



Department of
Primary Industries

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

HIDDEN
TREASURES
HONOUR ROLL

2015

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

A large, flowing white line art swirl that starts from the top left and curves down towards the bottom right, framing the central text.A smaller, decorative pink line art swirl located in the bottom right corner of the page.



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

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ministers' message

We are pleased to present the 2015 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

This year 106 women have been recognised in this important publication which celebrates the valuable volunteer work they do within NSW rural, regional and remote communities.

These dedicated women each play a key role within their local areas devoting their time to improving the lives of others and the neighbourhoods they live in.

Volunteering is vital to ensuring those needing assistance in our communities are able to access help and to ensure essential local services continue to flourish.

Developed by the Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network, the Honour Roll records and pays tribute to these inspiring women.

By nominating women volunteers we are recognising how valuable and diverse their roles are and acknowledge their pivotal positions in our local regions.

We thank these women for their passion and commitment to keep our communities across NSW strong.

This year's nominees join a growing list of nearly 700 rural women volunteers who have been recognised since the first Honour Roll was launched in 2010.

The Honour Roll is a testament to the generosity and hard work of so many women who are publicly appreciated by their community as part of this project.

We encourage you to read their stories and consider who you could nominate in 2016.



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

Niall Blair
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water



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

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



2015 hidden treasures nominees

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 7 Danielle Anderson
[Wellington] | 13 Dianne Collier
[Tweed Heads] | 19 Betty Dunn
[Tamworth] |
| 7 Carrol Baker
[Main Creek] | 13 Linda Cook
[Coramba] | 20 Elisabeth Edwards
[Coffs Harbour] |
| 7 Olga Balestri
[Bargo] | 14 Rae Cooper
[Byron Bay] | 20 Joyce Edwards
[South West Rocks] |
| 8 Veronica Barry
[Narrandera] | 14 Trudy Cooper
[Deepwater] | 21 Elizabeth Ellis
[Penrose] |
| 8 Carolyn Bellman
[Croppa Creek] | 15 Jayne Cronin
[Merriwa] | 21 Carolyn Farrow
[Murrurundi] |
| 9 Anne Bolan
[Goonellabah] | 15 Francis Crown
[Canyonleigh] | 21 Roxayne Felton
[Coramba] |
| 9 Kay Bolton
[Fingal Head] | 15 Beryl Currie
[Kyogle] | 22 Helen Fenning
[Bruxton] |
| 10 Vanessa Bourne
[Tamworth] | 16 Anne Davies
[Scone] | 22 Judith Fountain
[Crookwell] |
| 10 Catherine Boyd
[South Tweed Heads] | 16 Jean Davies
[Murrurundi] | 22 Narelle Fuller
[South Kempsey] |
| 11 Sherryl Broderick
[Crookwell] | 17 Joyce Davies
[Ulmarra] | 22 Trish Galloway
[Wagga Wagga] |
| 11 Lesley Callcott
[Tamworth] | 17 Kathleen Davies
[Lavadia] | 23 Jo Gibson
[Ellalong] |
| 11 Katrine Capps
[Cowra] | 18 Megan Davies
[Narrabri] | 23 Sally Harris
[Willow Tree] |
| 12 Caron Casey
[Goulburn] | 18 Amorelle Dempster
[Maitland] | 24 Janice Haynes
[Howlong] |
| 12 Gail Clarke
[Nimbin] | 18 Nancy Dimech
[Picton] | 24 Julie Herridge
[Forbes] |
| 13 Peg Clifton
[Forbes] | 19 Angela Doering
[Crooble] | 25 Annamaria Hctor
[Mollymook] |

2015 hidden treasures nominees

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 25 Margaret Hodgson OAM
[Copmanhurst] | 31 Laurel Leabeater
[Lyndhurst] | 36 Kylie Parry
[Coonamble] |
| 25 Anne Hopwood
[Orange] | 31 Susan Lewis
[Scone] | 36 Gillian Paterson
[Murrurundi] |
| 26 Betty Hopwood
[East Kempsey] | 31 Yvonne Lightfoot
[Glen Innes] | 37 Nikki Patten
[Forbes] |
| 26 Coleen Houston
[Hay] | 32 Kathleen Longergan
[Cootamundra] | 37 Elizabeth Philpott
[Boambee East] |
| 27 Beverly Hughes
[Narrandera] | 32 Peta Luke
[Merriwa] | 38 Jean Price
[Merriwa] |
| 27 Cheryl Hunter
[St Georges Basin] | 32 Marilyn McGregor
[Tamworth] | 38 Rhonda Richardson
[Trangie] |
| 27 Lana Ivashanko
[Conjola Park] | 33 Joan McNaughton
[Cessnock] | 38 Elizabeth Ross-Ward
[Tamworth] |
| 28 Carole Johnston
[Aberdeen] | 33 Myra McPhie
[Berridale] | 39 Ann Sansom
[Gloucester] |
| 28 Margaret Jopling
[Aldavilla] | 34 Pamela McRae
[Suffolk Park] | 39 Pam Saunderson-McLeay
[Scone] |
| 29 Carole Keast
[Tweed Heads South] | 34 Heather Mann
[Forbes] | 40 Robin Sevenoaks
[Berridale] |
| 29 Anne Kelly
[East Maitland] | 35 Katrina Moffat [Forster] | 40 Narelle Shaw
[Forbes] |
| 30 Joy Kim
[Woongarra] | 35 Leisa Moody
[Binda] | 41 Janine Slater
[Ocean Shores] |
| 30 Muriel King
[Scone] | 35 Helen Mortimore
[Bathurst] | 41 Carol Stanley
[Coonamble] |
| 30 Patricia Law
[Lightning Ridge] | 35 Erica Nelson
[Port Macquarie] | 42 Paula Starkey
[Coraki] |

42 Genevieve Starr
[Dalton]

42 Sylvia Stevens
[Narrandera]

43 Dawn Studdert
[Dungog]

43 Rikki Toi
[Coraki]

44 Liesel Turnbull
[St Georges Basin]

44 Merryn Twemlow
[Armidale]

45 Sue Uphill
[Forbes]

45 Rosemary Van Bergen
[Wilton]

46 Rachel Walker
[Young]

46 Tracey Warner
[Wingen]

46 Jean Watson
[Cessnock]

47 Margaret Whatman
[Glenquarry]

47 Sue White
[Wagga Wagga]

47 Gwyn Whitley
[Willow Tree]

48 Elizabeth Wilson
[Berrigan]

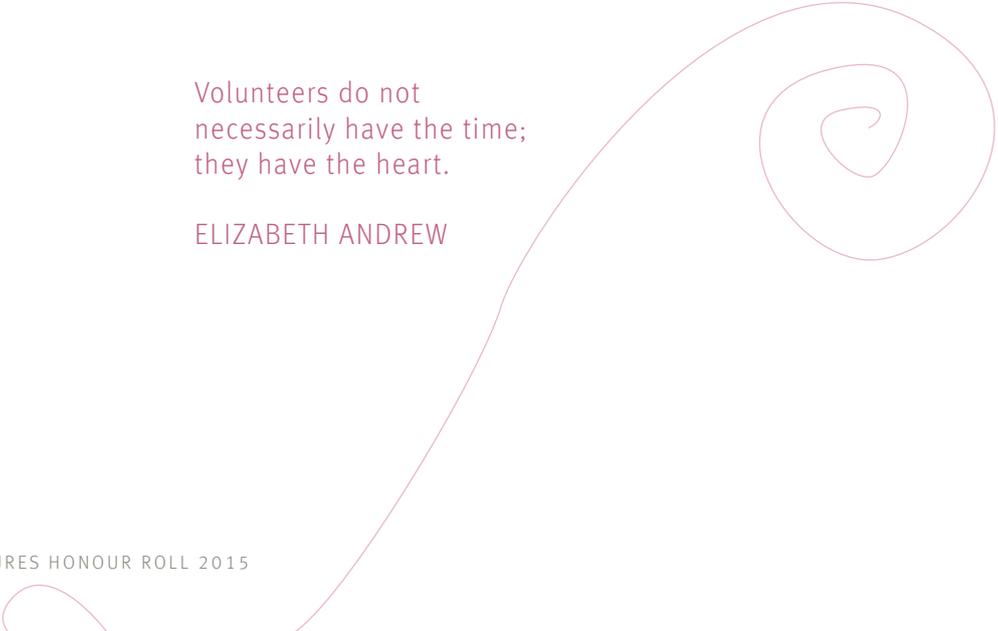
48 Lesley Wood
[Mandemar]

49 Kym Wooding
[Hay]

49 Maree Yapp
[Forbes]

50 Judy York
[Adaminaby]

52 Volunteer Agencies



Volunteers do not
necessarily have the time;
they have the heart.

ELIZABETH ANDREW

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

danielle anderson [Wellington]

Danielle Anderson was born in Wellington in 1965 and has lived in the area most of her life. Together with her husband Robert she has two daughters. Several years ago Danielle started Wellington Business Services, providing advice, encouragement and practical support to local businesses. She provides assistance to almost every not-for-profit organisation in Wellington—volunteering around 27 hours of her time each week. Danielle is president of the Wellington Show Society and is actively involved in the Wellington Poultry Club. She volunteered her services to the Wellington Historical Society to formulate a business plan and has helped Wellington Amateur Theatrical Society apply for grants and produce tickets and programs. Danielle supports the Wellington Arts and Crafts Club and works with Arts Out West. She has donated her time and skills to help Wellington Senior Citizens, Red Cross and many other community groups. Danielle is definitely a Hidden Treasure.

carrol baker

[Main Creek, Clarence Valley]

Carrol Baker joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in July 1994 as a member of the Mt Ramornie Rural Bushfire Brigade. During her 21 years of service she has been an active firefighter and served as secretary, treasurer and president of the brigade. Carrol is currently deputy captain for Mt Ramornie Brigade and has previously displayed her leadership skills in the field roles of captain and senior deputy captain. She has been a frontline firefighter involved in major bushfire campaigns within the Clarence Valley, including Section 44 operations. Carrol is extensively trained in all aspects of firefighting and consistently shares her wealth of knowledge with members of her brigade and the district. Carrol's service has been recognised with a 10 Year Long Service Medal and in 2015 she was awarded a 20 Year Long Service Clasp for outstanding contribution to the NSW RFS and the Clarence Valley community. Carrol has had a distinguished career as a volunteer and is a worthy candidate for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

olga balestri [Bargo]

Olga Balestri was born and grew up in Cordoba, Argentina. She married a policeman named Hector and soon after their wedding they fled to Australia, escaping a mafia contract to have them killed. With little money Olga and Hector opened a pizza and takeaway shop in Ingleburn and started

a family. Later they moved to Bargo and opened another pizza and takeaway shop, which they have been running for over 20 years. Olga plays a big part in the Bargo community and actively serves at a number of local churches, helping to support and engage with the community. When His House Care Charity Picton opened a family centre, including an opportunity shop, a Christian bookshop and a free counselling service, Olga decided to open a Bargo opportunity shop as an offshoot. All the funds go back to the main centre to provide free community services. Olga still operates the Bargo shop three days a week and is well-known in the community for her warm smile and friendly service. She does everything herself, from receiving donations, to sorting, pricing and serving customers. Olga is a true inspiration and a great friend who would do anything to help anyone—a real Hidden Treasure.

veronica barry [Narrandera]

Veronica Barry was born in Carlton, Victoria and worked various secretarial roles in Melbourne before moving to the Narrandera Shire in 1974 with her husband and two daughters. Whilst raising her family, Veronica worked in aged care and as supervisor of the Ironing Basket Cypress Centre—an employment program for people with intellectual disabilities. She joined the local branches of the Country Women's Association and Meals on Wheels and made enormous contributions to these organisations for many years. Veronica has also been involved with Narrandera Pony Club, as an instructor, president and secretary and has assisted her husband with

many Narrandera Lions Club activities. Veronica continues to be a long-standing member of Soroptimist International—a women's service organisation. In her 20 years' service she has held the positions of secretary and treasurer and is the current Narrandera club president, providing wonderful leadership to members and the broader community. Veronica also represents the club on the Narrandera Domestic Violence Committee and volunteers at Narrandera Hospital to help people recovering from surgery. Veronica is a volunteer member of Australian Red Cross and the Narrandera Race Club. You can never have enough Veronicas in your community—Narrandera is very blessed to have a Hidden Treasure like her.

carolyn bellman [Croppa Creek]

Gentle, caring and insightful are just some of the wonderful attributes immediately apparent when you meet Carolyn Bellman. A busy wife, mother of three and successful businesswoman, Carolyn's capacity to share her skills has positively impacted every community she has lived in. A significant resume of volunteer work began early in Carolyn's life at Bega and continued as she moved north to Kyogle and later to Croppa Creek. As a Miss Showgirl winner and St John Ambulance multiple award-winner, Carolyn's commitment, energy and passion to help others was evident from the start. Carolyn's interstate and international travel experiences with Rural Youth enriched her educational growth and sparked a passion for fundraising for important causes. She has been NSW president of Rural Youth and was winner of the Royal Agricultural

Society Rural Achiever Award. Carolyn has been a valued member of Croppa Creek School Parents and Citizens Committee and is currently a volunteer on the Croppa Creek Hall Committee. Her capacity to help others seems infinite; beyond her role in Bellman's busy mixed business, her previous health and massage skills contribute to her many acts of kindness. Carolyn's humorous and insightful messages on the shop noticeboard further enhance her worthiness as a Croppa Creek Hidden Treasure.

anne bolan [Goonellabah]

Anne Bolan is a committed Australian Red Cross member who regularly volunteers at Lismore Base Hospital Renal Unit, giving patients foot massages during their Wednesday dialysis treatment. Patients spend up to five hours, three times a week having clinical and technical treatments in hospital and Anne's massages are a highlight. Anne delivers her care with a bright smile and an energy that lights up the room. She and fellow volunteer Janet have a marvellous way of providing care that really humanises the department—making patients feel special through the power of touch and conversation. Anne has had her own health battles and when she was having chemotherapy last year and was too unwell to provide massage therapy she would still visit the Renal Unit to engage in friendly conversation with patients. Anne's genuine kindness makes a real difference to patients' quality of care and everyone is so glad she is well and volunteering in

the unit again. The nursing team are very grateful for her contribution to patient care and think she is a very special Hidden Treasure.

kay bolton [Fingal Head]

Kay Bolton was born in Murwillumbah and grew up in Lismore. She worked as a teacher in rural NSW and Victoria before retiring to Fingal Head in 2000. Kay is a dedicated environmentalist who spends over 18 hours a week working as a community volunteer. She is a foundation member of Fingal Head Community Association (FHCA), where she has been minute secretary for seven years. Her contributions to FHCA have been many, including organising and assisting with fundraisers and community events and the production of the local community newsletter. She has written applications for grants and awards for community organisations and projects and has been instrumental in Fingal Head winning many awards. Kay is convener of the Environmental Issues Subcommittee and has written submissions to all levels of government and has actively campaigned on many local and national environmental issues. Kay ensures the local community is informed and involved by organising interpretive walks, workshops, community planting days, Clean Up Australia Day, cane toad musters and birdwatching events. Kay is also an active member of the Fingal Head Heritage Collection Subcommittee and president of Fingal Head Coastcare. She assists the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council with cultural and environmental events and believes conservation is best achieved through community action and education for all—especially the

young, because they are the ‘keepers of the future’. Kay combines practical manual work with administration, organisation, campaigning, education and leadership and is very deserving of being acknowledged on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

vanessa bourne [Tamworth]

Vanessa Bourne is an extremely generous, community-focused person who has maintained a presence in many fields for the betterment of others. Since moving to Australia she has worked as a gymnastics coach at state and national level and was vice-president of the Sydney Japanese School at Terry Hills. Vanessa has also been a host parent for exchange students from a number of countries including USA, England, Norway and Japan. After moving to Tamworth, Vanessa specialised in cross-brain gymnastics coaching to improve coordination in challenged students. Vanessa and her husband have fostered a number of young people and Vanessa has been part of the Life Education Police and Community Aid Panel, a community radio presenter, an Australian Red Cross volunteer and a member of the Tamworth Australia Day Committee. Vanessa was an active blood and plasma donor until a medical condition dictated she quit. These days Vanessa spends much of her time coordinating and conducting up to 75 home and hospital visits a week for the Tamworth RSL Sub Branch. Vanessa is dedicated and passionate about her role and creates sincere relationships with all her clients. She is a valuable asset and Hidden Treasure for the sub branch and the community.

catherine boyd

[South Tweed Heads]

Catherine Boyd was born in Coogee and moved to Canberra at the age of 13 when her father took a job with the Australian War Memorial. Boyd’s Bridge and Boyd’s Bay are named after Catherine’s family. Her father sailed to Australia on the Ebenezer, which sank on the reef off the Tweed Heads bar. He adopted some of the children who had been on the boat. Catherine began volunteering when she was 15 by knitting socks, balaclavas and scarves for the war effort. She also worked in the canteen, serving soldiers refreshments. After marrying, Catherine moved to Kingscliff and began volunteering for many organisations. She loved being involved with her children’s school and worked in the canteen and served as secretary of the Parents and Citizens Committee. Catherine is a founding member of the Tweed Coast Uniting Church and is the longest-serving member of the church’s opportunity shop. Catherine has been involved with sports clubs, bowls clubs and the Tweed Hospital Auxiliary. She is a life member of the auxiliary and will mark 40 years’ service in 2016. Catherine loves people and especially likes helping those who are ill in hospital. Although in her late 80s, Catherine still helps at hospital fetes and fashion parades; she knits, sells raffle tickets and plants, helps in the kitchen and models for the fashion parade—she even modelled swimmers in a recent parade. Catherine is a Hidden Treasure who has been volunteering for 73 years and is still going strong.

sherryl broderick [Crookwell]

Sherryl Broderick was born in Frankston, Victoria and has led a full and colourful life—working and living in Darwin, Perth, Canberra and Brisbane, before settling in Crookwell where she met and married a fifth generation farmer. It is here that Sherryl has embarked on a diverse and meaningful volunteer journey to give back to her community. She began volunteering in 2000 for the local Rotary club and over the years has expanded her contributions to serve a number of different organisations. In 2006 Sherryl began assisting NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service, helping raise orphaned wombat joeys for their release back into the wild. She is a member of the management committee of Goulburn Family Support Services and Home-Start Southern Tablelands and offers practical support and friendship to local families on a weekly basis. Sherryl was instrumental in getting ethics classes started at a local primary school and was a volunteer ethics teacher in 2014. Sherryl says volunteering has provided her with personal growth, greater connections with her community, new friends, training, new skills and an understanding of governance for not-for-profit associations. Above all, Sherryl says she has discovered what people mean when they say ‘you gain more than you ever give’ through volunteering. Sherryl is a trusted and valued volunteer, dedicated to serving and advocating for each organisation she gifts her time to—a true Hidden Treasure in her community.

lesley callcott [Tamworth]

Lesley Callcott has been a lifelong volunteer for many groups and organisations. She was born in Sydney, grew up in Wollongong and has lived in Tamworth since 1969. After 40 years of full-time work at the local hospital, Lesley continues to volunteer there every week. She has been a charter member of the Tamworth Lioness Club since 1998, is an active member of the Tamworth RSL Sub Branch and driver for Oxley Community Transport. Lesley makes routine home and hospital visits, as well as assisting with major annual fundraising events for the United Hospital Auxiliary. Lesley says she volunteers ‘to help people enjoy life and give back to the community’. Her special interest in the RSL comes from her father who was a prisoner of war. Lesley is a Hidden Treasure who is showing no signs of slowing down as she continues to put her hand up to help others.

katrine capps [Cowra]

Katrine Capps has served the Cowra community for 52 years and still selflessly diverts her untiring energy for many hours each week. With her husband Don she has raised four children from a farming background to become high achievers. Katrine was a schoolteacher for 46 years and although she is retired continues to give her time to teach Scripture in primary schools and Sunday school at Cowra Uniting Church. Katrine was instrumental in establishing the Cowra Food Hall, which provides a great service to the

Cowra community and the district. From 1972 to 1985 Katrine was teacher director of the Cowra Erambie Indigenous Mission Preschool under Save the Children Fund. She cooked lunches so the children were fed and acquired a bus to pick up children for school. Katrine has taught English to many Sudanese and Vietnamese refugees who have gone on to become high achievers and still keep in touch with her. She is a passionate singer and is conductor of the Uniting Church Choir, a singer conductor of the Cowra Ladies Choir and has mentored school children in choirs and verse speaking at eisteddfods. Katrine has served for many years with the Cowra and District Senior Citizens Club, has been Croquet Committee secretary and assists her husband Don with the community volunteer driver program. She is truly deserving of recognition on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

caron casey [Goulburn]

Caron Casey was born in Goulburn and grew up in a large family. She attributes her belief in the importance of caring for others to her mother. Caron started volunteering at the age of 16 for the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, travelling to Sydney on weekends to help children with disabilities learn character building and teamwork skills through teaching them to sail. Since then, Caron has continued to lead a compassionate volunteer life both locally and abroad. Starting in 2001, Caron has helped fundraise for Frontier Services, an organisation that helps rural farmers in outback Australia by raising funds through special events like 'barbeques in the park'.

While volunteering for Home-Start Southern Tablelands—an organisation that supports young families with children under eight—Caron has achieved some amazing outcomes through her weekly home visits, strengthening bonds between mothers and their children and building confidence in parents through her gentle nature and non-judgemental approach. Caron regularly gifts her time to the elderly through the local hospital Meals on Wheels program, brightening people's day with her joyful spirit. She volunteers over 40 hours a month locally and gives time to charity organisations based in Thailand—all while studying full-time for a degree and gracefully juggling the pressures of raising seven children of her own. Caron is a truly inspirational Hidden Treasure.

gail clarke [Nimbin]

Gail Clarke was born in Melbourne in 1952. She travelled around Australia and arrived in Nimbin in 1987. Falling in love instantly, she planted her roots there and has become an integral part of the local community. Gail is a dynamo of goodwill and has the organisational skills of a champion. She has worked voluntarily in the Nimbin Soup Kitchen for 12 years without missing a day. The kitchen continues to assist and support community members who have suffered hardships in their lives. Gail has single-handedly ensured the survival of many people with her smile, support and fabulous soup. She also volunteers at the Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre and organises the Nimbin Poetry World Cup. She is a Hidden Treasure that Nimbin is very grateful for.

peg clifton [Forbes]

Peg Clifton started volunteering at Forbes North Public School Breakfast Club in 2003, helping to provide a free breakfast to students to aid their ability to learn and help improve behaviours. She also volunteers on a Wednesday for the Northside Chapel after school activities program, giving children a nutritious afternoon tea or dinner, assisting with homework, leading a variety of activities and providing social and life skills guidance. Peg also volunteers at the Forbes Christian Bookshop and Havannah House Ministry, which provides support and guidance to people who are down on their luck and need assistance and accommodation. She is always selfless with her time and works hand in hand with her husband John to give willingly to the Forbes community. Peg is a Hidden Treasure who contributes to the local economy and ensures the sustainability of essential services in Forbes.

dianne collier [Tweed Heads]

Dianne Collier—better known as Di—was born and educated in Sydney. The second eldest of eight children, she left school at the age of 14 and worked in retail before moving to Tweed Heads in 1968, where she married and had two children. At the age of 40 Di returned to study, obtained qualifications in aged care and went on to coordinate the Tweed Home Modification and Maintenance Service for eight years. Since 1990 volunteering has played a pivotal role in Di's life, beginning in aged care and then progressing

to help with mental health. She joined Mental Illness Fellowship Queensland (MIFQ) as a carer in 1997, coordinated the Elanora Carers Support Group meetings for seven years and became an accredited facilitator with MIFQ. Di continues to support, advocate for and raise awareness of carers' rights and respectfully tries to influence change for the better wherever she can. Two years ago she joined the Northern NSW Local Health District Mental Health Forum—a subcommittee of the Local Health District Board—which meets bimonthly to review, evaluate and respond to service issues. Members of the forum are people with a lived experience of mental illness, board members and senior mental health managers. Di is also an active member of the Tweed Community Mental Health Redesign Committee, Tweed Carers Support Group and the Tweed Family and Carers Reference Committee. She says while her caring journey has presented many challenges it has also allowed her to form some very strong relationships, learn new skills, help other carers, gain personal insights and remain resilient and focused on her caring role.

linda cook

[Coramba, Mid North Coast]

Linda Cook became an honorary member of the Coramba Rural Fire Brigade in 2002 after spending several years mowing and keeping an eye on the station as a neighbour. Since then she has become an invaluable member to the Coramba Brigade and the greater Mid North Coast team due to her efforts in catering, community

engagement, firefighting and fundraising. Linda is a crew leader within her brigade and has held the position of first aid officer. She is the Mid North Coast team's primary catering officer, spending most weekends catering for training, exercises and events—often single-handedly. She is an active firefighter and has been deployed out of area on several occasions, including to Victoria (Black Saturday fires) and South Australia. In addition to her involvement with the NSW Rural Fire Service, Linda spent 13 years as a leader at Girl Guides and has volunteered at Coramba Public School, first as a mother and now as a grandmother. Linda's community ethos is 'if you look after people that are in need of help, then they'll look after you in your times of need'. She is currently involved in the establishment of the Coramba Rural Fire Brigade Museum gathering photographs, stories and other memorabilia from the local community. Linda is a Hidden Treasure who shows exemplary commitment to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

rae cooper [Byron Bay]

Rae Cooper was born at Mullumbimby in 1942, living a wonderful life on a dairy farm with her twin sister. At the age of 16 Rae started working at Norco Co-op Ltd in Byron Bay, gaining experience in administration and finance, which would equip her to make amazing community achievements later in life. In 1961 Rae married the wonderful Max and they went on to have four sons. She first began volunteering at her sons' school. Rae was involved in the Parents and Citizens Committee, the tuckshop and a number of other

school activities. She was an integral member of the committee responsible for building the first preschool in Byron Bay. Following the loss of her husband to cancer in 1980 Rae's community interests focused on healthcare services. She served as a board member of the Brunswick/Byron Health Service and the Richmond District Health Service, chaired the Byron Bay Health Service Local Advisory Board, was a member of Byron Bay Health Service Redevelopment Community Fundraising Steering Committee raising \$150 000 and was a member and later chair of the Pink Ladies Byron Hospital Auxiliary, raising thousands of dollars for the local hospital. Rae's involvement in the Byron Shire Health Services Community Action Group and subsequently the Byron Central Hospital Community Reference Group has led to the near completion of the new 63-bed Byron Central Hospital at Ewingsdale. Rae is a tireless community volunteer who always says, 'my satisfaction comes from being a team player' and is a worthy addition to the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

Trudy cooper [Deepwater]

Trudy Cooper was born in Northern NSW where she attended school and now works and volunteers. She began volunteering with the Deepwater State Emergency Service (SES) nine years ago. Trudy has attended multiple rescue operations, including road and farm accidents. She is currently deputy controller of the Deepwater SES unit and has been a valuable community first responder since November 2007. As well as responding to emergencies Trudy

assists with training and checking equipment. She is known to go the extra mile to provide comfort to those experiencing misfortune and is much loved by emergency worker crews, both locally and further afield. Trudy assists with bookwork and decision-making at the unit and is a capable driver able to respond to any emergency call out. She also assists her husband in leadership roles at the local church and 'shepherds' the women in the church. She juggles all these roles while working a full-time job, 50 kilometres from her home. Trudy is definitely a Hidden Treasure.

jayne cronin [Merriwa]

Jayne Cronin is a well-known member of the Merriwa community, highly regarded for her skills as an educator, carer of young children and passion for action on local issues. Jayne is on numerous committees, including the local high school Parents and Citizens Committee and the Merriwa Library Committee. In the past she has held various committee positions with St Joseph's Primary School Parents and Friends Association, Merriwa Book Club, Merriwa Scouts and Merriwa Little Athletics Club. As a Family Day Care provider, Jayne has nurtured and taken great care of hundreds of local children and mentored many teenagers. She is patient, caring and resourceful and a great role model for adults and children alike in the community—Jayne is an outstanding candidate for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

francis crown [Canyonleigh]

Francis Crown has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) since she joined the Canyonleigh Rural Fire Brigade in 2006. She has been instrumental in planning and implementing community engagement programs at Canyonleigh and is involved in regular community meetings, women's workshops, horse workshops and putting together articles for the local newsletter. Francis shows great enthusiasm in engaging with her local community to improve its preparation and resilience for bushfires. Her volunteer contributions always go above and beyond and she is well-respected by her peers for her methodical approach. With a professional attitude and approach to volunteer duties, Francis promotes strong leadership qualities that set a high standard within the RFS community. Francis works tirelessly without expecting recognition, which makes her a worthy inclusion on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

beryl currie [Kyogle]

Beryl Currie's community achievements led to her being awarded Kyogle Quota Club Lady of the Year 2014/15. She is the typical quiet achiever; a good Samaritan and a great neighbour to the people who live in her street. Beryl's family came to Kyogle when she was very young. She married at 20 and has three children—one daughter and two sons—grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Beryl's community work covers involvement in coaching hockey in the 1960s as well as playing

for the Globes hockey team. She also used to transport children from the North Coast Children's Home to play hockey each Saturday. Beryl has worked at the local St Vincent de Paul Society opportunity shop on a regular basis and is always ready to assist with catering for funerals and other functions for the Catholic Church. She has been a regular worker at the Kyogle High School canteen and organiser of local Weight Watchers groups for a number of years in both Kyogle and Lismore. Beryl is a very unassuming and caring Hidden Treasure, having nursed her brother-in-law and in later years cared for a very sick husband and his two uncles at home until they needed to be admitted to hospital.

anne davies [Scone]

Anne Davies moved to Scone over 23 years ago to teach at Scone Grammar School, where she still works today. She quickly became involved in the Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival Committee, taking on the president role from 2010 to 2014. Anne's passion for horses prompted her to start the Scone Grammar Equestrian Team in 1996 and what began with eight students, now has 100 members. In 2002 she assumed the coordinator role for School Horse Sports Day, held in May each year. Anne continues to coordinate this event in partnership with Scone Pony Club and has established Tuesday Horse Sports, where students come to White Park each week and are instructed in showjumping and flat work. Her other volunteer interests include chairing the Scone Literary Long Weekend Committee and the Australian

Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Scone. Anne also organised the Docker family Thornthwaite cricket match in 2012 and 2014 and plans are underway for 2016. Funds raised from this community event have gone to the Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival Young Achiever Award and Scone Scott Memorial Hospital. Anne has written two children's books about a cricket-loving pig named Portia, with money raised going to the Lord's Taverners Trust and the McGrath Foundation. Her next book will raise funds for Beyond Blue. Anne is very generous with the time she contributes to her community.

jean davies [Murrurundi]

Jean Davies was a highly respected pharmacist in Murrurundi for more than 20 years and has given much of her time to community organisations. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Murravale Aged Care Facility and as the inaugural chair her volunteer contribution helped establish the initial 12-bed hostel, which has expanded to a 25-bed community-owned facility. When Jean retired, she involved herself in painting and sharing her skills with the community. As a member of the Murrurundi Arts Council she has been responsible for bringing to town some fantastic art tutors. Workshops with these respected tutors attract artists and students who would never have come to Murrurundi otherwise and the town has benefited economically and now has a name as a 'creative' town. Jean encourages and mentors local residents keen to learn painting and holds informal groups at no cost. Jean is a very active member of Scone Arts and Crafts and

quietly goes about taking workshops or single sessions with a broad range of community groups, such as school children at the Muswellbrook Regional Gallery and Murrurundi Primary School. As an artist Jean is very well-known and her works are collected within the Shire and beyond. She is a very worthy Hidden Treasures nominee.

joyce davies [Ulmarra]

Joyce Davies, who sadly passed away this year, was an amazing Hidden Treasure. Joyce was a fun-loving woman of immense energy, despite illness and age enveloping her. Joyce was the daughter of an English aristocrat and coal miner who travelled far out west to work on a remote sheep station. Joyce suffered an early loss of her mother and although her outback life was short lived she experienced and was touched by the magic of local Aboriginal people. Joyce's life is the stuff of romantic outback novels—she has always batted for the underdog, helping many people in need when it was she who really needed looking after. When Joyce moved to the North Coast she joined the Lawrence over 50s group and spent time volunteering in a range of community support activities, bringing her smile and hearty laugh into the lives of every person she met. Joyce joined the Tempamentals singing group at Lawrence and spent years making people's lives more colourful by singing to the elderly in nursing homes, at community halls and at other events. Street parades were one of her favourite things and she would often dress up and participate to help raise funds and awareness for those in need. Joyce is a Hidden Treasure who will never be forgotten.

kathleen davies [Lavadia]

Kathleen Davies has used her artwork, photography and writing to help educate others about nature, culture, history and community. For many years she worked as a guide for National Parks, value-adding to her position with many voluntary hours researching and conducting environmental education activities across Northern NSW. Her artwork and photographs are used in voluntary citizen science projects both nationally and internationally. As a journalist, Kathleen has worked throughout regional NSW, sourcing and promoting stories from communities she visited. Kathleen was group leader with the Wildlife and Native Plants Study Group within the Society for Growing Australian Plants, producing regular newsletters distributed around Australia. She has volunteered as newsletter editor for the Australasian Wildlife Management Society and with NSW Fisheries Fishcare volunteer program. Kathleen was in the first group of volunteer rangers at Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust in early 1990s and prior to that volunteered as a park worker and animal keeper at Knockrow Castle, north of Ballina, where she also painted wall murals. In the early 1990s Kathleen developed an innovative environmentally focused program at Lawrence Public School, which encouraged students to develop environmental programs and activities to teach others. She has also painted murals there, which still exist today. As a wildlife carer and rescuer, Kathleen has been involved in marine mammal rescue, wildlife surveys, field research into a variety of native birds and so much more.

megan davies [Narrabri]

Megan Davies has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in the Narrabri Rural Fire Brigade since 2009. During this time she has shown great interest in training, gaining many specialist qualifications to become an active and knowledgeable member of her brigade. In May 2013 Megan was awarded an RFS Unit Citation for Service, in recognition of her skills and operational activities. She is at times able to leave her full-time job to attend incidents during the day and also attends incidents at night. Megan has been president of her local brigade for over three years; she is a conscientious member and regular meeting participant. Megan continually assists and participates in community events when she is able. She is a true asset to the NSW RFS, the Narrabri Brigade and her community. She is worthy of being placed on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll for her community spirit and operational knowledge of a local volunteer organisation.

amorelle dempster [Maitland]

Amorelle Dempster migrated from Sri Lanka to Australia with her family in 1978 aged 19. She worked full-time and studied part-time, achieving a Bachelor of Business with a major in marketing in 1987. She worked in various positions until 2006 and then retrained to fulfil her lifelong ambition of becoming a chef and restaurant manager. She has always given her time to communities she has lived in. While living

at Gresford, Amorelle convened the inaugural Art and Craft Festival to raise money for the arts program at Gresford Public School. She helped set up and organise Gresford Grooves, a health and fitness program for over 55s that included classes in tai chi and yoga. During her time at Gresford Amorelle was also president of the Gresford Country Women's Association for four years. Currently Amorelle is the leader of Slow Food Hunter Valley and the Australian councillor on the Slow Food International Board. In this role she volunteers time to help educate people about good, clean and fair trade food. In 2014, hearing that there was shortage of food locally, Amorelle started a community food program that works with volunteers to rescue food from the farm gate that would otherwise go to waste. She uses her cafe to create tasty and nutritious meals each week that are delivered by Oz Harvest to over five charities in the local Maitland area. Amorelle is passionate about food, nutrition and good health outcomes for disadvantaged people and volunteers around 20 hours each week to help others.

nancy dimech [Picton]

Nancy Dimech is one of the most reliable and wonderful volunteers at Disability Macarthur. The organisation provides services and support for people with disabilities and Nancy has been a valuable volunteer for over eight years, building a beautiful and solid rapport with members and staff. Nancy is highly regarded by staff and is well-loved by members and their families. She volunteers up to 25 hours every week and travels

more than 25 kilometres each way to every activity, which she offers to fund out of her own pocket. It is obvious that Nancy absolutely loves and adores the members she helps support; she knows where they all come from, spanning all over the Wollondilly, Tahmoor and Picton areas and knows their personalities, their likes and dislikes and as a result how to best support them. Staff members are always grateful for her work and it is often said that programs and services would topple without volunteers like Nancy. Nancy is more vital than she knows and without a doubt a worthy candidate for the 2015 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

angela doering

[Crooble, Gwydir Valley]

Angela Doering brings warmth, wit, intelligence, humour and vision to any gathering; her generosity extends beyond her family to friends, the community and everyone's wellbeing. Originally from South Australia, Angela, Andie and their four grown children now call Crooble home. Early in her life Angela developed business and community skills through financial institution employment and significant involvement with Rural Youth (RY), holding branch and state positions. She achieved significant success through RY public speaking and debating competitions at state and national levels and this early public forum experience has been very useful in her community roles. A busy mum to four children and helping Andie run their diverse rural interests, Angela is also employed part-

time and still finds time to give to others. Pony Club, Church, Crooble Hall Committee and the local Country Women's Association all benefit from her involvement. Angela advocates for community as a councillor on the Gwydir Shire and her committee roles include Rural Roads to Recovery, Country Education Foundation, Gwydir Learning Region and Boarder Rivers Catchment Management Authority. On top of all these commitments she edits a community newsletter that touches many hearts, minds and lives. She's a real Hidden Treasure.

betty dunn [Tamworth]

Betty Dunn was born and grew up in the Tamworth region. Her mother died when she was nine and her father, stepmother and a much-loved aunt brought up Betty. Betty has been married for over 50 years to Gerard and has five daughters, 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Betty has been involved with the Tamworth Netball Association for over 40 years, initially as a parent of players, then as a committee member and active badged umpire. Over the years Betty has continued to hold various positions within the club and is still an active member today, running the control room and timing all rounds of play on the Saturday competition at the Tamworth Sports Dome. Betty's passion for the sport and her loyal and valued commitment to the Tamworth Netball Association is remarkable considering in the early years she juggled five children, a husband, employment and various other community volunteering commitments. Betty has held numerous executive positions with the club,

including vice-president, liaison officer, treasurer, state age coordinator, umpire, coach, manager, canteen manager, timekeeper, life member and patron. Betty also volunteers weekly at the local St Vincent de Paul Society, has coached life skills to students at Parry School in Tamworth, provided budget counselling within the St Vincent de Paul Roderick Centre, volunteers on the Maternity Ward at Tamworth Base Hospital and is now a full-time carer for her husband. She is indeed one of the community's Hidden Treasures.

elisabeth edwards

[Coffs Harbour]

Elisabeth Edwards found her way to Landcare shortly after arriving in Coffs Harbour in 2004. First she attended weekly working bees and soon accepted the role of site coordinator for one of the largest Landcare sites in the city, where she works on the rehabilitation of a tidal creek and associated reserves that stretch nine kilometres from the Pacific Highway to the beach. Elisabeth has significantly increased the membership of her Landcare group to include people with intellectual disabilities and mental health problems as well as long-term unemployed people. She is actively involved in the management of the local Landcare network, having spent nine years on the Executive Management Committee, first as secretary and currently as treasurer. On average, Elisabeth spends more than 20 hours each week volunteering for Landcare. A lifelong Quaker, her commitment to Landcare is largely spiritually motivated. Elisabeth's values of not being overly

attached to money, putting Christian service into action and placing others first means volunteering has always been a big part of her life. In Adelaide and later Brisbane she volunteered for a number of community organisations and taught English to refugees. Elisabeth carries out her volunteer work with professionalism and enthusiasm and as such motivates and inspires all those who work with her. She is known as 'The Legend of Coffs Creek' or 'The Madeira Vine Lady' and has received several local awards in recognition of her sterling efforts as a Landcare volunteer.

joyce edwards

[South West Rocks]

Joyce Edwards was born in Macksville and grew up on a dairy farm at Taylors Arm. She moved to Kempsey in 1951 to work for Woolworths on the counter, as a window-dresser and in ticket writing. She worked for the Jerseyville Post Office on the exchange and after she married, worked at a bakery. Joyce owned a dressmaking business for many years. She has been a volunteer at the South West Rocks Visitor Information Centre for over 30 years. Joyce has also volunteered at the South West Rocks Anglican Op Shop for 19 years. She currently does catering for funerals at the Anglican Church and a morning tea at the church every six weeks. Joyce has not shown any signs of slowing down and is about to become a volunteer with the local hospice. Joyce was crowned Miss Nambucca when she was 17 years old and 24 years ago she represented NSW in golf at Royal Canberra.

elizabeth ellis [Penrose]

Elizabeth Ellis became a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 2009, when she joined the Penrose Rural Fire Brigade. She has been involved in planning and implementing community engagement programs within the Penrose community, including regular street meetings, women's workshops, horse workshops, and contributing articles in the local newsletter. Elizabeth engages the local community to improve preparation and resilience for bushfires. Her work is always above and beyond and her professional attitude and approach to her volunteer duties promotes strong leadership qualities within the RFS community. Elizabeth's recognition on this year's Hidden Treasures Honour Roll is well-deserved.

carolyn farrow [Murrurundi]

Carolyn Farrow has been a volunteer at the Visitor Information Centre in Murrurundi for 11 years and has exceeded the meaning of 'volunteer' far and beyond the call of duty. She has put in many hours of her time organising rosters, working as a volunteer nearly every weekend, doing bookwork, banking, ordering brochures and generally keeping the centre going. If someone rings in sick, Carolyn is there. She has been treasurer for the last nine years at the Murrurundi Historical Society and has been involved in gathering information from past and present community members. She mans the museum and exhibitions as well as helps the lovely ladies at Pioneer Cottage.

Carolyn is part of the Murrurundi Landcare Tidy Towns Group (Page's River Warriors) and helps at working bees to eradicate weeds, replant vegetation and keep the Page's River a beautiful spot to visit. She approaches volunteering with diligence and quietly gets things done without expecting accolades. Carolyn deserves to be recognised as a Hidden Treasure for all her achievements.

roxayne felton [Coramba]

Roxayne Felton (better known as Roxie) began her volunteer firefighting career as a member of Eastern Dorrigo Bushfire Brigade in 1990. She served in Lowanna Rural Fire Brigade before transferring to Eastbank Rural Fire Brigade in 2000 and currently holds the positions of deputy captain, treasurer and health and safety officer. Roxie has previously held positions of brigade captain, senior deputy captain and first aid officer within her brigade. She is an active firefighter, consistently responding to incidents within the brigade area. Roxie has been involved in several major fires within the Coffs Harbour area, as well as out of area deployments to Clarence Valley and Guyra. In 1994 she fought a fire at Lowanna, which impacted on her home and the homes of several friends. She has proudly represented Coffs Harbour at both regional and state championship events across NSW. While her children were growing up Roxie was president of Lowanna Public School Parents and Citizens Committee, a volunteer hockey coach and secretary of Coffs Harbour District Hockey Association. She says volunteering has enabled her to meet new people,

learn new skills and make new friends. Roxie likens the Eastbank Rural Fire Brigade to a second family and is proud of the support the brigade provides to its members and the local community. She is a valued member of the NSW Rural Fire Service and has been awarded the Long Service Medal for 20 years' active service.

helen fenning [Bruyton]

Helen Fenning is a highly committed volunteer and the work she has done in her local community is amazing. Helen has been a member of her local fire brigade for almost 30 years and other members often say they wouldn't be able to do their job without her. Helen has helped start a community garden at the local hall and is heavily involved in community engagement with local residents and school children, often doing talks and fun activities at Bruyton Public School. Helen is always there for people, whether they need a hand physically or emotionally and is a great person to talk to, especially for fellow firefighters who are affected by the things they see. Helen deserves to be honoured as a Hidden Treasure for her valued service.

judith fountain [Crookwell]

Judith Fountain has been a member of the Crookwell Lions Club for 10 years, working hard to fundraise for the community and catering for many events. She is often seen in the street selling tickets for raffles on cold days. Cooking

late into the night before an event, Judith is often the first on site to set up and get going. Judith is the current club treasurer and has not missed a meeting in years. She is a member of the NSW Rural Fire Brigade and is known for her dedication to preparing meals for many cadets and members. She is always there for brigade members and people in the community and makes a worthy Hidden Treasures Honour Roll candidate.

narelle fuller [South Kempsey]

Narelle Fuller was born in Kempsey and spent the first nine years of her life at Telegraph Point in the Hastings Shire before moving to Sydney, then to Port Macquarie and later returning to Kempsey when she married a local. Narelle volunteers at the Kempsey Visitor Information Centre each Friday and has been part of the team for five years. She has been treasurer of Kempsey Tennis Club for 16 years. During the 1980s Narelle spent two years teaching art to disabled children through the local Neighbourhood Centre as part of Respite Care. She has also spent time volunteering for Meals on Wheels and is a Hidden Treasure that Kempsey is proud to call one of its own.

trish galloway [Wagga Wagga]

Trish Galloway is a real Hidden Treasure. She was born in 1950, the third of seven Ridley children who grew up on a farm called Malebo Park near Wagga Wagga. Trish grew up watching her mum

Pat give lovingly to her family and the community. Pat served with the Country Women's Association (CWA) for 35 years and was the first Euberta Branch president. Like her mum, Trish has a big heart for others and seeks no recognition. She has been a member of the Euberta CWA for two decades, holding various positions and working to uphold the organisation's values. Trish is a true community stalwart, passionately organising fundraisers for causes such as the local Euberta Hall. This is a place of special meaning to Trish and others in the community who are keen to see it preserved and used by future generations. Trish has held many local volunteering roles over the years and even helped write Malebo Memories, a history book about the area. Trish has provided a listening ear to many over a cuppa and is someone the community know they can always rely on. Her family credit her with always putting their needs and ambitions before her own and say her guidance has made them what they are today.

jo gibson [Ellalong]

Jo Gibson grew up on a horse farm in north-east Victoria. Her first job was with the Victorian School Dental Services, travelling to remote areas in a mobile dental van treating children who weren't able to access services and providing treatment to children with disabilities. While employed by the School Dental Service Jo volunteered three days a week at a local disability workshop. Jo travelled extensively in her early 20s and while living in London obtained her English teaching certificate and taught English there. She went to the Middle East and volunteered with young Bedouin children

in Egypt and Israel. Jo married later in life and became stepmother to four beautiful children. She now lives in Ellalong in the Hunter Valley. Jo has studied as a life coach and helped many young people, some with mental health issues. Recently Jo has been helping young children with issues through workshops involving her horse Judy. For the last couple of years she has volunteered in fundraising projects for Mai-Wel, a Maitland based organisation, which provides a wide range of opportunities for people with disabilities. Jo is also involved with a number of charities, including Rotary. She has always enjoyed working in roles that help others improve their lives, particularly those less fortunate and those who struggle to access services due to disabilities or distance.

sally harris [Willow Tree]

Sally Harris is studying at University of New England to become a teacher. She joined the Willow Tree Country Women's Association (CWA) when she was nine years of age and has been a volunteer steward for the Namoi Group Land Cookery Day, which involved assisting judges, setting up and catering for the event. This was an eye opener for Sally as she discovered how much work volunteers do. Most recently she had the opportunity to volunteer for the CWA International Day, catering for and engaging with Willow Tree Primary School students and talking to and integrating with CWA members. Every Easter and Christmas Sally helps the local Driver Reviver program, which aims to prevent driver fatigue and provides a break for people travelling a long way for the holidays. As part of her volunteer work she

always looks forward to helping run the chocolate wheel at the local Bowling Club. During 2015 Sally has been volunteering with Upper Mooki Landcare Group and is involved in a new event, Farming with Jimmy. In June 2015, Sally assisted with the 100 Mile Dinner, where she enjoyed sharing local products, helped showcase what the region has to offer and established a Facebook page to get the group's information online.

janice haynes [Howlong]

Janice Haynes was born in Melbourne in 1932. Her first employment was in the office of an engineering firm. Jan is the mother of five children and stepmum to three. She moved to Howlong and began voluntary service in the local community in the 1990s. She made enormous contributions to Hunger Busters, the Hume Shire Council weight loss and walking group and after the council funding finished she volunteered to run the program and use her own resources until the Senior Citizens Group could purchase equipment. In 2004 she started a walking and coffee group that is still well-attended. Jan also assisted in starting up a weekly Continuing Education Group, which has evolved into The Howlong Lifelong Learning Group. More than two decades later she continues to open the hall, prepare morning tea, help with activities and is always last to leave. She is a confidant to many women who are struggling in caring roles and need friendship and encouragement. Jan and her husband Graeme have been working members of the Howlong Citizens Group for over 20 years and Jan organised and called bingo for seniors at

the Howlong Country Golf Club for 17 years and continues to assist with Tuesday evening bingo. She assisted with Meals on Wheels for Hume shire for 10 years and assisted with emergency and medical transport for seniors until she downsized her car. She is a proud foundation member of The Probus Club of Howlong, supporting Graeme who was the initial president and is now a life member. Jan is a wonderful Hidden Treasure of Howlong.

julie herridge [Forbes]

Julie Herridge connected with Havannah House—an Anglicare facility providing accommodation and support to people in need—when her life was at a very low ebb. She was willing to take the steps necessary to make changes in her life to improve her situation and this began a journey of building a strong relationship with God and also reaching out to others who come to Havannah House for help. Julie was part of the establishing team of volunteers that created Beth Eden Greeting Cards, a business that supports Havannah House Ministries. She is now in charge of the printing and packaging of these cards, which are sold all over Australia. Through her own life journey Julie has been able to help many other people who have needed assistance from Havannah House. She is willing to share her story to encourage others to persevere and look to God as well as seek help from other agencies, service providers and medical practitioners. Julie delights in the fact that she is responsible for printing words of encouragement that are sent out worldwide to people who may be in difficult situations needing the same encouragement she

needed and found. She is now focused on helping others no matter what their journey has been and is an inspirational Hidden Treasure.

annamaria hector [Mollymook]

Annamaria Hector was born in and grew up in Hungary, where she lived with her grandmother and went to work at the age of 14. She came to Australia at the age of 18 and worked as a model for two years. Annamaria married and had one daughter. She now she has four grandchildren. Annamaria moved to the South Coast with her husband, who was an active member of Community Transport Aid but unfortunately became ill and passed away. Annamaria has volunteered for the local Cancer Support Group for 20 years and the Sarah Clayton Op Shop for the last 14 years, raising funds for the local retirement village. Four years ago she began volunteering with the Community Resources Centre and associated food store. Annamaria is a great volunteer who is willing to do any job, large or small. She recently got her driver licence, which means this Hidden Treasure is now helping even more people.

margaret hodgson OAM [Copmanhurst]

Margaret Hodgson's career spans more than 40 years with the Gibraltar Range National Park, where she worked closely with her husband Roly Paine within the NSW National Parks Service.

She grew up in the Hunter where she worked as graphic artist and now calls Copmanhurst her home. Margaret has a rustic art studio, where she imparts her wealth of knowledge and skills to visitors. She has made many plant discoveries and alerted scientists to recognising the Gibraltar Waratah as a different species. Margaret's work has involved identifying and illustrating a wide range of Australian wildflowers, as well as illustrating wildlife and Indigenous spiritual connections to country. She was honoured for her service to the Arts as an illustrator and author with an Order of Australia Medal in 2010. Margaret has published several wildflower and orchid guidebooks, which are distributed worldwide, a young adult novel and has provided numerous inclusions as an artist in other publications. Margaret continues to produce and exhibit incredible artworks and recently restarted her series of workshop classes in botanical art. Over the decades Margaret has donated her artworks and time to many community projects.

anne hopwood [Orange]

Anne Hopwood was born in Egypt, grew up in England and studied to be a nanny at the famous Norland School. As a young woman she travelled to the United States and then Australia, where she settled. Anne has been a key player in the establishment of Food Care Orange and is passionate about assisting people in need. Run by volunteers, Food Care provides affordable, quality food, groceries and household items to individuals and families on low incomes. Anne assists with strategic planning, capturing

statistics, promotions and day-to-day operations of the centre. She has been involved in the Care West Board and was chair for a number of years. Under her leadership, this organisation had significant growth, expanding the diversity of projects available. Anne has a keen interest in community housing and was a board member of Housing Plus. After her retirement from Orange City Council, Anne established Pinnacle Partnerships, which provides consultancy services in the area of community services, in particular working with the not-for-profit sector, assisting them to source funding and seek workable solutions. Anne is a passionate, dedicated woman who is spending her retirement years helping others in need and deserves to be recognised on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll for her continued efforts.

betty hopwood [East Kempsey]

Betty Hopwood is a Hidden Treasure who was born and raised in Kempsey. Her father owned a market garden and she spent many a day helping to grow peas, potatoes and other vegetables, along with making deliveries to customers. Betty was manager of a local school canteen when her children were young and volunteers at Lifeline in Kempsey every Wednesday. She is a life member of Meals on Wheels, having volunteered there since it started in Kempsey over 50 years ago, and still helps out once a month. Betty also volunteered at the Kempsey Visitor Information Centre for around 20 years and is a life member of the Crescent Head Golf Club and is proud of achieving a hole in one three times.

coleen houston [Hay]

Coleen Houston personifies the words Hidden Treasure. While away at boarding school her father had a stroke and Coleen gave away any desire for a career to come home and run the family property at Nyngan. Coleen once mentioned that because she was a girl much younger than the men working on the place, she would never ask them to do anything she wouldn't or couldn't do herself. Later she married and brought up two children and is now a grandmother of four. She has been on The Bishop's Lodge Committee for 27 years and ran the Lodge Spring Market for 10 years. Coleen was convenor of the Heritage Roses in Australia 2005 National Conference, has been president of the Chaffey Rose Club and Riverina Women's Club Committee and a keen member of Sing Australia, Hay. Coleen's unwavering support of her husband is her unsung achievement. He continues to be a very active community member and Coleen has enabled him to maintain his community activities by hosting, flower arranging and catering, sometimes with as little as a moment's notice, for his many pursuits, including Isolated Children's Parents' Association, the Uniting Church and Dunera Museum. There are many in Hay who in times of need have received a cake or casserole from Coleen who is a true, loyal and caring country woman.

beverly hughes [Narrandera]

Bev Hughes was born in Melbourne and moved to Narrandera in 1964 with her husband and daughter before having three more children. She joined Soroptimists, a women's service club, as a foundation member in 1980. The club supports many local and international charities through its fundraising and community efforts. Bev has held the positions of club president and secretary on several occasions and was Riverina secretary for two years. At present she is club secretary, club IT liaison and publicity officer. In 2011 Bev was awarded club life membership. Bev also volunteers at the local hospital, assisting with an exercise program for community members who have cardiopulmonary problems. Bev has served on the Narrandera Race Club Committee for 20 years and assists with the running of race days through selling raffle tickets, preparing the venue and organising sustenance for jockeys and officials. Bev joined the Narrandera Pony Club in 1976 and has held the position of secretary on many occasions and served two years as Riverina Zone president, where she was involved in organising and running regional camps, events, working bees and mapping and preparing the cross-country course for competitors. Bev also served as camp matron for many years and was awarded a life membership.

cheryl hunter

[St Georges Basin]

Cheryl Hunter is a remarkable woman with the most cheery disposition. She works at the Shoalhaven Basketball Association and is constantly contributing volunteer hours assisting on projects and making people feel inclusive and safe within the basketball community. Cheryl is family oriented but will assist with any project (especially involving children) without payment or time limit. She will jump on board and assist a stranger in need without seeking compensation or even telling them her name. Cheryl is truly a community-minded person. Cheryl will do all she can do assist people achieve their goals and dreams and often drags in her lovely husband to use his building skills to help in the community. He has assisted Cheryl with many projects over the years and supports her giving nature. Cheryl is peaceful, serene and very hard working; if she can't do something, she will assist in finding someone who can. The Shoalhaven is very fortunate to have the commitment of a Hidden Treasure like her.

lana ivashanko [Conjola Park]

Lana Ivashanko was born in 1965 in Sydney and grew up in Bexley. She worked in a range of fields including a job at Flemington Markets, which meant getting up each morning at 3 am. Lana has volunteered for the Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Centre for approximately two years, is involved

in the Home Visiting Scheme with Anglicare and has continued to volunteer for other projects in her community. Lana is always willing to help where she can with the Ulladulla and Districts Community Resources Centre and has been instrumental in updating directories, providing computer tuition and helping others. She has a wealth of knowledge and is truly one of the areas' Hidden Treasures!

carole johnston [Aberdeen]

Carole Johnston lives in the small rural town of Aberdeen. A tireless worker, she is a founding member of Aberdeen Community Caring, an amazing group of volunteers who have raised thousands of dollars for the community. Carole has been a driving force behind fundraising activities and is very passionate about enhancing her community for residents of all ages. She has been actively involved in fundraising and social activities with the local preschool and getting playground equipment for the recreation precinct. Another highlight of Carole's giving spirit has been her role in starting the Golden Oldies Seniors Days held at St Joseph's High School. Most recently Carole was the instigator and organiser of care packages sent to troops serving overseas. She has also volunteered countless hours at Aberdeen Treasures, a very well used op shop in town. Carole set up a group called

The Cackle Club—a ladies' equivalent of a Men's Shed—which is a very important social outing for those involved. Through her involvement in this long list of community projects, Carole has made a significant impact on this small township.

margaret jopling [Aldavilla]

One of Margaret Jopling's great passions is her work with the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) in Kempsey. For over 15 years she has tutored young people to improve their literacy and numeracy so they can return to school or enter a TAFE course. Margaret also helps with reception, vacation care and other activities. She is on the PCYC Advisory Committee and helps as a maths mentor. Margaret's patience, caring, dedication and absolute commitment to overcoming disadvantaged students' welfare gives their lives meaning and richness. Margaret worked as a respite coordinator at Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation in the 1980s and 1990s. She is vice-president of Kempsey University of the Third Age and has been a class leader for many years, teaching classes in table tennis, squash, swimming, walking and maths. Margaret has always been a keen swimmer and was the local swim club treasurer and secretary for many years. She continues as a committee member, still teaches swimming and despite being in her 70s has won medals in Masters Championships. Sport has played a large role in Margaret's life and she has used her love of education, the outdoors and physical activity to give back to her community. She was an organiser for the Kempsey RSL Ladies Squash Club and is a life member and

current committee member of Kempsey Table Tennis Club. Margaret has been a volunteer at the Kempsey Museum for 15 years and volunteers at the Kempsey Visitor Information Centre. She has received many awards for her full-time volunteering and is an absolute Hidden Treasure in this community.

carole keast

[Tweed Heads South]

Carole Keast was born in Dumbarton, Scotland. When she was three her family moved to Australia and she has lived in Canberra and various parts of Western Australia and NSW. Carole has two children and has been involved in volunteering wherever she has lived. She has worked with Meals on Wheels, facilitated regional parenting programs and worked within disability services. Carole has had a variety of jobs, including truck driving, workplace training, business management, employment consultancy and her own online business. She became a volunteer of the Northern NSW Local Health District Mental Health Forum two years ago. This subcommittee of the Local Health District Board meets bimonthly to review, evaluate and respond to service issues. Carole has been a very active member joining short-term working parties and using her extensive computer skills to assist with developing resources for those using mental health services. She has a passion for empowering consumer choices and supporting change. Carole is also on a couple of committees looking at redesigning local mental

health services. Of particular interest and focus for her at present is the new Byron Central Hospital Non-Acute In-Patient Unit for which she reads and researches extensively to gain wider understanding and inform her contributions.

anne kelly [East Maitland]

Anne Kelly is an amazing, capable and inspiring woman who has lived in Maitland since the 1980s. She has undertaken a lot of voluntary work in the community. Anne has been on the executive of a number of Maitland committees including Maitland Public School Parents and Citizens Association and Maitland Regional Art Gallery Society. She was coordinator of Science Week from 1989 to 1992 and a member of the Maitland Art Prize Committee of Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association Ltd. She has been a member of the Maitland Bicentenary Committee, Maitland Regional Art Gallery Functions Committee, Premiere of the Peter Fenton Les Darcy Film and Book Committee, Hunter Valley Steamfest Committee, is on the National Trust Grossmann House Committee Functions Committee and is the fundraising organiser for Hunter Valley Slow Food Committee. Anne is deputy head at Telerah Public School and also organiser of environmental and living skills projects, Breakfast Club, Science Week and the Stephanie Alexander Garden Program.

joy kim [Woongarrah]

Joy Kim is the founder of the Korean Women's Group at Kanwal Community Centre. Over the past three years she has organised all meetings, community volunteering activities and helped Korean women settle into the Central Coast with genuine warmth, compassion and kindness. She has also worked as a volunteer helper for the elderly in the community. Joy was born in South Korea, grew up in Seoul and worked as a businesswoman before she met and married her Australian husband. She has an eight-year-old daughter and has lived on the Central Coast for more than eight years. Joy is empathetic, kind-hearted and sacrifices a lot of her time and energy to provide support wherever and whenever she is called upon. She is a very generous and giving Hidden Treasure who puts others before herself all the time.

muriel king [Scone]

Muriel King grew up on a property in Middlebrook Valley near Scone, completing her intermediate certificate at Scone High School. She spent the next few years working at the family dairy farm before taking a carers job in Port Macquarie. She married Bill, a war veteran, and moved to his soldier settler block in Condobolin where they raised two children. Muriel and Bill moved back to Scone in 1979, where she quickly became involved in a range of community activities. Muriel joined the Scone Art and Crafts Centre and has been a member ever since. She also opened

her home as a meditation space. Muriel opened an art studio and in 1990 was involved in the establishment of a very successful local artist exhibition which now runs every May during the Scone Horse Festival. She is involved in planting and caring for numerous plants and shrubs along median strips in the streets adjacent to her home and visitors often comment on these impressive floral displays. For the past 17 years, Muriel has been the motivator behind all the residents in her street decorating their homes with Christmas lights and displays, bringing great joy to hundreds of people. Muriel's contributions to this community have been invaluable.

patricia law [Lightning Ridge]

Pat Law moved to Lightning Ridge with her husband Derek in 1982 and ran a local gift and souvenir shop. Pat has always been involved in community work and volunteering and was president of the Tourist Association, volunteered for the Visitors Information Centre and joined the local branch of Soroptimists International in 1983. Pat helped to establish and support domestic violence services, a safe house for women, the Funeral Advisory Committee and other community services and scholarships for disadvantaged kids. In the 1980s Pat joined the Walgett Hospital Board and helped raise funds for essential medical equipment and the new Lightning Ridge Hospital. Pat has always lobbied for improvements to services at Lightning Ridge and deserves to be acknowledged as a Hidden Treasure for her lifelong passion and drive to get things done in her local community.

laurel leabeater [Lyndhurst]

Laurel Leabeater was born in Canowindra in 1933 and was educated first at Canowindra and then at the Carcoar Convent where she was a boarder. She married and moved to Lyndhurst in 1954 and has worked avidly for and been extremely supportive of all the village charities. Laurel has been involved with the Australian Red Cross for many years and has been a member of the local VIEW Club, Lyndhurst Rodeo, Women's Rural Access, Mandurama Tennis Club and Lyndhurst School Parents and Citizens Committee. Laurel has worked continually for the Country Women's Association, Lyndhurst Memorial Hall and Lyndhurst Craft Group. She started a craft group in 1979 with six people and now there are 20 members from all around the district who come together to make rugs and clothes for various charities. The Craft Group supports Kids with Cancer, Samaritans Purse, Boys off the Street, Salvation Army and Wrapped with Love.

susan lewis [Scone]

Sue Lewis was born in Mudgee where she went to the local primary school followed by boarding school in Sydney. She worked in the city until her marriage saw her move around NSW and Queensland. Sue's volunteer life began in the early 1980s when her husband joined the Gilgandra Lions Club and she helped out at their many fundraising days. When ladies were eligible to join Lions Sue became a member, holding the position of president and was secretary for 14

years at three different clubs. Sue has also been secretary of Quota and Tooraweenah Show and secretary-treasurer of small tennis clubs. After moving to Scone in 1996, she became involved in the Country Women's Association, of which she has been a member for 50 years. She has been group handicraft officer for three years and branch treasurer for the last seven years. Sue has been secretary of the Friends of Strathearn for many years—a small group of ladies who raise money to buy comfort items for residents of the local nursing home. She is a member of the Ladies Probus Club and Inner Wheel in Scone. Sue is always willing to assist people and any organisation with their fundraising.

yvonne lightfoot [Glen Innes]

Yvonne Lightfoot joined Girl Guides in 1952 and then joined the Voluntary Aid Department before doing her nursing training in 1960. She became a member of the Christian Nurses Movement, taking older or disabled people on outings and worked with the Red Cross Blood Bank. Despite her own challenges, Yvonne has cheerfully carried out her mission of helping others. In 1978 Yvonne began working at the Glen Innes Sheltered Workshop and has helped other similar enterprises for over 35 years. Yvonne has provided many years of intensive, 24-hour nursing care to relatives (there are often two or three people in her own home) as well as special care to disabled neighbours. She has given special care unselfishly to all who are in need, taking people to doctor's appointments, helping with animals and household chores, providing meals and whatever else needs to be

done. Yvonne is a fundraiser for the Million Paws RSPCA program, which trains dogs as companions for elderly and disabled people. She has been a Meals on Wheels volunteer for 35 years and touched many lives with her love and kindness. Yvonne is a Hidden Treasure to many.

kathleen (kate) longergan

[Cootamundra]

Over the past 35 years Kate Longergan has fostered children, including most recently caring for a three-week-old baby until she was eight months old. She has been a volunteer for various organisations in Cootamundra, including Junior League, Senior League, Eloura School Blue Light Disco, Palliative Support, Family Support, Southern Cross Retirement Village, Soup Kitchen and Meals on Wheels. Kate was born in Murrumburrah and moved to Cootamundra 54 years ago when she married Doug. They have two sons and six grandchildren. At the age of 52 Kate graduated with a Diploma of Education and Habitation and worked at Kain House Group Home in Cootamundra. At 73 Kate is not slowing down and continues to give several hours each week to volunteering.

peta luke

[Merriwa]

Peta Luke was born in Melbourne and started volunteering in 1996 as a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). Two years later she became a NSW Emergency Services (SES)

volunteer. During her studies in Sydney, Peta continued SES volunteering while also serving as member of and volunteer leader for the Scout Association of Australia. In 2006 Peta moved to Merriwa and joined the Merriwa SES Unit where she has held the position of unit controller and led up to 15 rescue specialists. Peta also joined the Merriwa Volunteer Rescue Association, becoming a qualified State Rescue Board rescue operator with the Merriwa Rescue Squad. She has also maintained her involvement with the RFS and in 2011 was promoted to captain of Merriwa Rural Fire Brigade. This has provided her with the opportunity to undertake a graduate leadership program and use her leadership and management skills to support the Merriwa community. Peta is married to Andrew and they have two children, William and Thomas.

marilyn mcgregor

[Tamworth]

Marilyn McGregor is a tireless volunteer for Friends of Marsupial Park (FOMP), managing the day-to-day running of the Tamworth Marsupial Park. She volunteers her time several days a week and is FOMP treasurer. Marilyn also manages teams of volunteers, looking after all park assets, including public amenities and the care and feeding of animals. Marilyn oversees external stakeholder programs, including Green Army and Work For The Dole programs, hosted at the park. She also writes grant applications and is the principal planning organiser and driving force behind family fun days at the park, which attract over 500 children. Marilyn is central to the success of the park, which is now officially

Tamworth's number one tourist destination on TripAdvisor. Without Marilyn this facility would not be the free-entry park it is today, attracting people in their thousands and helping to create a strong sense of community.

joan mcnaughton [Cessnock]

Joan McNaughton was born and raised in Cessnock and her love for community is evident in the amount of voluntary work she is involved in. When Joan married Reg they owned a pastry shop where she developed a love for cooking. Joan is a very active member of St John's Anglican Church, preparing for the early morning service each Sunday. She is a member of the church's Mothers' Union and their craft classes. She provides cakes and slices for the church's funeral catering when needed and is an active member of Cessnock VIEW Club, which supports The Smith Family with their education programs for underprivileged children. Joan organises lunches and fundraises for VIEW's three Learning for Life students while also volunteering for Meals on Wheels. She is a Pink Lady at Cessnock District Hospital and whenever called upon provides baked goods without hesitation. During the April 2015 floods Joan provided meals for affected residents. She is the mother of two children, a proud grandmother and more recently a great-grandmother. Joan is a remarkable Hidden Treasure who never expects recognition for her kindness.

myra mcphie [Berridale]

Myra McPhie is a worthy 2015 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll nominee because of the contributions she has made to the Monaro community over many years through farming, teaching and her church. Myra was born in Grong Grong in 1941 and moved with her family to Leeton in 1944. She taught at Leeton until she married Lindon Scarlett and moved to Berridale in 1963 where they bought a farm and raised two sons, Warwick and Andrew. Myra and Lindon joined others to establish Cooma Technical College. While Myra was pregnant with their daughter Penny in 1972 Lindon was killed in a tractor accident. Myra took over the running of the farm with help from family. She married again, in 1977, to Keith McPhie and had another son, Charles. Myra is renowned on the Monaro for the casseroles and cakes she makes to raise money for the Berridale Anglican Church where she plays the organ once a month and has been treasurer for three years. She has had a long association with Berridale Tennis club and after retirement made a big contribution to school children through Reading Recovery, a special program aimed at assisting children who are struggling to become proficient readers. Myra is also part of the support group at the Berridale Aged Hostel. She is never too busy to help where she can—a true Hidden Treasure.

pamela mcrae [Suffolk Park]

Pam McRae has been a volunteer for numerous charities in her local community over the years. She was an inaugural member of the first charter of Quota in Byron Bay and her enthusiasm and zest ensured success in the early period. Pam is a talented seamstress and craftswoman and uses her talents as a volunteer at Camp Quality, assisting children with cancer. She has supported other cancer services, in particular Daffodil Day. When the local aged care provider Feros needed a treasurer Pam used her bookkeeping experience to support this operation until it closed. Pam was a Cubs leader for about 30 years and also participated at district level. She spent many hours and weeks to help facilitate 100 years of the Cubs in Byron Bay. Pam helped establish a weekly craft and sewing group that contribute to charities overseas and locally. She joined the United Hospital Auxiliary in 2000 and took on the roll of treasurer and has been in the role since. Pam shows a willingness to support others, does not seek special accolades or recognition and is certainly a Hidden Treasure.

heather mann [Forbes]

Heather Mann is one of the most caring and compassionate people in the Forbes community. She has volunteered at House With No Steps for many years, providing support for people with a disability and enabling them to live a good life as a valued member of their community. Heather has been volunteering at Jemalong Aged Care Service since 1979, assisting with activities for residents; she provides friendship and company, helps with excursions, personal hygiene and grooming and much more. Heather has volunteered since 1985 in a similar capacity at Mater Aged Care, which caters for a larger number of high-dependency patients. Heather has also been selflessly giving her time at the local Christian Bookshop for more than 10 years. She has also assisted Kairos Prison Ministry for 14 years as part of 16 outreach teams. Heather has been sewing for and packaging Samaritans Purse Christmas boxes for 12 years and has provided nutritious meals to Havannah House for 10 years. Her cooking skills are well-known in the community and greatly appreciated by many. Heather also gives her time to transport people to medical appointments in Orange, more than 100 kilometres away.

katrina moffat [Forster]

Katrina Moffat is one of the most caring volunteers in the Forster area. She is always first to lend a helping hand with anything. Katrina she is a very dedicated State Emergency Services member who does anything to help other members and the public.

leisa moody [Binda]

In 2010 Leisa Moody started a Facebook page to help women, men and children suffering from domestic violence. The page offers support, links, advice and more. Despite her own disabilities Leisa continues to help others in need and even rescued some dogs recently and gave them new homes. She deserves a medal for all she does. She is a big-hearted, one-of-a-kind Hidden Treasure.

helen mortimore [Bathurst]

Helen Mortimore grew up in Yetholme and completed her schooling in Bathurst. Helen—or Kempy as she is affectionately known—was one of nine children. She started working in banks at an early age. She married Donald in 1978 and moved several times while raising their children Anthony, Don and Karen. With each bank posting she took Helen also took on a volunteering role at the local school and local hospital. In 2003 she won Parent of the Year for her involvement

in Kelso High School Parents and Citizens Association. Helen has been a volunteer and treasurer with the Bathurst Hospital Auxiliary for the past 10 years and works with other volunteers to run the hospital lolly shop, monthly market stall and annual fete. She spends many hours selling raffle tickets. As the Bathurst Hospital Auxiliary treasurer Helen loves raising money and writing cheques for much-needed equipment. Helen makes the hospital a better place and everyone appreciates the important role she takes on in fundraising. She is one of Bathurst's best Hidden Treasures.

erica nelson [Port Macquarie]

Erica Nelson's volunteering includes being manager of the NSW Combined Girls High School Cricket Team that toured the UK and South Africa. Her involvement as a passionate public speaker promoting breast cancer research and awareness also deserves high mention. Erica has also been the NSW Bravehearts education manager, volunteering her time to promote child protection in NSW. In 2012 Erica retired to Port Macquarie and became involved in the Mid North Coast Bravehearts Committee. Their huge Port Macquarie public awareness breakfasts attract up to 300 people, creating massive public awareness for child protection in the region. Erica's teaching background has greatly assisted the NSW Bravehearts education team on their tours of schools and she has developed and established many positive and enduring relationships with local schools and community groups. Erica has also organised many child protection workshops

in the region and has inducted and trained many volunteers. She has done so much to make Australia safer for children and deserves to be called a Hidden Treasure.

kylie parry [Coonamble]

Kylie Parry is truly dedicated to family, business and community. Her will to provide for her community shines through her family's veterinarian practice, which provides home visits for the elderly. Her well-respected practice reaches from Coonamble, north-west into Walgett, to Lightning Ridge and beyond. Her involvement over many years in the local school Parents and Friends Association saw her lead the way in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars towards equipment and resources. Kylie is an active member of a number of volunteer groups and gives freely of her time to all organisations, including Meals on Wheels, Touch Footy, Netball, Quilters, Rotary and the Show Society. Her passion to help others was highlighted this year when she arranged a fundraising get-together over a social cricket tournament to raise funds for the Combara Village Hall. A large amount of funds were raised and spirits lifted during this difficult, dry time for farmers and graziers. Kylie undertook the mammoth task of researching and recording 641 personal details of World War 1 servicemen and women from the Coonamble district. This collage of information, photos and poppies of each individual soldier was displayed at the local show and generously donated to

the RSL. She is a passionate and well-respected community member and one of Coonamble's Hidden Treasures.

gillian paterson [Murrurundi]

Gill Paterson is a person who has a passion for organising and getting things done. She works tirelessly to make Murrurundi a better and more interesting place to live. Gill is secretary of the local Arts Council and without her many projects would not happen. As well as dealing with huge amounts of correspondence, Gill's behind the scenes work to set up (and take down) artworks for the Murrurundi Art Prize and other exhibitions is legendary. Gill is involved in the organisation of Opera Murrurundi and was a long-term and valued member of the Murrumbidgee Community Choir. She has had major roles in three productions of Faulty Towers produced by St Paul's Supper Club to raise funds for the church roof restoration. Gill is an active member of the Murrurundi Community Leader's Forum and has been involved in Tidy Towns for many years, chaperoning assessors to show them the best of Murrurundi. She is also involved in Landcare Tidy Towns initiatives and is a regular for Clean Up Australia Day. Gill is an extremely talented visual artist and very encouraging and supporting of others. She has completed public art installations of pavement art in Murrurundi and Scone and conducted a workshop and installation for the award-winning 2013 Rural Women's Gathering. Gill runs a property where she has converted a barn into a bed and breakfast and also chaperones guests for special events in

Murrurundi such as International Women's Day and Australia Day. She is a long-term member of Warrah Writers and is currently writing her memoirs. Gill is an energetic, vital woman who simply wants the best for her community. She always turns up and gets things done.

nikki patten [Forbes]

Nikki Patten constantly inspires her friends through her volunteering. She gives 110 per cent, donating her time and expertise without question. Nikki is a wonderful supporter of children and is involved in many committees. She was the Forbes Toy Library president for seven years and during this time organised a lot of donations to the local women's refuge. Nikki has been the Rhyme Time coordinator for seven years, which involves teaching mums how to connect with their babies through nursery rhymes and opening children's minds to a large variety of pre-literacy and pre-numeracy resources. She is currently the St Laurence's School Parents and Friends events coordinator and has also been a presenter at mothers groups and playgroups for the last five years, educating attendees on the benefits and advantages of involving themselves and their babies in the community activities Forbes offers. Nikki is a local Hidden Treasure who promotes her community at every opportunity.

elizabeth philpott

[Boambee East]

Liz Philpott joined Repton Rural Fire Brigade in 2001. She is an active firefighter who has held the positions of brigade captain, secretary, permit officer, training officer and first aid officer for Repton Brigade. Liz has a passion for learning and development and is a member of the Mid North Coast Team Training Committee. In 2012 the Rural Fire Service Association awarded Liz with the Chris Lord Memorial Scholarship to undertake a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, which has given Liz the courage to pursue her love of teaching. She takes great pride in her role of coordinator, instructor and assessor for local first aid and firefighter courses. Liz is also committed to community engagement, is a member of the Mid North Coast Team Community Engagement Committee and has delivered successful engagement programs at local primary schools and preschools. Liz is often involved in events within her local community and is currently assisting with a mentoring program for students at Coffs Harbour Jetty High School. She was awarded the Long Service Medal for 10 years of active service in 2012 and has recently been given life membership to the Repton Brigade. Liz shows admirable dedication to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

jean price [Merriwa]

Jean Price moved to Merriwa six years ago and quickly became involved in numerous community organisations. As a retired accountant, her skill with numbers was quickly recognised and she was snapped up as treasurer for the Merriwa Country Women's Association (CWA). Jean is involved in numerous school activities and street stalls and is an active volunteer with the Merriwa Show Society, Merriwa Driver Reviver and is the cultural officer and a councillor with Merriwa CWA. She is happy to help out at the local 'Messy' Church and cooks regularly for fetes and street stalls to raise money for various causes. Prior to moving to Merriwa, Jean lived on the coast in Wootton where she was very involved in redeveloping the tennis courts, Girl Guides, Lions Club and school activities. In her many years as an accountant, Jean was state president of the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women for two years. Jean is very worthy of recognition as a Hidden Treasure!

rhonda richardson [Trangie]

Rhonda Richardson was born and educated in Christchurch, New Zealand. After graduating from Teachers College she taught in Orange, then Dubbo. In 1979 she married a farmer and moved to Trangie where she embraced country life and the rural community wholeheartedly. In between helping run a family farming partnership and raising two children Rhonda taught for many years as director of Trangie Preschool and at St

John's Primary School. She constantly volunteered for many organisations, including the Preschool Board, Mothers Club, Cancer Support Group, Country Women's Association (CWA), Trangie Health Council, Anglican and Catholic Churches, Rugby Union, Rugby League, ANZAC day, Quilting and Local Community Transport. Rhonda has held garden days, weddings and cancer fundraisers in her own garden. She was involved in Quilts for Mothers of Stillborn Babies in Dubbo and instigated the building of gardens at the local preschool and hospital. Rhonda has been Trangie Citizen of the Year and is an exceptional role model willing to help everyone. She brings a hard-working, organised approach to volunteering and encourages others along the way. Rhonda is a quiet achiever and never seeks recognition. Her quiet strength, dignity, determination, enthusiasm and cheerful energy bring people together. She is always ready to help those suffering loss or someone who needs a friend and gives her time unconditionally to all. The district would not function without outstanding women such as Rhonda who are prepared to give so much time and effort and ask for nothing in return.

elizabeth ross-ward

[Tamworth]

Born in New Zealand, Beth Ross-Ward has added greatly to the social and environmental wellbeing of the communities she has lived in. Arriving in Tamworth in 1996 as a mother and full-time teacher, Beth became secretary of the Toy Library and a volunteer Sunday school

teacher for several years. Beth's particular skill lies in being able to identify innovative projects, source funding and organise for the projects to happen. She organised a grant to extend the Toy Library and has introduced innovative social programs in schools. Being passionate about the environment, Beth has helped Peel High School install solar panels and rainwater tanks and has established gardens at several schools. In 2009 she formed a Landcare group, which has restored a neglected wetland area to once more filter stormwater, provide a quality habitat for native fauna and act as a wonderful learning resource for school children. Every year Beth spends many hours sourcing funds and organising Ecofest, where students from primary schools are invited to participate in a day of environmental and sustainable activities. This year 500 students were involved. Beth has won several Landcare awards and Ecofest led to Tamworth winning the NSW Tidy Towns Conservation Partnerships, Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Conservation Award for 2014. Beth also organises working bees with high school students and spends many hours with Landcare members maintaining the trees planted by students over the years. Beth is indeed a Hidden Treasure.

ann sansom [Gloucester]

Ann Sansom is a true-blue Aussie gem who demonstrates warmth, generosity, commitment and strength to Gloucester. She is a quite achiever with a big heart and warm smile who cares for everyone. Ann was born and educated in Gloucester and through her work at the

telephone exchange gained an understanding of the social and emergency networks the town needs. Marrying a local man she became a wonderful mother, caring for a family of four children. Twenty years ago Ann recognised special needs in the community and opened a shop to cater for diabetics, people needing gluten-free products and people who observe vegetarian, vegan or organic diets. Ann also provides natural alternatives for athlete body builders, as well as vitamins, herbal supplements and homeopathic remedies. Ann is an outstanding lady who is passionate about community health. She sells surplus fruit and vegetables to raise funds for the Westpac Helicopter Appeal and many organisations use her shop as their booking agent for upcoming events. It has also become a drop off point for people living out of town. Ann has always strived for excellence for the benefit of the community. Ann introduced calico bags for the local triathlon and she started the reduction of plastic bag use in Gloucester. She has introduced and supports better health opportunities for all to share.

pam saunderson-mcleay [Scone]

Pam Saunderson-McLeay has lived in Scone for almost 20 years. She was born in England and moved to Australia when she was 14 years old. Pam is a dynamic woman who generously gives her time and energy to the local community, going above and beyond the call of duty. In 1996 Pam opened the Railway Station Gallery and Cafe.

She has always been a keen artist with a love of painting and drawing, and the gallery created a perfect opportunity to share her passion. This business increased public exposure for local artists. Pam has been an active member of the Scone Chamber of Commerce and Industry, retiring in 2013. In 2009 she approached Scone Arts and Crafts to further encourage and support local artists in the community. She quickly became a committee member and exhibition curator. Pam has set up the Collections exhibition to assist with regular displays and exhibitions from artists both locally and further afield. She is currently in her third year as president and continues to work tirelessly with this group. In 2003 Pam joined the Scone and District Cancer Support Group and served as president from 2007 to 2010. She has been the recipient of a NSW Community Service Award for her hard work in the local community.

robin sevenoaks [Berridale]

A commitment to community, the environment and social causes through active engagement has guided Robin Sevenoaks' significant contribution to the quality of life of Monaro communities. Robin was raised in the country and worked as a teacher in Sydney before moving to Berridale in 1976 to join her artist and builder partner Ray. Robin served on the Snowy River Shire Council from 1991 to 1999, including three years as deputy mayor. In particular, she is proud of her work on the Shire's Waste Management Committee at a time of modernisation, which included the introduction of recycling. Robin

has been a long-term, active member of the Rocky Plain Rural Fire Brigade, serving a period as secretary. She is a member of the Berridale Country Women's Association and is very dedicated to Landcare, holding long-term positions in the Berridale Rocky Plain Landcare group and umbrella group, the Upper Snowy Landcare Committee, of which is currently president. At a time of significant upheaval for Landcare groups with funding and infrastructure uncertainty, Robin works tirelessly to ensure that the groups maintain their cohesion and progress a program of environmental and social infrastructure work. Robin has upheld a particular dedication to see some landscape restoration to cope with a period of severe eucalyptus dieback on the Monaro. Her commitment is driven by the attitude that 'we can't afford to ignore these issues and do nothing'.

narelle shaw [Forbes]

Narelle Shaw was born and raised in Forbes and married a local man. She is a mother to four children and encourages them all to participate in many activities within the community, including sport. Narelle not only supports her children from the sidelines but also assists clubs and organisations through volunteering. Narelle is an active committee member of the Forbes Pony Club, Forbes Little Athletics Club, Forbes Amateur Swimming Association and the Junior and Senior Rugby Union Club. She gives her time and expertise to fulfil the registrar duties for many committees and takes on any position asked of her. Narelle always has the best interests

of the organisations at heart and spends many hours keeping up to date with any changes and welcomes them with enthusiasm. She is honest and trustworthy and always meets deadlines. Her knowledge of sporting reporting requirements is second to none and she is a tireless and selfless worker. Narelle's skills have been recognised at regional and state level and she has been asked to perform duties at Regional and State Championships on a regular basis. Her ability to take on and master new programs and procedures has seen her take on the role of instructor and mentor for other committees within the region. Narelle is an essential member of the community and a worthy Hidden Treasure.

janine slater [Ocean Shores]

Janine Slater was born in Sydney and grew up at North Ryde. Her sense of community was established through the family living in a newly developed suburb. Janine was active in Girl Guides, Girls Brigade, Congregational Church and all aspects of school life. The family moved to Brunswick Heads in 1971 and after time away she returned to complete 24 years teaching at Kadina High School. Janine then opted for a career change and worked as a practice manager in two family medical centres. Her interest in health became evident when a series of personal health issues made her aware of the difficult patient journey for a lot of people. She made a decision to assist people who may be struggling with health issues. Janine is a champion for the provision of the best health facilities in the area. She has volunteered on Northern Rivers committees for

health needs in the community and was on the community committee for the future role of the Mullumbimby Hospital, which led to planning for the new Byron Central Hospital. Janine was a member of the Mullumbimby Hospital Auxiliary and took a role for six weeks at the Flying Doctors Outpost Clinic at Uluru, gaining a greater understanding of the needs of Aboriginal people in remote communities. She has been committed to many health committees and has been a spokesperson on behalf of Northern Rivers Health at many forums.

carol stanley [Coonamble]

Carol Stanley grew up on a farm at Peak Hill. After moving to Coonamble with her husband, she became a dedicated and generous volunteer, supporting community activities. Carol was involved with the Coonamble Show Society for over 40 years and held various positions, including secretary and president for seven years. While raising her five children, Carol also voluntarily took in and cared for several other local children who found themselves in need of a home and stable environment. Carol assisted with local children's swimming training for years and frequently transported groups to various sporting events. More recently she has focused her energies on Coonamble RSL Club, rejoining the club's board in 2013. As a volunteer, Carol now manages the office and works tirelessly in most areas of the club every day, assisting to ensure the smooth running and financial viability of this essential social hub within a small community. She has acquired a bus to provide safe travel for

the club's patrons and returned service personnel, driving the bus herself on day trips. Carol is an auxiliary member of Coonamble RSL Sub Branch, holding office as secretary and treasurer. She fundraises for Legacy through badge sales and an Anzac Day two-up competition. Carol stands out in the community for her continued commitment and dedication to helping others.

Paula Starkey [Coraki]

Paula Starkey is a valued member of the Coraki community and is an active member of the Coraki United Hospitals Auxiliary and the Coraki Community Reference Group. She is an active member of the Coraki Clinical Services Planning Group, assisting and supporting community members in a variety of ways. Paula's work with the Coraki Community Reference Group has been instrumental in the re-establishment of community health services to Coraki following the closure of the hospital. As part of the Clinical Services Planning Group and the Community Reference Group, Paula has been a key player in the planning for Health One at Coraki. Paula is also the sole carer for her husband who is quite disabled.

Genevieve Starr [Dalton]

Genevieve Starr was born into the Heffernan family in Dalton. On her return to the district after a successful and varied working career in other parts of Australia and overseas, she married and

settled down to farm life near Dalton. Genevieve has been president of the Jerrawa Creek Landcare Group for four years, a role she has embraced with enthusiasm, thoughtfulness and energy. She has also served as national president of the Wiltipoll Association, promoting the breed of sheep across the country. Genevieve has been a member of the Wellbeing Group that particularly focused on helping district people cope with devastating drought. Genevieve is an active parishioner of Gunning Catholic Church, has visited a Timor Leste project on behalf of the parish and with other community members presented the highly regarded church's Annual Art Show for years. Genevieve always contributes to fundraising and community events and has been a ring steward at the local show. For three years Genevieve led a team that catered for around 100 people at the annual seniors Christmas lunch. Genevieve is always keen to acknowledge those who volunteer alongside her and ensure that there is an able successor to take over once she leaves a role. There are few district organisations upon which she has not left her mark and Genevieve's long record of service and the number of organisations to which she has contributed quietly and privately, cements her place on this Honour Roll.

Sylvia Stevens [Narrandera]

Sylvia Stevens was born in Eugowra in 1949. The family lived in a caravan and moved all over western NSW following Sylvia's father's work with the Main Roads Department. They settled in Narrandera in 1960 where Sylvia finished her schooling. Sylvia commenced work at a local store

before marrying and raising her son and daughter. She is very proud of her six grandchildren and supports them in their various pursuits. Sylvia joined the Narrandera branch of Soroptimist International in 2004 and works with the branch to transform the lives of women and girls. Sylvia is currently the treasurer and contributes generously to all activities, including fundraising for many local and international projects and representing the club by presenting prizes and awards at local schools. She provides community support for a range of local activities, including assisting with Australia Day and Anzac Day events. Through Soroptimist Sylvia also partners with the town's other service clubs to raise awareness of issues such as domestic violence and driver safety. She is a member of the local Red Cross branch and volunteers with Narrandera Meals on Wheels. Sylvia also looks out for an elderly neighbour and provides her with a hot meal at night, often accompanied by her favourite chocolate. She is a quiet achiever and Hidden Treasure who is known by everyone for her kindness.

dawn studdert [Dungog]

Dawn Studdert has lived in the small rural community of Dungog most of her life. She has been a member of the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) since January 1996. Dawn took on the role of local controller for Dungog Shire several years ago and served until recently, when health problems led to her having to relinquish the role. Dawn has led her team through several floods in the area, helping the community prepare for, respond to and recover from these events.

She always ensured the community remained as safe as possible during these times. Dawn also volunteers at the Tourist Information Centre, providing advice and help to the many travellers who come through the area. She is a quiet achiever who cares deeply for the community. During the recent 2015 floods, Dawn was not well but still did what she could to help. She lost friends and a family home was severely damaged but Dawn helped clean up as best she could. Since the event she has been encouraging locals to be positive and move forward in their recovery. Dawn's contribution of hundreds of hours each year to support and promote her community in good times and through adversity make her a wonderful addition to the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

rikki toi [Coraki]

Rikki Toi (pronounced Twa) is an older volunteer with great energy. She has a friendly, bubbly personality and is one of those very special people who will go the extra mile for anyone. She is reliable and willingly puts herself out there without being asked. Rikki sees what has to be done and gets in there quietly to do it, even the jobs others dislike, such as clearing rubbish, housekeeping and cleaning the toilet. Rikki works at the Coraki Rural Transaction Centre Inc and is a member of Coraki State Emergency Services (SES). She is trained to captain the rescue boat and can use a chainsaw. Rikki marches every year with the SES on Anzac Day and assists with fundraising in the community. She always shows up to help at events and never complains, despite living

out of town in the bush. In times of flood Rikki leaves her home to stay in Coraki assisting the SES until flooding subsides. In her youth Rikki was a journalist and fashion model and has lived in several countries, including Vietnam during the war. She is a very social person and everyone in Coraki loves and admires Rikki.

liesel turnbull [St Georges Basin]

Liesel Turnbull is an amazing and generous Hidden Treasure. She grew up in the Sutherland Shire at Waterfall, was married at 16 and now works as a special needs teacher's aide at Huskisson Primary School. Liesel is mother to four, granny to 14 and great-granny to one. She helps at the schools her grandchildren attend, at fundraisers for her husband's woodwork club and anywhere food needs to be prepared or photos need to be taken. Liesel is a master at random acts of kindness and finds the good in everyone. Her greatest role, however, is with Girl Guides. For 30 years she has been with this wonderful organisation, initially as a support group member, then a unit leader in both NSW and QLD and currently is a leader of adults. Liesel takes great delight in welcoming back her own guides as they bring their daughters to join up. She is now district manager at Huskisson Guides, coordinating 10 women who lead the four units. Despite this workload Liesel still attends all the meetings each week, as she loves being with the girls. Liesel attends district, regional and state Guide camps, as well as the Australian International Jamboree where she works hard as either the caterer or first aider. As long as Liesel

is looking after children or her family and carrying on her mother's and grandmother's legacy, she is happy.

merryn twemlow [Armidale]

Merryn Twemlow was born and raised in Parramatta. In 1978 her husband Ian asked, 'If I move to the country, will you move with me?' Merryn replied she would if she could have a pig and a spinning wheel. They moved to Tingha and had more than one pig and a spinning wheel. Later they settled in Tenterfield and Merryn moved up the ranks to become registrar at Tenterfield TAFE before transferring to the Police Service in Armidale, where she remained employed until she retired in 2010. Merryn joined the NSW Rural Fire Service and is an active member of three brigades, fulfilling roles such as duty communication operator, secretary of Lyndhurst-Dumaresq Rural Fire Brigade and more recently a member of New England Logistics. Merryn went out of her way to obtain a Medium Rigid licence to assist the team with moving vehicles around the New England Zone. Merryn also helps with administrative support for the New England Zone office. Her first introduction to the office was during a major fire incident where 64 000 hectares of forest burnt at Carrai in 2012, when she received a phone call asking if she knew how to handle a Commander phone system and could she come ASAP. She has been a volunteer member of the team ever since. The New England Rural Fire Service is grateful to have the support of a Hidden Treasure like Merryn.

sue uphill [Forbes]

Sue Uphill was born and raised in Forbes where she worked as an accountant for 40 years. She married Grahame and while raising children and helping on the farm at Wurrinya she was a volunteer at the local school as well as being an active member of the community. On selling their farm the couple moved to Forbes and Sue has volunteered for many community groups, including Wurrinya Tennis Club, Forbes Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Society Ladies Auxiliary, the Uniting Church, Forbes Eisteddfod and Forbes Historical Society. Sue was treasurer and a founding member of Forbes Learning Ladder Childcare Centre. Her love for sport and her desire for sporting opportunities and facilities to be available to the whole community has been an important part of Sue's life. This is reflected in the positions she has held with the many organisations she has been involved with for more than 40 years, including treasurer of Wurrinya Ski Club, treasurer and publicity officer for Forbes Rugby Union Club, interclub tennis competition organiser with Forbes Tennis Club, Forbes Swimming Club treasurer, Forbes Netball Association vice-president, Forbes Sports person of the Year treasurer and member of Forbes Shire Council Sports Advisory Committee. In addition, Sue has voluntarily audited the financial accounts of other local sporting clubs. Sue does not seek recognition for her efforts and goes about her volunteering in a quiet and unassuming manner.

rosemary van bergen

[Wilton]

Rose Van Bergen grew up in Appin and has lived in the Wollondilly area all her life. She has raised six children with her husband Frank and is now a grandmother of nine. Rose is one of Wilton's busiest volunteers. She has supported vulnerable rural families for the last five years through Focus on Families. Each week at the Wollondilly Community Health Centre Rose cares for newborns and infants to allow parents to concentrate on acquiring parenting skills and build support networks. Her gentle manner always reassures nervous parents that their new babies will be well cared for. Rose has a good understanding of the difficulties and challenges of parenting and works alongside parents in their homes, making sure they have the skills, time and strength they need to nurture their young children's development. Rose supports community services such as child and family nursing teams, local playgroups and is a volunteer with her local church. She is very humble, has a heart of gold and a positive outlook on life. Rose continues to be a quiet, reserved volunteer who is always willing to take on any tasks asked of her with a sense of responsibility. She has a beautiful easiness, especially when working with frustrated, anxious parents of difficult toddlers. Her genuine love of what she does and the fulfilment she gets from helping others makes her a Hidden Treasure to all who know her.

rachel walker [Young]

This year Rachel Walker and her dance partner David Butt celebrated 10 years of choreographing and training debutantes for the Young High School Ball. Rachel is a young woman who tirelessly gives a great deal of her time to help make the balls successful and modern. There are many hours involved in the creation of dances and endless weeks of training. Rachel was crowned Cherry Queen of Young in 2014, as well as Charity Queen to fundraise for women's cancer research. Rachel carried out her 12-month commitments beautifully. She is a Hidden Treasure who dedicates many hours to better her town and help young people.

Tracey warner [Wingen]

For the past 15 years Tracey Warner has lived in the tiny village of Wingen in the Upper Hunter. She is an amazing sports person who has dedicated countless hours to raising the profile of archery, particularly for women. Tracey started archery in 2002 at 40 years of age, shooting indoor targets with the Scone club. One of the kids put a bow in her hand one day and she discovered she was a natural. She has won many awards and currently holds Australian indoor and outdoor records. Tracey became a member of Lake Glenbawn Field Archery and Recreation Club in 2002 and soon became the secretary and is now a life member. Over the years Tracey has assisted numerous clubs to run their shoots and train new archers. In 2008 she joined the National Committee

and volunteers her time in the administration and scoring for the National Title Shoot. Tracey understands the challenges of being part of a male-dominated field but believes that no matter how old you are and how much the odds are against you, if you do what you love and commit to it you'll get a level of personal satisfaction that means so much more than trophies and awards. Tracey has worked hard to raise the profile of archery and she gets an enormous sense of accomplishment from encouraging women and girls to have a go.

jean watson [Cessnock]

Jean Watson was born in England and moved to Australia with her husband and two young sons when her husband became a mine manager at Lithgow, NSW. They eventually moved to Cessnock and Jean joined organisations to meet new people and get involved in the community. Jean has been a member of Cessnock VIEW Club for over 40 years, most of that time in various committee positions (she is currently assistant treasurer). Jean has worked tirelessly for The Smith Family and their Learning for Life school-based programs and students. She is an active member of the Anglican Church and fundraises through various church groups, such as Mothers' Union and Cuppa Club. Jean opens the church each Sunday for the 6.30 am service and organises hymnbooks and gets things ready. She volunteers in the Church Book Shop each week and takes pride in cleaning the brass for the church. Jean has taken a great interest in family support organisations, raising funds for families in need. Jean is a wonderful

friend to many and always there for her family, taking great interest in her grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Jean helps because she enjoys it and does not expect recognition for her good work—and that's what makes her a Hidden Treasure.

margaret whatman

[Glenquarry]

Margaret Whatman is a tireless organiser and supporter of local community events and sporting teams. For decades she has been a committee member and player in the Robertson Hockey Club and the Glenquarry Tennis Club. Without her drive and continuous input the club could have folded many times and would not be thriving like it is today. Without any fanfare Margaret is always managing the summer and winter competitions, providing her famous sponge cakes and tidying up the clubroom during the week. For years she has spent a lot of time organising events for the annual Robertson Show. Margaret is a real Hidden Treasure in her community.

sue white

[Wagga Wagga]

Sue White was born and raised near Wagga Wagga. She married Graham and moved to their farm in the Eunony Valley to take on the responsibilities of farming life. Sue has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for 26 years since, joining the Eunony Rural Fire Brigade in 1989. In 2002 she took on the roles of

permit officer and communications officer within the brigade. Sue has been actively involved in the Riverina Zone Communications Group and in 2013 was a founding member of the Riverina Zone Communications Brigade of which she holds the position of brigade captain. Sue's expertise in the communications field is extensive and she shares her knowledge, experience and enthusiasm with new brigade members. Sue also volunteers as an auditor for a number of volunteer RFS brigades in and around Wagga Wagga. She provides financial services and computer education to the Wagga Wagga congregation of The Presentation Sisters, who describe her as a 'wonderful person with a bright personality'. Sue also provides financial services to ErinEarth, an initiative of the Presentation Sisters, and although these are paid positions she is credited for always being all too happy to stop what she is doing and give her full attention to anyone who needs assistance. Sue is a valued member of the Eunony Valley community and is a great instigator and supporter of monthly community get-togethers. Her understanding, kind-hearted and compassionate attitude towards people has her held in high regard in her local community.

gwyn whitley

[Willow Tree]

Gwyn Whitley was born in Western Australia to Welsh parents. Following her school years she joined the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) and moved to Melbourne during the war and met her husband Rex. After the war Gwyn and Rex settled in Warrah Creek, NSW, purchasing the small farm Burnley, where they still live today.

Whilst caring for their two children and working on the farm, Gwyn joined many organisations, starting with the local Church Guild and followed by the Country Women's Association (CWA), Red Cross, Landcare, Pony Club and the Warrah Creek Hall and Community Club. She is gifted with a lovely singing voice and volunteers to sing at many local functions. A caring, cheerful and hardworking person, Gwyn is always there when needed, whether it be for cleaning the church, donating her lovely baked goods or simply supporting the local tennis club (even though hip replacements confine her to the sideline). Gwyn and Rex are involved with sheepdog trials, regularly taking their caravan away to the various events where Gwyn often helps with catering. Mother, grandmother and now great-grandmother, she is a true example of a Hidden Treasure with almost 60 years of volunteering service to the local community and is still going strong at 84.

elizabeth (anne) wilson

[Berrigan]

Anne has given a lifetime of volunteer support not only to family but also to lonely and disadvantaged members of her communities. Born at Dapto and raised on a dairy farm it was here her great love for Guernsey cattle evolved. From age 15 to 25 Anne was very involved with Rural Youth, winning many awards for cattle judging and public speaking. Following her marriage to Max she raised four children while moving between dairy properties at Camden,

Scone, Blighty and Berrigan. At Camden Anne joined and was secretary of the local VIEW club. In 1976 she started the Scone VIEW Club with 100 women. At Blighty Anne supported many dairy folk through difficult times. She was secretary of Riverina Friesen Cattle Club, a Finley Show steward and judge at agricultural shows. Anne also supported Max who was a Lions and Masonic Lodge member. She joined Australian Red Cross in 1990 as a cosmetic carer and volunteered for nine years to assist a quadriplegic patient with meals and exercise. Anne also spent many years caring for a dialysis patient. She was Red Cross president for three years, secretary for 14 years, has been zone representative from 2010 onwards and helps at the shop and as a disaster team member. Anne received the Red Cross Distinguished Service Award in 2008. As an employee of Home Care Services Anne goes beyond the call of duty to provide clothing and other support to the frail and aged when there is no family support. Anne's monthly volunteer hours are impossible to count but one thing is certain—this amazing lady is without a doubt a Hidden Treasure.

lesley wood [Mandemar]

Lesley Wood has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1999 when she joined the Mandemar Rural Fire Brigade. She has been involved in planning and implementing community engagement programs within the Penrose community, including regular community meetings, women's workshops, horse workshops and coordinating articles in the local newsletter.

Lesley shows great enthusiasm in engaging with her local community to improve preparation and resilience for bushfires. She is well-respected by her peers for her tireless efforts. A professional attitude and approach to her volunteer duties promotes strong leadership qualities that set a high standard within the RFS community. Lesley works without expecting recognition and this makes her a Hidden Treasure for Mandemar.

Kym Wooding [Hay]

Turn up to an event in the Hay district and you're likely to see Kym Wooding behind the familiar BBQ on wheels or off to the side taking donations from community members. It's all in the name of Can Assist, the charity Kym has volunteered with for more than 12 years. Can Assist ensures country people affected by cancer have access to treatment and care by providing accommodation, financial assistance and practical support. A small volunteer team manages Hay Can Assist and there's no doubt Kym is the driving force behind the successful catering services and fundraising events. She experienced the difficulties of accessing services in a rural area when her husband Wayne, the current branch president, was undergoing his own cancer treatment. Kym now generously donates her time to ensure other local people are supported during their cancer journeys. In the treasurer role Kym spends up to 40 hours each week processing patient claims, taking catering bookings, liaising with head office, banking, doing volunteer rosters, receipting donations and organising events, including the major annual fundraiser, Hell of a Walk. Kym

manages all this with enviable ease, while raising two children, working, part-time farming and running a small business. Kym has also recently commenced studying nursing and hopes to temporarily take leave of some of her Can Assist duties for the course duration. The locals know though that this woman will never be far from the BBQ on wheels.

Maree Yapp [Forbes]

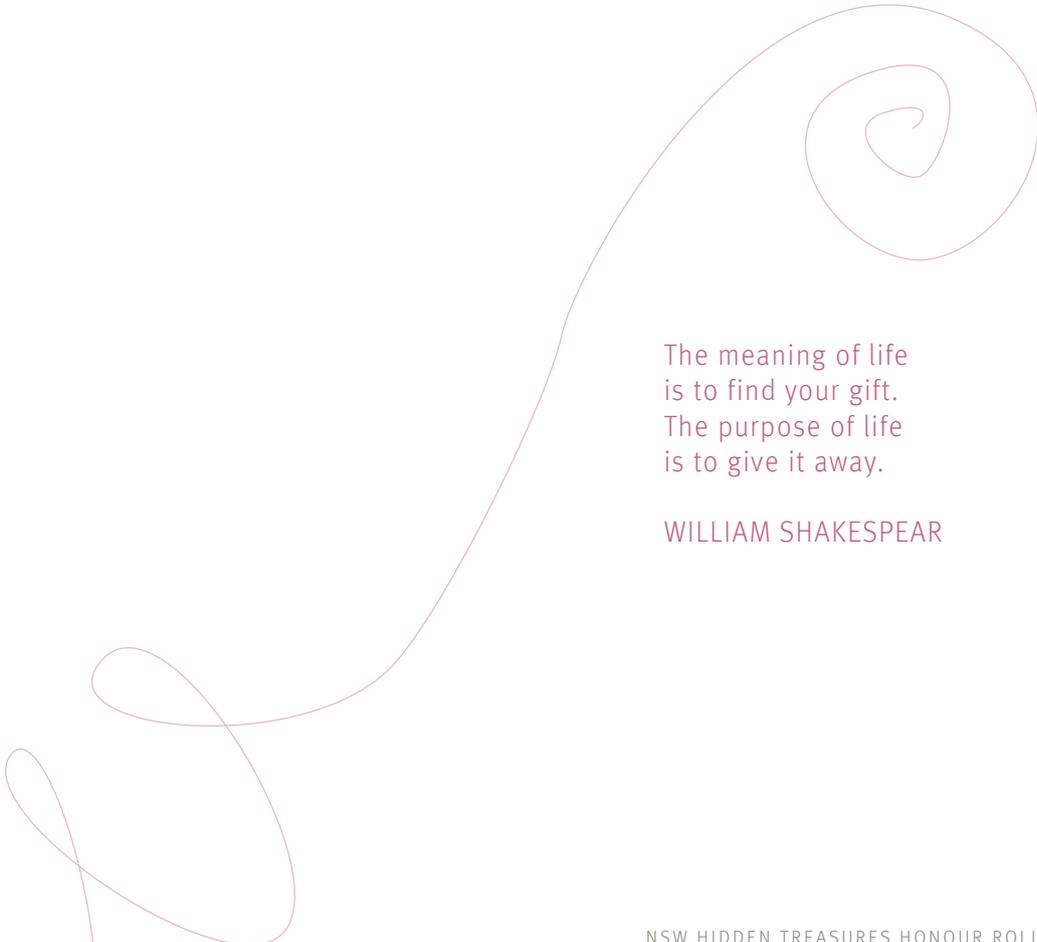
Maree Yapp has been an active member of the Forbes North Parents and Citizens Committee for over 10 years as an executive member, committee member or involved parent. She assists with a variety of fundraising events such as fetes, photography events, canteen support, BBQs, presentation evenings, raffles and more, which has contributed an average of \$10 000 per year to the community. Funds have been used to provide the school with much needed resources. Maree is the Schools as Community Centres coordinator and provides activities such as a weekly mothers group and weekly playgroup for the community to access. She works tirelessly to encourage and support parents and families at risk of disengaging with the community. Maree implemented and is the coordinator of the Forbes North Public School Breakfast Club, which provides a nutritious breakfast to students at the school by a successfully maintained roster of volunteers who support this program. In conjunction with this role she actively develops partnerships with other community organisations and contributes to many community events and initiatives. Maree is a member of, or supports as a

volunteer, the following community organisations and events: Birth to Kinda, Food Revolution Day, Central West Lachlan Landcare Group, Bin a Book Recycling Program, National Volunteers Weeks, Families Week, Children's Week, NAIDOC Week and International Day for People with Disabilities. She has been a huge asset to the Forbes community for many years and continues to improve outcomes for the town she has lived in her whole life.

Judy York [Adaminaby]

Judy York came to Adaminaby in 2006 and settled in so well that she plans never to leave. She is particularly generous in spirit and with her time, having inherited her parents' ethical philosophy that people have a duty to reinvest in their community. Although a quiet worker, Judy has her finger on the pulse of community life and is always ready to offer assistance in times of need. She has a special place in her heart for service personnel and their families and the disadvantaged. Judy has been a member of the local Country Women's Association (CWA) for eight years and president for four years. She is a member of the organising committee for the highly successful Adaminaby Easter Fair and has an aptitude for writing grant applications,

having acquired approximately \$30 000 in grants for various organisations. Judy believes in learning something new every day and to this end she is currently completing a second university degree. She has a Certificate IV in Book Keeping, Marketing, Disability and Training and Assessment, and Advanced Diplomas in Aged Care and Community Work. Judy also assisted in writing the Certificate III course for Assistant in Nursing. Her eclectic mix of qualifications, practical-based occupations and experiences, puts her in good stead to show empathy and respond to needs within her community. For these reasons and more Judy is a worthy recipient of a place on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.



The meaning of life
is to find your gift.
The purpose of life
is to give it away.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEAR



volunteer agencies

Volunteers make an extraordinary contribution to Australian society without being paid—not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community and come from all walks of life. They are working people, students and professionals; they are young people and retirees. They come from every suburb and community and from a variety of cultural, educational and religious backgrounds.

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

Arts Council NSW

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

Australian Home Care

1300 303 770
www.ahcs.org.au

Australian Red Cross, NSW

02 9229 4111
www.redcross.org.au

Bravehearts

02 9237 8300
www.bravehearts.org.au

Camp Quality

02 9876 0500
www.campquality.org.au

Can Assist—Cancer Assistance Network

02 8217 3400
www.canassist.com.au

Clean Up Australia Day

1800 282 329
www.cleanup.org.au

Community Health Centres

02 9391 9000
www.health.nsw.gov.au

Community Transport

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

Country Education Foundation

1300 652 144
www.cef.org.au

Country Women's Association of NSW

02 9358 2923
www.cwaofnsw.org.au

Driver Reviver

02 9999 6200
www.driverreviver.com.au

Home Care Service of NSW

1300 881 144
www.adhc.nsw.gov.au

House with No Steps

02 9451 1511
www.hwns.com.au

Landcare NSW

0411 113 590
www.landcarensw.org.au
www.landcareonline.com.au

Lifeline

13 11 14
02 6215 9400 (National)
www.lifeline.org.au

Lioness Club Australia

02 4940 8033
www.lionsclubs.org.au

Lions Club Australia

02 4940 8033
www.lionsclubs.org.au

Little Athletics

02 9633 4511
www.lansw.com.au

Meals on Wheels, NSW

02 8219 4200
www.nswmealsonwheels.org.au

NSW Rural Fire Service

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

Oz Harvest - Canberra

02 6247 6173
www.ozharvest.org

Parents & Citizens Association

0404 802 637
www.pandc.org.au

volunteer agencies

Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW

02 9625 9111
www.pcy.org.au

Pony Club NSW

02 4229 8977
www.pcansw.org.au

Rotary – Australia

02 8894 9800
www.rotaryaustralia.org.au

St. Vincent De Paul Society

02 9568 0262
www.vinnies.org.au

Scouts Australia—NSW

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

SES – State Emergency Service

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

The Friends of Tamworth Marsupial Park

0427 244 073

The Smith Family

02 9085 7222
www.thesmithfamily.com.au

United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW

02 9391 9716
www.uhansw.org

Westpac Rescue Helicopter

1800 155 155
www.rescuehelicopter.com.au

WIRES—NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue & Education Service

02 9877 3383
www.wires.org.au

Young Endeavour Youth Scheme

1800 020 444
www.youngendeavour.gov.au

General Contact

The Centre for Volunteering

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

The Centre for Volunteering is the peak body in NSW promoting and supporting volunteering and community participation. The Centre connects people and organisations in order to enrich our community through referral, training, resource development, information and education services to help people get involved in their communities, and enhance the capacity and skills of not-for-profit organisations, corporations and government to become involved in the community.



Volunteer!
Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can.

ARTHUR ASHE

2016 honour roll: nominate a rural woman

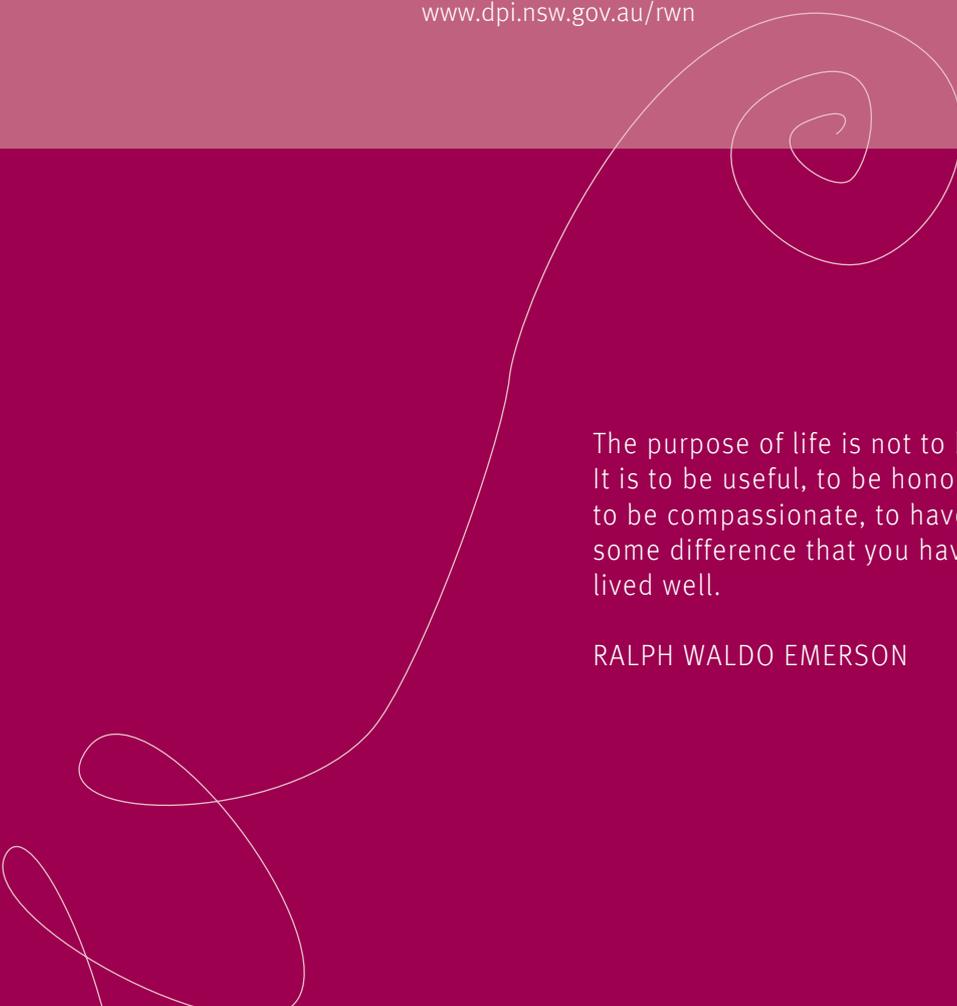
The 2016 Honour Roll will be launched at the NSW Rural Women's Gathering to be held at Broken Hill from 28–30 October 2016.

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 2016 Honour Roll open 9 May and close 29 July 2016.

For more information or to nominate a hidden treasure contact:

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



The purpose of life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful, to be honourable,
to be compassionate, to have it make
some difference that you have lived and
lived well.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



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



Department of
Primary Industries