Media Release
Australia Day Awards
29 January 2018

Robyn Ferrier (Citizen of the Year), Keniesha Ryan (Young Citizen of the Year) and the Birchip Mallee Bull Pacing Cup 2017 have been honoured at Australia Day celebrations across Buloke on Friday 26 January.

Robyn Ferrier was presented by Mayor Cr David Pollard as Buloke Citizen of the Year in front of a strong crowd at a ceremony held in Birchip.

Robyn's list of community involvement is extensive, with the community benefiting widely from her selfless hard work across a diverse range of areas. The level of commitment shown to the Birchip community is a testament to her.

She is currently Chair of East Wimmera Health Service, President of the Birchip Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, and a highly active Community Forum member. She is also a member of the Community Garden and Chocolate Sunday's Singing Choir amongst others.

Robyn was chair of the Birchip Forum subcommittee that successfully developed the Community Transport service delivery model and the L2P driver programme.

Robyn's commitments don't end there; she and her husband John also warmly hosted many local, interstate and international visitors on behalf of the Birchip Cropping Group.

Robyn's commitment to the community also extended to service on Buloke Shire Council between 2000 and 2008, serving two terms as mayor.

"Birchip and the wider Buloke community has certainly benefitted from Robyn's drive and active participation in so many community endeavours. People like Robyn are not only what makes Buloke a great place to live, but without her and the many others doing great work; it would be a vastly different place. It is with such great pride that Council anoints Robyn as Citizen of the Year", said Cr

Pollard.

Berriwillock celebrations saw young local Keniesha Ryan awarded Buloke Young Citizen of the year by Deputy Mayor Cr Darryl Warren.

Keniesha is described as generous, responsible, enthusiastic, and individual with strong interpersonal and leadership skills.

Keniesha has been selected to carry the Commonwealth Games baton and will be proudly representing both Buloke and Berriwillock in doing so.

She was the recipient of the 2017 Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship at the Melbourne Theatre Company, a highly sought after scholarship. She has been a member of the Tyrrell College Student Representative Council from 2013-2017, and of the 2017 leadership group.

She is an active member of the Talent at Tyrrell performing team, an initiative raising money for Leukaemia charities.

Keniesha is also active and a member of the Berriwillock Bowling Club and plays netball for the Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers.

"Keniesha is one of Buloke fine young leaders. Her generous nature and leadership qualities are admirable and she enriches lives of not only those around her but others in the broader community. It is always heart-warming to see our younger residents doing great things and I congratulate Keniesha on her achievements and on being named our Young Citizen of the Year", said Cr Pollard.

The Birchip Mallee Bull Pacing Cup has been named as Event of the Year. The meeting was held on 27 March 2017, and marked the return of harness racing to Birchip after a 12 year hiatus.

The success of the Birchip Harness Racing Club's Cup Day was a triumph for the club who had received fantastic support from Harness Racing Victoria and the State Government.

The combined effort saw the track transformed with the outdated surrounds now a safe and enjoyable race day venue.

A smart, multifaceted advertising campaign saw a crowd of in excess of 1,200 attend the race day.

"The Birchip Mallee Bull Pacing Cup was one of the real success stories of the year. The sheer amount of work undertaken by the club and committee to bring the venue to such an amazing standard was truly amazing and only matched by the huge crowd they drew on the day. Congratulations to all concerned", said Cr Pollard.

End release
For further information contact Team Leader Communications, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au