



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Outstanding Community Service Award Recipients

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mark Huntly – Ivanhoe

Awarded for dedication in helping the local community when needed. Mark has been the President of the Ivanhoe Football Club since it started up again in 2017/2018. He was one of the instigators in getting the football back to Ivanhoe. Mark has been hardworking and dedicated to this cause. He works tirelessly throughout the football season and outside of it. He pushed to get the oval returned.

Chris Elliott – Wilcannia

Awarded for being a great ambassador for Wilcannia, work promoting the town and assistance to vulnerable residents. Chris has been actively involved in the local community covering a range of areas including volunteer work at the Wilcannia Golf Club to keep it up and running, opening of Miss Barrett's coffee shop, Meals on Wheels, delivery of bottled water to those in need, general assistance to the elderly and those that cannot drive. Visitation to those that may need help. Regular phone checks on vulnerable people and keeping the town updated on news and events.

Joy Hopkins - Menindee

Awarded for commitment to tourism. Joy has been volunteering at the Menindee Regional Tourism Centre for about 10 years. She started off doing a day here and there. About three or four years ago she started volunteering six days a week. Joy opens the Menindee Tourist Centre at 10am rain, hail, or shine, to inform the tourists of road closures, camping spots and what to do in Menindee. She only has Wednesdays off. Due to a lack of volunteers, she will come in on her day off and open the Tourist Centre if a tourist bus comes to town.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Gary Rolton - Menindee

Awarded for outstanding community involvement and 34 years of service in the Rural Fire Service and 20 years as Captain. Gary has been a true inspiration to the community and a great leader at the RFS. He has retired from the RFS but is still involved in the community including mowing lawns for the elderly and disabled as well as work at the Menindee Central school.

John Pineo – Wilcannia

Awarded for work assisting with the restoration of the Catholic Church in Wilcannia, being a member of the Wilcannia cemetery committee until it disbanded, volunteer with Wilcannia News, most recently as president, volunteer with the Rural Fire Service for 27 years, awarded a National Emergency Award in 2022. John and his RFS team were among the first



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to assist with the logistics of receiving and distributing food hampers when COVID-19 first hit Wilcannia. His experience within the community was invaluable during the pandemic.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY - Special Recognition

Margot Muscat – Menindee

Margot has helped in the Menindee community since the day she moved to town, about 40 years ago. Margot has retired but is still helping the community in many ways through her work with the local op shop and with the CWA. Margot still has many community members who go to her for her help, her honest opinion, and her guidance since her retirement.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY - Special Recognition

Local Business - Wilcannia & Menindee Pharmacy teams

Awarded for service to the community. Pharmacy staff coordinated with the Central Darling Shire and NSW health to protect local communities by vaccinating people against COVID-19, the flu and Japanese Encephalitis, which is a rare but very serious illness. Before the presence of both Pharmacies people used to get their medications from Broken Hill which could take days for the medications to arrive. Having a pharmacy in both towns means people are now able to contact the pharmacist face to face who can speak with them about their medications improving people's health wellbeing.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY - Special Recognition

The Bunyan Family – Ivanhoe

Awarded to John, Jan and Shaun Bunyan for service to the community. When the Hay Road was closed with flood water, they took the initiative to make a side track around the flood water on their property at their own costs. This involved supplying pipe for drainage, use of their own machinery. It was time consuming, but they persisted with the no assistance from any government agencies. This provided a tremendous service to the community of Ivanhoe allowing people to be able to travel out of town without having to go greater distances. Saving in time and fuel costs. The community of Ivanhoe are extremely grateful for the family's service to the community.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Frances Dutton – Wilcannia

Awarded for community orientated work and encouraging local youth to make positive life choices. Francis has demonstrated her willingness to assist and help community through the following: Radio Broadcaster Wilcannia River Radio (2019/2021), Wilcannia LALC (also took over food distribution shed in Wilcannia during Covid 19 pandemic), Member of Mutawintji Youth Council (2022), Board Member Baaka Cultural Centre (2022). Francis has also attended the Yalari camp as a mentor (2015), volunteered at Wilcannia Driver Reviver (2014/2015) and volunteered as a Cultural Site Monitoring Assistant -National Parks & Wildlife Service (2018).

ENDS

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