

# AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS 2024



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### Helen Dalton

Helen Dalton was nominated for a Special Achievement for her work assisting the non-profit organisation called “Days for Girls International”.

Helen assists the Mildura Day for the Girls group which consist of 27 ladies by voluntarily lending her time and talents sewing for the organisation “Day for Girls” kits. The Mildura team leader advises that Helen alone has sewn approximately 50% of what the group supplies and she has been a keen advocate for this cause, actively assisting since 2018 – more than 5 ½ years.

The Mildura group has supplied 1,300 products which are going to New Guinea Samoa (where Helen has visited), refugee camps, and to some Australian Indigenous women.

### Balranald Can Assist Branch

- Founded in 2007.
- Donated \$207,000 to local community members to assist financially during their cancer journeys, since 2014.
- In 2022-23 donated \$51,000 to 16 clients in the local community.
- All monies raised locally & donated to Can Assist by volunteers or community groups is used by can assist to tailor financial assistance to suit the individual client. (Accommodation, travel, medical procedures, medicine, household expenses e.g. rates, power, groceries, greenslip's).
- All assistance is strictly, confidential & arranged through the patient co-ordinator Wyn Scott.



### Congratulations Helen and Balranald Can Assist Branch

## **COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR**

### **Balranald Football Netball Club - Can Assist Footy Weekend**

The Balranald Football Netball Club runs a Can Assist Footy/Netball weekend annually. This event allows the local Can Assist Branch to raise much needed funds for their non-profit group that donates the money to local community members to assist in the expenses they experience during their cancer journey, relieving the stress and pressure that comes with the lost wages and time spent recuperating.

The event in 2023 occurred on the weekend of July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers sold raffle tickets at the gate, netballers ran an afternoon tea. Can Assist ran raffles, footballers auctioned their jumpers and donated a percentage to Can Assist. Jordan Wilkins donated and auctioned a netball dress with all proceeds going to Can Assist.

All Fundraisers including gate raffle, Afternoon Tea Raffle, Donations, Bar donations, Thursday Raffle, Jumper Auction and Jordan Wilkins Netball dress raised \$9,569.25 and an extra donation from Alison Linnett's Head shave that raised an additional \$7,136 for Can Assist Balranald.

### **Congratulations to the Balranald Football Netball Club**



**Ambassador, Eren Incekara, Tony Stead and Ellie-Jane Pollard**

## SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

### Hannah Morton

Hannah played all her junior netball with the Balranald Netball Club. Playing in our senior grades from a young age. Once finished her schooling, Hannah left for a year continuing to play netball and gain experience at another league.

Returning to the Balranald Netball Club in 2023, Hannah played in our A Grade team, which finished 4<sup>th</sup> on the ladder for the Central Murray Football Netball League (CMFNL) Season. This qualified them to play finals. Hannah was a very important part of the team playing in goal defence. Hannah won the Balranald Netball Club Best & Fairest for A Grade 2023 and for the CMFNL.

This is a great achievement by Hannah competing against all the teams in the CMFNL Competition. Hannah also committed her time helping in the Football Canteen on game day and is a member of the Football Netball Social Committee. Our club is very proud of Hannah's achievements in the Netball field.

### Congratulations Hannah Morton

Hannah was not present on the day for a photo

## YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

### Brandon Bulzomi

Brandon Bulzomi has been an exceptional student at the Euston Public School from Kindergarten to year 6. Brandon has always upheld school values and has been a brilliant role model for our students. As the 2023 school captain Brandon enthusiastically thrives in sports and has represented the Euston Public School at both regional and state levels. Brandon has excelled in Athletics and Basketball. He attended the state level of Basketball and Athletics during 2022 and 2023.

During 2023 Brandon coordinated a school wide basketball tournament, where he gave up his lunchtimes to organise the students and umpire the games. At the conclusion of this tournament, he created awards and presented them to the students during a whole school assembly.

During lunchtime sport Brandon is the first student to ensure that younger and less experienced players get a turn. Brandon also displays great sportsmanship during these games.

At our presentation night Brandon received the Euston Club Junior Sports person Award, the Principals Award and the Euston Club Scholarship Award.

Brandon has demonstrated great leadership as our school captain this year!

Brandon was not present for a photo



## Ryan Johnstone

Ryan is actively involved in many different sports and represents his clubs and town with pride, he shows great leadership skills in all the sports that he participates in, and this is evident when he arrives at training early to help set up. You also see Ryan after training offering to help pack up and put equipment away. During training Ryan is helpful to his teammates and encourages all team mates to participate.

This year Ryan represented the Riverina Primary School Sports Association in AFL where he competed at Batemans Bay at the NSWPSA School Boys AFL Championship. Riverina won the Championship and they were crowned the Undefeated NSWPSA School Boys Champions.

Ryan is an active member of the Balranald Football & Netball Club Under 12's & Under 14's Football Teams where he won the Under 12's Best & Fairest in Season 2023. In season 2022 he claimed the Under 12's Runner Up and Most Improved Awards.

This year Ryan represented the Riverina Primary School Sports Association in Softball for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. The team travelled to Cronulla in 2023 & Mudgee in 2022 to compete at the NSWPSA Under 12 State Championships.

Ryan plays representative softball for the Albury/Wodonga Softball Association and played at the Victorian Under 14's State Carnivals in April and November 2023.

Ryan was an active member of the Wodonga Warriors Softball Association during the 2022/2023 Season. Ryan won the Best on Ground award in the Under 14's Grand Final in March 2023 where this time they were undefeated premiers.

In 2022 Ryan played and won the under 12's grand final for the Wodonga Warriors Softball team and was awarded the Best on Ground Award.

Ryan represents the Balranald Central School in many different sports including Tennis, Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Football & Softball.

Ryan has represented Moulamein Primary School Sports Association on various occasions in Athletics, Cross Country, Tennis and Football.



**Congratulations to Brandon Bulzomi and Ryan Johnstone**

## SPORTING TEAM OF THE YEAR

### Balranald Senior Football Team 2023.

The Balranald Senior Football Team was nominated for the Sports Team of the Year, finishing second on the ladder for the regular season. This secured their spot in finals. They then played the Qualifying Final in Lalbert against Woorinen and won. That then put them into the Second Semi Final against Kerang at home at Greenham Park Oval which was a big success for the town. They defeated Kerang who were the reigning Premiers from last season and who were top of the ladder all year and did not lose a game all year until the second semi-final. They secured their spot straight into the Grand Final on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.

Unfortunately, the boys were defeated in the Grand Final by Kerang after a well fought game, by only 10 points.

Although the day didn't go our way, the Balranald Football Netball Club and town are extremely proud of the effort all the boys and coaching staff put into the season and they will be able to build on this for years to come.

This football side was also the first team to play finals in 13 years and to make the Grand Final is an amazing achievement and one which they should be very proud of as we are of them.

#### A summary of their achievements

- Lost the Central Murray Football League Grand Final to Kerang by 10pts.
- Amazing year of football and making it into the finals after many years.
- Whole town very excited, lifted town spirits after covid and lockdowns.
- Lots of local players.
- Amazing support from whole township.

### Balranald Netball Club A Res Team

The Balranald A Res Netball team finished 5<sup>th</sup> on the ladder for the CMFNL 2023 Season after 16 rounds of netball.

This qualified them to play finals. Finishing 5<sup>th</sup> meant that each week was a must win game to keep progressing through the finals.

The team played extremely well and won the next 3 games to progress to the Grand Final.

In the Grand Final they played the Mallee Eagles (the top team for the season). Supported by many Roo Fans they played extremely well once again, losing by 1 goal in the dying seconds of the game. Our A Res team has done the club and town very proud, never giving up and aiming big. Their dedication and commitment during the 2023 Season to finish strong was outstanding.



Eren Incekara (Ambassador) Tony Stead, Macy Lloyd and Brogan Carter

### Congratulations to the Balranald Seniors Football Team and the Netball A Reserves Team

# YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

## Kaitley Amy

Kaitley is a member of Homebush Recreation Club, Balranald Can Assist, Balranald Tennis Clun and the Balranald Football Netball Club.

Kaitley was the Captain of Fire & Rescue Fire Brigade - Station 212 Balranald

### Summary

- She Joined Fire & Rescue in 2020
- She Organises training sessions for members and recruits.
- Recruitment of more members.
- Liaise with other services e.g. police, ambulance & the Rural Fire Service.
- Is a Positive role model to young people in our community.
- Attends training at other stations.
- She is the poster face used for recruitment.
- Visits schools, preschools, fetes
- Raising awareness of fire hazards in our community.
- Organises on-call roster.
- Liaises with other fire station captains.

Is a strong and positive role model for young women and girls in our community.

**Congratulations Kaitley Amy.**



# CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

## Heather Mitchell

Balranald Lions Club – past member & volunteer for many years.

Balranald Hospital Auxiliary – president for approximately 16 years. Volunteers at functions, raises money to supply patient care @ balranald MPS. Regularly attends yearly zone meetings.  
Balranald Town Club – past member & volunteer at functions and the fishing classic.

Meals on Wheels – Volunteer for over 12 Years, regularly delivering meals to people in need.

Balranald Golf & Bowling Club – member and volunteer for many years.

Visitor – regularly visits ill patients and clients at the Balranald MPS and Bidgee Haven, offering a bright friendly face for a chat and catch up. Very caring and keep in touch with people who are sick or experiencing difficult times in their lives.



**Congratulations Heather Mitchell.**