

Tuesday 5 February 2019

## 2019 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS AND CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

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The Narrandera Shire Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony were held at Marie Bashir Park on Saturday 26 January, festivities kicking off with an early morning breakfast generously provided by The Lions Club.

Narrandera Shire welcomed five new citizens to our municipality from Nigeria, China and the Philippines. New citizens received 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australia citizenship ceremonial coins, 2019 citizenship coins from Perth mint and the children received special gifts.

Australia Day Awards followed, recognising outstanding contributions to the Narrandera Shire community with presentations made in the categories of 'Organisation of the Year', 'Young Citizen of the Year', 'Senior Citizen of the Year' and 'Citizen of the Year'.

The 2019 winners are:

**Organisation of the Year – Bidgee Boxing** The message in Bidgee Boxing's mission statement "To engage with our members and community in a respectful and inclusive manner and to empower them to cultivate a safe and healthy community" resonates through the Narrandera Shire Community. The significant contributions and hard work of the dedicated committee members have positively influenced the betterment of Narrandera Shire.

**Young Citizen of the Year- Renae Galvin** has used her talents over the course of many years to benefit the Narrandera Community. She has participated in many community events, including the annual bible society concert. She has also been the lead singer in multiple events including ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Carols in the Park, and the Narrandera Christmas fun fair. In October this year Renae orchestrated and ran her own charity concert and all funds raised were donated to Can Assist and this year set up her own business "Renae Galvin Music".

**Senior Citizen of the Year – Jocelyn Middleton** better known as Josie, has been a member of NSW Royal Lifesaving Society and in this capacity has encouraged many students to gain Lifesaving certificates and medals from basic safety, bronze medallions to instructors and examiners qualifications. Josie organised Learn to swim classes at Lake Talbot pool, where she organised swim teachers, classes and the children. Josie's effectiveness and influence on swimming and water safety in Narrandera Shire has benefited the lives of the youth in the Narrandera Shire area. Josie has previously coordinated Meals on Wheels and was a committee member of Narrandera Preschool working tirelessly on fundraising initiatives. Josie is also a member of the Red Cross, St. Mels Choir, Narrandera Local Arts & Crafts and a steward of Narrandera Show Society.

**Citizen of the Year – Dr. Joseph Romeo** arrived in Narrandera in 1993 to join the Narrandera Medical Practice and is now the principal GP and anaesthetist, and Director of Medical Services in Narrandera. His leadership, expert skills and knowledge as a doctor have assisted in sustaining medical services in Narrandera Shire. Dr Romeo has been an active voice in our community and has spoken at various health forums to promote rural doctors and the struggles they face while highlighting the benefits of being a country doctor and a member of a small

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community. He is enthusiastic and keen to take any opportunity to express his concerns and thoughts on health issues and medical services affecting the community.

Narrandera Shire Council would like to congratulate all of the Australia Day Award winners and nominees, and welcome our new Australian citizens to the community.



*Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka and Citizen of the Year Dr Joseph Romeo.*

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Precis or Summary: 2019 Australia Day Awards And Citizenship Ceremony			
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