

Australia Day ceremonies were held right across Buloke on 26 January 2016. Buloke Shire Council is delighted to announce and congratulate this year's recipients of **Buloke Shire Council's Australia Day Awards**.

Citizen of the Year – Ann Durie (Wycheproof)

Young Citizen of the Year - Clare Bloomfield (Wycheproof)

Community Event of the Year – 2015 Victorian Agricultural Societies Ltd. (Donald)



Citizen of the Year – Ann Durie (Wycheproof)

Ann Durie moved to Wycheproof from Melbourne in 1988 to marry local, Marcus Durie. Ann's community leadership became evident when their three children were very young. She was President of the Wycheproof Pre-school committee and then as a councillor on the St Michael's School Committee and Parish Leadership Team. Ann was pivotal in fundraising as well as assisting in school camps and excursions and being very active within the class room environment.

Ann has always lent her support to sporting clubs her children became involved in. These included the Wycheproof-Narraport Football Netball Club and as always she went above and beyond her parental duties involving herself in many extra roles including the position of convenor of the Wycheproof-Narraport Ladies Auxiliary. Her drive and dedication has also benefitted the Wycheproof Youth Group, Friends of East Wimmera Health Service - Wycheproof Campus and Wycheproof P-12 College Parents and Friends.

Ann also lent her assistance to the wider community's economy by opening a florist and nursery business on Broadway in Wycheproof. Whilst the shopfront has since gone, she continues to provide floral artistry for local events, funerals and weddings.

In 2005 Ann reinvigorated the Friends of Mount Wycheproof committee which was auspiced under the group, then known as Wycheproof 2010, which is now known as Wycheproof VISION Inc. Her sheer hard work and enthusiasm led to the development of a rehabilitation and management plan

for Mt Wycheproof for which she has been able to secure many prestigious grants of tens of thousands of dollars. This management plan is still used by Council today. Between 2009-2011 Ann served as President of Wycheproof VISION. Her personal involvement saw many projects come to fruition including; the rehabilitation of Mt Wycheproof, The Wycheproof Youth Room, Music on the Mount Festival, the Great Grains Festival and the Wycheproof Community Garden. Her tireless work resulted in two prestigious State Awards, Regional Development Victoria's Super Community Group of the Year 2010 and the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria and Sustainability Victoria Community Leadership Award 2011.

Ann's concern and influence has embraced the wider Buloke community with her active involvement in the Buloke Tourism Board and in fostering closer ties and offering support of the Charlton community during the 2011 flood crisis. She led two teams which catered for Blaze Aid even though her own home had been ravaged by floodwater. She was instrumental in ensuring the 2011 Great Grain Festival and Music on the Mount was run as a benefit to aid the Charlton community.

Ann and family have hosted graduate exchange students through a Rotary Club of Manningham program which introduces city-based university students to the rural life and makes them aware of the opportunities available to them, living and working in rural areas.

Ann is best described as a pivotal leader within the Wycheproof community. She is always prepared to roll up her sleeves and get in there and have a go, and is only too happy to work to improve the liveability of Wycheproof any way she can.

Congratulations Ann, Buloke Shire Council's Citizen of the Year 2016.



Buloke Shire Young Citizen of the Year Clare Bloomfield and Citizen of the Year Ann Durie.
Picture taken by Kendall Phyland.

Young Citizen of the Year - Clare Bloomfield (Wycheproof)

Clare moved to Wycheproof as a toddler when her family's circumstances changed and quickly settled into the community participating in playgroup and kindergarten before undertaking her education at Wycheproof P-12 College. Always an active student, Clare loves to be involved in school productions and sat and passed her Piano for Leisure exams in Preliminary and Grade 1 levels. She is currently Broadway House Vice-Captain and is on the Student Leadership Team.

Her sporting love is Netball. She has played junior grades since age nine and made her senior debut for Wycheproof-Narraport in 2015. She shared her time between A Grade and B grade (where she finished Runner-Up in the Best and Fairest despite playing just eight matches). Clare also umpired numerous games and was a pivotal volunteer. When her home club had a bye Clare would be found playing or umpiring at Nullawil Netball Club helping out with numbers.

Clare has been part of Wycheproof Youth Group for five years and held the position of President for two years, standing down this year to concentrate on her Year 12 studies. Clare will act as Vice-President in order to mentor the incoming committee. She has fostered an inclusive and sustainable platform at the Youth Group which has seen membership rise in recent times, a genuine resurgence.

Clare regularly attends Wycheproof VISION meetings and volunteers for many events where she works alongside adults and peer groups. She is respectful to those involved and is always happy to do what is asked of her. She has a knack for supervising and encouraging volunteer groups.

Through her role as Youth Liaison for Wycheproof VISION, Clare has contributed to many discussions and represented at the Buloke Shire Council Community Forum Summit in late 2015. Also she submits a Youth Report to Wycheproof On Track newsletter each month.

Clare was awarded the Wycheproof Youth of the Year in 2014 for her volunteer work, citizenship and sporting involvement and her work with the Youth Group was recognised as Wycheproof Fundraiser of the Year. Also in 2014, Clare was awarded the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth of the Year Leadership and Teamwork Award and the Wycheproof A&P Society Citizenship Award. In 2015 she was a finalist in the Lions Youth of the Year Award.

Clare juggles two jobs with her studies and to help cover the costs of her education recently accepted a position at Access Grain in Nullawil as a casual harvest worker. Clare carries out her work diligently and happily and always shows customers and clients respect and dignity.

There is no denying Clare's push to succeed and strive to be her best. Her work ethic epitomises the ANZAC spirit of endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour and mateship. Clare is always prepared to have a go.

Congratulations Clare, Buloke Shire Council's Young Citizen of the Year 2016.

Community Event of the Year – 2015 Victorian Agricultural Societies Ltd. (Donald)

The 2015 Victorian Agricultural Societies Ltd convention was held in Donald on 3, 4 and 5 July. Every year Show Societies from across Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia get together for a

weekend in July. This event represents a great opportunity to network and to share and gather information on a wide range of topics. During the weekend the Victorian Agricultural Societies Board run workshops on entertainment, insurance, occupational health and safety, marketing grant applications and use of technology to help make the attendees show's a success.

The Annual conventions have been held in many different towns and bigger regional cities and this year's event in Donald was organised by the Wimmera Agricultural Societies Association led by the Donald Pastoral and Agricultural Society members.

The event which hosted a record number of over 200 people was a fantastic way to showcase Donald and surrounding towns, Buloke Shire and to demonstrate what the region has to offer and how the region's country shows are thriving. Feedback from all who attended was glowing.

Congratulations to all involved in Buloke Shire Council's Community Event of the Year.