

# Winners for Australia Day 2022 in Balranald Shire

## **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

### **Colin Jacka, Peter Barrett and Vic Pope (Southern Cross Museum)**

These three men front the Balranald Southern Cross Museum seven days a week from 10am to 2pm. They have done this since 2015 when the museum was opened to the public. Locally it is known as the Aeroplane Shed.

It all started in 2014 when Col's son Paul asked his Dad if he would be interested in purchasing the Southern Cross Replica Plane which was built for Channel 7 mini series "A Thousand Skies" a story about Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith. Col took Paul up on the offer and the Southern Cross Exhibition was born.

The Army came on board and paid to freight the plane from Okey Queensland to Balranald with the help of Neil Daley. Then came the painstaking task of restoration of the plane which took quite some time. Not long after that the opportunity arose to purchase the Lady Southern Cross from the National Australian Air Museum Melbourne and she sits proudly beside the Southern Cross in the Shed.

The Shed was built by well known identity Ralph Wood who was a pioneer in the transport industry. Ralph was a man born before his time and the Shed hosts heaps of history and memorabilia in his honour.

Another identity on show in the Museum is Ray Parar who was the first person to fly a single engine aircraft from England to Australia also a history in Balranald where he co-owned a café with his brother. Again the shed houses an extensive history on Ray Parar partly in thanks to David and Bredan Coates, Frank Old, Stephen Blore and Michael Spinks.

There are many more items on show far too many to speak about. The guys have a very generous benefactor who purchased the shed for them to keep this wonderful collection safe in our town.

They raise funds by giving guided tours of the museum and let me tell you they are extremely well versed in the history of Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, Ray Parar and Ralph Wood, well worth the \$5 fee.

They also collect bottles and cans from local people around town and sell them to bring much needed funds and run a raffle every now and then.

## **Justin Griffiths**

Justin is the President of the Balranald Motorcycle Club where he has held this position for a number of years. Justin spends countless hours at the club preparing the track for race and training days so that competitors can have a good and safe track to race on. Preparing the track before race day usually starts one week before race day this means he is out every night after work watering the track and ploughing the track so it is in good condition.

Justin is also a Committee Member of the Balranald Football Club where he helps out around the club, cleaning the big shed before Thursday night training or matchdays.

He is also on the Junior Football Club Committee where he is an Auskick Co-Ordinator.

He is also on the Committee of the Balranald Swimming Club and he volunteers his time for whenever he is needed.

He also volunteers his time helping the Joseph's P&F doing fundraisers or helping set up and pack up after the school fete.

## **Tom Lister**

Tom was born in 1991 and went to St Joseph's School in Balranald for his primary schooling.

He attended MacKillop School in Swan Hill for the first two years of his secondary school and completed secondary schooling at Balranald Central School. He left in Year 10.

Tom has had a passion for cricket all his life. With his obsession and love of Euston and Robinvale community members, Tom decided the kids in Euston and Robinvale were missing out so with the assistance of some others he rallied around and resurrected the Euston/Robinvale Cricket Team, back to not only playing, but they won 3 out of the first four rounds. The Club is currently sitting equal first on the ladder.

Tom single handed inspired the resurrection of the Robinvale Euston Rangers Cricket Club and brought a cricket team to represent Robinvale/Euston townships.

Tom being President of this Club, young and enthusiastic with lots of love and passion for cricket and kids and cricket lovers of Euston/Robinvale, this Club with go on for many years.

## **COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR - The Homebush Recreation Club Inc**

I wish to nominate The Homebush Recreation Club Inc 2021 Rodeo for the 2022 Awards.

The Homebush Executive Committee Mr Phillip Pippin (President), Mrs Alison Linnett (Secretary) and Mrs Sandy Pippin (Treasurer) along with the Committee had planned to hold a rodeo in April 2020 but due to the Covid crisis the rodeo was postponed until April 24, 2021.

The Committee continued with the planning for a rodeo on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, keeping in mind that the event may have to be postponed again. It was decided that a meeting would be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 for the final decision as to whether the Committee would be able to hold the rodeo. This was just 4 weeks before the rodeo.

At the Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 it was agreed to keep going with the planning for the rodeo and hope for the best. The Committee along with many volunteers worked very hard on the organization and work took place to ready the Homebush Creation Reserve ground for the rodeo.

The Homebush Recreation Club Inc Rodeo was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. The crowd attendance was 2000 people. The rodeo was the first major event held in Balranald for some time. The feedback was very positive. It was wonderful to see so many people in one place having a good time. Local business reported that it had an increase in business.

The Committee aim, apart from holding a rodeo, was to support local business and hold an event that the community could gather together.

## **SPORTING TEAMS OF THE YEAR- Balranald Football/Netball Club A Grade Netball and Balranald Football/Netball Club Under 18's Netball**

**The Teams were nominated by the Balranald Football Netball Club**

### **A Grade**

Jess Parry  
Elli-Jane Brougham  
Madison Jess  
Taylin Barry  
Stevie Bibby  
Hannah Morton  
Bonnie Jolliffe  
Bree Hodgson  
Ella Mitchenson

### **Under 18's**

Hannah Morton  
Lauren Jess  
Bonnie Jolliffe  
Molly Helgeland  
Macey Lloyd  
Bree Hodgson  
Tegan Bruton

Both teams were Minor Premiers for 2021 in the Central Murray League. Covid stopped play in August 2021. Both teams trained and became a very strong group. They are so hard to separate.

Congratulations to the A Grade & U18's Netball Teams

## **YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**

This year the Executive of Chairs has chosen to have a Young Sportsman of the Year from both Balranald and Euston.

### **YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR (Balranald)**

#### **– Grace Morton**

Grace was awarded the Best and Fairest of the Under 16's netball for Central Murray League. She is also won the Under 16's Best and Fairest for the Balranald Football Netball Club and the LV Bodinnar Award.

Grace has many netball awards and she also represented Central Murray in the Interleague this year.

Grace has had a fantastic year, winning the 16's league award and still being able to represent at Under 14's level.

### **YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR (Euston)**

#### **– Matt Phajongdee**

Mathew has proven himself to be an outstanding sportsman. He was the Year 11 Old Champion in Swimming and Athletics and represented the Barrier Region at the PSSA State Swimming Carnival at Homebush, Sydney.

### **SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR – Jess Parry**

Jess is the A Grade and Under 18's netball Coach and also the Junior Development Co-ordinator for the Balranald Football Netball Club.

Jess was awarded Central Murray Coach of the Year and the A Grade Best and Fairest for Central Murray.

Jess is the A Grade and 18's netball Coach and also the Junior Development Co-ordinator for the Balranald Football Netball Club. Season 2021 was a stop/start year due to Covid, but Jess kept all players keen and focused and fit to get to where they wanted to be on top of the ladder at the end of the season. A Grade netballers made history this year, as ladder leaders this has not been the case for the Roos in about 30 years.

The 18's side remained undefeated for the season. All these players were guided by Jess.

Jess was awarded Central Murray Coach of the Year and the A Grade Best and Fairest for Central Murray which is a massive achievement.

## **YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

This year the Executive of Chairs has chosen to have a Young Citizen of the Year from both Balranald and Euston.

### **YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR (Balranald)**

#### **– Jackson Bialobrzkeski**

Jackson has for the past 4 years acted as Junior Mayor selflessly giving his time to run activities for the youth of the local community including Discos, Activity Days, Movie Nights etc. In his role I have watched him grow into a fine young man with an ability to co-ordinate events, manage money and time skills, all to give back to his community. He is a very worthy recipient.

### **YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR (Euston)**

#### **– Isla Taylor**

Public School since kindergarten. She has proven herself to be a capable sportsperson and leading citizen at Euston Public School.

During 2021 Isla has worked diligently as a school leader in her position as School Captain. She has completely run afternoon student assemblies and reliably run the school bell throughout the school year to signal school break times.

As a school leader, Isla performed admirably in the student led Euston ANZAC Service. Along with her fellow leaders, she led the march, spoke in front of the crowd and laid the wreath. As School Captain she attended the Robinvale Remembrance Day to represent the school.

Isla was one of the hosts running the School Presentation Day, introducing teachers and presenters. Isla was awarded the Maths and Science Prize, Balranald Shire Literary Award and the Euston Club Scholarship.

Isla is an exceptional sportsperson. After winning Senior School Champion at the Euston Swimming Carnival, Isla was a representative at the Murray Darling Carnival where she achieved third place in the Open 100m Freestyle and Senior Girls 33m Breaststroke.

Isla is the Euston Public School Senior Girl Cross Country Champion. She then completed very well to win 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Murray Darling Cross Country.

Isla is the Euston Public School Senior Girl Athletics Champion, qualifying for the Murray Darling Carnival which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the Covid Lockdown.

Isla is a highly competitive netball player. In both 2020 & 2021 she tried out and was selected for the Barrier Netball team to compete at the PSSA Carnival. Disappointingly both were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Isla plays for the Merbein Football & Netball Club and was Runner-up Best & Fairest in U/13

Division 1. Isla represented Sunraysia Football Netball in the U13 division at a number of carnivals.

## **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - Jan Lawler.**

Instrumental in founding "Meals on Wheels" for Balranald in the late 1970's to provide delivered meals to the aged and infirm in their homes.

Member of the St Joseph's Parents & Friends in the 1980's supporting the school community.

In the 1980's part of the community that started the Balranald Pony Club and helped set up the wonderful facility that it is today. She was Secretary and DC interchangeably for the next 15 years, teaching and inspiring young riders to State, National and International level competition, never forgetting the needs of the not so competitive members. After a few years of well earned break, she is currently back at Balranald Pony Club bringing on the next generation of horsemen and women.

Inaugural Member of the CanAssist Balranald Branch and continues to help raise funds for local people affected by cancer.

Inaugural Member of Balranald Inc and part of many projects to promote and better the general community of Balranald.

Jan has drawn and painted from a very young age and after leaving Adelaide in 1967 to pursue a position as a Governess on "Tasman" Station near Ivanhoe NSW she continued with her passion in the arts, eventually settling in Balranald with husband Peter and raising three daughters.

Jan was fortunate to receive tuition from renowned artists Peter Wegner (Winner of the Archibald in 2021), Val Balmain, Bill Beasley, Ross Paterson & Lance and Jan McNeill. All exceptional Australian artists who encouraged Jan as they could see her gifted artistic skills.

For 38 years she was part of a group of very talented artists "The Painters on the Plains" who met twice a year for a weeks retreat at "Abbotsford" Station, Ivanhoe, producing spectacular works of art. Her love of the Outback, wildlife and it's characters certainly shows in many of her paintings.

Jan exhibited and won many major awards throughout Australia including Victor Harbour SA (1990 & 2000), Camberwell Melbourne, Mansfield, Wangaratta, Bright, Tumut, Kerang, Deniliquin, Mildura, Corowa, Corriong and Goondiwindi. Also an exhibition of her works was shown in Kew in Melbourne and was a great success.

As a founding Member in 1980 she helped to set up the Balranald Community Arts and Craft Inc "The Gallery" and was actively involved in the restoration of the building (Masonic Hall est 1880). For many years Jan held the position of

President and is currently the Co-Ordinator of exhibitions and workshops, sourcing talented artists, tutors, judges and sponsors with great success. The Gallery now holds a collection of over thirty permanent pieces of art, which was acquired from the annual art exhibitions held over the last 41 years. These paintings are sponsored by the Balranald Shire Councils "Acquisitive Best in Show" to the value of \$2,000 prize money. They now take pride of place at the Gallery along with twenty donated paintings for all the community and tourists to admire seven days a week. For many years, Jan was on the Balranald Shire Council sub-committee for Art & Culture, her input was invaluable.

The Gallery has held "The Bal-Archies" Portrait Exhibition in conjunction with the "5 Rivers Outback Festival" of which Jan is a committee member ever since its inception attracting over 150 entries in paintings, photography, sculpture & print, which is an enormous task for her to co-ordinate. Jan's enthusiasm and passion in this role certainly puts "The Gallery" on the map encouraging many visitors and tourists not only to "The Gallery" but to own town and area.

She was also on the Board of South West Arts Deniliquin for many years, establishing travelling exhibitions to Balranald such as the world renowned "Anne Frank Exhibitions" I & II, "Faces of the South West", "David Malin Night Sky" photography exhibition, "Threads of our Community – Fibre Art" exhibition and many more. This involved lots of hours of travel and time to bring these great events to Balranald for all the community to enjoy.

Recently, Jan was commissioned by the NSW Government's Saving Our Species Program to exhibit a painting for the "Plains Wanderer Art Exhibition" in Deniliquin. Her painting was much admired by the general public when it also went on tour to Hay and Echuca.

Lately, Jan has created an after school program at "The Gallery" called "Kids Korner" for children to engage in art and craft activities. She believes that art and culture is a very important component for their development and is keen to foster their interest in these areas. Kids Korner is very popular with local children.

Over the last 41 years Jan has done an amazing job as an active and enthusiastic member of not only the Balranald Arts and Crafts Inc., but she has contributed so much to the wider community and would be very worthy of an Australia Day Award.