17. She is a very compassionate woman, having nursed her friends who had long-term illnesses, were bed-ridden and disabled. She visited almost daily, helping with meals, clothing, company, chatting, cups of teas etc. She continued to visit them in respite care and during their hospital admissions. Norma joined the Grevillea Anglican Women's Guild to help out with fundraising and maintenance of the church until she moved to Wiangarie in 1967 — this was over a period of 19 years. During this time she also helped at Rukenvale and Bungeam Public Schools on sports days and fundraising events. After moving to Wiangaree she joined the local Presbyterian Church and carried on her duties as before. Norma also joined the Red Cross during this time and worked for 15 years non-stop for their fundraising efforts until 1982, when she moved to Geneva, near Kyogle. During these times she was one of the early drivers, delivering Meals on Wheels in Kyogle for over 33 years, only retiring approximately 11 years ago at the age of 77. At 88 years of age she's still a volunteer at the Kyogle Whiddon Home for the Aged, helping with morning teas. She's a current working member of the Presbyterian Women's Guild.

Noeline Lummis [CURBAN]

Noeline is very passionate about the Curban community and has worked tirelessly to improve facilities in the district. She spent many months lobbying for funding to build the new low level bridge over the Castlereagh River at Curban, which was officially opened in 2004. Several years later she fought the same battle for the Terrabile Creek Bridge, officially opened in 2014. As the Curban Hall was starting to show signs of neglect, Noeline ignited the community to form a committee to manage the Hall and, as President, set about carrying out much needed improvements. She and the committee have been very proactive in fundraising and undertaking working bees, and the improvements made over this time are incredible. Although not currently holding an executive position on the Committee, Noeline is still very much involved. If there's ever anything happening at Curban you'll generally find Noeline has been involved in the organisation of the event, or is assisting in some way. In addition to the Curban Hall Committee, Noeline has been involved in rejuvenating the Tennis Club. This is located on land adjacent to the Hall and is now the venue for regular coaching clinics and tournaments, as well as social tennis. The Garden Club is another organisation of which Noeline is a member and in this capacity she assists with working bees to maintain the community gardens in Gilgandra.

Anna Madden [Wee Waa]

Anna Madden, born Anna Swift, hails from the renowned Trangie farming region in New South Wales' Central West, where Anna's family farmed sheep and cattle. After completing her secondary education Anna commenced tertiary study at the University of New England (UNE) in Armidale, studying a BA Rural Science (Hons), supported by an Auscott scholarship. During her time at UNE Anna returned home to represent her region in The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition. This competition is renowned for recognising rural women passionate about their community and agricultural industries. Winning the last national competition in which all states and territories were represented, Anna has remained true to the competition's aims and philosophy. Before her year as The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl, Anna held the role of Robb College Club Project Manager, during which time she organised a raffle and bed push (on a ute) from Armidale to Sydney. Named McPush, the project raised \$20,000 for the new Ronald McDonald house at Westmead and built a playroom called the McPush Playroom. Professionally Anna worked in the cotton industry for five years before branching out as a young freelance agronomist, as well as raising a family on their cotton and livestock property at Wee Waa. Anna has always been actively involved in community projects. As secretary of the Wee Waa Daycare Committee, she wrote a business plan and formed a partnership with a Narrabri child care centre to lobby the Federal Government to buy back the Wee Waa Day Care building for \$300,000 after ABC Learning shut it down. Anna has also

been involved with the Wee Waa St Josephs School P & C, assisting in fundraising over \$80,000. More recently, she has played an incredibly active and important role as the Chaperone of The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition. Anna contributes to the advancement of the competition immensely and has worked hard to build the professional development component of this annual opportunity for 15 rural women. During the Sydney Royal Easter Show, Anna was a Chaperone for the week-long competition and plays a pivotal role in helping all State finalists achieve their full potential and take advantage of their opportunities. After the Show has finished, Anna contributes many hours a week to comprehensively mentoring every single finalist, helping them to make the most of their professional, family and community lives as a young rural women in NSW.

Kath Mahy [NARRANDERA]

Kath has been a highly valued member of the former Euroley-Gillenbah Landcare Group, Uroly Rural Fire Service Brigade and Euroley Country Women's Association (CWA) Branch. Kath is also a member of the Narrandera CWA Evening Branch. She won't mention it herself, but Kath makes the most amazing preserved figs on the planet! Kath has also been involved with the submission for Narrandera to host the NSW Rural Women's Gathering in 2017. Kath is an inspirational woman who runs a successful farm on the majestic Murrumbidgee River. Every year Kath also donates her time to Clean Up Australia Day. She is a very humble lady who is a true Hidden Treasure.

Marilyn Manning [NARRANDERA]

Marilyn is a humble community volunteer. Having kindness in her heart is the best way to describe Marilyn. Volunteer organisations Marilyn has given her time to are Inner Wheel, the Country Women's Association, Pangaringa Units for the Aged (Uniting Care) – Management Committee, and Driver Authority Training. She's interested in textiles, patchwork, travel and art, and is a member of the Embroiderers' Guild of NSW. She's an enthusiastic committee member of the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee and was an key driver in getting the program to happen in the first place. Marilyn also ran a successful school bus transport business with her husband and former Narrandera Shire Council Councillor, Bob Manning.

Josie Marks [NARRANDERA]

Josie is the Secretary of the Narrandera Country Women's Association Evening branch, is a Narrandera Preschool Committee member, and is on the Leeton Community Christmas Lunch committee. Josie is also a valued contributing member of the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee and is part of the workshops sub-committee team, which organises all the workshops for the Gathering. Josie is one of those volunteers who always gives so generously of her time and energy — particularly when she has none of either! She is also the School

Engagement Officer at Narrandera TAFE where she manages all the TAFE programs that are delivered to the schools in our area.

Shirley Marks [GILGANDRA]

Shirley is heavily involved in the Gilgandra Museum & Historical Society as their Curator, a position she has held for over 15 years. The Historical Society has a permanent display area within the Gilgandra Cooe Heritage & Information Centre and Shirley has the task of rotating the exhibitions as well as cataloguing and controlling all articles donated to the Society, plus writing grant applications as opportunities arise. Shirley has recently organised the 50th birthday celebrations for the Society. This involved an additional exhibition in the Gilgandra Art Gallery, and was launched in August 2017 with an open day at the Rural Museum. Shirley is also a regular volunteer as an information officer at the Cooe Heritage and Information Centre, providing assistance to travellers who visit our town, as well as good old country hospitality. As a member for at least seven years of the Presbyterian Women's Association and the Red Cross, Shirley currently holds the position of Treasurer in both organisations. I would say that Shirley is a really quiet achiever. Our town of Gilgandra is lucky to have her.

Virginia Marshall [BOWRAL]

Virginia Marshall is an Aboriginal woman, mother, academic and lawyer who runs a small legal practice in Bowral. She is passionate about the law, Aboriginal rights and educational excellence. She has served as a voluntary magistrate for the NSW Law Society's Mock Trials Competition for over 10 years, including serving on the Competition Review Panel to redraft the manual and procedures. Over this time she has encouraged and mentored hundreds of school students to consider legal careers, including a large number of young women. Virginia is an Executive member of the Women Lawyers Association of NSW, and Diversity Committee Chair. She has also represented the Association at events like the Notre Dame University Careers Expo and sat on the 2017 Prominent Women in Law Panel Presentation. Virginia is a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance and served on the Australian Government Children and Family Roundtable from 2011–2013, providing advice on national family and child policy. She also served on the Indigenous Issues Committee of the Law Society of NSW, contributing to submissions to Commonwealth and State Governments on issues which impact Indigenous people, particularly Indigenous women and children. These include the Care and Protection law for Aboriginal children, Out of Home Care, Grandmothers Against Removal, and Guardians Ad Litem for Aboriginal children. Virginia advocates for Aboriginal social justice and economic

empowerment, especially for Aboriginal women caught up in disadvantage and discrimination, providing pro bono legal services and presenting on Aboriginal rights at conferences.

Nadine Mattiske [WIRRINYA]

Nadine is an unsung hero of the tiny community of Wurrinya, although she's quick to point out that she's a member of a team. For the past eight years she's been a hardworking and tireless member of the Wurrinya Progress Association. This organisation is the backbone of this tight knit community of approximately 250 residents. The group runs and maintains the Wurrinya Shed, which has developed into a focal point of community life. The committee gathers at the facility at least once a week for tennis, drinks and conversation. It runs the Drummuster program, which collects empty chemical drums for a small fee. They invest these fees back into the Shed and associated community infrastructure. Nadine and the Wurrinya Progress Association have secured numerous small grants which they have used to fund the upgrade and upkeep of the facility. The Association holds an annual picnic day which acts as an opportunity for the community to come together and bond. Former residents return and residents from surrounding towns have begun to catch on too. Nadine has also contributed to the wider community, and is currently the Forbes Junior Rugby Union Club Registrar, and has been a member of the Forbes Preschool and Kindergarten and the St Laurence Catholic School P & C associations. It's people like Nadine who help make our small communities a great place to live.

Dorothy McCabe [GOULBURN]

Dot spent the first 16 years of her life in Crookwell. The family moved to Goulburn when her father joined the Army. After finishing school, with little employment opportunities, Dot did housework and minded the children. When nurses were called into the Land Army, other girls in the town were seconded to be domestic help at the hospital. In 1946 dot married Glen and they had three children. Dot worked at Supertex Industries for 18 years from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm, so that she could be home when the children arrived from school. Dot joined the committee at the Cathedral School, now known as St Peter and Paul's School, and when the boys attended St Pat's College she assisted with functions there. Glen became very ill and Dot gave up work to nurse him until he died in 1977. The children married and Dot moved down the coast to help with the grandchildren, before returning to live in Legacy Lodge in Goulburn. Legatee Ken Robson visited Dot and invited her to join Legacy. Dot has been an active community member in several organisations. She was on the committee for the Combined Pensioners and was Treasurer for six years. Dot was also Treasurer for the Civilian Widows and Torch Bearers for Legacy for 10 years. She was a foundation member for the Rosemary Club, has held the position of Secretary and is currently President. Dot is still a member of the Day View Club and was Bus Captain, organising outings for the group. She was a member of Probus for 10 years and held the position of Secretary during that time. She's now a coordinator of the Widows' Club in Goulburn and

the War Widows' Guild in Sydney. For 13 years she delivered Meals on Wheels and was Treasurer for St Vincent's Homeless Men. Dot remains an active and positive member of the Legacy and Goulburn communities, despite being over 90-years-old.

Fran McDonald [NARRANDERA]

Fran is the in-house graphic designer for the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. Originally hailing from Uranquinty and studying graphic design at Charles Sturt University in Wagga, Fran cut her teeth in newsprint with over 11 years at the Wagga Daily Advertiser, Fairfax's Regional Production Hub. She then ceased to commute by taking on advertising and production for The Narrandera Argus. An Army Reservist for eight years, she was deployed to the Solomon Islands in 2011. An intrepid traveller and mother to a vibrant three-year-old, Fran is passionate about being involved in whatever way she can, so that she can contribute to the community and be a part of something bigger than herself. Fran is also the graphic brains behind the logo of Women of Western Riverina Networking (WOW). Another volunteer role which Fran currently performs is Secretary of the committee for Narrandera's annual Rockin' On East Festival. Others include coordinating the Rockin'On East Toast to the Region event and the Pin Up Competition. Fran participated in the Miss Wagga Wagga Quest in 2015 and assisted the Entrant Committee for another two years. In 2008 Fran volunteered in a GAP program to India, in a school in Kolkata for three months. Does this girl ever come up for air?

Fran McLaughlin [NARRANDERA]

It couldn't be further from Melbourne's suburbia, but it's among the pine hill covered sandhills a stone's throw from the Murrumbidgee River at Narrandera that this nomadic ex-city chick has finally found a place to call home. After quitting the big smoke and heading to Ag College, Fran went on to 25 years of farming and working across three states in different industries. These included agribusiness, accounting, earthmoving and international freight forwarding. Fran brings to the table a diverse skill set, and is always driven by her passion for rural life, agriculture and women in business. She's a networker from way back, being involved throughout the past 25 years in show societies and business and community groups, as well as women's networks. Her accounting business – FM Rural – operated for over 15 years. It provided a much needed service in rural and remote areas, and her outstanding approach to her work and her clients empowered many to grow their skill sets and develop their own rural businesses. She is a member of the NSW Business Chamber, Australian Accounting Technicians Association, NSW Farmers Federation, National Rural Women's Coalition. She recently took part in the latter's 2017 E-Leaders Advocate & Influence Program. Her latest project – a herbalist in training and producer of organic medicinal herbs, takes her back to her Agricultural roots. Once again she's giving to other people – this time by showing us how to include plants and herbs into everyday life to improve our health. Fran relishes the thought of networking with other like-minded

women across Australia, and sees the NSW Rural Women's Gathering as a great opportunity for both community and personal growth.

Sheila McNamara OA [QUIRINDI]

Sheila Mary McNamara was born in Maitland on 22 December 1923. In 1943 she married Pat, a Quirindi boy, and together they raised seven children. They and the first five children lived 68 miles out of Quirindi in a house with no running water, no electricity and no screen doors. Sheila has always been involved in volunteer work, beginning with various church activities, fundraising and other activities at St Joseph's School when the children were young. Later she became involved in P & C activities at Quirindi High School and also continued her work as a catechist, long after her own children had finished there. She's been on various committee positions in the Catholic Women's League, plus she ran a very successful catering group for the group. With a growing family, besides working part-time Sheila helped organise many community events. She's been a member of the St Vincent de Paul Conference for over 40 years and also a helper in the Vinnie's shop. Both Vinnie's and the Catholic Women's League have awarded her Life Membership. She's been a founding and continuing member of The Kidney Foundation Quirindi and a long-term member of the Retirement Homes Association. She has a lively, friendly and compassionate nature and has spent countless hours visiting the sick, the aged and the isolated. She started many support networks,

including Meals on Wheels, volunteering for it for many years. She still sells raffle tickets and badges and is a fearsome ticket seller! In 2005, she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. Sheila's 90th birthday was celebrated at a special mass at which she was presented with a Papal Blessing. She's still an active member of the St Vincent de Paul Conference, the Catholic Women's League, Legacy and the Eloura Auxiliary. At 93-years-old, she is still taking on new challenges, and is thoroughly enjoying her life as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Gwen Meyer [SANDY HOLLOW]

Gwen Meyer is a passionate educator who has worked with generations of students and parents in our community since starting as a casual teacher in 1982, moving to a permanent basis in 1991. In that time, she's worked tirelessly as a classroom teacher, head teacher and deputy principal. Gwen is devoted to providing her students with the opportunities to succeed — this lies at the heart of her teaching. She's instilled her love of science in many of her students. Many go on to complete science degrees, and some have completed their PhDs, or, like Gwen, become science teachers. Under Gwen's instruction the focus was always on engaging the students' interest with the practical side of things. No matter their academic abilities, they all loved learning science with Gwen. The Merriwa Central School Ag plot has also been a source of pride for her over the years. Her love of all animals and their welfare has been infectious. She's particularly excited when we have newborns

and her influence can be felt on farms across our region and beyond. Her love of developing student leadership skills resulted in an extremely successful Student Representative Council. She also encouraged active and cohesive student teams, to make a difference around the school and the community. A highlight was the school exchange with Birrong Boys High School. Gwen has also been an active member of the school Learning Support Team and served 12 years as Year advisor. She's been an inspirational teacher and mentor of all teacher levels. Gwen's been instrumental in ensuring that the curriculum of the school meets the diverse needs of our learners. She has great compassion, is firm but fair, has high expectations and, importantly, a sense of fun. Gwen's passion, drive and professionalism has had a lasting and wonderful effect.

Judy Mussared [MINNIE WATER]

Judy Mussared was born and bred in the far northern NSW city of Grafton and has lived in the Clarence Valley all her life. In the 1980s, Judy moved to the small, isolated coastal village of Minnie Water. Keen to give back to her community, she joined the Minnie Water Bush Fire Brigade in 1988, and has served with diligence as the Brigade's Honorary Secretary since the year 2000. In June 2017, Judy's more than 20 years' service and commitment to her community was acknowledged when she was awarded the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Long Service Medal and 1st Clasp. As well as volunteering for the RFS, Judy has also served a term as President of the Woolli P & C, plus executive member of the Minnie

Water Progress Association and board member of the Woolli Bowling and Recreation Club and the Minnie Water/Woolli Tennis Club. She was an inaugural member of the Minnie Water/Woolli Surf Life Saving Club.

Ann Murray [MANILDRA]

Ann is a very valuable member of the Manildra and district community. Mother of two and grandmother of three, she was born in the area and has been a resident of Manildra for the last 36 years. She's been Vice-President of Manildra Preschool and Secretary of Manildra Public School P & C, having been awarded life membership. With grandchildren now at Manildra Public School, she also helps with the fundraising when called upon. She's Treasurer of Manildra Swimming Pool, Secretary/Treasurer of Manildra Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee, and Secretary/Treasurer of Manildra Neighbourhood Watch. With her husband Owen, Ann also trains debutantes for the Debutante Balls. She's Treasurer of Manildra & District Improvement Association (MADIA) and helps organise Australia Day celebrations, the Anzac Day Service and the town's annual Christmas party and fireworks. Ann organises the choir for the Christmas party and sources donations for the fireworks display. She's also a steward for Manildra Show. She's Vice President, Selection and Match Secretary and Publicity Officer for Manildra Women's Bowling Club. She also helps with her three grandchildren on a weekly basis. Ann has been involved with compiling and printing the local paper *Manildra Matters* since its beginnings 13 years ago and

was Co-editor for many years. She has just taken on the role of Chief Editor. Ann is a foundation member of the Manildra branch of the NSW Ambulance First Responders, which was formed 21 years ago. Ann is a highly treasured member of our community.

Leonie Napier [YANCO]

One of the most humble ladies around, Leonie Napier gives and gives to her community at Yanco, Leeton and Narrandera! For a number of years Leonie has been a volunteer on the Local Health Advisory Committee and has been a key driver of projects within the Committee and the community. Leonie runs a hugely successful women's group, Chick Chat, on a monthly basis, with guest speakers from all walks of life and experiences. She's a key force on the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee, shows tireless dedication to her work on the Gathering Cookbook, and sits on numerous sub-committees. She's also a counsellor specialising in grief and loss. Leonie is one of those people who are the first to be asked to volunteer, as she gets the job done.

Jo-anne Newberry [TAMWORTH]

Jo-anne was born in Tamworth to Alf and Hazel Linton in 1955. She has a sister called Deneese. They lived at Duri until 1976 and she attended Duri Public School and later Tamworth High

School. Her dad died when she was five. She left school in 1972 and held several clerical positions before marrying Richard in 1976. Jo-anne has two grown children, a son and a daughter who are both married, and she has five grandchildren. She's been involved in children's school activities, mothers club, school P & C and canteen activities, plus is an active member of the local Guide Dog Association. She's a Justice of the Peace, involved in regular community service tables at the Court House, and is also the current coordinator of Tamworth Public School student banking. She's involved with Meals on Wheels kitchen duties through Tamworth Lions Club, and is an active member of the Tamworth Services Club Fishing Club as Assistant Treasurer. She joined the Tamworth Lioness Club in 1998, remaining a member to this day. Jo-anne enjoys giving back to the community with her fundraising for numerous projects. She is enthusiastic about everything she does.

Kerry O'Connor [Coraki]

Kerry O'Connor is a shining Coraki gem. Physically Kerry is a slip of a woman, with an easygoing, friendly personality and tireless energy to assist with anything to do with Coraki! Currently she's President of The Coraki Rural Transaction Centre on Richmond Terrace. She's spent innumerable hours volunteering in the Centre for many years on a weekly basis – assisting people to access Centrelink services, and use the Centre resources, including the internet, scanner, phone, photocopy machine and laminator. Kerry volunteers at the St Joseph's Op-Shop in Coraki every week. At any

community function you can bet your bottom dollar Kerry is there doing something to help! She considers herself a 'behind the scenes person' – but she deserves the accolade of Hidden Treasure because she's always there, so selfless and willing. Kerry is an avid reader and wordsmith – skills which are very useful for people needing help at the Centre. She's also assisted many times at the Coraki ANZAC Day Ceremony. Kerry is a great friend to many and to Coraki. She's an amazingly active helper and leader – an inspiration indeed.

Margaret O'Connor

{TAMWORTH}

Forever helping friends or family, Margaret (Marg) wanted to become a nurse, but due to ill-health was unable to fulfil her dream. Marg married at age 20, had three children and worked for 10 years at home. When the marriage fell through, as a single parent she became a volunteer at the Tamworth Women's & Children's Refuge. After much hard work, Marg and her fellow workers helped to found a new Refuge. After two years of volunteer work Marg became a paid staff member and worked there for the next 13 years. She participated in other volunteer work, including school tuck shop and slow learners reading class, both at St Edward's Primary. She volunteered for Riding for the Disabled for a few months, was a Meals on Wheels driver for eight years and worked at St Vincent De Paul for nine years. Margaret joined St John Ambulance in February 1982. She then volunteered in the Emergency Department at the Tamworth Base Hospital for two years.

She received a St Johns medals for 12 years, 17 years, 22 years and 27 years of service (Silver Bar, Serving Sister and Officer and of the Priory) and then a Gold Bar for 32 years of service in 2014. Margaret attended Officer Training, becoming Superintendent of Tamworth Division in 2007 and remains in this position today. She manages the adults and cadets who now make up the Tamworth Combined Divisions – this takes up many hours of her time. Marg has also received an Australian Sports Award, signed by John Howard and founded by Queen Elizabeth 11. Margaret is a Tamworth girl born and bred, who always soldiers on.

Tania Peene

[MACLEAN]

Tania Peene is a quiet achiever and would be the last person to consider herself a Hidden Treasure. She's a remarkable woman. With her life focused on her family and friends, she's happy, kind and caring, not only to her immediate family, but also for others in the community. She's the carer for both her husband Matt and her mother Val, who at different times both require transport to medical appointments and for shopping trips. Tania has a part-time job at the Spar supermarket in Maclean, where she's a supervisor, responsible for the management of staff and customer service. Tania joined the Gulmarrad Rural Fire Service in 2011. She's been active as a firefighter for the last six years and her level of training now qualifies her to attend accidents on the Pacific Highway, and major fires. Her empathy and compassion at incidents give her a real ability to help people in times of need. Among other duties she's the Brigade Secretary, responsible

for keeping the administration side of the Brigade functioning as a fulltime fire station. This also includes organising and collecting resources in times of fire and flood. Tania believes that everyone is a unique and individual person, and that you accept them for the way they are. Tania is definitely a Hidden Treasure.

Marion Phelps [KYOGLE]

Marion visits residents in Kyogle Hospital and Whiddon Homes on a regular basis, as well as visiting sick neighbours and friends. She brings meals, checks on the elderly, does their washing, looks after children and gardens and always phones if she's unable to visit. Marion is generous with her time, giving 110 percent to all the activities she undertakes. In her earlier years she was a member of Cawongla School P & C, and also a member of the Cawongla Hall Committee, plus taught sewing one afternoon a week. After moving closer to Kyogle, Marion became involved with the Homeleigh P & C. Since she moved to Kyogle she's been Coordinator, for 14 years, of the catering for St. James Anglican Church functions — funerals, seminars, pot luck dinners, choir group, friendship morning teas, op shop sorting days, etc. Marion is also involved with the washing and ironing of the Church linen as well as the Church catering linen. She assists with the preparation of church services at Kyogle Hospital Aged Care and the Whiddon Home for the Aged. Marion is very community minded, a kind person who puts others first. She's helped

people all her life, and is a great inspiration to the people of Kyogle and district. We're honoured to have Marion as our joint Quota Lady of the Year 2017/18.

Ellen Pippin [IVANHOE]

Ellen is a highly respected member of our community and has devoted herself to her family and the community at large, dedicated to helping wherever she's needed. Ellen has been an active member of the local hospital auxiliary since joining in 1983, and is currently the treasurer, a position she's held since 1989. She was formally a voluntary ambulance driver for over eight years, until ill health necessitated her retirement from the service. Ellen has been an active member of the local Country Women's Association since joining in 1985 and is always available to assist whenever needed, including with fundraising events. She's also been a judge for the town's Christmas lights competition since its inception 10 years ago. Ellen has been a tower of strength and has shown great leadership whenever volunteers are required to cater for any community event. Her expertise in cooking and catering is amazing, and can be vouched for by those lucky enough to sample her culinary fare. Ellen has always been a very active member of her church and a pillar of wonderful values her entire life, supporting her family on all occasions. I am privileged to nominate such a worthy Hidden Treasure.

Carla Pittman [DUBBO]

As I sat with my sister, Carla Pittman in Services NSW during a busy lunch hour last week, she kept looking over her shoulder. 'I think that dear little old lady doesn't know what to do,' she said. I looked up to see a fragile woman in her late 70s, hesitating at the touch screen. Before the lady could look around for assistance, Carla was by her side. I could see the relief in the other woman's eyes as Carla helped her to master the screen. This is not a new experience for me when I'm with Carla – it happens all the time. On completing all our schooling through Distance Education in the Cobar/Bourke district, our move to Dubbo finally allowed Carla to increase her involvement in community organisations, mostly in Rotaract and Rotary. Serving as President and other board roles in Rotaract during more than 13 years' involvement with the club, she has recently become the youngest current member of the Rotary Club of Dubbo. She's coordinated the Antique & Collectables Fair for the last 10 years, a successful and well regarded event for our community. This month she's finalised her project in Rotary to send fencing materials to the victims of the Sir Ivan bushfire. With her proud connection to the land, in 2014 she personally sourced donations from friends and work colleagues to compile relief packs to drought-stricken farmers. Our family delivered these goods to Walgett and Lightning Ridge district farms over two trips. In 2012, using her Rotary and

Department of Education contacts, she was part of a team who supplied and installed computers in a Fijian school, along with sports apparel. She's always the first person to lend a hand, organise the Daffodil Day and Breast Cancer Awareness merchandise, buy a raffle ticket or pick up a lost dog. We're lucky to have her in our community, and I'm proud to call her my sister.

Jennifer Potts [BALLINA]

Jennifer was born at Taree on the North Coast of NSW and grew up on a farm. She spent the majority of her working and married life at Taree, Port Macquarie and finally Ballina. Jenny epitomises those who have finished paid careers and then use their considerable skills in freely donating their time to others in the community. A committed SCOPE volunteer for the past 16 years, Jenny uses her organisational skills to run local fundraising for those in need. She's instigated a variety of activities which have raised over \$100,000 for recipients such as the Ballina State Emergency Service, a PET scan for Lismore Base Hospital, Riding for the Disabled, Hope Haven, Ballina Marine Rescue, Biala Special School, Seabird Rescue and many others. Jenny has held many roles within the Scope Club, including Secretary and President. She's also been the National Club Secretary for three years and the National President for two. A member of the Cancer Care/Palliative Care Volunteer Patient Support Service Lismore for the past 12 years, she's held the role of Coordinator for the past six years. She keeps the group cohesive, organised and educated in the oncology and palliative care

fields. The group staffs the Chemotherapy Unit at Lismore Base Hospital and the public Palliative Care Ward at St. Vincent's Private Hospital in Lismore, with a volunteer making home visits to every palliative patient who has been referred by the community nurses. The group holds monthly meetings, often with speakers, and an annual conference. Jenny is a quiet achiever who never seeks acknowledgement. She is the person who ensures that events are well staffed, well organised and successful — the first person to set up and the last to go. Jenny's passion and dedication is an inspiration to other volunteers and to the community as a whole.

Roslyn Press [GEURIE]

Roslyn (Ros) is our very special neighbour. She's always ready to lend a hand with anything and really is a treasure. She's been the Treasurer for the Dubbo Show Society since 2008. Her involvement with the show started at age 18 when she joined the Royal Bathurst Show, becoming Ringmaster for seven years. She works tirelessly to ensure the show runs smoothly in a financial capacity. She starts work long before the show gates open and departs long after the last caravan leaves. Not only is she an integral part of the show community, she and her husband Paul ensure that any rodeo and camp draft in the area runs smoothly. Ros is always in the office, looking after the books for Geurie and Rockley, and is always available to provide invaluable advice to associated events in the surrounding districts. All of this volunteer work is an added extra to her day job for Macdonald Rural, where

she's based in Brewarrina for the most of the year. She also assists her husband on their farm near Geurie, raising stock horses. Ros really is a Hidden Treasure and deserves every accolade.

Lee Reavley [NARRANDERA]

Lee is a passionate and proud Narrandera girl. She's also a Wiradjuri girl who is an advocate for her community. Lee is one of the secretaries for the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. She completely fits the bill for this event, having come off a small farm at Narrandera and being passionate about different cultures and rural living. Lee is also a volunteer with Narrandera Landcare Inc., Narrandera Koala Committee, Field Nature, Little Athletics and most recently, a member of the Riverina Local Land Services Aboriginal Advisory Committee. She's held a previous role in Eco Tourism at Narrandera Shire Council Visitors Centre, and has also been Conference Coordinator for the Narrandera Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference. Lee has followed on with a family tradition of being an avid lady darts player. Family is something that is sacred and precious to Lee.

Teena Redman [WOODBURN]

Teena is a local girl, having grown up and attended school in Lismore. A mum of three, Teena works fulltime as well as volunteering for multiple organisations. Over the past 10 years, she's been the driving force behind setting up

the Evans Head Little Athletics and she ran it for the first year. She also helped run the Richmond Valley Swim Club for five years. Teena volunteered at local swim carnivals for many hours each summer as a time keeper, and volunteers at school during sporting events. For the last 10 years she's been very involved with the Evans Head Casino Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC). Teena runs and coordinates Nippers at the Club, and is an instrumental part of its management, attending all meetings. She's a patrol member and fundraises year round at bowls days and golf days, plus sells raffle tickets every night of the annual Fishing Classic. Teena was recognised by the Far North Coast SLSC Branch in 2014 as Administrator of the Year within our branch. Teena travels on weekends with the kids to local surf life saving club carnivals and also helps with water safety on weekends at our beach. Over summer, Teena would volunteer between 10 – 15 hours a week for our SLSC. Teena is a true Hidden Treasure.

Sharyn Rowlands [NARRANDERA]

Sharyn is one of those quiet people in the community who volunteers and helps out on many and varying committees. She is currently one of the secretaries for the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee. Sharyn also volunteers on other committees, including Secretary for the P & C Narrandera Public School, Secretary for the P & C Narrandera High School, Secretary for the P & F St Joseph's School Narrandera and Secretary for the Narrandera Swim Club. She was formerly a member of the

Leeton/Narrandera Domestic Violence Committee, Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Lilliput Child Care Centre Broken Hill, a committee member for Rainbow Preschool Broken Hill and Secretary of the PSOA (Petty Sessions Officer Association). Sharyn and her family have fitted well into the Narrandera community and run the sewing business Boosky — previously known as Three Handmaidens.

Jodie Ryan [YANCO]

Jodie is a born and bred local girl. She married her husband in 2008 and together they have three children — twin boys aged 12 and a nine-year-old daughter. Jodie currently works full-time as an Area Manager for the Personnel Group, helping to find sustainable employment for young people and people with a disability and/or mental health condition. Jodie and her husband also run their own private business, Ryan Fire Protection. Despite all this, Jodie still finds the time to volunteer on four local committees, contributing around 15–20 hours per month of her time. She currently sits on the following committees: Leeton Multiple Birth Association, Leeton Chamber of Commerce (President), Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition (President), Leeton Little Athletics (President). Her work with the Bidgee Classic Committee oversees the annual release of over 30,000 native fingerlings back into our local Murrumbidgee River System, helping to ensure its sustainability for future generations. Jodie's work with the local athletics club has helped grow the sport into a vital economic driver for our community. She was instrumental in bringing

the NSW Regional Athletics Championships, and subsequently over 100 competitors, to town. Her work with the local Chamber of Commerce is enormous — she helps create opportunities for business growth and coordinates the local business awards. Her volunteer work with the Multiple Births committee is through providing support. Having had twin boys when she was 23, Jodie understands the importance of having a friendly face close by!

Joy Schulz [THE ROCK]

Joy is the only daughter of Connie Thompson, one of the early residents of The Rock and a founder of the local chapter of the Red Cross in the early 1900s. Joy attended her first Red Cross meeting at the age of three, and has been a member ever since. She's been a member of the Country Women's Association since 1970. She staffs the local craft shop whenever needed, in spite of not being a member. Joy also drives 'the oldies' (her term) to appointments in Wagga (a 60 km round trip) regularly; and occasionally Albury (a 160 km trip). She's on the committee of The Rock Show Society, having held the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary. Joy is known locally for her baking skills, having baked many thousands of cakes and slices for various local charities. In recent years she's been called on to arrange funerals for many elderly local people whose families have moved away from the area. Joy has done these things for as long as anyone can remember, without receiving any acknowledgement. I think it's about time she's honoured as the Hidden Treasure she is.

Naomi Schmidt [SILVERTON]

Naomi was born and raised in the city of Broken Hill. With partner Stephen Naomi has raised two sons on their property Eldee Station, and has been involved in many aspects of station life. In response to the challenges of life on the land Naomi trained as a teacher in the TAFE system and for a number of years conducted, in addition to her work on the property, certificate training courses in many faculties at the Western Institute in Broken Hill. Currently Naomi is self-employed as grazier, tourism manager, event coordinator and partner in managing the award winning Eldee Station hosted accommodation. She has used her extensive academic knowledge to assist and promote many projects that have had successful outcomes for the whole remote rural region, helping to build alliances and networks vital to its success. Her understanding of the local communities and government has proved of great value to the organisations she's voluntarily worked with. Naomi has never been afraid to take on challenges. She has been Secretary of the Broken Hill Art Gallery Committee, the Silver City Motor Cycle Club, the Regional Development Australia Far West Board and the Western Division Cultural Development Reference Group. Her outstanding achievements have been in Tourism and Tourism Marketing. She's been the driving force in notable organisations such as the Broken Hill Regional Tourist Association (President and Vice President) and sits on the Management Committee of the Cross Border Development of Outback Tourism. She's currently Secretary of the newly formed Destination Broken Hill, an

independent, not-for-profit tourism body. The Far West region is Naomi's passion – she wants everyone everywhere to appreciate the unique features of this amazingly diverse area.

Ruth Shanks AM [DUBBO]

Ruth was re-elected in late 2016 as World President of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), of which Country Women's Association of NSW is a member. She has devoted over 40 years to her community. In addition to her CWA duties, Ruth has been an active and enthusiastic member of numerous other voluntary community organisations in Dubbo, including the Dubbo Base Hospital Graduate Nurses Association, City of Dubbo Eisteddfod Society, Dubbo Physical Culture Club and the Girl Guide movement. Dubbo born and bred, Ruth received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2006 for her service to people in rural areas. She married in 1969 and joined the Terramungamine CWA Branch, where her mother-in-law was Branch President. She transferred to Dubbo Evening Branch in 1977, where she's been a member ever since. She's held many positions within the branch and in 2001 became the State President, a position she held for three years. She took country women's issues to government and travelled the State, meeting fellow members and hearing their concerns. CWA work has taken Ruth across NSW, Australia and the world – to South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Holland. In 2007 she became the ACWW South Pacific Area President, a role she held until 2013. During this time she visited ACWW projects in Papua New

Guinea, East Timor, Tuvalu and Tonga. In 2013 Ruth was elected World President of the ACWW at the world conference in India. Today ACWW works in partnership with its members and member societies, offering mutual support, friendship and practical help to women and communities around the world. With Consultative Status at United Nations, ACWW gives women a voice at the international level. ACWW has over 460 member societies, active in over 70 countries.

Lola Shearer [MOREE]

I would like to nominate Lola Shearer of Moree for the NSW Hidden Treasures Honour Roll, in recognition of her wonderful work raising much needed funds for the Moree Hospital Renal Unit. Lola was one of the founding members of the Moree Renal Support Committee, a group which through raffles and concerts has raised in excess of \$300,000 since its formation in 2001. Through the hard work of Lola and the other committee members, patients now receive lifesaving treatment and support that would otherwise have been unavailable in the town. Originally starting with two machines, over the past 16 years Moree's renal unit has expanded to five machines, and now has the capacity to treat 10 patients per week. Continued fundraising has also allowed for maintenance, which would not have been possible without people like Lola. To this day, despite her own deteriorating health, she continues to help run raffles, selling tickets every Wednesday night. Although largely confined to a wheelchair in recent years, she insists on being there every week. Although Lola doesn't

seek acknowledgment for her hard work, I believe being included in the 2017 Honour Roll would be a great way of thanking her for her efforts.

Joan Smedley [EVANS HEAD]

Joan has spent the last 20 years of her life devoted to community activities, making a fantastic contribution to the wellbeing of Evans Head and the lower Richmond River district of Northern NSW. She became a member of the Mid Richmond River Lions Club in 1997, when membership was first open to women. Since then she's filled most of the executive positions, most notably that of President for the last 10 years. During that time she's been selected for many Lions Club awards, including the highly esteemed James Richardson Award and the Professor Ian Frazer Humanitarian Award. She champions young local people, raising funds through the Lions Club and raffles to give them financial assistance to further their sporting activities, and in the case of one young girl providing help for much needed medical care. New Italy Driver Reviver started 20 years ago with Joan assisting at the executive level from the outset. She still enjoys serving cups of tea and coffee to the travelling public and believes passionately in encouraging motorists to take breaks during long trips. Joan is also a committee member of the Evans Head Day Club, an organisation sponsored by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. This assists the aged, the isolated and people with disabilities and their carers to develop and maintain social contact outside the home through activities such as games, sports, fitness, information sessions

and arts and crafts. Joan helps organise activities and social outings. Most of her days are taken up working for her community – she continues to give her all for the benefit of others.

Pip Smith [WELLINGTON]

Pip Smith donates so much of her time to the betterment of her community. In addition to running the family merino property with her husband Norm and raising five children, she volunteers her time to the local swimming club, the P & F and the Dubbo Regional Council Local Representation Committee. Pip is progressive, forward thinking and a very positive role model for her children. As the only rural ratepayer she's been an invaluable member of the Local Representation Committee. She's also been the backbone of the Swim Club, which hosted the Country Championships in January 2017. Pip has occupied board positions on the Wellington Country Women's Association, the Wellington Eisteddfod and the St. Mary's P & F, of which she's currently President. Pip is a most worthy Hidden Treasure.

Kerry Sproston [NARRANDERA]

Kerry is a volunteer who, like many, is a quiet contributor in the community. She is Treasurer for the NSW Rural Women's Gathering 2017 Narrandera Committee, and has been invaluable in assisting with budgeting for the Gathering.

Kerry volunteers for Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club board, the Bendigo Bank board Narrandera and Narrandera Racecourse Trust.

Robyn Stockdale [COROBIMILLA]

Robyn is a member of Country Women's Association Narrandera Evening Branch, holding a previous role as Secretary. Aside from giving to her community through CWA, Robyn has just recently retired from being a long-standing TAFE teacher. Robyn now works fulltime on the family cereal and sheep farm with her husband and son.

Rae Stove [MERIMBULA]

Rae Stove is nearly 83 years of age. All her life she's volunteered in a variety of local organisations including the Country Women's Association, the Hall Committee, the Bowling Club, the Nimmitabel Action Group, the Garden Club, the op shop, the Nimmitabel Lions Club (with catering), Meals on Wheels, the local show committee plus she visits the nursing home in Cooma. She moved to Merimbula to 'retire' and found herself volunteering again at the local op shop, bowling club and church. She's reared six children and has shared the joy of volunteering with all of them. She was, until recently, an active member of the View Club and the Probus Club, ensuring that she keeps in touch with today's world. Rae is one of those people who has always been there for any organisation, never seeking recognition. After 65 years of inspirational

voluntary service I believe she deserves recognition. One of her favourite sayings is, 'the joy is in giving'. She has spent most of her life making the world a better place.

Frances Wallace OA [QUIRINDI]

Frances (Fran) Wallace is known to everyone as Fran, or the Guide Lady, or the Meals on Wheels Lady or ... any number of titles! Fran became a Guide in Punchbowl, Sydney in 1954 and in 1959 became a Queen's Guide. She then served as a Brownie Leader in Punchbowl until her marriage and subsequent move to Quirindi in 1964. Fran took a temporary break from Guiding to give birth to her two children, Craig and Narda, although not for long. She was involved in the mothers club, both primary and high school P & C's, and other voluntary work at the primary school. She also helped organise junior hockey. Fran again became involved in Guides and was the Quirindi Leader from 1972. She served for many years as District and then Divisional Leader, plus edited the Region Newsletter 1987–2010. She was Region Treasurer 1992–2014 and Burrabaroo (Kootingal camp site) Treasurer 1994–2014. In 2014 she retired from active Guiding and joined the Trefoil Guild. Since 1979 Fran has been a member of the Meals on Wheels group in Quirindi and was Secretary and Coordinator from 1982–2000. She continues to send out accounts, and volunteers as a relief driver. In 1980 Fran joined the Quirindi branch of the Royal Far West, serving as Branch Service Officer and Treasurer and, since 1990, as Secretary. She was awarded

a Patron Thank You Certificate in 2013, honouring her many years of hard work for disadvantaged children. Fran's always been an active member of her church. Since 1980 she's been coordinator and editor of the Quirindi Uniting Church monthly bulletin. She became Secretary of the Women's Fellowship in 1997 and Church Treasurer in 2010. She's a volunteer at the Quirindi Venture Christian Bookshop, and has served on many other church committees. Fran has a strong sense of family and has always served her church and the wider community selflessly, enthusiastically and energetically. Her Order of Australia medal in 2012 was richly deserved.

Barbara Warburton [BROKEN HILL]

Born in Broken Hill 1930, Barbara began volunteering at the age of 12 in 1942 as a St John Ambulance Cadet. In 1956 she played Women's Night Cricket, and as a volunteer coached the team for 25 years. Barbara volunteered with the RSL Ladies Auxiliary, catering for weddings and parties from 1970–1980. She also knitted and crocheted toys, plus made cakes for the Salvation Army and the old folks home annual fetes in the 1970s and 1980s. Barbara ran the weekly bingo for eight years, to raise money to build six grass tennis courts in Broken Hill. She has held many positions at the Broken Hill Bowling Club, including President and Director. She was also a librarian with the Barrier Industrial Band, joined St John's reading program for schools, and was a member of the White Cliffs Country Women's Association. She worked with the Eisteddfod

Society for 10 years. Barbara has learnt to play ukulele and entertains at many charity events. She also knits trauma teddies for The Royal Flying Doctor Service, and various hospitals.

Margaret Waters [ARMIDALE]

Margaret was born in Parkes NSW and moved to Armidale at the age of one. After attending school and university there, she taught high school at Cessnock, Katoomba and Chatswood. She also assisted with choirs, musical productions and lifesaving instruction. Margaret was then transferred to the State Education Office where she prepared teaching resources and worked with syllabus committees. Margaret married an Armidale farmer and has lived here ever since. After retirement she spent eight years full time on the farm, before moving into town at the age of 70. Throughout her varied life Margaret has been involved in volunteer activities, particularly with choral groups – not easy when living out of town. She's currently Treasurer of the Armidale Choral Society. She was also involved with the Blue Mountains Choral Society and Willoughby Symphony Choir. She volunteers for the Armidale Uniting Church, printing weekly material and assisting with office activities. She's also very conscious of the amount of time and energy provided by other community volunteers, and since 2006 has coordinated the Alwyn Jones Community Service Award committee. This award commemorates the contribution of her father to the Armidale community, and is presented as a joint venture between Armidale Uniting Church, the District Council and lately the New England

Volunteer Awards. In the past two years Margaret has also been a member of Church Council, and this year is Chair. They're currently overseeing the appointment of a new minister, requiring her to work with a range of committees within the local church and the wider Uniting Church. Margaret plans to volunteer with Meals on Wheels in the future.

Sybil Watson [INGLEBURN]

Sybil was born in Tenterfield. Her father was a farmer until the family moved to Fairfield when Sybil was five. Sybil joined Liverpool Girl Guides and stayed on to begin her volunteering as a helper to the leader. Sybil and her husband Dick settled in Ingleburn, where she continued Guiding in various leadership roles, including States Guide Committees. She was Chairman of the Guide Job Month Committee, as well as a member of one of the State Campsite Committees. In 1996 the couple moved to Hill Top. Soon afterwards she joined Guiding as a leader, and was a member of the Southern Highlands Region Campsite Committee, assisting with the Brownie Cottage maintenance and supporting Guides' camping and outdoor activities, including archery. As a trained archery supervisor Sybil gave girls and women the opportunity to learn and practice this skill. Each month Sybil travels to Guide House in Sydney to assist in the mail out of the State Magazine for Leaders. Her service to Guiding has amounted to about 40 years so far. For over 20 years Sybil has served with the Hill Top Rural Fire Service (RFS) as an active member of the Canteen Brigade, providing meals to members

of the emergency services, including firefighters, police and SES. Recently retired to Ingleburn, she continues with the RFS as an operational member on call, as needed. She maintains her active commitment to Guiding through continuing membership of the Southern Highlands Region Campsite Committee and her membership of the Bowral Trefoil Guild.

Jodie Wilton [CASSILIS]

Jodie Wilton grew up in the local community and has served it well over time, actively assisting the Cassilis Rodeo Committee for many years in the office, and helping out in the canteen. She was employed by the Cassilis Bowling Club for a number of years and when it fell on tough times, Jodie took on the role of secretary, bar attendant and whatever else needed doing for a small honorarium, so that the Club could survive. This also meant driving her own vehicle in her own time to travel to Mudgee once a week to do the banking, purchase goods and perform other jobs, all while raising two young daughters. Jodie was an active member of the Rural Fire Service and during this time held the position of Secretary of the Cassilis Brigade. She also assisted with training days and workshops within the local areas, and sometimes other areas as well. Jodie was employed at Gummun Place Hostel in 2009. In her different roles there, Jodie went above and beyond her paid role to enrich the lives of the residents. These activities included helping with fundraising, sitting with sick residents, driving residents to Muswellbrook and elsewhere in her



own car and in her own time, meeting them for coffee and chats, and visiting them in hospital. More recently Jodie was the instigator of the Community Christmas Party for Cassilis, bringing together the small community to celebrate the season — another great success. Jodie is a wonderful asset to Cassilis, and a very worthy Hidden Treasure.

volunteer agencies

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

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

Auslife Program (Youth for Christ Australia)

Freecall 1800 776 186
www.yfc.org.au

Australian Multiple Birth Association

1300 886 499
www.amba.org.au

Australian Red Cross Volunteers

02 9229 4111
www.redcross.org.au

Can Assist (Cancer Assistance Network)

1300 226 277
www.canassist.com.au

Cancer Council - NSW

13 11 20
www.cancercouncil.com.au

Clean Up Australia

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

Country Women's Association of New South Wales

02 8337 0200
www.cwaofnsw.org.au

Days for Girls Charity

0412 908 133
www.daysforgirls.org/australia

Domestic Violence NSW

02 9698 9777
www.dvnsw.org.au

Driver Reviver

enquiries@driverreviver.com.au
www.tollgroup.com/driverreviver

Girl Guides Australia – NSW/ACT

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

If We All Had Wings

0401 526 936
www.ifweallhadwings.org.au

Landcare NSW

02 6686 2779
www.landcarensw.org.au

Legacy NSW

02 9248 9009
www.legacy.com.au/NewSouthWales

Lioness Clubs Australia – NSW

0439 869 229
www.lionsclubs.org.au/members/lioness

Lions Australia

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

Little Athletics – NSW

02 9633 4511
www.lansw.com.au

Make a Difference

mandy@makeadifference.com.au
www.makeadifference.com.au

Meals on Wheels

02 8219 4200
www.nswmealsonwheels.org.au

State Emergency Service – NSW

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

**Riding for the Disabled
Association – NSW**

02 8736 1256
www.rdansw.org.au

**Rotaract Australia
(Youth aged 18-30 years)**

02 8894 9800
www.rotaract.org.au

Return Services League

02 9264 8188
www.rslnsw.org.au

Rural Fire Service

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

Australian Men's Shed Association

1300 550 009
www.mensshed.org

The Salvation Army

13 72 58
www.salvos.org.au

Scouts Australia – NSW

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

Soroptimist International

02 8096 6072
www.siswp.org

St John Ambulance

1300 360 455
www.stjohnnsw.com.au

St Vincent de Paul

02 9568 0262
www.vinnies.org.au

Surf Life Saving NSW

02 9471 8000
www.surflifesaving.com.au

Keep NSW Beautiful

02 8594 4000
www.knswb.org.au

VIEW Clubs of Australia

Freecall 1800 805 366
www.view.org.au

GENERAL CONTACTS

The Centre for Volunteering

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

Volunteering ACT

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

Indigenous Community Volunteers

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

2018 honour roll: nominate a rural woman

The 2018 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll will be launched at the NSW Rural Women's Gathering to be held at Merimbula from 19–21 October 2018.

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 2018 Honour Roll open 21 May and close 30 July 2018.

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



Volunteering makes most of us healthier and happier. It allows us to boost our sense of achievement, expand our social networks and learn new skills, while giving back.

NSW VOLUNTEERING



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



Department of
Primary Industries