



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

Information about 2024 Outstanding Community Service Award Recipients

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Maxx Richardson – White Cliffs.

Maxx was nominated for the award of Citizen of the Year for going above and beyond to benefit residents. Maxx works for Central Darling Shire Council, but this award is for all the community-minded work that he does outside of his work hours. Maxx was nominated as a person who is an asset to the community. Numerous examples were given of the support and assistance that Maxx has provided particularly to elderly residents. He helps people in any way he can, including fixing things for people and providing information to tourists.

Jessie Rogers – Ivanhoe

Jessie was nominated for Citizen of the Year for her work as an advocate for children, youth and their families in and around the Ivanhoe community. In the nomination it was noted that Jessie regularly sources grants/funding and organises services and opportunities to benefit this sector of the community. She is an office bearer of the Ivanhoe CWA branch, P&C committee, and preschool committee. Jessie advocated for and established the delivery of a Department of Education preschool within Ivanhoe Central School. She also advocated for and led the process to enable three-year-old children to attend the Department of Education preschool within Ivanhoe Central School. Jessie was instrumental in establishing a mobile childcare service that visits Ivanhoe on an occasional basis. She led the process for sourcing funding, leading to a school bus service for Ivanhoe Central school students. Jessie secured grant funding and organised intensive swimming programs for children in the summers of 2023 and 2024. She secured funding for and organised a school holiday mural and pavement painting workshop/activity day.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Jada Hogg - Menindee

Jada is a 17-year-old young Aboriginal girl who was nominated for the Young Citizen of the Year award because she continually volunteers, offers support to community events and loves to help anyone in need. In the nomination it was noted that Jada has volunteered at the school, nursing service, the train accommodation, the local store, Land Council, knockout and rugby games. She also does talks to share experiences of country life with visitors and often assists with catering for visitors and tourists to the area. Jada often visits elderly people in the community to have a yarn with them and help them with housework. She will deliver food and will share some stories with them knowing that they don't get a lot of visitors. Jada is a role model for other young people. She received two early entry offers for university to study nursing or teaching.



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SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Petrina Williams - Menindee

Petrina was nominated for the award of Service to the Community as a proud Menindee community member who assists when and where she can. She is also the owner of a takeaway shop / grocery store, Redsand Takeaway. In the nomination it was noted that over the past 10 or so years, Petrina has taken on more for the community in her personal and business life. She ably stepped up preparing and cooking meals for the elderly when the local Meals-on-Wheels service closed. The local school could not get a canteen operator so once again Petrina came to the rescue by operating the school canteen. Petrina has been a huge help over the years for the Menindee CWA Branch by assisting with catering, holding a key to the hall for visiting hirers and just being there in general to help as needed. She has also helped catering for emergency services (in times of need), tourists, meetings, film crews, school, and community functions.

Jane Stevenson – White Cliffs

Jane Stevenson was nominated for the award of Service to the Community for her selfless dedication to White Cliffs and the wider communities over many years. Jane coordinated and ran the White Cliffs Op Shop on a voluntary basis for many years until it closed. In the nomination it was noted that in 2023 Jane reinvigorated the Op Shop to a pop-up shop once a month. All proceeds go the RFDS with over \$1000 raised in 2023. She assists residents including the elderly, disabled and isolated people in town. Jane volunteers her skills as a typist for community members. For the past 12 years Jane has been the sole organiser of the White Cliffs Gem Fest. The Gem Fest is an important and popular event on the local tourism calendar. In the nomination it was noted that Jane self-funds her community activities and any money raised is donated to worthy causes.

Maria Wilson – Wilcannia

Maria Wilson, an Aboriginal elder, was nominated for the award of Service to the Community for the big role she plays in the Wilcannia community. It was noted in the nomination that Maria likes to help in the community, attend all functions in the community and is family orientated. Her work in the community includes helping guide local youth.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY – Special Recognition

Colleen Wilson – Wilcannia

Colleen Wilson is being given Special Recognition for her Service to the Community. In the nomination it was noted that Colleen always puts people first whether it is for her community, or an event organised in the community. Special mention was made about the lovely food and great catering service that Colleen provides in town for residents and visitors. It was noted that Colleen's catering for events such as a fundraiser for the Royal Flying Doctor Service was enjoyed by all and created a positive experience for visitors to the town.



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Greg Hill – Council Staff

Council General Manager Greg Hill is being given Special Recognition for Service to the Community as Council staff. In the nomination it was noted that Mr Hill has worked to help create economic growth in the Shire. Wilcannia was highlighted as an area of dramatic growth with new development. It was noted that economic development in the Shire is supporting jobs and businesses.

Jane McEwan – Council Staff

Council Customer Service Manager Jane McEwan is being given Special Recognition for Service to the Community as Council staff. In the nomination it was noted that Jane is a person that will go above and beyond to assist residents. It was highlighted that Jane is dedicated to assisting people and nothing is ever a problem for her when it comes to helping people. In the nomination it was noted that Jane brings Joy to many people as she goes about her work helping others.

EVENT OF THE YEAR 2023

White Cliffs Hotel – Owners Sarah Ker and Matt Young

The White Cliffs Hotel was nominated for the Event of the Year because in 2023 the hotel won the NSW Australian Hotels Association Awards of Excellence for the Best Bush Pub category. Shire-wide the Australian Hotels Association award win by Sarah and Matt was an exciting achievement. White Cliffs is a tourist destination, and the hotel is recognised for providing a positive experience for visitors to the area.

Menindee Central School Carols by Candlelight

Menindee Central School was nominated for Event of the Year as a well-deserving recipient hosting the popular Carols by Candlelight which is a wonderful event on the school oval for families to get into the spirit of Christmas. All Menindee preschool, school students and staff are involved with the performances. Many staff give up their time to set up the event.

ENDS

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