



Department of  
Primary Industries

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HIDDEN  
TREASURES  
HONOUR ROLL

2012

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

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

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## ministers' message

We are delighted to present the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

The Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network started the Hidden Treasures project in 2010 to collect and collate stories of our volunteering women from across rural and regional New South Wales.

Women are renowned for being the glue of families and communities and this year's Hidden Treasures Honour Roll confirms this.

This publication celebrates women across New South Wales who give so much of their time and energy to improving our rural and regional communities and making them better places to live.

Without the tireless work of our State's volunteers many organisations would struggle to survive.

Unpaid workers ensure service organisations, charities, sporting clubs, arts and environmental groups continue to improve the quality of life in our rural neighbourhoods and regions.

Hidden Treasures is a way of honouring these women.

This year's Honour Roll shines a spotlight on individuals who are engaged in a broad range of volunteering activities across our regions, including villages, towns and rural cities.

Whether they are fundraising for churches or Show societies, caring for children in hospitals or supporting the elderly, these women are true treasures and we need to keep discovering them so we can publicly acknowledge and thank them.

The NSW Government is proud to support this years Honour Roll which was launched at the 2012 NSW Rural Women's Gathering at Parkes.

Please encourage others to read these inspirational stories and join us in celebrating our volunteers' remarkable contributions to making New South Wales number one.



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

**Katrina Hodgkinson**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Small Business



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

**Pru Goward**  
Minister for Family and Community Services  
Minister for Women



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

**Victor Dominello**  
Minister for Citizenship and Communities  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

## 2012 hidden treasures nominees

- |                                    |                                     |                                    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4 Jacque Abbott [Tichborne]        | 12 Lee Estens [Moree]               | 20 Bronnie Johnson [Murrurundi]    |
| 4 Virginia Anderson [Balickera]    | 12 Norma Everett [Gloucester]       | 20 Patricia Johnson [Hillston]     |
| 4 Marie Bartlett [Gloucester]      | 13 Di Fellows [Myrtle Creek]        | 20 Gail Johnston [Woodberry]       |
| 5 Erica Barwell [Uralla]           | 13 Kylie Galbraith [Quirindi]       | 21 Pix Jonasson [Port Macquarie]   |
| 5 Pam Bothwell [Cessnock]          | 14 Norma Garment [Parkes]           | 21 Lois Judd [Adaminaby]           |
| 6 Lorraine Bruce [Wards River]     | 14 Elaine Gilbody Towner [Armidale] | 22 Anne Kennedy [Coonamble]        |
| 6 Trudy Burgess [Bega]             | 14 Robyn Gill [Lovedale]            | 22 Margaret Kiehne [Dundee]        |
| 6 Dorothy Burns [Copmanhurst]      | 15 Sharon Griffiths [Redbank]       | 23 Carmel La Rocca [Griffith]      |
| 7 Hazel Cameron [Walcha]           | 15 Beth Hamilton [Inverell]         | 23 Lynne Lahey [Wattle Flat]       |
| 7 Stephanie Cameron [Tamworth]     | 15 Lyn Heidtmann [Adaminaby]        | 23 Catherine Lane [Griffith]       |
| 7 Margaret Campbell [West Kempsey] | 16 Julie Heiler [Boggabri]          | 24 Narelle Langfield [Tamworth]    |
| 8 Valerie Cannon [Peak Hill]       | 16 Pam Hewitt [Bogee]               | 24 Helen Langham [Blayney]         |
| 8 Rebecca Caslick [Murrurundi]     | 16 Maureen Hickson [Moree]          | 25 Pamela Lees [Gunning]           |
| 8 Dot Cattell [Inverell]           | 17 Marjorie Hill [Hillston]         | 25 Cheryl Lewin [Alstonville]      |
| 8 Fay Cone [Stewarts Brook]        | 17 Cynthia Homes [Grenwell Point]   | 26 Margaret Livermore [Manildra]   |
| 9 Marie Constable [Tamworth]       | 17 Mhora Houston [Weemeloh]         | 26 Helen McClelland [Abermain]     |
| 9 Carolyn Cornell [Forbes]         | 18 Lee-Anne Hughston [Wanaaring]    | 27 Heather McCloy [Kyogle]         |
| 10 Rhonda Death [Walcha]           | 19 Gillian James [Wollombi]         | 27 Raewyn Macky [Yarranbella]      |
| 10 Dianne Decker [Forbes]          | 19 Denise Jelbart [Forbes]          | 27 Marj Manuel [Inverell]          |
| 11 Lorraine Dunkley [Lyndhurst]    | 20 Marjorie Johnson [Eungai Creek]  | 28 Helen Marsh [Bathurst]          |
| 11 Joy Eagle [Barham]              |                                     | 28 Beth Masterman OAM [Pelaw Main] |

- 28 Liz Mathews [Parkes]  
 29 Gail Meyers [Gilgandra]  
 29 Jan Miller [Baradine]  
 29 Thelma Mitchell [Hillston]  
 29 Barbara Moore [Gleniffer]  
 30 Bette Montgomery [Moree]  
 30 Sharyn Munro [Upper Hunter]  
 30 Rosemary Nankivell [Quirindi]  
 31 Joanna Newton [Armidale]  
 31 Jacqui Page [Bowral]  
 32 Pamela Pavey [Tamworth]  
 32 Marlene Pennings [The Entrance]  
 33 Noelene Phillips [Bathurst]  
 33 Shalini Pratap [Tamworth]  
 34 Joyce Purtle [Linburn]  
 34 Michele Quigley [Forbes]  
 35 Elvy Quirk [Forbes]  
 35 Donna Rath [Mt Rankin]  
 35 Joan Redfern [Coonabarabran]  
 36 Janine Reed [Utungun]  
 36 Katrina Rendell [Barrington]  
 36 Barbara Roach [Gwandlan]  
 37 Marjorie Robertson [Armidale]  
 37 Patricia Rodd [Tumut]  
 37 Del Ross [Ardglen]  
 38 Shirley Russell [Lyndhurst]  
 38 Judy Ruge [Forbes]  
 38 Kerryn Ryan [Coonamble]  
 39 Betty Scanlon [Hillston]  
 39 Emma Scholz [Culcairn]  
 39 Yvonne Shaw [Forbes]  
 40 Judith Simos [Scone]  
 40 Daphne Simmons [Kelso]  
 41 Margaret Sivyver OAM [East Gresford]  
 41 Joyce Skinner [Coraki]  
 41 Linda Squire [Adaminaby]  
 42 Maree Statham [Portland]  
 42 Sue Steele [South Grafton]  
 43 Marnie Steer [Berrigan]  
 44 Marnie Stewart [Cooma]  
 44 Valmai Sullivan [Largs]  
 45 Kate Thompson [Gooloogong]  
 45 Michelle Thornley [St Georges Basin]  
 45 Cheryl Timmins [Croppa Creek]  
 46 Janelle Tongue [Loomberah]  
 46 Joan Treweeke [Angledool]  
 47 Sheila Turnbull [Cessnock]  
 47 Louise Turner [Willow Tree]  
 47 Hilary Turner [Willow Tree]  
 48 Henny Wagenaer [Ourimbah]  
 48 Lyn Wallin [North Nowra]  
 49 Marjorie Ward [Merriwa]  
 49 Wendy Wedge [Bowraville]  
 49 Nicole Wells [Cabarita Beach]  
 50 Catherine Westley [Wellington]  
 50 Coral White [Elsmore]  
 50 Wendy Wilcox [Portland]  
 51 Jennie Wilkinson [Bolwarra]  
 51 Mary Wood [Hillston]  
 52 Shirley Wood [Leeton]  
 52 Isabell Wooden [Wagga Wagga]  
 52 Vicki Woods [Largs]  
 53 Pam Youman [Guyra]

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

## jacque abbot

[Tichborne, near Parkes]

Jacque was born at the Royal North Shore Hospital in 1943. She grew up in Moss Vale until the age of 10 when the family moved to Dunedoo. Jacque met and married her husband in Dunedoo then moved to Parkes to raise their five children (three girls and two boys). She started volunteering after the loss of her daughter and says that volunteering was a rewarding time and also helped her get through grief and loss. Jacque has been volunteering now for around 40 years. Some of the organisations have included: Meals on Wheels (20 years), Housebound Library (about 20 years), Lions (four years) and Middleton School P&C and the Ladies Auxiliary (six years). She is now volunteering for Probus and has been a member for around 18 months. Jacque is also the Treasurer for the Parkes Reconciliation Group which was formed in 2008. She is committed to her family and the community and volunteers at least five hours each week.

## virginia anderson

[Balickera, near Raymond Terrace]

Virginia, known as Carol, joined the Rural Fire Service as a member of the East Seaham Rural Fire Brigade in May 1996. She was an

active member until it amalgamated with the neighbouring Seaham Brigade in 2000. In 2001 Carol left to join the Port Stephens Communications Brigade. She has always been an active member of the Rural Fire Service and since joining Communications has given much over and above what is expected from a volunteer member. Carol has risen to the rank of Brigade Captain and has provided excellent leadership through the amalgamation of two Communications Brigades in the Lower Hunter. She has completed all mainstream training qualifications, as well as specialist training in the area of Communications, Aviation, First Aid, Driving and is also a Trainer/ Assessor. Carol is a valued and active member of the Zone Training Team and regularly assists at Regional and State levels. In her spare time Carol assists her Group Captain with meetings and events and also participates in Regional and State level Communications Committees. I certainly have no hesitation in recommending Carol for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

## marie bartlett

[Gloucester]

Marie is a caring, supportive friend who understands the value of human kindness. She lost her husband many years ago and experienced first hand the grief families experience after a death. Marie has been President of the Mid North Coast Branch of the National Association for Loss & Grief (NALAG) for the past 10 years and has worked as a co-worker for the Manning Branch for the last five. At The 2011 Rural Women's Gathering hosted by Gloucester, Marie co-facilitated a workshop on Understanding the

Grieving Process. Everyone grieves differently because of relationships and the way a loss occurs. Marie freely shares her knowledge on what to say and do when talking to people experiencing loss and grief through death, divorce, abortion, loss of a limb or home. She travels to workshops at her own expense to improve her expertise. I admire Marie and her unpaid devotion to helping, caring and listening to others in need. Thank you Marie, you are a true treasure.

### erica barwell [Uralla]

Erica is a tireless volunteer in the Uralla/Armidale area and is currently involved in the following organisations: Uralla Historical Society (Secretary and helps at The Mill with gardening, maintenance and catering), Uralla Red Cross (President and helps with catering at the blood bank and gives blood regularly), Friends of McMaugh Nursing Home Auxiliary (Treasurer), Uralla Branch United Hospital Auxiliary (President and works at the Armidale Hospital Kiosk) and Meals on Wheels at Uralla and Armidale. Since retiring in 2006, Erica has been busier than ever with her charity and community work. She takes it very seriously and is as diligent, hard working and organised as when she worked as an accountant. Erica is also a very hands-on grandmother helping out with her grandchildren in Brisbane and Wagga Wagga. She also supports her elderly mother in law in Armidale. Erica is someone who just sees what needs to be done and gets on with it with no fuss or fanfare. She's an inspiration to all of her family and we love her very much and think she's doing

a wonderful job with all of her roles as a wife, mother, sister, daughter-in-law, grandmother, neighbour, friend and citizen.

### pam bothwell [Cessnock]

Pam came to Cessnock at the end of 1955 with her husband Neville and immediately became involved through music. Pam joined the St John's Church Choir and formed the Junior and Senior Choirs. She became Director of Music for Cessnock Parish and was responsible for organists at the various centres throughout the Parish. Pam has assisted as accompanist with choirs at St Patrick's School and has a 25 year association with Bellbird Public School choirs. She has been involved with the Cessnock Cantata Choir and many Cessnock City Council events including Australia Day and the popular Christmas Carols in the Park. Pam now resides in the Cessnock Masonic Retirement Village and helps in the Westhaven Hostel when musical prowess is needed for the aged residents. In 1976 Pam was honoured by Cessnock Apex Club as their Citizen of the Year and in 1993 and 2007 received Cessnock City Australia Day Appreciation Awards for services to music. In 2010 after several decades of teaching and involvement with music, Pam was recognised by the Education Department at a presentation at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. This dedicated 84-year-old still gives her time freely for the enjoyment of music to the residents of Cessnock.

## Lorraine Bruce

[Wards River, near Bulahdelah]

Lorraine is a 61-year-old grandmother who lives on and maintains a 30 acre property on the outskirts of the small hamlet of Wards River. She leads a very active life but still finds the time to maintain a small herd of sheep and horses on the property. Lorraine is involved as a volunteer with the local Wards River Progress Association as well as undertaking regular shifts with the Driver Reviver Unit located south of Bulahdelah over holiday weekends. She is a very devoted member of the Gloucester Great Lakes Rural Fire Service and holds the positions of Brigade Secretary Wards River, Group Captain within Great Lakes, Senior Instructor/Assessor Great Lakes Training Team and is a member of the local community FireWise team. Lorraine is a truly dedicated volunteer.

## Trudy Burgess [Bega]

Trudy has worked for the Bega Hospital Auxiliary for 38 years. She joined the auxiliary while she was still working as a nurse in Bega Hospital and at the first Annual General Meeting was elected as Secretary, continuing in this role for 13 years. Trudy was President for one term before taking on the role as Publicity Officer for many years. She became a Pink Lady when it formed 20 years ago, was President for 12 years and still helps patients in the hospital today. Trudy helps with street stalls, fetes, selling raffle tickets and working in the hospital kiosk and doing rosters. She is always willing to make a cake or slice for our catering

events. Trudy celebrated her 85th birthday this year and for the past five years has been the Bega Hospital Auxiliary's Patron. Bega Hospital Auxiliary celebrated its 75th birthday this year. She has been a member for half its life and we think this is an outstanding effort and worth celebrating!

## Dorothy Burns

[Copmanhurst near Grafton]

Dorothy was born in Papua New Guinea in 1945 and came to Australia in 1969. She is now an Australian Citizen and is currently a Volunteer in Policing with the NSW Police Force. In the last six years Dorothy has provided invaluable support to Domestic Violence victims at Grafton and McLean Local Courts and has been involved in Telecross (ringing elderly people to check on their welfare). She has been a driving force behind a homeless initiative that provides free knapsacks to homeless people and attempts to find them accommodation. Dorothy was heavily involved in the establishment of the Local Women's Refuge in Grafton and provides help for people from different cultures who have problems obtaining accommodation. She is a valued member of the Grafton Community Consultative Committee and the Copmanhurst Gardening Group, helping to maintain the gardens within the Copmanhurst village. Dorothy has been a Volunteer in Policing for six years and has contributed over 2500 hours in assisting the police and the community in the Coffs Harbour/Clarence Local Area Command. In 2011 she was nominated for the Law and Justice Award for her work in Court Support.

## hazel cameron [Walcha]

Hazel is a member of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Walcha Support Group and has been a valued Treasurer and more recently stepped up to the position of Chairperson. She has shown a great commitment to the organisation and its fundraising efforts through organising and assisting at bike rides, bowls days, golf days, raffle ticket selling and anything else that can make money for this wonderful service. Hazel is a very valued member of the Walcha community and we are lucky to have her assisting our organisation and raising the profile of our emergency aero-medical search and rescue service for rural and remote communities across the New England and North West Region of NSW.

## stephanie cameron [Tamworth]

Stephanie was born in Grafton. Her family moved to Sydney, then Gunnedah and finally to Tamworth in 1989 where she completed high school. In 1992 Stephanie attended university and gained a Bachelor of Applied Science before returning to Tamworth in 1996. Stephanie co-owns East West EnviroAg where she is the Operations Manager. The company provides the opportunity for her to pursue her interest in science, mentor staff and interact with the agricultural community. Keen to put something back into the community, Stephanie joined the Tamworth Regional Landcare Association and was instrumental in the formation of the Tamworth Urban Landcare Group in 2008. She is the Secretary and organises

many events such as tree planting along the Peel River. Stephanie's husband Adrian and their children Rory and Davina, are also very active in these events. She strongly believes in mentoring her children to care about the environment and community they live in. Stephanie is Chairperson of the annual Sustainable Namoi Living Program Organising Committee. This Program encourages individuals, households and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and live more sustainably. Recent highlights included an expo and associated regional events with more than 4000 people attending. Stephanie gains great satisfaction from participating in community environmental projects (which take up at least 10 hours a week on top of a full working week and family activities) and particularly mentoring new Landcare members.

## margaret campbell [West Kempsey]

Margaret is a passionate and dedicated member of the Kempsey community. As former Secretary of the Kempsey & District Ratepayers & Residents Associations, she was instrumental in bringing the voice of residents to the forefront on issues such as local policing, health services and living expenses. Margaret has also been very committed in supporting an upgrade of the Kempsey District Hospital. She is a true community champion who dedicates many hours to local needs.

## valerie cannon [Peak Hill]

Val was born in Parkes and with her family moved to a property in Peak Hill when she was six. It was here that her parents instilled in her a love and understanding of farming and the concept of 'if a community is worth living in, it's worth working for'. She is an energetic, dynamic role model and mentor to those around her. Val brings enthusiasm and style to all her charity work and projects within the community. She is articulate, intelligent and passionate about causes close to her heart. Her award winning garden has won the Peak Hill Show Society's Rural Champion Garden over many years. Val has taken on executive and committee roles in organisations such as the Peak Hill Showground Trust, Peak Hill NSW Farmers Association, Meals on Wheels, Peak Hill Show Committee and Auxiliary, Hospital Fete and Volunteer Rural Fire Fighters Association. She dedicates endless hours to doing paper work, cooking, liaising, organising and attending meetings. While being a tireless volunteer, Val also supports the running of the family farm. She is a wonderful mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, as well as providing fulltime care for her beautiful disabled son.

## rebecca caslick [Murrurundi]

Rebecca is a young Veterinarian living in Murrurundi. She was born and grew up in Perth. After Vet School Rebecca lived and worked in England and Ireland until she moved to the Hunter Valley in 2002 to work as an Equine Vet

for 10 years before starting her own vet business in Murrurundi. Rebecca has been a volunteer for King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge since the first year of the event, both as the event vet, and also assisting in other areas such as the cross country. Rebecca is also the Secretary of Murrurundi Preschool, volunteers for Score Rodeo and Camp Draft, Wingen Camp Draft, Murrurundi Pony Club, Blanford School, Quirindi Eventing, and Willow Tree Preschool. She is a respected and valuable member of the Murrurundi community.

## dot cattell [Inverell]

Dot is a valued volunteer with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Inverell Support Group and is currently Group Secretary. She is a dedicated hard worker who is appreciated and valued by all who are associated with her. Dot became a volunteer when the group was struggling and needed new ideas and people to continue to raise much needed funds for this emergency aero-medical service. Her much loved husband, Allan (who passed away recently) was also an active member and they both joined after Allan suffered a heart attack and was transported and saved by this wonderful service. Dot previously worked at the Inverell Women's Refugee and continues to give back to her community.

## fay cone [Stewarts Brook, near Scone]

Volunteering and community have always been part of Fay's everyday life. Growing up as the daughter of a Station Manager she has lived

on many large and famous properties in NSW. 'Rural' and 'country' course through her veins. Her only time away from rural NSW was to live in Melbourne while training to be a nurse. The mother of three daughters and the wife of a cattle farmer and camp drafter have seen Fay on many committees from school canteen, P&C, Ladies and Church Guilds, Tennis Clubs, Progress Associations and the Bushman's Carnival Committee. Fay has always stepped up and taken whatever tasks needed to be done. She lives at Stewarts Brook with her husband Norman on their cattle property. Fay is considered the 'glue' of her community and through the recent drought she continued to draw everyone together organising BBQ's, tennis days and men's gatherings to help lift flagging spirits. Fay is on the committee organising the 2013 Rural Women's Gathering next year, an event she is passionate about and never misses attending a meeting. She is a caring, community minded person, who enjoys doing things for others. Fay throws herself whole heartedly into any organisation or task in which she is involved. Her hard work, wisdom and wonderful cooking skills make her an excellent ambassador for volunteering. She is truly a hidden treasure.

### marie constable [Tamworth]

Marie is an amazing volunteer. She is Secretary with the Tamworth Support Group and is the 'glue' that keeps this group together. Marie is the 'go to' person everyone calls when they need to know what is going on with this support group of over 50 volunteers. She is a person who remembers

birthdays and regularly sends a thank you or get well card. Marie works tirelessly for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, coming up with new and innovative ways to raise money. Until her retirement, she worked at Challenge Disability. Marie is always available if we need an extra hand to do anything — from cooking a BBQ, to selling raffle tickets, welcoming children to our facility at Tamworth Airport or helping stuff envelopes for a mailout. She gives at least five hours a week volunteering because she believes in the importance of providing emergency aero medical search and rescue services to the communities of the New England and North West Region of NSW.

### carolyn cornell [Forbes]

Carolyn was born in Gilgandra, moved to Gulargambone when she was seven then Forbes when she was 13. Carolyn lived in Canberra briefly before returning to Forbes where she married and had a son, who is a talented chef and the light of her life. She worked for the Forbes Hospital for 16 years and dedicated herself to fundraising activities including the hospital fete which brought the whole community together. Carolyn has helped to raise thousands of dollars for the hospital to purchase equipment for the palliative care ward, a cardiac care monitor and a foetal monitor. She volunteers with the State Emergency Service and provides assistance at the Emergency Operations Centre when it is activated, most recently during the March 2012 Forbes flood crisis. One of her great passions is raising awareness and funds for Kidney Health Australia. Carolyn has participated for 10 years

in the Kidney Health Australia Kidney Kar Rally and 2012 is her first year in 'retirement'. Along with other members of Kar 2871 her commitment to this cause has raised funds to assist with the Kidney Kids Camp. She believes that her greatest achievement is yet to come – a Forbes Community Chest. Her vision for the Community Chest is to raise money for people who need to travel away for medical treatment. This money would assist with the many costs associated with travel and similar expenses incurred while seeking medical treatment.

### rhonda death [Walcha]

Rhonda is a valued volunteer of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Walcha Support Group and has been Secretary for around 10 years. She is the 'go to' person for this region. If you need something you know you can call on Rhonda and it will be done. She is involved in fundraising through events such as the annual bike ride, golf days, bowls days, raffles and would work in excess of 10 hours a month. Rhonda is the person who is up making sandwiches at 3.00 am for the checkpoints on the annual bike ride, who works all day selling raffle tickets and is still there to help clean up at the end. She is a true treasure of our organisation and a valued volunteer. We are so grateful she chose us to give of her time.

### dianne decker [Forbes]

Dianne is a remarkable individual who has been a tireless and passionate advocate for her home town of Forbes all her life. She was born in Forbes and now lives just outside of town on the family farm with her husband Ray. Dianne was a founding member of the Forbes Urban Landcare Group, established a local support network called 'The Neighbourhood Ladies' for women living on nearby farms, and is on the Advisory Board of the Forbes Medical Service. It is in the area of disability that Di has made the most significant contribution, working in paid and volunteer roles for more than 30 years. In May 2011 Dianne organised the 30th Forbes Special Sports Day, an event she started in 1981 when she recognised a lack of opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in organised sporting activities. The event has been the catalyst for a number of local wheelchair athletes to launch international sporting careers and has promoted considerable attitudinal change within local communities to embrace the full participation of people with disabilities into community life. Dianne spent two years as the Regional Director for the House With No Steps before becoming involved in the employment services industry in 1994. She has clocked up 17 years in disability employment services and in that time has pioneered and championed the employment of hundreds of people with disabilities, including Aboriginal people who have gained jobs in local government, retail and many other industries in Forbes, Parkes and across the Central West.

## Lorraine Dunkley [Lyndhurst]

Lorraine was born in Bathurst. She has four grown children and since they left home has stayed actively involved in BMX in a big way. She is an awesome asset to BMX NSW Inc. — having been involved for 30 years in many and varying ways. Lorraine has held positions such as Regional Race Registrar to State Secretary and more recently the State Executive Director/ Board member, Team Manager and State Scorer. She gives up many hours for the members — often travelling long distances to be at events and assisting in whatever way she can. Lorraine attends Board meetings where she contributes to the Administration and running of BMX NSW Inc. Lorraine is extremely passionate about our sport and its community. She is Team Manager to our Junior Test Team (8 x 11-year-olds) which competes in a nationally recognised event in New Zealand each year. Lorraine gives of herself so often and expects nothing in return. The tasks she does are generally thankless. Lorraine runs the office of our State organisation which is the first port of call for new members and our 22 clubs across NSW. She has a wealth of knowledge and is happy to assist everyone with problem solving and sharing her expertise. We are glad to acknowledge Lorraine's volunteer efforts and let her know she is very much appreciated.

## Joy Eagle [Barham]

Joy was born and raised at Lockhart. She completed her nursing and midwifery training in Melbourne and Sydney. This has provided her with empathy and knowledge and a key reason we see Joy as our Hidden Treasure. She moved to Barham in 1958 when she got married and started volunteering. Joy is a registered volunteer for Centre Based Day Care, doing hospital visits and transporting pathology to the laboratory. She is a member of Barham Local Health Advisory Committee and is a registered Palliative Care Volunteer. Joy is Secretary of the Barham Koondrook Soldiers' Memorial Health Service United Hospital Auxiliary. She is a person that is always there, happy to assist, follow up, backup, do the leg work when needed often without any prompting. Joy is an unobtrusive, generous and respectful volunteer around staff and patients. She is always at the end of the phone for transport of urgent bloods or volunteering at the Op Shop. For any community group that needs a leader Joy is there. She was recognised as Shire Citizen by the local Wakool Shire in 1990 along with her husband. Up until recently Joy was always doing things for other people and never taking time out for herself. When 'Sing Australia' came to Barham about four years ago and formed a group Joy joined and now takes some well earned time out to sing.

## Lorraine Eckersley

[South Tamworth]

Lorraine has been involved in the NSW Fire Brigades Firefighter Championships Association for over 35 years, all in an honorary capacity. She was a member of the Host Committee State Championship in Tamworth in 1886, 1994, 2008 and 2012. Lorraine has been the Secretary and driving force behind this Host Committee. In 2008 she was awarded the NSW Fire Brigades Good Conduct and Long Service Medal for Services to Championships and the Brigades. As a member of the Association Executive, Lorraine took on the task of Registrar of Trophies and Awards and has collated and conducted, with a Sub-Committee, the presentation of medals and awards at Championships. Perpetual Trophies for State Championships are of immense value and date back to 1932. It is paramount to ensure their safe keeping. Under Lorraine's guidance, this Sub-Committee has developed a presentation format that has added professionalism to the Championships in a more cost-effective manner.

## Lee Estens

[Moree]

Lee is an incredibly active member of the Moree community, dedicating much of her time to fundraising and volunteering. Over the past 12 years she has taken part in the Annual Variety Bash, a charity motoring event raising money for children with special needs. Lee alone has raised about \$750 000 of which much has been directed to the community of Moree. Moree

Hospital has received important equipment such as a humidi crib, a ventilator for babies, a \$20 000 heart monitor and a dedicated children's corner in the emergency department — the first of its kind in NSW. As a result of Lee's fundraising, Variety also donated a \$30 000 liberty swing for wheelchair users in a Moree Park, as well as many other much needed items such as shade cloth and a kitchen in the local school. Variety also makes significant donations to the Newborn Emergency Transport System which offers a lifesaving service to babies born in regional areas who need to be taken to hospitals in major centres. After her eldest son was diagnosed with leukaemia as a young child, Lee promised that if he got through it, she would do all she could to give back. And that is exactly what she has done. This year, through her hugely popular annual golf day, Lee has raised \$40 000 for Variety. It is a fantastic day where the community comes together, dressing up in outrageous outfits to mingle with celebrities such as footballer Matt Burke. Lee is also a member of the Gwydir Valley Cotton Growers Community Relations Committee, which raises money to give scholarships to medical students, with a view to encouraging them to work in the bush after their studies, as well as funding local midwives to do further study.

## Norma Everett

[Gloucester]

Norma is an amazing, inspirational, tireless lady who has lived in our Barrington village and Gloucester for seven decades. After marrying Cliff, a young dairy farmer, Norma worked with him on

the farm and they raised two daughters, Adele and Pamela. In early days Norma taught music to the Barrington School children in her home and coordinated School Christmas Concerts. In 1960 Norma joined the Golf Club and held many positions including being named Club Patron. She has played music at many special community events such as Boxing Day Sports, Anzac Services, kitchen teas and dances at the Barrington, Copeland, Gangat, Stratford, Waukivory and Forbesdale Halls — bringing joy and happiness to many. Norma has been a member of The Historical Society, taking an active part in cooking, selling tickets, garage sales, working bees and meetings. When she first joined the Country Women's Association, Norma travelled to meetings in an old milk truck — collecting milk cans on the way to the factory. She has received her Country Women's Association long service bar. Norma has worked for Meals & Wheels, been a member of Quota and volunteered for 25 years playing music at the Hospital Activity Centre. It's the individual care and non-committee deeds that Norma does so tirelessly that make her so inspirational. It is wonderful that this great grandmother uses a computer and I love her emails. Norma you are such a quiet achiever and we will remember you forever.

### di fellows [Myrtle Creek, near Casino]

Di is Captain of the Northern Rivers Support Brigade and Senior Deputy Captain of the Bungawalbyn Brigade. She is an outstanding member of the Rural Fire Service and gives her time and effort to support not only the volunteer

members but the staff who work within the Service. Di was a key member of a Project Team coordinating the move of the Support Brigade into the new Fire Control Centre. She is an active member of the Community Education Team and assists with the delivery of the Schools Program, Cadets Program and Community education to the broader community. Di is always willing to go that extra mile to ensure the welfare and support of members is considered regardless of the time — night or day. She has been involved with the Rural Fire Service for the past 12 years and has remained an active and valued member of the team. Di has the total respect and admiration of all the Northern Rivers Rural Fire Service Team.

### kylie galbraith [Quirindi]

Kylie is a valued volunteer of our Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Quirindi Support Group. She has been an active member of this group for the last six years and Secretary for the last three. Kylie works at the Northern Daily Leader regional newspaper. Her work with the Quirindi Support Group in organising the Quirindi Dinner Dance has been amazing. Her dedication, forward thinking and outstanding organisational skills has ensured this has become a premier event for the region. Kylie strongly believes and understands the importance of such a medical service to the rural and remote communities of the New England and North West region. She is our hidden treasure — a quiet achiever who just gets the job done.

## norma garment [Parkes]

Norma is a tireless volunteer. Since retiring she has volunteered for the Parkes Elvis Festival coordinating the annual street parade which requires lots of consultation and an ability to work with a broad range of different people. The street parade needs to be safe for the community and participants and Norma attends several meetings to ensure it is always such a well run event. She is also Treasurer for the local Parkes Horse and Pony Club. Her daughter instructs and her granddaughter is a riding member. Without the assistance of Norma keeping the finances of the Club in check, the children would not have the beautiful facilities that they currently have. She also instructs the small children as the Club does not have enough instructors to help out on rally days. Norma's positive vibe is contagious and we are very lucky to have her amongst us.

## elaine gilbody towner [Armidale]

Elaine is a tireless worker for our community as the Local Controller of the Armidale Dumaresq State Emergency Service. She has served our local community for over five years and has been qualified in all areas of rescue including Road Crash Rescue. The State Emergency Service is a volunteer service that requires someone to be on call 24/7. As Controller, Elaine is responsible for operational and administrative management; planning and emergency risk management; volunteer and liaison with local community

organisations; dealing with challenging situations; problem solving and decision making. She has been an exemplary leader with respect of service members and the local community. Elaine regularly contributes over 500 plus hours a year to our local State Emergency Service and has managed to do this originally as a single mum and over the past year maintained her service as a married mum and committed wife. I recently had the honour of supporting Elaine as her Deputy and have continued to be impressed with her leadership qualities and commitment to the task. On top of her volunteering Elaine is a Clinical Nurse Specialist at our local hospital's Intensive Care Unit. She has contributed so much to our community and continues to do so even now that she is soon expecting a baby. Elaine is worthy of recognition for her volunteering and continues to go above and beyond what is expected.

## robyn gill [Lovedale, near Cessnock]

Robyn moved to Lovedale over eight years ago. She has led by example in both her business and as President of the Lovedale Chamber of Commerce. Robyn's passion is the environment and she has launched a number of great initiatives – most notably the Greening Lovedale Campaign, which is an innovative campaign bringing the environment to the forefront of the Lovedale community. A Green Business Directory was launched in December 2009 by Ian Kiernan of Clean Up Australia. Robyn is an active participant in the annual Clean Up Australia Day activities. She has worked tirelessly raising funds for many community initiatives such as the

Lovedale Hunter Valley website, small chamber of commerce marketing, Lovedale promotional banners, promotional video and map pads. Robyn leads by example by increasing water storage, installing insulation and stand-by power boards, introducing recycling, using less packaging and environmentally friendly products while also planting over 1000 trees. All new buildings constructed on her property are environmentally friendly. Robyn offers energy, commitment, enthusiasm, practical assistance and a great deal of passion for the conservation of the environment and in particular the township of Lovedale and its community.

*sharon griffiths*  
[Redbank, near Wauchope]

Sharon is the founding member of the Wauchope Business Group and has been instrumental in representing the view of the Wauchope community to the Port Macquarie Hastings Council, throughout the Wauchope Town Centre Urban Design Framework consultation. She has spent countless hours consulting with business owners and residents with the aim of achieving the best possible outcome for her local community. Sharon is a tireless and dedicated community advocate.

*beth hamilton* [Inverell]

Beth is a wife, mother of four, grandmother of five and is the heart and soul of her family. She has been a volunteer Leader with the Inverell Girl

Guides for over 20 years – planning, organising and conducting weekly units and extra activities such as camps for local girls. As well as Girl Guides, Beth hosts three local community radio shows each week including a two hour request show for the residents and staff at the local retirement home. She has helped at the local primary school for over 20 years and is currently the clothing pool Coordinator, running the clothing pool three times a week. Beth is a very community minded person and is always thinking of what she can do to assist others. Throughout the years Beth has touched the lives of many local young women and a range other community members. She is dedicated to being there for each and every member of her family as well as the greater community of Inverell and Australia.

*lyn heidtmann* [Adaminaby]

Lyn is a cafe owner in Adaminaby. She is married and has brought up two of her grandchildren after their father died and their mother was unable to care for them. Lyn also formed a group to provide support to grandmothers and others in her position. She is on the organising committee for the Easter Fair and Secretary of the local Country Women's Association. Lyn also organises the annual Spring Quilt Show which involves distributing brochures, organising sponsorship, arranging for the judging and preparing the hanging of the quilts. She has been active in obtaining extra services for the village such as monthly visits from the podiatrist and exercise classes. Lyn has helped organise workshops in patchwork, sketching and other craft skills.

For the Easter Fair, Lyn fills a very important role on the Committee as the Stall Coordinator. This involves promoting the event to possible stallholders, designing and allocating stall space and opening her cafe at 6.00 am so stallholders can get their space and sort out any problems that may occur. This needs considerable diplomatic skills. Because she owns a cafe and is very busy on the Easter Fair day, Lyn has not been able to see the fruits of her labours and stroll through the Easter Fair since 2007.

### julie heiler [Boggabri]

Julie has been a member of the Boggabri Rural Fire Brigade for many years and the Brigade could not function without her hard work behind the scenes. As well as helping to coordinate and organise the Brigade during emergency incidents, she is famous for providing fantastic catering to the fire fighters when they are at incidents. No matter the time that the incident occurs — if the fire fighters need help Julie quickly responds. Her friendly nature has meant that many a long and bleak incident has been brightened by her presence. As well as all this Julie has attended many incidents as a Fire Fighter, and also assisted in the Incident Management Team during major fires in the Pilliga and elsewhere. Her dedication and compassion make Julie a very valuable member of the Rural Fire Service and the community as a whole.

### pam hewitt [Bogee, near Rylstone]

Pam joined the Arcadia Rural Fire Brigade in 1978. She held the position of Treasurer from 1996 until 2001. After relocating to the Bogee area, Pam joined the Cudgegong Communications Unit in 2004 and currently holds the position of Supervisor. As well as being committed to the Communications Unit, Pam also assists at Cudgegong Fire Control Centre two days per week undertaking office duties. She spends a large amount of time delivering communications training in numerous districts across the state. The time Pam dedicates to volunteering is truly remarkable and she is a deserved nominee for the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

### maureen hickson [Moree]

Maureen is a fine example of a rural volunteer having dedicating hundreds of hours over the course of her life to helping others and enriching the community. She was President of the Moree Arts Council from 2006 to 2011, making a significant contribution to the Moree cultural scene. Maureen now volunteers at Moree's Fairview Retirement Village teaching art to the residents. Before moving to Moree in 2006, she lived on a farm at Boomi, a small rural community where she was involved in just about everything. Maureen directed two musicals for the Boomi Amateur Thesbian Society, which is a hugely popular event, whose profits go directly back to the local community. She has also written the annual school plays for Boomi Public School for

about 20 years. Maureen was President of the Boomi Public School P&C for three years in the 80s, President of the Boomi Pool Committee for five years and also played the organ in Boomi's churches for all sorts of events over the last 30 years. She recently performed in a fundraiser for Gwydir Industries — a business which employs disabled people in Moree. Maureen competed in a Dancing With the Stars competition and this talented 71-year-old blitzed the field and won. The night raised more than \$60 000. She gladly gives so much to the community — always with a smile and her trademark contagious enthusiasm.

## marjorie hill [Hillston]

Marj was born in Lake Cargelligo and moved to Hillston in her early years. She worked in the Hillston Hospital laundry working her way up to be a cook at the Hospital. When she retired Marj joined the Hospital Auxiliary and has continued to help raise funds to provide extra resources and comforts for patients experiencing illness. She has held all executive positions over her 19 year association with the Auxiliary including past joint Vice President. Marj is a member of the Country Women's Association, Probus and Bowls Club. She is 77 and still going strong. Marj loves helping the community and has spent many years volunteering.

## cynthia homes [Greenwell Point, near Nowra]

Cynthia was born in Bombay, India and migrated to Australia after serving in the Royal Navy at the age of 21. She married and raised two daughters. Cynthia started volunteering at the age of 29, dividing her time between her family and volunteering with the school and church. When her daughters were at school she volunteered with Meals on Wheels for 26 years. Cynthia has also volunteered for groups such as the Quindarla Day Program for adults with an intellectual disability, the Aunties and Uncles program for children at risk, Senior Citizens, Centacare, Osborne House Nursing Home, Nowra Neighbour Aid, The Red Cross, Dumaresq Village Nursing Home, Greenacres Disability Services, The Shoalhaven campus of Wollongong University, The Nowra Courthouse, and community care (over 20 years). I met her last year at the age of 86 when she approached Greenacres wanting to volunteer with our organisation. Cynthia comes in weekly to offer company to our service users. She volunteers every day of the week and has continually given back to the community for 57 years.

## mhora houston [Weemelah, near Mugindi]

Mhora was born in 1930 in Griffith and grew up on a farm at Rankin Springs. She attended boarding school in Hay before completing her senior years at PLC Croydon. Mhora married John in 1954 and relocated to the Weemelah

District. They raised four children and now have 11 grandchildren. She has always played an active, energetic and tireless role both on the family farm and for any fundraising activity or organisation within the Weemelah and Mungindi Communities. Mhora was an inaugural member of the Weemelah Country Women's Association joining 52 years ago and is still an active member today. She was a member of the local Far West Children's Health Scheme Branch until it closed and a former member of the Weemelah Horse Sports. Mhora is an active member of the Mungindi and Weemelah Anglican Church. She was awarded life membership of the Pastoral & Agricultural Society for her long service and been President and Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary. Mhora regularly did fundraising for the Cancer Council by hosting Biggest Morning Teas in her home, is an active participant of Meals on Wheels and a working member of Mungindi Hospital. She has held various positions on the Weemelah Hall Committee and provided costly equipment when needed. She is also involved with the Mungindi Music Festival preparing and donating food. Mhora is a member of the Mungindi Open Garden Scheme and a member of the Rural Fire Service – manning the radio in emergencies. She was awarded a lifetime membership to the Mungindi Show Society and has attended all but one of the Mungindi Picnic Races. In addition to this extensive list, Mhora is known as someone who welcomes new people to the community and keeps in contact with former residents. She has the ability to pull a crowd together for any fundraising event within cooee of Weemelah and epitomises the words 'Hidden Treasure' having given so much to her community.

## lee-anne hughston [Wanaaring]

Lee-Anne works tirelessly for the community of Wanaaring in many different ways. She is a volunteer Ambulance Officer, providing first response to anyone requiring ambulance services in Wanaaring and surrounding districts. Lee-Anne is also a volunteer State Emergency Service Officer and a volunteer Rural Fire Service Deputy Captain. She has been called upon to fight rural fires which often involve long periods of time in difficult conditions. During the Wanaaring floods in 2010 Lee-Anne, along with other volunteers, was seen more than waist deep in water sandbagging along the access road to prevent total destruction of the road and surrounding environment. One of her roles is to ensure all the vehicles and equipment are well maintained and ready when needed. This is very time consuming and Lee-Anne attends to these duties without seeking acknowledgement or recognition. Along with her husband Bruce, she regularly ensures the local environment is litter free by taking full rubbish bins to the tip on weekend during their limited free time. Lee-Anne can often be seen riding a slasher to keep the grass around Wanaaring and its airstrip at safe and aesthetic levels for the benefit of those in the community and visitors travelling through. Lee-Anne has recently devoted many hours for a worthy cause locally and raised significant funds. She is highly deserving of being included in the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

## *gillian james* [Wollombi]

Gillian moved from Sydney to Wollombi in 2000 and has worked tirelessly to preserve the heritage assets and ambience of the village and its surroundings. As President of Wollombi Tidy Valleys Committee since 1999, she has obtained support and financial assistance from Council, State and Federal sources to keep her patch beautiful through building footpaths, planting trees, establishing gardens, installing picnic tables and even helping to renew convict stone culverts on the Great North Road. Gillian is proud of the Anzac Reserve, including the rehabilitation of its pond. With the help of Cessnock Council and money from the National Envirofund, Tidy Valleys transformed the reserve planted gardens with native shrubs, the pond was deepened and cleared of choking reeds and an island was formed to provide shelter for nesting waterbirds. To provide money for her projects and their ongoing maintenance, Gillian enlisted the aid of the two historic churches and the local tennis club to run Wollombi's Australia Day Market, the profits of which go to participating organisations. Whenever a heritage item in the valley is endangered, Gillian leaps to its defence. When the historic Wollombi School was threatened with closure her representations to the Education Department helped keep it open. From its inception in the 1990s, she has been an active Member of the Convict Trail Project which recently achieved World Heritage listing for a section of the convict-built Great North Road. This amazing lady gives so much of her time freely to her community.

## *denise jelbart* [Forbes]

Denise was born in Peak Hill before moving to Gunning as a young child. The family later moved to Forbes where she has lived ever since. She has been in business with her husband for 42 years, as well as raising four children. In 1994 Denise was diagnosed with breast cancer. This was a difficult period for her and the family. She found the biggest challenge was being away from her children for extended periods, while receiving treatment in Sydney. During her recovery Denise became a member of the Forbes Breast Cancer Support Group and continues to be heavily involved in assisting women going through breast cancer treatment and recovery. Some of the key activities that she is actively involved with are Christmas in July and Christmas in December, monthly support group luncheons, and the Cancer Council Relay for Life. Denise believes her most important purpose in the support group is to provide light hearted relief for the women, and see them happy and enjoying life again. To achieve this, she is always looking for new opportunities and activities for the group. Denise is also a member of Rotary and has participated in the Kidney Health Australia Kidney Kar Rally for seven years. She considers her greatest achievement is surviving breast cancer with the support of her husband Michael, and their family.

## marjorie johnson

[Eungai Creek, near Bowraville]

Marjorie (better known as Margot) has been a volunteer at the Bowraville Technology Centre for about six months, helping with our customers. She especially enjoys working with the elderly and training them in technology. Our customers say she always has a warm, friendly smile and that nothing is too much trouble for her. Margot is an African American, originally from California. She has been in Australia for seven years and loves living here on the Mid North Coast.

## bronnie johnson

[Murrurundi]

Bronnie was born at Quirindi and raised at Scott's Creek south of Murrurundi. She thrives on life in Murrurundi and volunteers on many committees including the Australia Day Working Party, Murrurundi Shire War & Services Honour Roll Committee, King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge and refereeing junior and senior touch football. Bronnie says 'I get a great feeling out of being involved in the community and enjoy being around people'. She has worked at the Murrurundi Preschool since 1985 and we are lucky to have her in our community.

## patricia johnson

[Hillston]

Patricia (better known as Pat) is a dynamic and prized hidden treasure. She was born and raised in Hillston (Willanthry) and worked as a

telephonist on the local exchange. Pat has worked tirelessly for the Hillston Hospital Auxiliary for many years and has held all executive positions including Secretary for the past 16 years. She has taken on the Presidency this year. Her support and contributions to the administration of the Auxiliary and ultimately to its support of the hospital are highly valued. Pat was motivated to join the Hospital Auxiliary when her mother became sick and was admitted to the hospital and became a long-term resident for 11 years. Pat said she wanted to repay some of the kindnesses that had been afforded to her mother. She says that she loves doing what she does and enjoys the company of others. Pat feels in a small community it is important to help out. She is also Secretary of the Hillston Bowls Club, a member of the Country Women's Association and Vice President of Probus. Pat helps out with morning teas and other events in and around town to improve the community and its facilities.

## gail johnston

[Woodberry, near Maitland]

Gail grew up in Melbourne and taught as a Secondary School Teacher for 18 years. 1978 saw her move to the Hunter Valley where she was employed as a Coordinator with Home Care for the next 24 years. Gail has a very strong conviction that each of us has a responsibility to do our bit to make the world a better place by doing whatever we can. Her passion for volunteering began when she joined Junior Red Cross at the age of 11. As a young woman at university in the late 50s, Gail ran a girls club from a church building

in Melbourne and in her 20s and 30s acted as leader for a number of girl's camps. After moving to the Hunter, she was one of the first volunteers at the Church of Christ Aged Care Facility that started in the 80s. Gail was Secretary of the volunteers and arranged the roster for a number of years. During this time she was approached by the Matron of the Nursing Home to assist with the establishment of an Auxiliary and held the position of President until 2006. Gail coordinates catering for various functions and tour groups and regularly assists (through the Maitland Rotary Club) with fundraising and community activities including selling tickets, cards and jams. She is also involved in purchasing and delivering stock twice a week to the Living Care Aged Hostel, is Vice President on the Women's Network Hunter and also reads to residents at the Lars Aged Care Facility. Gail also volunteers as Function Coordinator for the Maitland Business & Professional Women and volunteers at the local Church's Op Shop and with the Australian Museum of Clothing and Textiles. Other volunteer activities that Gail has been involved in are: Member of the Hunter Region Combined Charities Card Shop, representing UNICEF and was Treasurer at the Greenhill's Retirement Village. She is also a member of FOOLS (Friends of Our Library) where she volunteers regularly.

### **pix jonasson** [Port Macquarie]

Pix is a genuine hidden treasure. As a single mum of two teenagers, in Dec 2009 she relocated from Mildura to be closer to me and my late husband. In the lead up to his death, Pix visited every day

to be with her darling Dad often taking her laptop to his nursing home and working beside him. She volunteers for many organisations and events in the local community including: Westport High School P&C, Home Business Forum (Executive Position), Hastings Morning Talkers (Toastmasters – Executive Position), Ironman, and Tastings of the Hastings. Pix is a very active member of the Hastings Business Enterprise Network, Hastings Business Women's Network and Peer Solutions. She organises events for both businesses and the community including: White Balloon Day, Oxley Highway Community Celebration, Symbiosis Business Breakfast, Get Your Business in the Black & Growing, Up Close & Personal High Tea, 'It's time You Spoke Up' Public Speaking & Business Presentations Made Easy, and the Symbiosis Rickshaw Ride. Pix is regularly featured in local, regional and metropolitan media, both print and electronic. Her passion is for people and business.

### **lois judd** [Adaminaby]

Lois worked as psychologist with the then Department of Community Services in the demanding South West area of Sydney. She was principally concerned with young children and tried to ensure they were not too badly scarred by dysfunctional family situations. After retiring Lois came to Adaminaby. Instead of a peaceful retirement she became involved in a number of community activities. Through the St Johns Anglican Church, she started teaching scripture at the local primary school and is much loved by all the kids. Many of these now tower over her when she meets them in the street. Lois also joined

the Adaminaby Branch of the Country Women's Association and became Secretary and Cultural Officer for a number of years. For each meeting she always finds something interesting on her bookshelves to bring along, share and stimulate discussion. Lois also assists most months with the preparation of meals for a group of older people and is always one of the first to volunteer when help is needed for fundraising or to cater for a community event. It has only been in the last few years that Lois has given up skiing looking longingly at the mountains during the winter. She has retained membership of various psychology organisations and journals. Lois is one of the unsung army of rural women who through their efforts make the isolation of rural communities that much easier to bear.

### anne kennedy [Coonamble]

Anne is a beef farmer from Coonamble who has been involved in the protection of natural resources for many years. She is on the Great Artesian Basin Advisory Group and President of the NSW Artesian Bore Water Users Association. In 2009 Anne formed the Great Artesian Basin Protection Group. She is a member of the Country Women's Association and the NSW Farmers Mining Reference Group. Anne has been a dedicated volunteer spending huge amounts of time campaigning and researching the impact of mining on the environment, health and the Great Artesian Basin by attending lectures, meetings and courses as well as reading articles and talking to experts across Australia. She is a dedicated family person with 11 grandchildren but still finds

precious time to be a passionate advocate on important rural issues. Anne is certainly a Hidden Treasure.

### margaret kiehne [Dundee, near Glen Innes]

Margaret is a country woman who trained as a Primary School Teacher. She worked in a number of small towns before marrying and settling down to farm life on Bonnie Doone. Margaret is the Emergency Services Liaison Officer for the Red Cross in the New England area. Personal Support Emergency Services Red Cross supports people who have been impacted by a disaster. She is a fearless (and flawless) leader of eight personal support teams. In her role she works long hours and drives many miles to support her 'people'. Margaret travelled to Moree during the recent floods to lead the outreach teams. She volunteered at the Hunter Central Coast Storms in 2007 and has been to Queensland to assist many times. Margaret began her emergency services role in 2002 and in this time has changed the face and perception of Red Cross Emergency Services in the New England area. Margaret is a role model and mentor for new volunteers. She is active in the local musical group, sings, and is on the Glen Innes Show Committee. If we had a poster girl it would be Margaret.

## carmel la rocca [Griffith]

When Carmel was 10 her parents migrated from Italy to Griffith. She grew up on a farm and helped out as farm kids are so often required to do. After marrying she raised her family and established an architectural design business in Griffith. Over the years Carmel engaged with the local community and has always volunteered her time generously. She established the Multicultural Council of Griffith 22 years ago and is the current President. Through the Multicultural Council, and in response to community needs, Carmel set up the migrant settlement and bilingual services, community cultural festival and continues to work on targeted projects which give ongoing benefits to the community. She has been Past President of Rotary and during her term established the Rotary markets. As a member of the Italian Museum Committee, Carmel continues to help with the festa delle salsicce and festa della repubblica. She has been Secretary of the Citrus Growers Committee and continues to help a wide range of people whenever they need assistance. I believe Carmel would volunteer about 20 hours per week across committees, projects and helping community members in general. She believes that volunteering on worthwhile projects strengthens and enriches the community and its people, giving them positive outcomes, diversity, a sense of belonging and shared understanding.

## lynne lahey [Wattle Flat, near Sofala]

Lynne was born in Marrickville in 1943. She moved to Wattle Flat in 1989 with her second husband and joined both the Sofala Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service in 1990. Lynne was Secretary and Deputy Captain of the Rural Fire Service for 10 years. When the Ambulance service joined forces with the State Emergency Services to provide medical services for outlying places, Lynne was one of the first to do the training to become a Community First Responder in 2006. She is on call by pager and phone, totally on a volunteer basis, 24/7 on a week on and week off basis. Lynne organises her social life around her weeks off and won't do anything that takes her far from home during her on-call weeks. She is a keen member of our local Garden Club and at our fortnightly get togethers can often be whisked away on an emergency call. Lynne asks for nothing for this total dedication and insists she does it to help people and 'put something back'. It is for these 22 years of selfless volunteering that I nominate Lynne as a Hidden Treasure.

## catherine lane [Griffith]

Cathy was born in Leeton. She trained as a Registered Nurse in Sydney and also worked at the Griffith District/Base Hospital in many different areas. Cathy loves her volunteering and helping people. She enjoys meeting new people and most of all likes to feel of use to others. Cathy volunteers for many organisations such as the Griffith Blood

Bank, delivering Meals on Wheels and reading for the blind. She is Assistant Secretary of the Diabetes Association, a helper with Country Hope, is a Red Cross Disaster Coordinator, Hospital volunteer in the Children's Ward, volunteer at the Griffith Art Gallery and works for both the Uniting and Anglican Church fetes and luncheons. Cathy also knits for various overseas charities and visits cancer patients. What a volunteer! Many of us could take a leaf out of Cathy's book.

### narelle langfield [Tamworth]

Narelle grew up in Currabubula and has remained in the Tamworth area all her life. She volunteers with a number of organisations and groups such as Rotary, Toastmasters and the Cancer Council. Narelle has held many club and regional executive positions within Rotary and Toastmasters, but it is her commitment to the Cancer Council that her dedication to supporting others really stands out. She is a Breast Cancer Survivor and has been a Survivor Coordinator on the Tamworth Relay for Life organising committee. Narelle is a trained Cancer Council Consumer Advocate and is a strong voice for those affected by cancer on all advocacy issues. She facilitates the 'Living Well after Cancer' program which requires travelling all over NSW to support cancer survivors and their carers. Narelle is also a Cancer Council Community Speaker presenting to community groups on various topics. This role is helping to ensure communities are aware of the many support services, prevention and screening programs available to help reduce the incidences of cancer. She is also more than willing to support other

important community initiatives such as gathering signatures to support a Tamworth Regional Council petition for more local law enforcement officers. Narelle is dedicated to her many family and friends and her willingness to support them all when needed shows the depth of her caring nature. She is indeed a Hidden Treasure.

### helen langham [Blayney]

Helen has done more for our community than anyone I know. She attended school at Tallwood and became an accomplished seamstress. Helen raised three children and helped her husband run a butcher shop in Millthorpe. When her mother had a stroke, Helen brought her into their home and cared for her until she died. She often also cared for others outside the family in sickness and in health. Helen belonged to her local church group and helped raise money. She regularly washed the linen for the church services and every week did cleaning, flower and women's group rosters. Helen works tirelessly for Can Assist (Cancer Patients Assistance Society) in Blayney and the surrounding district. When her husband retired, they regularly used their car to drive people to specialists in Orange, Bathurst and sometimes even Sydney, under the banner of community service. She often cooked, bought food and organised a 'kids club' for Blayney children. Many would not have had a hot meal without Helen. She often minded children after school to help mothers cope and cooked and delivered meals to lonely people. When Helen's son-in-law had a bad accident she was there for the family

while he couldn't work. I am sure I have only touched on a few of her caring roles but know she is a very worthy Blayney Hidden Treasure.

## pamela lees [Gunning]

Pam was born in Gunning in 1932 and raised at the family property 'Weroona' shouldering unusually heavy burdens of family care. She returned home after boarding school at aged 16 just before her father had a stroke. Pam stayed on to care for her ailing father and the farm until he passed away. She married in 1959 and with Ron raised three daughters. She has been actively involved in P&C, canteen and Mother's Club. Both Pam and Ron were active in the Gunning Lions Club – Pam was a Lions Lady, then a Lion in her own right holding various positions. Later Pam nursed both Ron and her mother until they succumbed to cancer. She continued to run the farm on her own for 14 years having lived there as a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and widow. Pam recently moved off the farm and into Gunning. She helps with the monthly Lions markets and other activities. Pam has been a member of the Gunning and District Garden Club for many years and is currently President. She is always available for working bees at village gardens, pruning, weeding and mulching. Pam recently climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge which epitomises her positive attitude to embracing life full-on and being a terrific role model for a life well lived in service to her community and family. When asked why she volunteers, Pam said, 'It's just what you do, isn't it?'

## cheryl lewin [Alstonville]

A devoted wife to Ken and mother of two adult children, Cheryl has spent a lot of time in hospitals with her daughter Renee, who was diagnosed as a child with severe epilepsy and developmental delay. After seeing an advertisement on TV, Cheryl spent 10 years as a volunteer on the Port Macquarie Children's Ward under the Association for Welfare of Children in the Healthcare Ward Grandparent Scheme. After moving to the Lismore area three years ago, Cheryl has given her time as a Board Member of the Biala Special School in Ballina and volunteers at the Lismore Base Hospital as a Ward Grandparent. She arrives at the Children's Ward by 7.30 am four days a week and is also available on call seven days a week to provide loving care and attention to ill kids, particularly those with few visitors. Cheryl does not perform any medical tasks. She plays games, reads, sings, chats, takes kids for walks, and bathes and feeds some little ones. Cheryl dispenses grandmotherly attention to the children and often provides a hug and shoulder to cry on for the parents and at times the nurses as well. Cheryl is highly valued by the staff, parents and most importantly, the children, for donating her time in providing an abundance of comforting, reassuring 'granny love' to kids who really need it.

## margaret livermore [Manildra]

Margaret has been involved with the Manildra Brigade in the Canobolas Zone since 1996 when she joined in a support role. She organised crews to attend fires, was Catering Officer and did many other 'behind the scenes' jobs. Margaret is one of six Volunteer Duty Officers who provide 24 hour 'manning' of the Rural Fire Service's Emergency Response System. Her role started during 1997/98. Since that time she has been rostered on for one week each month to cover our triple 000 telephone radio network and response pager system to facilitate an emergency response to all calls for assistance. Margaret's local knowledge has been built over a 50 year involvement with local brigades and her dedication to the task is outstanding. She is cool under pressure, professional in attitude and diligently carries out her role without fuss. Margaret has completed various courses and has done flight following for fires at Pinecliffe, Alectown, Lake Cowal and Canobolas severe State of Emergency Section 44 fire declarations. Margaret was a leader in assisting the Manildra First Response Ambulance Officers to successfully gain a grant to develop new and improved facilities in conjunction with the Manildra Rural Fire Brigade. This facility is a great asset to the Manildra community and is testament to the great work she does within her community.

## helen mcClelland [Abermain, near Cessnock]

Helen has lived in the Hunter Valley all her life and contributed to her community through many voluntary roles. She was a Guide Leader for many years and received a Girl Guides State Award for Service to the Arts. Since the late 1990s Helen has convened the Abermain Landcare Group, held positions in the Hunter Region Landcare Network as Education Ambassador, Publicity Officer and Chair of the Events Organising Committee and Deputy Chair. Whether running field days on sustainable farming, creating educational puppet shows, organising public events and forums, producing media and information kits for Landcare groups, helping Scouts to gain their Landcare badge, schools to build vegetable and bush tucker gardens or communities to restore creeks and public land, Helen has a cheerful and common sense approach to problems and resolutions. Her work has resulted in healthier ecosystems through on-ground projects, improved sharing of Landcare resources, more environmental resources in schools and increased community understanding of natural resource issues through her communications activities. After the 2007 Hunter floods (in which Helen and her husband lost most of their possessions), Helen was elected to the Floodplains Management Committee, established to develop management plans for creeks throughout the Cessnock Council area. She also organises catering, events and award nights for the local Fishing Club and works with Abermain Tidy Towns and the Historical Society. Helen undertakes

her many activities on weekends and evenings outside her fulltime job at the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

## heather mcCloy [Kyogle]

Heather was the recipient of Kyogle Quota Lady of the Year Award at our recent Friendship Dinner. She is known as a quiet achiever who is involved with a considerable number of volunteering positions since coming to the Kyogle area about 18 years ago. Heather delivers Meals on Wheels every six weeks with the availability to assist on other days if required. She attends the Border Rangers Club (for seniors), works in the kitchen once a week and if needed does the morning tea and lunch. Heather is also involved with the Kyogle Show Society, helping to prepare morning tea and lunch for the two show days, as well as cooking. Other volunteering that she carries out is with the Kyogle Show Trust, helping to cater when groups of caravans are book in (hot dinners for 40 plus people). She also cooks scones and helps with morning tea for the Show Trust Bazaar. Heather helps with the elderly at the Whiddom Home for the Aged, is involved with Friends of the Court, and cooking and serving morning tea to the residents twice a month. She also volunteers at the Vinnies Shop one day a month. Heather assists with fundraising within the community by offering help, work, cooking etc. and is on the Catholic Church funeral catering committee. With two adult children, four adult step-children and 11 grandchildren she still finds time to volunteer.

## raewyn mackY [Yarrabella, near Bowraville]

Raewyn has been volunteering at Bowraville Technology Centre for more than two years. She is extremely capable of undertaking any job that we throw at her and often steps in to take on the Assistant Manager's role when required. In addition to her work with the Technology Centre, Raewyn is also a volunteer Fire Fighter for her local Rural Fire Service, putting her own life at risk whilst helping her community. Raewyn is a great worker and our customers love her.

## marj manuel [Inverell]

Marj is volunteer Treasurer with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Inverell Support Group. She has ensured that all reports are sent to the office and that we meet all the guidelines under the Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing. Marj helped keep this Group going when numbers were low and she has been instrumental in achieving outstanding financial results for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service to continue providing emergency aero-medical transport to those in need. Marj is very involved in everything the Group does from golf days to bike rides, BBQ's to raffle ticket selling and would volunteer in excess of 20 hours a month.

## helen marsh [Bathurst]

Helen has been an invaluable member of the Bathurst Seymour Centre Management Committee for almost 20 years and has undertaken various roles including Chairperson. She has seen many changes to community Aged Care whilst a Management Committee member, but always remains calm, sensible and supportive of our services. As Centre Manager, I have appreciated how well she listens to questions and effectively responds to issues in a timely and appropriate manner. Helen has a vast knowledge about our local community and Aged Care. She is a Dementia Advisor for the local Aged Care Assessment Team and is respected by other members of our Management Committee, staff and volunteers. Helen is always available to support carers and is a fun person who makes understanding tasks pleasurable and painless. There are numerous volunteer tasks that Helen has undertaken for our services such as assisting with grant applications, client/carer support and referral, and staff appraisals. She will be standing down from the Centre's Committee this year so this nomination provides an opportunity to acknowledge Helen's support over many years as a real Hidden Treasure.

## beth masterman oam [Pelaw Main, near Cessnock]

Beth has spent all her life in Pelaw Main within the City of Cessnock. She is the current President and Publicity Officer of Kurri Kurri Tidy Towns and has been a member since its inception in 1988.

The Committee undertakes projects for litter reduction, heritage and community beautification (Log of Knowledge Park) and other important projects. Beth has been a volunteer at Pelaw Main Primary School for 18 years and was an active Brownie Guide Leader for 26 years. She is now a Patron of the Kurri Kurri Girl Guide Association. She volunteers her time assisting many families in the community including being a mentor for a young student from a local family for 12 years as they were struggling to cope with a special needs child. This very community minded person was a member of the Centenary Committee for Kurri Kurri Hospital, the Fire Brigade, Pelaw Main Primary School and Stanford Merthyr Coal Mine Disaster Centenary Committee, ensuring the success of each event. Beth was honoured with an OAM in 2009. She is the 1981 Kurri Kurri Apex Citizen of the Year, 1992 Cessnock City Australia Day Citizen of the Year and 2008 Cessnock City Senior Citizen of the Year. All of these were awarded for her great service to the community on a voluntary basis over the last 50 years. This extraordinary lady has provided a lifetime of service to her community and continues to give.

## liz mathews [Parkes]

Liz is a retired High School Teacher who volunteers at the Parkes Neighbourhood Centre as a receptionist. She is always helpful, cheerful and happy to help with any matter or issues that she can. Liz has done so much for Parkes and the local community and has made a difference to so many people's lives.

## *gail meyers* [Gilgandra]

Gail is the current Captain of Gilgandra Rural Fire Brigade. She has been an active member for 15 years and Captain for five. Gail was also an Admin Support Officer for the Gilgandra office in the early days. Other positions she has held include Brigade Secretary, Community Safety Officer and Instructor for the Castlereagh Zone. Gail was instrumental in running a school program before any formalised Cadet Program was developed. She has led a team to win the inaugural Allan Brinkworth Trophy at Glenn Innes two years ago and will be taking a young team of Gilgandra Volunteers to the State Championships in 2012. Gail has travelled to other areas around the State to assist with fire fighting duties during severe State of Emergency Section 44 fire declarations. She has contributed countless hours of work as a volunteer of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

## *jan miller* [Baradine]

Jan has been a support member of the Barwon Brigade since 1980 and became a fully operational member in 1997. Jan supports the local Group Captain by being a scribe at numerous local and severe State of Emergency Section 44 fire declarations. She has been extremely active in training support, spending countless hours preparing meals and looking after other volunteers attending training throughout the zone. Jan's support to her Captain (husband) and the Castlereagh Zone has been outstanding and much appreciated. During the Victorian Fires

Jan assisted with logistical support in organising crews to attend from our local area whilst senior members from our Zone, including her husband, where away in Victoria.

## *thelma mitchell* [Hillston]

Thelma was born in Hillston and turned 84 in 2012. She would have loved to have been a nurse but unfortunately she never had that opportunity due to her mother's poor health – instead Thelma stayed on the family farm to help her parents. Thelma delights in volunteering through many worthy local organisations. She is the immediate past President of the Hillston Hospital Auxiliary and has just taken on the role of Treasurer. She has been a member of the Auxiliary for many years and has held all executive positions. Thelma volunteers for many other local organisations and was a member of the Foundation Committee for Lachlan Lodge (aged care facility) for 11 years, the Uniting Church Committee for 20 years, Hillston Country Women's Association and Probus. She also helps at Bowls Club and with Can Assist. Thelma really loves coming to the hospital on her regular weekly rostered day to play bingo with the residents and is a real gem and a true rural Hidden Treasure.

## *barbara moore* [Gleniffer, near Bellingen]

Barb is an integral member of the Bellingen Community and has devoted countless hours and energy to the preservation of Bellinger River

District Hospital. As a founding member and Vice Chair of the Belling Health Action Group, Barb has regularly convened meetings and coordinated volunteer work at the hospital which has made a positive contribution to the maintenance of infrastructure and beautification of the grounds. She is well known for her outstanding volunteering contributions and is respected throughout the community and within the healthcare sector.

## bette montgomery [Moree]

Bette is a true Hidden Treasure. Never one to steal the limelight, she is an incredibly competent woman who tirelessly gives so much to her community without seeking praise or recognition. Bette is on the board of Moree's Fairview Retirement Village, where among other things she is responsible for the art program which sees local volunteers teach art to the residents. Bette also puts in a lot of time fundraising for the village. She is currently involved in designing and creating the sets, backdrops and props for Boomi's very successful Amateur Thespian Society performances which raise money for the small community. This is a very time consuming job, for which she is wonderfully suited thanks to her incredible art skills and dedication. It is also a job Bette has been performing for the past 30 years. She is also involved in a Home & Community Care Program driving elderly locals to medical appointments across the district. Bette makes a significant contribution to the Moree Show every year, developing and organising creative competitions. Before retiring to Moree, she lived on a farm near Boomi and worked as a much

respected Teacher and Principal in Mungindi. She was the President of the Boomi Public School P&C as well as President of the Pool Committee. Bette also played the organ in the churches and helped out at just about every local event.

## sharyn munro [Upper Hunter]

Sharyn has long been an environmentalist and lives at Mt Royal near Singleton in an owner-built mud brick house that runs on solar energy. Her concerns for the environment grew when she became a grandmother and experienced the growth of the mining industry in her local area. For several years Sharyn has spent much of her time and money travelling to other mining regions in Australia to document people's experiences. These collected narratives were published in a book in 2012. *Rich Land, Wasteland* contains stories of how rural people and communities have been affected, emotionally, environmentally and in matters of health. Her ongoing support for rural people affected by mining has brought public attention to issues surrounding Australia's resources boom and she continues to advocate for rural people by sharing their stories and giving talks around the country.

## rosemary nankivell [Quirindi]

Rosemary is a farmer from the Liverpool Plains in North West NSW and is a strong advocate for the protection of productive agricultural land and underlying water resources. She is closely involved with a number of community action groups and

has been a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group of the Namoi Catchment Water Study and delegate to NSW Farmers and GrainGrowers. Rosemary is also a member of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council Mining Reference Group and SOS Liverpool Plains – a women’s-based group which has campaigned for the protection of the Liverpool Plains and the very successful Mullaley Gas Pipeline Accord. Rosemary has written submissions and given evidence in parliamentary enquiries into coal and gas extraction at both State and Federal level and has liaised with politicians of every political persuasion.

### joanna newton [Armidale]

Jo moved to Armidale in 2008 to take up studies in Rural Science at the University of New England. Apart from her outstanding academic results (University Medal in 2012), she has also gained the New England Award, which recognises individuals making significant contributions to UNE and the wider Armidale community. Since 2009 Jo has been actively involved with the Armidale branch of NSW Farmers and in 2012 was elected to their Young Farmers Council. She is also involved in the Armidale and New England Show Society hoping to strengthen ties between the community and UNE by encouraging more young people to get involved. For the last two years Jo has spear-headed UNE’s Farming Futures Project aiming to create a sustainable agricultural industry and encourage young people with an interest in agriculture. She was already involved as Project Leader for Students in Free Enterprise and Treasurer for the Rural Science

Undergraduate Society. In developing a strategic plan for this project, Jo initiated a new committee encompassing both student organisations. The inaugural event in 2011 attended by over 100 students, academics and industry representatives raised over \$24 000 in sponsorship and in-kind contributions from 18 organisations. The Farming Futures Dinner resulted in attending companies successfully employing UNE graduates they would not have otherwise had the opportunity to meet. In 2012, the project was expanded to include an agricultural and agribusiness careers fair alongside the dinner. More than 22 companies participated in the Careers Fair and over 250 people attended the dinner. Jo has fantastic ideas and the skill and enthusiasm to include others and make things happen.

### jacqui page [Bowral]

Jacqui has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Berrima District since 2009. She was President in 2011/12, leading the Club in its support of the Bowral Youth Refuge and outfitting the first and second houses. Jacqui was also part of the Rotary team that renovated and furnished a local women’s refuge house. As Chair of Volunteering Wingecarribee, she initiated and energised the Golden Guru’s program which matched the skills and expertise of recently retired business executives with local businesses in need of assistance (until funding ceased). Jacqui is the Secretary and an active Committee member for the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens working with the community to develop a Four Seasons Botanic Garden for the Southern

Highlands community. She was on the Board of the Southern Highlands Foundation until early 2012 and continues to assist the group. Jacqui continues to give her time to these and other community groups. She is also a key support for three generations of her family and a very worthy person to be included in the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

### pamela pavey [Tamworth]

Pam was born in 1941 in Surat, Queensland and eventually settled in Tamworth. She is married with three children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Pams volunteering history includes being a member of organisations such as the Hallsville Playgroup, her local school canteen (19 years), and Calrossy School Library (four years). She has been a blood donor since the age of 17 and since 1996 has been serving refreshments to other donors. For over 17 years Pam has been a volunteer Transport Driver. She is a strong supporter of Meals on Wheels and the Cancer Council – hosting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, being involved in Relay for Life, Daffodil Day and Pink Ribbon Day. Pam was Fundraising Coordinator for friends of Nioka (Palliative Care Ward) and helped with Tamworth City Soccer Club fundraising. She continues to cover library books for Bullimalb Special Education School and once a month takes four elderly ladies (fondly called 'The Golden Girls') on outings. Since 2011 Pam has facilitated a group called 'Friends of Altona Park' — the first urban-designed park in Tamworth which recently received second place in the Tamworth Regional

Council Sustainable Community Award 2012. Pam says she loves volunteering because 'it is what is in her heart'. She enjoys helping people in need and says it is her way of giving back to the community. Pam also tirelessly supports her family, friends and neighbours and would spend about 15 hours each week volunteering.

### marlene penning [The Entrance]

Marlene and her husband, Gerry, moved to the Central Coast in 1986 purchasing a property facing the sea at North Entrance. They soon realised the need to protect the sand dunes from weeds and erosion, and set about getting the community involved in dune protection. The Entrance North Coastcare Group was soon formed with Marlene a driving force. Marlene currently chairs the Group and continues to be involved in Dune Care and Landcare throughout the Wyong Shire. She was instrumental in forming 'Wycare' an umbrella organisation for all volunteer community environmental groups in the Wyong shire. Wycare has a cottage restored by volunteers with council and community support. It is run by volunteers and provides a meeting and training site for Landcare activities across the Shire. Marlene is also a member of the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management committee, The Entrance Community Precinct Committee, The Entrance North Progress Association, the Empowering Aboriginal Women Forum Steering Committee and represents the Central Coast on Landcare NSW. She is a great event organiser, so much so that Wyong Shire has played host to Coastcare and Landcare State Conferences and is the driving force behind the

annual Mountains to the Sea environmental and Landcare community conference. Marlene's skills have been recognised by the State Landcare organisation and she is now State Treasurer. In 2005 Marlene was appointed to the Tuggerah Lakes Reserve Trust, which manages the Central Coast Wetlands and Pioneer Dairy site at Tuggerah. The site consists of a former dairy farm which contains significant freshwater wetlands. She was the energy behind the restoration of the Dairy Cottage, a unique 1906 building in danger of falling down. The cottage has now been restored through the hard work of volunteers, a Council Grant and community donations. The Trust became the recipient of a large grant, to construct visitor facilities at the cottage which will open late 2012. Marlene's determination, enthusiasm, ability to stretch every dollar and get the very best outcome, has seen these facilities come together for the benefit of all.

### noelene phillips [Bathurst]

Noelene was born in Cowra and educated in Bathurst. She worked as the first female Administration Officer for the Southern Mitchell County Council from 1955–1983. Noelene married Geoff in 1966 and has lived in Bathurst ever since. She has been involved in volunteering in the local community in a number of ways during this time and continues to this day. Noelene joined Quota International in 1985. She has served on all Bathurst executive positions and from 1998–2000 was Lieutenant Governor for District 26 and Governor from 2000–2002 and again in 2006–2008. Noelene was named

Quotarian of the year for 1997/8. The most recent project that Noelene is very passionate about is a weekly volunteer reading program to increase children's literacy levels and encourage a love of books. The Program engages local Police Officers with four local schools (including Corenne — for young children with special needs) in a bid to break down barriers between the Police and children. Sponsors such as Quota provide the books for the children and the school library. Noelene is indeed a Hidden Treasure in the Bathurst Community.

### shalini pratap [Tamworth]

Shalini is a Hidden Treasure for many reasons but most importantly for her ability to inspire others. A third generation Fijian Indian, she moved to Australia (initially Alice Springs) with her husband 13 years ago. Shalini grew up in Fiji but has deep ties to her Indian heritage. She loves traditional dance, dress and language — which she enthusiastically has nurtured in her daughter. The Tamworth region benefitted greatly when circumstances of uncertainty regarding permanency in Australia resulted in Shalini and her family moving to Tamworth in 2003. Their settlement story is full of challenges, frustrations, uncertainty and at times distress. She knows what it is like to relocate to a new country, experience social isolation and displacement, and has a strong desire to help others in similar positions. Importantly Shalini is able to speak of her experiences with great insight, awareness and very often humour. She has a great love and appreciation for the country she now calls home.

Over the years Shalini has devoted hours of voluntary time supporting individuals and families from migrant backgrounds. She has initiated and coordinates many local Indian events such as the Devali Festival and Bollywood nights and is involved in many other cultural activities. Shalini has emerged as a multicultural leader and is a representative on a range of committees, events and working groups relating to cultural diversity, harmony and social inclusion. Her motto is 'just take the time to talk to people'.

### joyce purtle [Linburn, near Mudgee]

Joyce was born and raised on a property at Linburn. She married Michael in 1968 and lived at Collarenebri with their three children, before returning to her family property in 1987. During her years in Collarenebri Joyce was President, Secretary, Treasurer and International Officer of the Country Women's Association and Group Treasurer of the Far North West Group for several years. She has been a member of the Country Women's Association since 1967 and was named 'Country Woman of the Year' in 1984 (Far North West Group). Joyce was President of the Preschool, Secretary/Treasurer of the Swimming Club and actively supported the P&C and Women's Guild. For 10 years Joyce has been a Warden at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Cooyal. She was instrumental in obtaining a Keep Australia Beautiful Grant to restore the Cemetery, which involved many hours of hard work. Joyce has been Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooyal Hall Association since 1989 and has been engaged in many fundraising activities. She is also Treasurer

of St. Gabriel's Old Girls Union, her old school, which helps the country and city girls keep in touch. Joyce has been Mudgee Branch Secretary of NSW Farmers since 2010 and Treasurer of the District Council since 2011. She was involved in the 2012 land and water rights community protest march in Sydney. Joyce is a wonderful Mum and the best Granny a child could ever wish for. It is people like her who are the backbone of a country town.

### michele quigley [Forbes]

Michele is a delight to the Forbes community and has become a local celebrity with her stage talents. Her innate ability to make people laugh has benefited the community as a whole. She is an asset for the many organisations for which she has volunteered. Michele is in high demand as MC at fundraising events and supports a great number of charities. Her talents as an MC at events and variety nights have helped to raise thousands of dollars. Michele also provides her Council work colleagues with light relief from the daily grind. As a mother of two teenage sons, she has been involved in many other volunteer committees over the years, many of which she continues to assist. Michele has been a member of the Youth Advisory Committee which was instrumental in establishing many youth facilities in Forbes, including the skate park. She has also been actively involved with the AusKick program and Junior Cricket. Michele is an active member of Neighbourhood Watch and works closely with local Police to ensure Forbes is a safe community in which to live.

## elvy quirk [Forbes]

Elvy was born and raised in Forbes and has been an active and dedicated member of the community. She has been an executive member of many organisations in Forbes such as the Harness Racing Club, the Show Society, Neighbourhood Watch and the Garden Club. She has worked tirelessly to support the Camp Quality Camps for children living with cancer and has worked for many years running the fetes and other fundraising activities for the Jemalong Retirement facility. She has also dedicated her time to Telecross and emergency Meals on Wheels for those in need. Elvy has a passion for dance and volunteered as a scribe for the Forbes Dance Eisteddfod for 17 years. Elvy shared her passion for dance with her late husband, Ross. Together they trained the local high school students in their Debutante Ball dances for over ten years. Their love of Old Time and New Vogue dancing took them all over Victoria and New South Wales. As well as teaching dancing in Forbes, they coordinated the monthly Old Time and New Vogue dance, which attracts visitors from all over the Central West.

## donna rath [Mt Rankin, near Bathurst]

Donna is a retired veterinary surgeon who has lots of energy and many great creative ideas. She has been a volunteer at the Bathurst Seymour Centre for two years. Although she is one of our more recent volunteers, she has already made substantial positive changes such as establishing

an exercise group for older people (researching appropriate exercise activities and putting them to music) and a Pets As Therapy Program. Donna brings her dog Fortune to the Centre every Thursday to enable clients to have time with a loyal pet. She is very willing to undertake whatever tasks we ask her to do. Donna cheerfully engages with clients through walks, craft and just chatting. Her new ideas have been appreciated and she is a great team member.

## joan redfern [Coonabarabran]

Joan has been a member of the Rural Fire Services Coona Fringe Fire Brigade for eight years. During this time she has attended an impressive amount of callouts (178) whilst training her way through to Crew Leader. She has held the positions of Deputy Captain, Secretary and Treasurer within the Fringe Brigade. Joan has travelled throughout the State attending State of Emergency Section 44 fire declarations. She attended more than one tour of duty to Victoria to assist with operations in 2009. Joan has been a very active member of the Training Committee passing her knowledge on to others and has recently completed an Assessors course. She has also trained as an Aviation Radio Operator for assistance to the aviation support function when possible. Given that Joan has a young family, her contribution and dedication are nothing short of amazing.

## janine reed [Utungun, near Macksville]

Janie is a tireless campaigner for a 'fair go' for her local community and has been involved in a number of community organisations including Macksville Chamber of Commerce, Nambucca Valley Care, Nambucca Landcare, ABC Regional Radio Committee, the nursery industry and the Utungun Hall Trust. A genuine and devoted community hero, Janie was named 2010 Nambucca Shire Council Citizen of the Year and was appointed to the Board of the Mid North Coast Local Health District in 2011. Janie has most recently turned her attentions to the fight for renal services at the Macksville Hospital.

## katrina rendell [Barrington, near Gloucester]

Katrina, her husband and their three young children moved to Barrington in 1984. In October 2001 she followed her husband in joining the Barrington Rural Fire Brigade and three years later became Deputy Captain of that Brigade. In 2009 Katrina was elected as Senior Deputy Captain of the same unit. She is a very active member of the Training Unit, located at Gloucester Fire Control Centre and has assumed a senior role in the conduct of the local Rural Fire Service Secondary School Cadet Program. Her passion for the Service has also seen Katrina become involved in the local Community Engagement Group. She attends most incidents involving the Barrington Brigade and is a role model to all of the Gloucester District

Brigade members; displaying professionalism and dedication in everything she does for the Rural Fire Service.

## barbara roach [Gwandlan, near Swansea]

Barbara grew up on a farm where everyone had to do their fair share of hard work. When she was 14 Barbara left the farm and moved to Sydney bringing along her positive work ethic. She became a nurse and worked for NSW Health for over 29 years before retiring to Gwandalan. Barbara is passionate about social wellbeing within her community and in 2012 established the Gwandalan Community Garden. Gwandalan is an isolated township and the garden was an opportunity to create a friendly meeting place for people to interact socially. The garden consists of 37 allotments with 64 adult and 14 children members. Barbara is also passionate about sustainability and the environment. The garden produces organic food and aims to promote healthy eating. It was constructed using mainly recycled materials and includes vegetables, fruit trees, a pumpkin patch, native bee hives, a frog pond, an artistic mural, rainwater tanks, a BBQ meeting area and a native bushland regeneration project. She makes everyone feel welcome at the garden with morning teas becoming quite popular. Residents from all over the community drop into the garden for a cuppa and a chat. School holidays are also busy with visiting grandchildren eager to join their grandparents for a spot of gardening. Barbara can be seen at the garden from dawn to dusk, sometimes seven days

a week. Her passion for the social wellbeing of her neighbours and the environment has achieved remarkable things for the Gwandalan community.

## marjorie robertson [Armidale]

Marjorie has been volunteering for Tablelands Community Transport for the past 23 years. She assists the paid driver by helping clients on and off the bus with their shopping and collects the fares from those who are travelling. Marjorie has been a dedicated caring volunteer for the service and always gives 110 per cent of her time and energy when volunteering. She also teaches yoga classes and is involved with University of the Third Age (U3A) in Armidale. Marjorie loves cooking, gardening, keeping physically healthy through exercise and enjoys engaging with her community.

## patricia rodd [Tumut]

Patricia (Pat) was born in Tumut in 1929 and attended Argalong Primary and Tumut High School. She met and married her husband in Tumut. As newlyweds they moved to Tarcutta, where they farmed and raised five children which kept her very busy. It was there that Pat became involved with the Tarcutta P&C and her volunteering began. The family moved back to Tumut to run their family property in 1959. She has been heavily involved in the Tumut community as a volunteer ever since – giving her service to an endless list of organisations. Pat is a motivated, positive person who is willing to give of her time in an unselfish way. She is a

regular on the many street stalls – baking goods and selling raffles tickets for organisations such as the Hospital Auxiliary, Show Society, Historical Society, Nursing Home, Country Women's Association and many others. Pat is an excellent cook and enjoys delivering hot baked tea cakes to all the emergency services on a weekly basis. She is very involved in the general preparation for Shows and a range of district events. Pat was Tumut's Citizen of the Year 2010. Despite recently fracturing her hip, she was back delivering cakes, manning street stalls and visiting others in the local nursing home within weeks of her injury. Pat is always placing others needs before her own. She is an amazing ambassador and role model across all ages. Now over 80 years of age, Pat shows no signs of slowing down in her volunteering roles and deserves this 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll recognition.

## del ross [Ardglen, near Murrurundi]

Del was born in Muswellbrook and grew up at Aberdeen. She volunteers for the Murrurundi Troop of the 12th Light Horse, the Murrurundi Garden Club, King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge, the Pony Club and school sports involving horses. She enjoys volunteering and is pleased to be involved in all events – especially anything involving horses.

## shirley russell [Lyndhurst]

Shirley was born in Bathurst. She lived at Hill End and was schooled by correspondence. After grade four Shirley attended the Santa Maria Catholic School in Orange, boarding with an aunt. She worked for 10–12 years at the Hotel Canobolas and married Graham. They have two daughters and a son, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. Shirley helped her husband run a successful cattle and sheep farm at Lyndhurst. She has been a valued member of our local Country Women's Association Branch for 36 years holding most positions (including President and Secretary). Shirley is the first to volunteer for any job – big or small. She visits the sick and is there to help anyone who needs it – she is a most caring person. Shirley also works tirelessly for the church and the local community. The tragic loss of a teenage grandson rocked her family's foundations but Shirley was there to provide great moral support to her son and daughter-in-law through this difficult time. We at the Country Women's Association Lyndhurst love her dearly and feel strongly about her being our Hidden Treasure.

## judy ruge [Forbes]

Judy was born in Forbes and has lived there most her life. For 10 years she and her husband travelled and worked around Australia before returning to Forbes with their four children. Judy is actively involved with Kidney Health Australia and its various fundraising initiatives. Through

this, she is also passionate about the importance of spreading the word about organ donation. Judy has been involved with Kidney Kar 2817 for 19 years and has participated in 13 Kidney Kar Rallies. The rallies have taken her all over Australia to raise money and awareness about kidney health and organ donation. Judy also helps to raise funds for the Kidney Kamp which provides respite for children and families suffering from chronic kidney disease. One of the highlights of her volunteering activities is the pure joy that she gets seeing someone who has received an organ transplant go back to enjoying a normal life.

## kerryn ryan [Coonamble]

Kerryn is a tireless worker for the Coonamble community. She is a friend to all and nothing is ever too big or too small when asked to assist in a volunteer capacity. Kerryn is the first to put her hand up to work at all school and town fundraising, canteens and events and usually has a major role in the organisation of each. As a parent of three school children Kerryn has been a very active member of two local school P&F executive committees and was Treasurer of the NSW P&F. Kerryn is heavily involved in the Bovine Appreciation Club at Coonamble assisting behind the scenes and with Little Athletics. She is the unofficial attendance parent at all high school regional events that require transporting children across large distances. Kerryn is a parttime local National Bank employee and is highly regarded in the community for her pleasant and caring customer service. She recently took on the role of Treasurer for the waning local Swimming Club

which has bounced back to a membership not seen in over 30 years. Her dedication to our town and ever present support at all community functions, fundraising and activities, holds her highly regarded within our community.

## betty scanlon [Hillston]

Betty was born in West Wyalong. She worked in the local Hillston Newsagency and it was through this work that she met her husband. Betty is the past Joint Vice President of the Hillston Hospital Auxiliary where she has held all executive positions over the years. Betty is also heavily involved in the Catholic Church and St Joseph's Catholic School working tirelessly to support both. She is a member of the Hillston Country Women's Association and Probus. Betty loves Hillston and volunteers to make it a better place. She is true example of a Hidden Treasure, a wonderful example to others and is still going strong at 89.

## emma scholz [Culcairn]

Emma was born at Tumut. She has lived and worked as a vet in rural areas since completing veterinary training in Sydney in 1992. Emma worked as a fulltime vet for nine years before marrying into a farming business in 1999. While raising a family she worked as a parttime Clinical Veterinarian, mother and farm hand. Emma commenced parttime teaching professional practice subjects and managing workplace placement coordination at Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga in 2009. She

has recently commenced her PhD. Volunteering for the Preschool committee began when her children attended and continued for many years after. Emma was involved in fundraising, grant applications and the regular cleaning roster. Her main driver was her children and their care but she also supported other families and children from rural and other backgrounds. Emma has been the Chair of the Local Health Advisory Committee since 2006. She has also been involved in an independent community committee to refurbish and extend the existing doctors surgery to provide excellent facilities that will hopefully retain and attract General Practitioners to the small community of Henty. Emma deserves to be nominated for the 2012 Honour Roll for her commitment to health service delivery and the community.

## Yvonne shaw [Forbes]

Yvonne was born in Melbourne. She trained as a nurse and had an extensive and valued career in women's health across regional Australia. After marrying, Yvonne moved to Bombala and then Tottenham where she was a Community Nurse. After moving to Forbes she became a Clinical Nurse Consultant in women's health. Yvonne established and ran the Well Women's Clinic which serviced 13 towns in the region. She travelled to every town each month covering 100s of kilometres. In 1992 through her work as a Women's Health Nurse, Yvonne recognised a need in the community and subsequently formed a Breast Cancer Support Group for Parkes and Forbes. In 1998 she was diagnosed with breast

cancer and later, with ovarian cancer. Since her recovery, Yvonne has tirelessly continued her work with the Breast Cancer Support Group assisting other women going through treatment and recovery. She considers the establishment and continuation of the Group to be one of her most rewarding achievements. Yvonne has been actively involved in many other community endeavours and has a passion for preserving the unique heritage of Forbes. Through her many years as an advocate for the town Yvonne has put heritage 'on the radar' within the community which has seen a number of key historical initiatives take off and continue.

### judith simos [Scone]

Judith was born in the United Kingdom and migrated to Australia in 1965 with her first husband — as '10 pound poms'. She made her first home in Tasmania and joined the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Judith spent the next 20 years moving between Tasmania, Melbourne and Sydney within the ABC. She later re-married and had two daughters before finally settling in Sydney. Judith became an Australian Citizen in the mid 1970s and in 1985 decided to further her studies at TAFE and obtain a Certificate in Volunteering, which led to her work as a Community Services Coordinator with local government. During her career, Judith has coordinated teams of up to 450 volunteers while also volunteering in many capacities herself. She is passionate about volunteer work and spent eight years with both the Lane Cove Neighbourhood Centre and the Willoughby

City Council. She is a Justice of the Peace and a Transcare Volunteer — which involves driving clients to medical appointments and delivering Meals on Wheels. Judith has been a Committee member on the Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre, the Upper Hunter Shire Council Welcome to Scone Committee and is on the 2013 Rural Women's Gathering Committee. She is also a member of the Scone Probus Club and the Scone Association of Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society. Judith devoted 10 years of her volunteer work as the Registrar of the NSW Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association. She is a Fellowship Member of the Maitland Council Heritage Committee, a Member of the Walka Water Works Trust Patron and Critic for the Maitland Repertory Society Inc.

### daphne simmons [Kelso, near Bathurst]

Daphne has lived in Bathurst all of her life. She attended local schools and worked at an auto electrician's undertaking clerical duties for many years. Daphne married when she was in her 30s and has one daughter and one grandchild. When her parents became elderly Daphne cared for both of them. She has been a volunteer at Bathurst Seymour Centre for the past five years and is happy to do whatever tasks need doing. Daphne is available to assist clients with activities, help in the kitchen, wrap raffle prizes and do clerical duties such as mailouts. She undertakes all tasks cheerfully and constructively and her support is wonderful. Daphne provides suggestions and ideas which help to improve our service. She also

volunteers regularly at the Bathurst Information Neighbourhood Centre and is a good role model for other volunteers.

## margaret sivyer oam

[East Gresford]

Margaret is a long-term volunteer who has made an enormous contribution to our community. She has received numerous awards for her work in establishing and growing many community groups within Maitland while also mentoring members. Margaret gives tirelessly in time and other resources to many worthy causes and charities. These are just some of her volunteer community roles: leadership positions with the Maitland Regional Art Gallery and Newcastle Art Gallery and their Foundations and is a Life Member of their Art Societies; Board Member, Regional Galleries Association of NSW; Chair, Maitland Centenary of Federation Committee; Treasurer, Les Darcy Committee; Vice-Chair, Maitland Bicentennial Community Committee and Chair, Arts/Entertainment/Cultural/Ethnic Sub-Committee; Chair, Maitland Australia Day Committee; Member, Australia Remembers; Member, Hunter Valley Steamfest Committee; Foundation Chair, Maitland & District Tourist Association; Founder and Patron, Maitland Embroiderers Inc.; Maitland Patchwork/Quilters Inc.; Maitland Region Society of Artists; Patron, Maitland City Choir; Director and Life Member, Mai-Wel Group; Past President, Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise; Past Assistant Governor, Rotary District 9670; Director and Life

Member, Hunter River Agricultural & Horticultural Association; Chair, Maitland Art Prize Committee; and Chair, Maitland Citizen of the Year Committee.

## joyce skinner

[Coraki]

Joyce was the first welcoming local I met when I moved to Coraki four years ago. She is always smiling and has a twinkle in her eye. Joyce is a woman of great energy and passion. She and her sister Norma have always volunteered their time to the town. Joyce has been Editor of a bi-monthly publication *Coraki & District News* which she and Norma set up and produced with the help of others at the local Transaction Centre. She is a passionate animal and wildlife carer, President of the Campbell Hospital Auxiliary and is a Steering Committee Member for the Save Coraki Hospital Committee. Joyce has always advocated walking the talk and was recently involved in a peaceful protest outside Lismore Base Hospital. She constantly drives her little car into town and around the region. 'The Village Voice' provides a great avenue for Joyce to relay information and tips to others that she gathers from people living all over the region. She is vivacious, loving and caring with a zest for life well below her years. We are very grateful to have her in Coraki.

## linda squire

[Adaminaby]

Linda was born and raised in Newcastle and moved to Adaminaby in 1998. She and husband Glen are raising two sons, Jacob and Zane while running a small bakery. In between these

demands, Linda has found time to involve herself in community activities. She has been Secretary and Treasurer of Adaminaby P&C for a number of years, giving countless hours and energy in fundraising to give local children a better education. Linda was also the driving force behind the Adaminaby Youth Group in their effort to restore the local tennis courts and put down an all weather surface. She is Treasurer on the Easter Fair Committee providing input and advice into all Committee activities. Linda also organises the selling of 1200 plastic ducks at the Fair (including checking that each one floats!) As a small business owner, she never gets to see the Easter Fair herself except to make sure the pies are the correct temperature for the Pie Eating Contest. The Adaminaby Rural Fire Service is another of Linda's interests. She is an active member and also assists in organising the catering for hungry Fire Fighters when necessary. Linda contributes so much to our community and when she can find spare time she goes fishing with her family. We need to value all women like her.

## *maree statham* [Portland]

Maree was born and raised in the Central West and from an early age was involved in community service. Over the past 40 years she has been involved in fundraising for many groups including Paralympics, benefits, charities and cancer organisations. For the past 17 years, Maree has been Chair of the Portland Art Purchase Society, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for charities including *beyondblue*. She is also a local businesswoman running a hairdressing salon and

an etiquette and deportment school. One of her passions through her business 'Absolute Edge' is working with youth – empowering them to reach their full potential. Her business supports a range of local fundraising events and Maree appears as a guest speaker for many not-for-profit organisations. After losing her beloved husband Bob to cancer, she has been running the family property almost single-handedly and can often be found herding cattle, loading trucks and lugging feed around the farm. Maree leads by example both in volunteering and in life. She is the first to arrive, the last to leave and the one who puts in the most hours to ensure whatever she is involved in is a great success. Maree is also a compassionate person who does not judge a book by its cover and believes in giving everyone a fair go. While she has been acknowledged for her contribution through a number of awards including the NSW Tidy Town Award for Services to the Community, a 2011 Volunteering Award and a 2012 Portland Australia Day Award, Maree remains humble and never seeks the limelight.

## *sue steele* [South Grafton]

Sue joined the Rural Fire Service as a member of the Grafton City Rural Fire Brigade in January 1983. She has been involved as an active Frontline Fire Fighter, Brigade Administrator and Aviation Support Unit Member during her 29 years of dedicated service. Sue has been an extremely active Fire Fighter during her service and has been involved in the majority of significant bush fire campaigns that have affected the Clarence Valley including the 1994 North

Coast fires and the severe State of Emergency Section 44 fire declaration operations in 1995, 1999, Christmas 2001 and October 2002. She has been a passionate and dedicated member of the Brigade and along with husband Ian, has been the backbone of the Brigade for over 20 years. Sue was elected Brigade Secretary/Treasurer in 1999 and has provided outstanding administrative support to the Brigade for over 13 years. In addition to these duties Sue has been one of the chief organisers of Brigade social activities and fundraising events. Her infectious and positive outlook has been a major contributor to the teamwork and morale of the Brigade over the years. More recently Sue has diversified her operational involvement and completed Aviation Radio Operator training to be able to participate as part of the Clarence Valley District Aviation Support Unit. Sue has been actively involved in the Rural Fire Service Air Base Operations established at Grafton Airport during the 2008 and 2009 bush fire seasons which included two separate bush fire emergencies. Sue is a highly motivated volunteer and has always encouraged and supported her fellow members and particularly younger members. She is the epitome of the quiet achiever continually working behind the scenes to ensure the job gets done. Sue has previously been recognised for her service with the 20 year Long Service Award and has had a distinguished career as a Rural Fire Service volunteer. She was recognised for her efforts with a National Medal Award.

## *marnie steer* [Berrigan]

Marnie (Marion) has devoted her whole life to her family and community. She was born and raised on a rural property. Following graduation from Finley High School, Marnie became a librarian and still uses these skills today. She married Barry and they lived on a mixed farm raising their family and serving on Primary and High School Committees. Marnie is a talented musician and successful artist, having had many exhibitions. She has been a member of the South West Arts Council for many years and recently won an award at the State Country Women's Association conference for best miniature art work. All her life, Marnie has been involved with the Finley and Berrigan communities through the Country Women's Association (Executive positions), the Red Cross (Executive and State Council positions), Church Fellowship and the Church Council. She has been the Church Organist for more than 50 years. Marnie has also been involved in the Berrigan United Hospital Auxiliary, Finley Probus, Berrigan Museum and Heritage Committee (Secretary) where she works diligently to guide members in the research and preservation of local history. Marnie is a quiet achiever and tireless worker. She is an exceptional leader, a woman of strong Christian values and has mentored many. Marnie is a very worthy nominee for the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

## marnie stewart [Cooma]

Marnie was born and raised in the Cooma area and owns the Fabric Salon in town. From this small business, she actively engages by assisting community groups through allowing her shop to be used as an information and drop-off point. The Country Women's Association has benefited greatly through Marnie collecting and keeping safe a range of member craft items from all over the Monaro. She passes on sewing and dressmaking skills to younger members of the community by imparting her love and knowledge of fabrics and the beautiful things that can be created. Marnie also sells tickets on behalf of a wide range of community groups, particularly Cooma Little Theatre and other culturally focused groups. Being able to have the tickets on sale at a convenient place enables more people to buy them and attend. This has a double benefit of increasing the financial return to the groups involved and makes buying tickets convenient for the audience. Currently Marnie is very active in establishing a support group for carers who look after housebound people with serious medical problems. The social isolation of both the carers and their 'patients' can have a negative effect on physical and mental health. Her efforts include fundraising, heightening awareness of the problem and generally being the conduit for information and assistance. Without Marnie, the Monaro community would be very much the poorer – both spiritually and financially.

## valmai sullivan [Largs]

Valmai has been a member of Maitland Seniors since 1995 and became Assistant Secretary in 2001 – a post she held until 2007 when she became Treasurer. In 2005 Valmai took on the role of Tour Director where she has made a substantial contribution by organising day trips and extended tours both in Australia and overseas. The value of this work is important because people in regional areas often don't get the opportunity to travel to far away places. Last year Valmai took two people in their 80s – who had never been overseas before – to Canada and Alaska. She does this in a voluntary capacity, paying her own expenses and assisting people with visas, travel insurance and transfers. One of the most important aspects of this role is how it reduces social isolation for older people by encouraging them to get involved. Valmai's NSW tours also provide a much needed economic boost to regional communities and she has organised tours to Coffs Harbour, Narooma, Tweed Heads, Young, Dubbo, Albury, Glen Innes, and Moree. Valmai has been Assistant Secretary for the Women's Network Hunter and helped organise events. She is a frequent supporter of community events for a wide variety of local charities and social groups. Valmai is also a member of the Beresfield Senior Citizens and the Morpeth on Hunter Probus Club.

## kate thompson

[Gooloogong, near Cowra]

Kate was born in Rockdale and grew up in Kingsgrove. Her family's dairy was at Baulkham Hills with milk runs in the Kingsgrove area. Kate grew up with her extended Italian family, working with her cousins who owned footwear shops in Sydney. Even now when they all come together you can see the beautiful family relationship they have. Her father brought the family to Gooloogong to farm in 1961. Kate soon became involved with her new community and developed a passion for the rich history of the local area. She and husband Brian have two sons who have kept the tradition of farming. Kate's entrepreneurial skills led to a craft, gift and coffee shop in the village and with Margaret Fazzari, created Liberty Lady clothing. She was very involved in organising fantastic gymkhanas which attracted thousands annually. Kate was involved in the Gooloogong Progress Association bringing all the committees together to work as one and formed The Gooloogong Historical Society. She has been President for 15 of its 24 years. Kate wants Gooloogong to be a welcoming community which showcases the district's pioneers and their stories. She has lots of community visions such as creating a Pioneer Wall, Memorial Walkway, along with having railway interpretations and stories in the Park. Kate has organised many events such as the Back to Gooloogong Weekend and the Australian Women's Land Army Reunion – attracting 500–600 people at each event. Everyone loves Kate. She is a real hidden treasure who has given to our community for over 50 years.

## michelle thornley

[St Georges Basin]

Michelle joined the NSW Rural Fire Service as part of the St Georges Basin Rural Fire Brigade in 1984. In 1988 she became Senior Deputy Captain and then in 1996 Captain of the Brigade – a position she has held ever since. Michelle became a Life member of the Brigade in April 2005 and is currently part of the Shoalhaven District Liaison Committee. She was the first female member of the Remote Area Fire Fighting Team in 1992 and has attended numerous out of area deployments and major fires and incidents. Michelle has offered tireless hours to the Rural Fire Service and whether attending a fire call or training fellow volunteers her commitment level is always at 110 per cent which we feel makes her worthy to be a nominee for the 2012 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

## cheryl timmins

[Croppa Creek, near Moree]

Cheryl joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1998 and is an active member of the Croppa Creek Rural Fire Brigade. The Brigade is this small town's primary source of fire protection. As well as being an active Fire Fighter and attending a majority of the Brigade's emergency incidents, Cheryl is also the Brigade Secretary and Treasurer and ensures that all aspects of the Brigade function smoothly. She also plays a big part in assisting with community education, often attending school and community meetings to help promote fire safety. As well as her extensive commitments to

the Rural Fire Service, Cheryl also works tirelessly to maintain a family business in Croppa Creek. Her hard work and dedication make her a very valuable member of the Rural Fire Service and the community as a whole.

## *janelle tonque* [Loomberah]

Janelle was born, grew up and settled in Loomberah. She completed her teaching degree in Armidale before marrying a local Loomberah man. Janelle and her husband have three sons, two of whom live on the family property with their families. Janelle has been teaching in surrounding primary schools for nearly 40 years. Since retiring from fulltime teaching to casual teaching Janelle now volunteers by assisting with reading groups and scripture at her grandson's school, as well as coordinating and teaching Sunday school. She also finds time to tutor several children. Janelle is the Vicar's Warden of St Luke's Anglican Church Loomberah where she nurtures and cares for anyone needing assistance. She has a huge caring heart and is a selfless person who is only too willing to cook for the sick, mourning and people in need. She also offers to do anything to help these people, including supporting, organising and assisting with long term care, house moving, wakes and many community events. She also produces a monthly Loomberah newsletter to keep the community in touch. Whilst donating much of her time to others Janelle still finds time to be a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and sister and maintains a piggery and works on the family sheep, cattle, hay and cropping property. Janelle would spend on average 95 hours a month

volunteering her time plus more during some months. She is truly an amazing woman who is motivated through her belief in God. The reason I am nominating Janelle is because she looks after those in need including people suffering simply from the flu or the dramatic circumstances of cancer. There would not be a family in need in the Nemingha, Loomberah, Dungowan and Nundle areas that have not been touched by her friendship, advice, or simply letting them know that somebody outside the square cares. I have personally been touched with such kindness having lost my wife to cancer on 13 May 2012. Janelle was the first one on the door step offering friendship, condolences, goodwill and the most delicious meals. Janelle continues to make regular phone calls to see how the family is. I feel proud to acknowledge the great sacrifices that Janelle has made not only to her family but her local community. I have the greatest respect for Janelle.

## *Joan treweeke* [Angledool, near Lightning Ridge]

Joan is a tireless community person living in one of NSW's most isolated pockets near Lightning Ridge. Her volunteering includes the Walgett Branch of Isolated Children & Parent's Association for which she was a member of State Council from 1990–1994 and Vice President from 1991–1994. Joan is also President of the Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section and in recent years was instrumental in securing funds for a sealed airstrip in Collarenebri. She is Chair of the Walgett Shire Reconciliation Group, was a former Walgett Shire Councillor, and is on the

Western NSW Local Health District Board. Joan is the Yawarra Meamei Women's Group President and was instrumental in setting up a safe house in Lightning Ridge. She works tirelessly for reconciliation and keeping safe some of the most vulnerable women and children in our isolated Indigenous communities such as Walgett and Brewarrina. Joan has a strong drive to improve education and health outcomes for the region.

## sheila turnbull [Cessnock]

Sheila is an advocate for women's equality. She dedicates her time to helping women and girls achieve their full potential and getting their voices heard. She is a 25 year member of Business & Professional Women Australia and current Cessnock Club President. Sheila was a much-loved Teacher for almost four decades. Her final role was Head Teacher Student Welfare at Chatham High School in Taree where she organised workshops for teenage girls to improve their self-esteem and empowerment to set and achieve goals. Sheila also ran the successful Girls Can Do Anything expo for Year Nine students. Sheila has been a dedicated volunteer for decades and given her time to more than 40 organisations, including NSW National Council of Women, Coalfields Parkinson's Support Group, Red Cross, Telecall, Lower Hunter Dementia Support Group and many others. She has also volunteered on the Board of Northnet Community College and Cessnock Community Transport for the past 20 years. Sheila is a mentor for the local Young Achievers and Beacon Programs in high schools. She has organised the International Women's Day

Breakfast for the Newcastle and Hunter region since 2002. Even though retired, Sheila remains passionate about giving back to her community and continues to organise many fundraising events for breast cancer, and domestic violence encouraging others to get involved, particularly women and older people. Sheila was recognised in 2004 by the National Council of Women with a certificate of Achievement for her work in promoting the status of women. In 2012 Sheila was a finalist in the NSW Woman of the Year Community Hero Award. Sheila has inspired hundreds of girls and women to realise better futures. When asked why she does what she does Sheila replies, 'Because I can'.

## louise turner [Willow Tree]

Louise is a key person involved in the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge and Bush Festival held at Murrurundi run by a small group of dedicated individuals. She is responsible for coordinating the bar license. Louise also organises the cross country event and merchandising as well as competing in events herself. Her contribution involves a lot of responsibility to ensure the success of this huge regional event that attracts thousands of people to the Upper Hunter every year.

## hilary turner [Willow Tree]

Hilary has volunteered as an Executive member of the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge and Bush Festival Committee held at Murrurundi

for the past three years. As Secretary, Hilary is responsible for entry forms, organising events, record keeping, website coordination, advertising and promotion. Her contribution has ensured the ongoing success of this large event that will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2013. Hilary's role is ongoing throughout the year and she gives four to five hours each day as a dedicated volunteer to ensure the event is a success.

## henny wagenaer

[Ourimbah, near Gosford]

Henny was born 1935 in Belgium. Her family moved to Holland when war broke out and although times were hard, Henny joined any activity that was going! She especially loved leading the Cubs as Bagheera and still has her uniform. While in a Youth Club, she met Al. They married in 1958 and a few months later migrated to Australia. Henny learnt a new language and plunged into whatever community activity she could find, starting with the local Hospital Auxiliary because she could take baby Ron with her. When they moved to Palm Grove, she took over the country telephone exchange and mail run that serviced Ourimbah Creek. When the exchange closed, Henny turned her energies to school volunteering and the Ourimbah Hospital Auxiliary. For the past 20 years she has been a tireless worker – organising raffles, setting up stalls on election days, stockpiling items for monster garage sales and helping to run bus trips – all to raise money for much-needed hospital equipment. Henny is a founding member of Palm Grove Ourimbah Creek Landcare and has been

rehabilitating her local rainforest for the past 12 years. Ourimbah Creek and Palm Grove are thriving rural communities, not least because Henny organises resident lunches. She somehow finds time to attend the Ourimbah Precinct Committee, go line dancing, and perform in local nursing homes. How many hours does Henny spend in volunteer work? When does she ever stop? She loves doing it. It keeps her young and she keeps everyone young.

## lyn wallin

[North Nowra]

Lyn was born in Victoria and moved to NSW when she was 21. She was involved with Girl Guides as a young person. When her children were young Lyn volunteered for many years as Treasurer with her local school canteen committee and Junior Rugby League. We want to acknowledge Lyn as a Hidden Treasure through her six year contribution to the Shoalcoast Legal Centre. Shoalcoast provides a free service to disadvantaged people who live along the South Coast and women who live in the South East of NSW. Lyn is an active and committed volunteer working as our Secretary and Acting Treasurer when required. She rarely misses a meeting, reads all the papers and provides valuable feedback and support to staff and Management Committee members. Since the mid 1990s Lyn has been involved with the Shoalhaven International Women's Day Committee which starts meeting around August of each year to plan and deliver activities for women during the month of March throughout the region. The highlight is the annual International Women's Day Awards held at the historic home of Meroogai

in Nowra. Lyn is strong advocate for Shoalhaven women and a great supporter of our community. Her career has been in the community services sector, meeting the needs of disadvantaged people. This has included Neighbourhood Centres, Employment Services and women's services. She worked for many years with the Nowra Women's & Children's Refuge and currently works with the Women's Health Centre in Nowra.

### marjorie ward [Merriwa]

Marj is an active Member of the Liverpool Range Zone Support Brigade and Merriwa River Rural Fire Brigade. She commenced active service with the Rural Fire Service in 2009 and since that time has been instrumental in providing catering support to a wide range of planned events, as well as catering support to incidents within the Zone. Additionally, Marj is also an active member of the Merriwa River Rural Fire Brigade, a Brigade that attends incidents not only in its own area, but also supports a number of other Brigades. She has successfully completed her Bush Fire Fighter training, and commenced her Village Fire Fighter training with the Rural Fire Service. Marj is always willing to lend a hand and frequently goes above and beyond the call of duty; whether attending fires or motor vehicle accidents or providing catering, she is always ready to help. Outside her involvement in the Rural Fire Service, Marj is an active member of the Merriwa Volunteer Rescue Association Squad, where she is an accredited General Land Rescue operator with the State Rescue Board, as well as being an active member of the Merriwa State Emergency Service Unit.

Marj is also involved with the Red Cross. She is a dependable member of the Rural Fire Service and goes out of her way to ensure all her colleagues are safe and well looked after. Marj is a true Hidden Treasure who is truly worthy of recognition for her enthusiasm, dedication and valuable contribution she gives to the community.

### wendy wedge [Bowraville]

Wendy has been a volunteer with Bowraville Technology Centre for about a year and she looks after the layout, editing and production of the Bowraville Community Newsletter, a monthly publication with over 300 copies printed. I am constantly being praised on how much more interesting the newsletter has become and this is all down to Wendy's keen eye for detail and tenacity for sourcing interesting information not just of a local content but nationally and worldwide. Wendy is truly a Hidden Treasure to us in the Bowraville community.

### nicole wells

[Cabarita Beach, near Tweed Heads]

Nikki's life didn't turn out the way she'd hoped and dreamed. She is however, happy in her current unpaid role as CEO of the Project KidSafe Foundation a position she has held for eight years. Nikki founded this national organisation to raise awareness of child protection and provide services and resources for survivors of abuse. Her goal is to build the world's first independent recovery facility for survivors of abuse. She is a

survivor of horrific childhood rape, and when her world came crashing down around her she was unable to walk or talk. There was nowhere for her to go to seek help. Upon recovery, Nikki set about establishing the Project KidSafe Foundation and has spent the past four years supporting thousands of survivors not only around Australia, but across the world. She gives her time freely and willingly and is regarded as the 'shining light for survivors of abuse' using all her skills and knowledge to ensure no child ever has to live through the horror that she did.

### *catherine westley* [Wellington]

Catherine has been a volunteer within the NSW Police Force for 17 years. During that time she has volunteered over 6600 hours assisting the Police and the community in a variety of ways. She is currently volunteering at the Orana Local Area Command working out of Wellington and Dubbo Police Stations. At Wellington she is involved in case filing and sorting Apprehended Violence Orders. She also travels to Dubbo Police Station where she assists the Brief Handling Manager and Domestic Violence and Crime Prevention Officers. Each year Catherine assists at the Dubbo Show where she works at the Police stand and in 2012 assisted in the Western Regions 150th Police Anniversary celebrations. Over the years Catherine has worked at Redfern, Waverley, Parramatta and Bondi Police Stations and at the Police Community Office at the Westmead Children's Hospital and at the Parramatta Domestic Violence Court.

### *coral white* [Elsmore, near Inverell]

Coral has been a member of the Rural Fire Service since 1971. She has been instrumental in the running and organisation of the Elsmore Brigade while also being an active Fire Fighter. Coral is a pillar of the local community. Her dedication to supporting the Brigade by calling out members to respond to emergencies, assisting with Brigade administration, taking meeting minutes, acting as Permit & Equipment Officer and enthusiastically fundraising makes her an inspiration to her fellow Brigade members. She is a valued member of the Inverell Support Group at the Inverell Emergency Operations Centre where the team provides morning and afternoon teas, lunches and sometimes other main meals to keep active Fire Fighters going. During major incidents and activities the catering team could be feeding up to three shifts of volunteers, preparing over 600 meals a day.

### *wendy wilcox* [Portland]

Wendy first joined the Portland Rural Fire Brigade in 1986 and has held the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. She is an active Fire Fighter having attended 100 incidents. For over five years Wendy acted as Voluntary Secretary of the Lithgow District Bushfire Advisory Committee for the Lithgow City Council. She is also a past member of the Lithgow Community Engagement Committee and is always keen to be involved with any local community education activities. Wendy holds

many Rural Fire Service qualifications including Bush Fire Fighter, Crew Leader Wildfire, Crew Leader Safety and Village Fire Fighter.

**jennie wilkinson**  
[Bolwarra, near Maitland]

Jennie was born in the United Kingdom and grew up in Sydney. She trained as a nurse, married, and lived in rural QLD and NSW. Jennie worked in medical positions, early childhood education, public relations and administration. She was inspired to become a volunteer from observing her mother and best friend's parents giving to others. Jennie became involved in volunteering whilst at school raising money for The Royal Far West Home for Country Children. As an adult she has volunteered as a nurse collector for The Blood Bank, co-founded a mother's support group for women with post natal mental health issues and trained and volunteered as a Community Educator for the Australian Breastfeeding Association. She was a member of various school P&C's for 24 years holding committee positions and co-organising two large art and craft shows, supporting performing arts touring events, band, dance, drama and fundraising events. Jennie has been involved in managing community sporting teams and was a member of a High School Canteen Committee which researched and instigated The Fresh Tastes NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy, now a mandatory implementation procedure of the Nutrition in Schools policy. Jennie was a Home Host Mother for international exchange students. She has been a member of Women's Network Hunter since

2007 and committee member for four years, working on setting up a database and website. She was a member of the Steering Committee for Time Capture, a major installation by artist Lara O'Reilly documenting a photographic history of Maitland Women in our time. Jennie does an amazing amount of volunteer work and organises others to contribute as well.

**mary wood** [Hillston]

Mary was born in Hillston and after finishing school worked at a local garage as Office Manager and Bookkeeper. When she married she worked at the Hillston Library. Mary has always been very community minded. She has been a member of the Hillston Hospital Auxiliary for a number of years holding many executive positions. For the past six years we have been fortunate to have her as our Treasurer, with the books always kept impeccably accurate. As well as volunteering for the good of the hospital and the community, Mary is also heavily involved in the Uniting Church where she is the resident organist and helps organise the bulletin, as well as attending the Lachlan Lodge Aged Care Facility to play the piano for the residents and assist with Bingo. She is a keen member of the Hillston Probus Club and when I asked Mary why she volunteered she said, 'when you live in a small community it is so important to be involved in that community' — what a wonderful woman.

## shirley wood [Leeton]

Shirley was a founding member of the Leeton branch of Can Assist (Cancer Patients Assistance Society) in 1982. She has held executive positions over this time including many years as President. Shirley has helped a large number of cancer patients, been involved in fundraising, and given talks about Can Assist. She has been the face of the Leeton Branch and generously shares her contact details so the community can access Can Assist information at any time. Shirley welcomes new members to the Branch and has embraced new technology with gusto even though she is 82! The world could do with a few more women with commitment and vision like Shirley.

## isabell wooden [Wagga Wagga]

Isabell has dedicated her life to the community of Wagga Wagga. She was born there, raised her five children in Wagga and provides a beautiful home for her grandchildren to visit. While raising her family, Isabell was always involved in her children's school communities and held numerous roles in parent groups and committees. In the mid 1980s she was the first female President of the P&F Association for the local boys' high school. When her children grew up, she was approached to help out at Micah House, which provides care and support to socially isolated and disadvantaged men, women and children. Micah House has facilities for clients to shower, do their washing, watch TV, read a

book, play cards or pool, or just talk to each other. There is always someone available to talk to or to provide help with filling out forms. Breakfast is available and a hot lunch is served to 50–60 people a day. Isabell initially started volunteering in 2000 and quickly became involved in the Management Committee. In 2004 she was appointed the President for eight years. During this time the number of clients grew from 20–25 to 50–60 a day and the facilities expanded. Isabell has recently resigned as President, but still volunteers, is involved in fundraising and continually speaks about Micah House to community groups such as Rotary and local businesses.

## vicki woods [Largs, near Maitland]

Vicki is an amazing and inspiring rural woman. She has lived in the village of Largs for over 20 years and done an amazing amount of work in the Maitland and wider Hunter community. Vicki has been the Patron of the Largs/Bolwarra Girl Guides since 2005, and organised the Largs Village Ball since 1993 which has contributed funds to a number of worthy causes including Girl Guides, the Largs School of Arts, Largs Oval, Bolwarra Bushfire Brigade, the Hunter Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Hunter Kidney Foundation. Vicki founded the Women's Network Hunter which aims to promote women and support them onto boards and into politics. The Network also established the Time Capture project which received \$250 000 in sponsorship for the Maitland Regional Art Gallery renovations. She is a member of Tourism Hunter and after her

friend died of Breast Cancer, Vicki established the Brenda Clouten Art Scholarship. In its sixth year, the award is giving young artists opportunities to travel to Beijing, New York, London and Montreal to further their art experience. She has been the Vice President of the Regions for Restaurant and Catering (six years) which is fostering and growing small businesses in regional NSW. Vicki is a Foundation Board Member of the Hunter Institute of Medical Research and is involved in many Multiple Sclerosis activities. As a sufferer of this disease, she has been an inspiration to everyone by not letting it stop her from making an outstanding contribution to our community. Vicki's list of achievements and resume is amazing.

### *pam Youman* [Guyra]

Pam has been a long-term volunteer with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Guyra Support Group and has held the position of Chair for around eight years. She is the backbone of the Group. With an aging population in Guyra, Pam has continued to ensure that fundraising for this emergency aero-medical service continues in rural communities. Pam runs her own nursery business with her husband, but is always available to assist, whether it is a street stall, bowls days or the meat raffles at the local club. Her commitment during some challenging times in the Group has been instrumental in ensuring that Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and the work it does remains top of mind in her local community.

# volunteer agencies

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

## **Agricultural Shows NSW**

02 9879 6777  
www.agshowsnsw.org.au

## **Apex Australia**

02 9253 7875  
www.apex.org.au

## **Arts Councils in NSW**

02 9270 2500  
www.regionalartsnsw.com.au

## **Aunties & Uncles**

02 9638 2480  
www.auntiesanduncles.com.au

## **AusKick**

02 6334 4071  
www.aflauskick.com.au

## **Australian Breastfeeding Association**

03 9885 0855  
www.breastfeeding.asn.au

## **Australian Home Care**

1300 303 770  
www.ahcs.org.au

## **Australian Red Cross Blood Service**

13 14 95  
www.donateblood.com.au

## **Australian Federation of Business & Professional Women**

03 9895 4487  
www.bpw.com.au

## **beyondblue**

1300 22 4636  
TTY 133 677  
www.beyondblue.org.au

## **Camp Quality**

02 9876 0500  
www.campquality.org.au

## **Can Assist**

02 8217 3400  
www.canassist.com.au

## **Cancer Council NSW**

02 9334 1900  
www.cancercouncil.com.au

## **Centacare**

08 8210 8200  
www.centacare.org.au

## **Coastcare**

02 9412 1040  
www.coastcare.com.au

## **Country Women's Association of New South Wales**

02 9358 2923  
www.cwaofnsw.org.au

## **Cricket NSW**

02 8302 6000  
www.cricketnsw.com.au

## **Diabetes Australia**

02 6232 3800  
www.diabetesaustralia.com.au

## **Driver Reviver**

02 9999 6200  
www.driverreviver.com.au

## **Girl Guides NSW & ACT**

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

## **Home & Community Care**

1800 350 792  
www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/help\_at\_home/home\_care\_service

## **Hospital Ward Grandparent Scheme**

1800 244 396  
www.awch.org.au

## **House With No Steps**

02 9451 1511  
www.hwns.com.au

## **Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia**

www.icpa.com.au

## **Kidney Health Australia**

1800 454 3639  
TTY 133 677  
Speak & Listen 1300 555 727  
www.kidney.org.au

## **Kidsafe NSW Inc**

02 9845 0890  
www.kidsafe.com.au

**Landcare NSW**  
0427 583 055  
[www.landcarensw.org.au](http://www.landcarensw.org.au)

**Lions Clubs**  
02 4940 8033  
[www.lionsclubs.org.au](http://www.lionsclubs.org.au)

**Meals on Wheels NSW**  
02 8219 4200  
[www.nswmealsonwheels.org.au](http://www.nswmealsonwheels.org.au)

**Multiple Sclerosis Society**  
1800 042 138  
[www.msaustralia.org.au](http://www.msaustralia.org.au)

**National Association for  
Loss & Grief NSW Inc**  
02 6882 9222  
[www.nalag.org.au](http://www.nalag.org.au)

**National Council of Women NSW**  
02 9269 0433  
[www.ncwa.org.au](http://www.ncwa.org.au)

**Neighbourhood Watch NSW**  
Contact your local Police Station for  
information on your local program.

**Pets As Therapy**  
02 9412 9300  
[www.guidedogs.com.au](http://www.guidedogs.com.au)

**Pony Club NSW**  
02 4229 8977  
[www.pcansw.org.au](http://www.pcansw.org.au)

**Probus**  
1800 630 488  
[www.probusouthpacific.org](http://www.probusouthpacific.org)

**Quota Australia**  
07 3283 3006  
[www.quota.org](http://www.quota.org)

**Reading for the Blind**  
1300 84 74 66  
[www.visionaustralia.org](http://www.visionaustralia.org)

**Red Cross NSW**  
1800 812 028  
[www.redcross.org.au/nsw](http://www.redcross.org.au/nsw)

**Relay for Life**  
1300 656 585  
[www.relay.cancercouncil.com.au](http://www.relay.cancercouncil.com.au)

**Rotary**  
02 8894 9800  
[www.rotary.org.au](http://www.rotary.org.au)

**Rural Fire Service Freecall**  
1800 679 737  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
02 9568 0262  
[www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

**Shoalcoast Community Legal  
Centre**  
1800 229 529  
[www.shoalcoast.org.au](http://www.shoalcoast.org.au)

**State Emergency Service**  
1800 201 000  
[www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)

**Telecross**  
1800 812 028  
[www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

**Tidy Towns – Keep Australia  
Beautiful NSW**  
02 9633 3380  
[www.kabnsw.org.au](http://www.kabnsw.org.au)

**Toastmasters**  
1300 653 876  
[www.d70toastmasters.org](http://www.d70toastmasters.org)

**United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW**  
02 9391 9716  
[www.uhansw.org](http://www.uhansw.org)

**University of the Third Age**  
02 4283 7818  
[www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au)

**Variety NSW**  
02 9819 1000  
[www.variety.org.au](http://www.variety.org.au)

**Volunteers in Policing**  
02 8835 9545  
[www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)

**Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service**  
1800 155 155  
[www.rescuehelicopter.com.au](http://www.rescuehelicopter.com.au)

## GENERAL CONTACT

**NSW Centre for Volunteering**  
02 9261 3600  
[www.volunteering.com.au](http://www.volunteering.com.au)

## 2013 honour roll: nominate a rural woman

The 2013 Honour Roll will be launched at the NSW Rural Women's Gathering to be hosted by women from the Upper Hunter from 25–27 October 2013.

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 2013 Honour Roll open 1 May and close 16 August 2013.

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](mailto:rural.women@dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn)



Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

MARJORIE MOORE



*Hidden Treasures* is a joint project of  
Rural Women's Network  
(NSW Department of Primary Industries),  
NSW Centre for Volunteering &  
Women NSW



Department of  
Primary Industries



the centre for volunteering  
*igniting community spirit*



Family &  
Community Services  
Women NSW