

**Cassowary Coast Regional Council**  
**AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS**  
**2020**



**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – GRAHAM MAIFREDI**

Graham Maifredi from Euramo, has been a tireless advocate for the sport of white water rafting, and this year helped bring the rafting world championship to Tully, Australia, a first for this event. The International Rafting Federation held the World Rafting Championships on the Tully River in May 2019, bringing together 350 competitors in 49 teams from 19 countries.

Graham also volunteered as the event director to help ensure the championships were a success. His achievement caps almost 30 years in the sport, in which he has been a competitor, judge, trainer of instructors, and international official to help steer the growth of white-water rafting in Australia and overseas.

Additionally, Graham has not only competed at the highest levels, being Captain of the world title-winning Australian team in 2001, he also has coached others to victory as well. This year Graham coached the Australian Under 23 team to a bronze-medal victory in this year's world championship slalom event in Tully, and a fourth-place finish in the competition overall.

Graham was recently nominated for Service to North Queensland Sport and received international recognition receiving a 30 year service medal for White Water Rafting from the Russian Rafting Federation at the World Rafting Champions 2019. While Graham has worked tirelessly over the years to see his dream come to fruition and is extremely passionate about rafting, he is a strong advocate for the region and in particular Tully while traveling to the many international locations in his official rafting capacity. He always ensures he has collateral that depicts the region and encourages those from other countries to visit his home town and region.

Throughout the planning the championship event it was evident that Graham's focus also took into consideration the economic and social benefits that lifting the profile of Tully and region would have on business and local residents.

**YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – DANIEL PONTIL**

Daniel is an enthusiastic, conscientious and courteous young man who is highly regarded by both staff and students at Tully State High School and across the community.

Daniel shows leadership in the academic, sporting and community areas. As an active member, Daniel is highly involved in a range of activities that come from the Student Leadership Team including fundraising and social awareness activities. He is altruistic in the way he works with the group seeking positive ways to support others and being actively involved. Through his Church he has been an active participant in supporting children's youth programs conducted at Saibai Island.

Daniel was the inaugural President of the School Interact Club which worked closely with local Lions Clubs involving himself and leading others in a range of activities aimed at supporting others in the

community. As House Sports Captain for the Tyson House, Daniel has lead his team admirably through the year as well as being associated in the conducting of the various sport events throughout the year alongside other House Sport Captains.

He is an avid and successful competitor winning the age champions for swimming and also both the age and district champions for Athletics. Academically Daniel is the top student at school receiving the school dux for 2019 and achieved an OP of 2, and incredible achievement. Daniel competed in the Lions Youth of the year competition and was successful in the first round and was also successful in gaining entry to the National Youth Science Forum, additionally winning the Tully's Got Talent quest held at the Tully State High School where he played the piano.

Furthermore, Daniel is a life guard at the local pool and can be often seen volunteering at the local beach with other lifesaving members on weekends. As you can see, Daniel is the complete all- rounder and definitely is a fitting winner of the Young Citizen of the Year award for 2020.

**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD - FRANK McFADDEN**

**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD - SHIRLEY NAYLER**

**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD - JENNY JONES**

**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD - DON WHEATLEY**

**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD - CHRISTINE BORIC**

#### **Lifetime Contribution Award - Frank McFadden**

Coming to Tully in 1961 as a young seventeen year old, Frank quickly endeared himself to the Tully community, forming many life-long friendships with people from all walks of life.

His association with the Tully Tigers Rugby League Club, of which he is a life member, spans 50 years or more. He has been secretary, timekeeper, ground announcer, gatekeeper and champion ticket seller throughout the years. He is also the longest serving member of the Tully Lions Club, a congregation member and long-time volunteer of the Catholic Church being a major contributor to all things community in Tully.

Before Frank's health deteriorated, he could be found at the Mt Tyson Hotel, the bottom pub to the locals on a Saturday morning, selling raffle tickets for the Lions Club with one hand and the Tully Tigers with the other.

#### **Lifetime Contribution Award - Shirley Nayler**

Now at 87 years young, when Shirley moved to Innisfail in 1997, she attended the Innisfail Uniting Church and became an integral part of their music team forming a musical program under the banner of the 'Rainbow' singers group now evolving into the Johnstone River singers which are still operating to this day.

Shirley joined the Innisfail Probus Club soon after she arrived in Innisfail, holding several roles and continues to lead the National Anthem at their meetings and uses her talents to put together appropriate works to music for special events, club outing and trips. Shirley puts together a program of musical entertainment of popular songs from the past, using themes such as Australia Day, Valentines

Day, St Patricks Day, Easter, Anzac Day, and Christmas to name a few to be performed at the local nursing homes. She invites local artists to participate in the programs for added variety. Shirley accompanies the soloists and singing group on the piano.

Her talents also include reciting poems and entertaining with humorous stories and jokes. Shirley's program aims to entertain, to encourage, enable inclusion and feel connection within the nursing home environment making a genuine contribution to our elderly.

#### **Lifetime Contribution Award - Jenny Jones**

Jenny Jones lives, breaths and inspires others to enjoy and take on the role of a lifesaver. Jenny is the ETTY Bay Surf Life Saving Club training officer making her responsible for the training and the upskilling of all the members to ensure the community remains safe on the beach and in the water.

A member for 34 years, Jenny is a Bronze medallion/Surf rescue trainer, is a member of the NQ Board of Lifesavers, has gained her 10 year age managers service certificate, was the first female club captain for ETTY Bay Surf Life Saving Club, was the first female chief training officer, was honoured with life membership in 2001, has been the winner of club-person of the year 5 times and in 2017 was awarded the Andy Frizzel Award for services to the Nipper members being a state wide award.

Her knowledge of the organisation, contributions and dedication to our community in the area of public safety is highly regarded and she is a standout role model to the club members through her enthusiasm and friendly approachable attitude shown to everyone she works with.

#### **Lifetime Contribution Award - Don Wheatley**

Don Wheatley in 2019, was made a life member of the Mission Beach Surf Life Saving Club. Don was one of a handful of founding members of the original South Mission Beach Surf Life Saving Club in 1944 aged 14. He was too young to do his Bronze medallion, but the club required numbers to start running, so Don was brought in as a member and completed his Bronze Medallion two years later in 1946. Back then the club operated out of a ute with a tarp on the back, then progressed to a makeshift shade shelter. Eventually, Don and other members secured former World War 2 buildings from Rocky Creek at Tolga and brought these down to South Mission Beach to become the club house.

Aged 89 Don still regularly gives his time to Mission Beach Lions and is a proponent for eating well and keeping active. Currently, Don attends the fortnightly Mission Beach Lions Club meetings and regularly assists with selling raffle tickets or cooking sausage sizzles to raise money – money which all goes back into our community.

Don Wheatley has actively served his community for over 75 years which is an incredible legacy.

#### **Lifetime Contribution Award - Christine Boric**

As a young mum, Christine became involved with the 1988 Bicentennial of Australia committee. Part of this celebrations was to establish heritage trails in every state and Tully established the Kennedy walking track which is still a popular walking track used today.

Christine was also on the committees of multiple sporting groups, youth organisations and school parent committees that her children were involved with. This included basketball, gymnastics, Girl Guides, Saint Clare's Parent and Friends Association and Tully State High Parents and Citizens Association. Christine then went from being a member on the Girl Guide Support Group, to volunteering as the Tully

District manager a role that continues to strive in providing a safe environment for young women to learn, develop and grow in to being confident self-respecting community members.

For many years Christine has been an active member of the Tully Chamber of Commerce now acting as president. The Tully Chamber has long been an active partner and driver of community events including the Tully Gumboot Festival, Tully Christmas Street party, Read to Me Day and recently the 2019 World Rafting Championships Street Parade. Recently Christine has joined with other like-minded community members in establishing the Tully Hospital Foundation in which Christine is the Treasurer with the organisation raising enough money to purchase multiple pieces of equipment for the Tully hospital supporting nursing staff in providing the best possible care to our community.

Christine tirelessly gives her time to support many of our local events and organisations and is very deserving of this award.

**COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD - MISSION BEACH COMMUNITY CASSOWARY FESTIVAL**  
**COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD - CARDWELL BARRA BASH**  
**COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD - TULLY WORLD RAFTING STREET PARADE**

**Community Event of the Year - Mission Beach Community Cassowary Festival**

With the inaugural festival created three years ago, it has become a go to festival with an environmental message bringing the whole of community together for both educational and fun activities.

Months of preparations which include the inaugural viewing of 'Mission Beach - A Magic Place' video, local children making road signage, the mask-making, singing workshops and creation of Eric the Rubbish Fish to raise awareness of our waste was donated back to community to name just a few.

The main festival day opened with The Drumming of the Cassowaries Parade, a colourful procession involving art creations by local children, dancers and drummers with a raft of stall holders and showcase of local musicians.

The Mission Beach Community Cassowary festival is a great example of a community coming together to celebrate, create, to learn and work towards sustainability and a safe environment for people and wildlife.

Congratulations to the Mission Beach Community Cassowary Festival committee.

**Community Event of the Year - Cardwell Barra Bonanza**

The Cardwell Barra Bonanza hosted by the Cardwell Sportfishing Club, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year was founded by Chris Stoter, the current president.

The event prides itself in being a catch and release comp having awareness for the environment of Cardwell which is well known for the Hinchinbrook Chanel and its natural beauty.

The event attracts people from as far as Perth and Melbourne to compete bringing with them friends and family creating substantial impact on the Cassowary Coast economy.

The Cardwell Barra Bonanza is a family friendly event that promotes juniors, giving them the opportunity to fish and to complete. This event not only promotes Cardwell but also the Cassowary Coast as a tourism destination and a hotspot for recreation fishing.

Congratulations to the Cardwell Barra Bonanza host, the Cardwell Sportfishing Club.

### **Community Event of the Year - Tully World Rafting Street Parade**

The World Rafting Championships held over 8 days from 13 to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 attracted over 300 of the world's best rafters to the Cassowary Coast for a chance to become the 'best of the best'.

The event was held on the world-renowned Tully River, on a section of iconic grade 4 water spilling through the world heritage rain forest of Tropical North Queensland.

The Tully Chamber of Commerce with members of the community wanted to ensure the rafters, their support teams and visitors would receive a welcome they would not forget.

The Welcoming Parade included School children designing banners for a nominated country for the participating teams to march behind, as well as street performers and locals dressing and marching with the teams with some of these participants dressed as rain-forest creatures.

The event was hindered by torrential rain caused by tropical Cyclone Ann crossing the coast further north however, the community still made a remarkable effort and drew a crowd of approximately 2,000 providing an enthusiastic and generous welcome to the international teams, who will certainly not forget.

### **SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD - JENNY CREMA**

### **SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD - DONNA CAMPAGNOLO**

### **SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD - ANTHONY EMMI**

#### **Service to Sport Award – Jenny Crema**

Jenny has been pivotal in the development of the strategic and operational plan for Tully Netball. Jenny was a co-ordinating and supporting force in the formation of the partnership with Tully State High School and Tully Netball to provide a base for Tully regional netball. From these plans, it was identified of what was required for the future progress of the sport. The need for 'lighting of the courts at Tully State High' was a major priority with Jenny taking on the role as the project and grant co-ordinator. Jenny embraced this role with attention to detail, successfully securing funding through Sport and Rec Qld for the installation of lights which was completed towards the end of 2019.

2020 will be the most exciting season for Tully Netball being the first time ever, competition will all be played in one venue – the Tully State High School. As you can see, Jenny is a commendable recipient of the Service to Sport award.

Congratulations Jenny.

#### **Service to Sport Award – Donna Campagnolo**

Donna has been a member of the Innisfail Rowing Club since 1993. In the role she has held the position of President 20 times.

Donna has been instrumental in keeping and obtaining the clubs facilities operations and lead the club through 2 major cyclones, rebuilding the damaged facilities post disaster.

Donna teaches all the learn to row classes and coaches competitive teams.

Donna has lead the Rowing Club at past regattas at home and away and is also recognised as a Boat Race Official at numerous regattas across the state.

Donna is relentless in serving the community with her time and dedication to the sport of rowing over the past 27 years and is a truly worthy recipient of the Service to Sport Award.

Congratulations Donna.

### **Service to Sport Award – Anthony Emmi**

Anthony has been an active member of Tully Rugby League Football Club for the past 30 years as a player and as a committee member currently holding the role of president of Tully Tigers for the past 6 years.

Anthony has dedicated his time and experience as coach of a junior team and is currently the Vice President of the Tully Junior Rugby League.

In 2019, he was awarded the North Queensland Community Coach of the Year. This award was presented to him in Sydney after the NRL flew him down for a coaching course conducted by current Manly Sea Eagles coach Des Hassler.

Over the past year, Anthony has been a key orchestrator of the new grandstand being built at the Tully Showgrounds to be completed in 2020.

In 2019 Anthony spearheaded Tully Tigers to give back to the community that support them with acts of compassion and kindness with support from local businesses and players.

Anthony's community spirit, positive attitude and love for the game of Rugby League hold him in good stead for the Service to Sport Award 2020.

Congratulations Anthony.

### **YOUNG SPORTS PERSON AWARD – SASHA-MAY FLEGLER**

Sasha-May Flegler combines her natural ability with a great zest for promoting a positive experience for all players who play with and against her in each of her chosen sports.

Having a big year in 2019 Sasha's achievements include 2019 Tully State High Sports Person of the Year, both 2019 Tully Netball Best and Fairest player Senior and A grade Competition (as a junior), 2019 Regional Champions Netball – Tully State High Vicki Wilson Shield team.

Furthermore in 2019 , Sasha was a representative for regional and Queensland in multiple sports such as softball, girls touch, tennis and athletics.

Sasha achievements extend to coach, mentor and umpire and referee for both Tully Netball and Tully Touch weekly competition matches.

## **CULTURAL AWARD – THEA ORMONDE**

Thea is a community go to for Cardwell's event management driving the Cardwell's 150th year celebrations in 2014 year which included both the inaugural Cardwell Full Moon Festival and UFO Festival with the latter breaking away as the premier event held each year since. This event has grown substantially in these past years directly due to the selfless and very creative efforts of Thea.

Thea ensures that the whole of community is connected and participating in the festival through projects including giant puppets, lantern parades, alien invasion party, Men in Black Mission, C-Files Forum inclusive of the local school students.

Thea also manages the Cardwell Jetty Markets coming up with a monthly theme for each event including Art in the Park, Volks Fest (Volkswagon, Combi & Vans,) International Make Music Day, and FNQ Flora, Fauna & Marina expo.

Other events include Cardwell's Christmas events in partnership with other community groups such as the locals Lions Club. Recently Thea is working with the Bendigo bank to hold a fund-raiser for the Bushfire Disaster.

Thea's community spirt holds her in good stead, developing long term collaborations with other Cardwell community groups and service clubs as she is an effective connector and let's make it happen person.

Congratulations Thea.

## **YOUNG CULTURAL AWARD – SMALL TOWN CULTURE PROJECT**

The Small Town Culture project was collaboratively undertaken by the three most southern schools of the Cassowary Coast, embodying what small town community do. This collective initiative was funded and assisted locally by Cardwell resident Neville Goggi, Cardwell Care, and the Cardwell Country Club together with the three schools of Kennedy, Murray River Upper and Cardwell. The project provided, skills such as singing, song writing, video production, participation and social connection to all involved.

The coming together video highlighted students embracing all that is good with small towns, showcasing local indigenous culture, the local hotspots, land, sea, mountains and agriculture of their region for YouTube viewing, showing the world what a wonderful area we live in.

Arts and culture for young people is imperative to bring creativity, joy and balance in their life's journey, especially in rural regional Australia.

Congratulations – Jo McCullough from Kenned State School to accept on behalf of the three schools.

## **SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AWARD – BRETT KRAUSE**

Brett has a passion for conservation and the environmentalist is the driving force of the one tree matters, every tree counts ethos. In 2015 Brett founded (and is currently President) the not for profit organisation 'Brettacorp' and with his band of dedicated volunteers have successfully secured multiple grants to meet their vision.

In 2019 Brettacorp secured \$100,000 for the 20 million trees project through the National Land Care program. The Australian Government is working with the community to plant 20 million trees by 2020, to re-establish green corridors and urban forests.

This work directly improves water quality, habitat and soil condition that is critical habitat for the Southern Cassowary and Mahogany Glider.

Brett has a passion and perseverance to create a greener cleaner Cassowary Coast and most definitely a love of trees.

**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – MANINDER KAUR**  
**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – MAYA THRELFALL**  
**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – SUZY REIS**  
**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – MALCOLM DAVISON**

**Achievement Award – Maninder Kaur**

Maninder's achievements and accomplishments within the Cassowary Coast Community include her involvement with volunteer organisations which include Young performers, Lioness and YWCA (advocate for Woman's rights) all this along with her busy school study schedule.

As a representative for Innisfail State College Maninder has been involved at local/State/National & international level with programs like

- 'We Will Remember Forum"
- Lion's youth of the Year
- Education English, Humanities & Sciences Championships (International)
- JCU Model UN Climate Change Conference

Topping of 2019 Maninder was chosen to be the Youth Member for Hill in the Queensland Youth Parliament at which she also received the Dr Joe Goodall Community Spirit Award 2019.

**Achievement Award – Maya Threlfall**

Mayer's long list of achievements for the past year range from Swimming Age champion, subject awards, netball & touch football awards as well as playing in an Innisfail netball team which competed in the Qld premier League – this was not all Maya did in 2019 one of the biggest achievements for Maya during 2019 was her Agricultural achievements.

- Winner 15-19 years Junior Cattel Parader Cairns Show
- Winner Tully show event – and subsequently selected to Represent North Qld as the EKKA
- Maya competed against 11 finalist at the EKKA from across Qld in the Stud Beef parading and won the state title

As state champion Maya will now travel to New Zealand in 2020 to compete in the national (Australia & New Zealand) as the Qld representative.

### **Achievement Award – Suzy Reis**

Suzy Reis is community minder, selfless and generous citizen of the Cassowary Coast Region.

In late 2018 Suzy's son was unable to be treated by the Emergency Staff at the Tully Hospital due to malfunctioning equipment, Suzy then went about finding out how she could assist.

Suzy was instrumental in the inception of the Tully Hospital Foundation and has been tirelessly raising fund through 2019 with a charity Football match, Car Wash, bike sale and meat raffles

In 2019 alone, the Hospital foundation has raised over \$10,000.00 to go towards much needed equipment for the Tully Hospital.

Not being satisfied with only raising funds for the Tully Hospital, Suzy also volunteered for the Tully Show, IRF World Rafting Championships, Tully Christmas Street Party and any other local charity event that is happening Suzy is chipping in too support.

### **Achievement Award - Malcom Davison**

Malcom Davison is club captain of Mission Beach Surf Lifesaving Club he has also been President of Lifesaving club for multiple years.

Since joining the club in 2014 Malcom has contributed 338.5 Hours just in volunteer beach patrol hours, this does not include hours spent with nippers, administration training and assessing.

As Club Captain Malcom organises all volunteer patrol rosters, along with coordinating water safety for annual carnivals, as well as conducting Nippers sessions where youth are taught essential beach lifesaving skills in a fun and sports focused environment.

Malcom is also involved with Mission Beach Scouts, a lead member of the swift water rescue firefighters for the Cassowary Coast.

### **EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION AWARD – All FISH FOR DOGS (Glen & Selena Murray)**

Glen and Selena Murray have lived in the Cassowary Coast region for 22 years. Together, they started the company 'All Fish for Dogs' in 2014 as a way of creating a commercial market out of fish by-product which would otherwise go to landfill.

As a commercial fisherman, Glen noticed undue waste in the fishing industry. His lightbulb moment was to set up a fish dehydrating factory to help improve the health of the dogs (and cats) of the world, while helping improve the bottom line of the fishermen, and take pressure off our oceans' environment.

This innovative business has gone from strength to strength, now employing 5 people and now selling globally. All Fish for Dogs is making the Cassowary Coast a leader in tackling the war on waste through innovation.