

# Cassowary Coast Regional Council

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD

### WINNERS 2022



#### **EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION AWARD – MARIA GIRGENTI**

Maria is well known and involved within the community. For seven years, Maria has worked tirelessly in her volunteer position of Secretary for 'Friends of the Con' community group with a handover to the new committee in 2021.

In a professional capacity, she works to ensure the community is informed and involved in local stories of interest by covering school events, community interest stories, sports- including working with QLD Rugby League and numerous Not for Profit organisations.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – JAYNE HENLEY & LIDIA MACKAY** **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – LORRAINE WHEELER**

##### **Achievement Award - Jayne Henley & Lidia Mackay**

Jayne & Lydia have been proactively involved in and behind the scenes with community events for many years.

This nomination focuses on their role working with the El Arish State School 100 Year sub-committee in preparation for their centenary.

"All Roads Lead Home" was a Photographic Exhibition that was staged over 2 days at the El Arish hall:

The event allowed people to see past and current faces of El Arish and read their stories. The photos were professional taken in a relaxed, non formal environment with memories digitally recorded.

The red carpeted event, along with the antique furniture added to the atmosphere and along with some trivia nights, these ladies helped raise over \$7,000.00 for the Centenary.

##### **Achievement Award – Lorraine Wheeler**

Lorraine has been a stalwart volunteer at Mission Beach State School for almost two decades.

For the past 17 years, Lorraine has dedicated every Wednesday, to assist the students and staff at Mission Beach State School Lorraine began volunteering as a classroom aid, where she helped children improve their reading and improve their writing & language skills.

Her calming and reassuring demeanour helped increase students self – confidence.

As for the Tuckshop Lorraine has helped feed and nurture the school community for over 15 years

## **YOUNG CULTURAL AWARD – ELIZA COOK**

Eliza has demonstrated resilience, determination whilst using her passion and drive to continue to develop and strive for improvement in the field of art and music.

Her passion for animal welfare has led to her volunteering at Cassowary Coast Paws & Claws. She also loves to paint and draw animals. This hobby has led to her being chosen as a top 13 finalist in a worldwide art competition run by International Fund for Animal welfare.

Eliza also is a keen violinist – having studied the violin since year 4 she enjoys playing and performing with the orchestra. She has performed at Undara Larva Tubes and the Yungaburra folk festival.

She is a singer in a school band and they were awarded 2nd place in the Innisfail State College Battle of the band comp.

## **CULTURAL AWARD – LAURIE TROTT**

Laurie Trott is a Mission Beach-based playwright, prize-winning poet, writer, editor with a special interest in tourism and the environment and is also an accredited Rain Forest Tour Guide.

Laurie was a partner in Rainforest Media Services, a founding member of the Mission Beach Community Art Centre (Mission Arts), writing workshop community facilitator with Contact Inc and Art Recovery Corps, following Cyclone Yasi. Laurie's poetry appears in print and on-line.

Laurie is an active member of the Licuala Writer's Group where she willingly shared her talents and expertise and also volunteers with C4 and is involved in preparing media releases and plant cuts.

Laurie had a big year in 2021.

Laurie secured RADF funding to mould and finesse her work with dramaturge and local play readings that led to, 'To Kill a Cassowary', as Laurie Trott's first professionally produced play, fulfilling a long held dream to educate the community about our special environment in an artistic way.

Laurie is passionate, creative and collaborative and is a great asset to the Cassowary Coast region.

## **SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD - AMBER OVERTON SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD – SHAWN DINEEN SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD – BRIAN McELHINNEY**

### **Service to Sport Award – Amber Overton**

Amber has significantly contributed to a range of sports in our region over many years:

- Competed in woman's soccer.
- Coached Woman's soccer teams.
- Was one of the first females to obtained a B Licence Soccer coaching certificate.
- Represented our region.
- Amber still is involved in playing and organising 6 aside social soccer.

Ambers other interests include rowing, where she volunteers many hours each week in teaching row classes, maintains the club house and has been secretary for the past five years.

### **Service to Sport Award – Shawn Dineen**

Shaun is president of the Kurrimine Beach Fishing Club – he has been a big part in the successful of the September Kurrimine Beach Fishing Competition

2021 was an extremely difficult year to prepare for a fishing tournament due to the COVID pandemic - but Shaun helped achieve another outstanding tournament.

- Strives continually to gain sponsorship for the Tournament.
- Worked tirelessly getting a shed built to house the clubs assets.
- Shaun is very approachable and has worked tirelessly to bring Creek to Coast back to the Competition.

### **Service to Sport Award – Brian McElhinney**

Brian has been a long time member for the Etty Bay Surf Lifesaving Club during this time he has been:

- Club president Now for the 11<sup>th</sup> year running.
- Team Manager.
- Club Safety Officer.
- North Qld branch Delegate.
- NQ Branch Council Member.
- Gained his medallion in 2017 – completed over 290 patrol hours.
- Club Person of the year on two occasions.
- Life Member 2016.

Brian has also dedicated a surmountable number of hours with his skilled labour as well as utilising his many contacts in the building industry to help with labour and equipment for club upgrades.

### **YOUNG SPORTS PERSON AWARD – HANNAH DRYDEN**

Hannah continues to excel in individual and team sports, particularly Netball & Touch Football.

Hannah always makes the most of opportunities presented to her, either at the local, state or national level. The personal growth Hannah is achieving through sport is significant, and as are the relationships she is making along the way.

Hannah's commitment to sport whilst balancing family and school priorities and still achieving academic awards is remarkable for such a young sports person.

### **SPORTS PERSON AWARD – BROOK TONGALEA**

Brook was the Tully High School Sports Captain for 2021- Brook also won the Tully High Sports person for 13-19 years' age group in 2021.

Brook had representative duties in Rugby League where she played in the Queensland School sports merit rugby league team.

Outside of school Brooke Represented:

- Northern Pride U19.
- Cairns Kangaroo's Rugby League team.

- First Nations Gem team.
- Cowboys Woman's Rugby League training academy.
- Involved with training camps with the Indigenous All stars.

## **COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR – TROPICAL ART DECO FESTIVAL 2021**

### **Facilitated by the Innisfail & District Historical Society and the subcommittee of the Tropical Art Deco Festival**

2021 saw the Tropical Art Deco Festival run by the Innisfail & District Historical Society for the first time.

The festival attracted approximately 2,500 patrons over five days of events.

Highlighted events included:

- Historical Society Moonlight Ghost Tour at the Innisfail cemetery.
- Art Deco High Tea.
- Vintage markets.
- Two x Snapping tours – Jazz tour and Prohibition Cocktail Cruise.

All up over the five day festival, 15 separate events were held.

**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD – JOHN CASALE**  
**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD – KATHY MARTIN**  
**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD – WANDA HUNTINGTON LOWE**  
**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD – DAVID JONES**  
**LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD – THEA ORMONDE**

### **Lifetime Contribution Award – John Casale**

Over the last 40 plus years, John has made an impact to the region and is being recognised for his tireless work and contribution.

John has been an active member of both the local and the North Queensland Tough Football associations for four decades.

As a player, coach and executive member of the Innisfail Touch Football Club, John has volunteered significant time to his love of sport, his club and to the wider community.

His volunteering highlights include being a founding member of IFL Touch Football association, involvement with Surf Life Saving Club, involvement with Touch Football Soccer and IFL Touch Football. Vice President of NQ Touch for over 15 years and Executive member for IFL Touch, referee and all-round volunteer for over two decades.

### **Lifetime Contribution Award – Kathy Martin**

Kathy Martin joined the Innisfail District Tennis Association in 1984 so for the last 37 years Kath has been involved in the management of the association –During this time she has held the positions of:

President, Secretary, Fixture Coordinator, Canteen Cook, Canteen Coordinator, Social Tennis Coordinator, Publicity Officer and Grants Officer,

Kathy Martin is the backbone of the Innisfail Tennis club and her passion and dedication for Innisfail tennis and its members is unrivalled.

In 2021 alone Kath held six of the positions in the management organisation.

### **Lifetime Contribution Award – Wanda Huntington Lowe**

Wanda has been and still is a very active member of the Mission Beach Community.

- Wanda has done regular patrols for the Mission Beach Surf lifesaving Club as well as being secretary of the club from 2005 until 2013.
- The Mission Beach Community Association was formed in 2005 and since inception, Wanda has been Minutes Secretary.
- Wanda's Involvement with Mission Arts dates back to the planning inception and founding member until she stepped down from the management committee in 2019.

### **Lifetime Contribution Award – David Jones**

David Jones gained his Bronze Medallion in 1996 and has been an active patrolling member of the Etty Bay Surf Life Saving Club for 35 years.

David has completed over 1200 patrol hours, 500 water safety hours including the Cairns Ironman at Palm Cove in the IRB the last 2 years. David attends Nipper Sunday as the water safety in in the IRB keeping nippers safe and doing continuous surveys.

### **Lifetime contribution Award – Thea Ormonde**

As a tireless volunteer in the community of Cardwell, Thea known for her calm self-possession and for her organisational skills volunteering tirelessly for the region.

Over many years, Thea served her community with her exceptional volunteer work with some of the most successful events being:

- Anniversary of Cyclone Yasi.
- Information sessions for Cyclone Preparedness.
- The Cardwell Easter Markets.
- Woman on Wheels.
- Jazz up the Jetty with Art in the Park.
- The Memphis Movers Workshop.
- NAIDOC Yarning Circle.
- UFO festival – many more to add to this list.

'What's What' - the local monthly community newsletter is another initiative Thea is involved with.

## **YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – STELLA BERGE**

Stella Berge

Young Citizen of the Year

Stella Berge is recognised as an inspiring member of the Cassowary Coast region. Stella has brought integrity, commitment and passion to her roles as Junior School Captain at Tully State High School in

2021. She was also recognised as Tully High School Junior Citizen of the Year, as well as awarded the Year 9 Academic Merit award.

Outside of school, Stella has received outstanding Netball accolades. She volunteers her time as umpire for Junior and Senior netball games- whilst being an active weekly participant in the sport herself. If this wasn't enough, she also volunteers her time umpiring junior and senior touch football games each week, whilst being participating herself in the sport.

Stella is a volunteer member of the Mission Beach Life Saving Club and volunteered at the 2021 Tully Debutante ball.

Stella is an inspirational role model and, besides being an asset to her school and local sporting clubs. She has achieved academic and sporting achievements well beyond her young age. Stella will next turn her eye to completing her bronze medallion when she turns 15 later this year. The course will allow her to participate in Surf Life Saving patrol operations.

## **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – IRENE BRADDICK**

It could be said that there would not be many people within the Cassowary Coast who have not benefited in some way from the volunteering efforts made by our 2022 Citizen of the Year.

Irene Braddick is honoured as Cassowary Coast's Citizen of the Year for her exhaustive volunteering and long commitment to making our community a better place.

Irene has lived in and been a volunteer in the Cassowary Coast Region for 29 years across several local and regional community organisations. She has been a part of the Tully Lions Club, Angel Care, Meals on Wheels and last year, Irene also joined Mission Arts Mission Beach Community Arts Centre and is secretary of its management committee,

In 2021, Irene also facilitated the Lions Children's Vision Screening Program throughout the Cassowary Coast Region, and into other parts of Queensland. Irene works in this program while continuing to volunteer in other roles extensively.

Irene and her husband have conducted the screening program throughout the Cassowary Coast Region, but have also travelled across western parts of Queensland to deliver the program.