



## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS REVISITED

### Young Citizen of the Year 2018 – Keniesha Ryan



Enthusiastic and energetic are the words used to describe Berriwillock student, Keniesha Ryan. Her leadership and interpersonal skills were amongst the many attributes that saw her recognised as Buloke's Young Citizen of the Year in 2018.

A ready volunteer whose contributions assisted the Sea Lake Youth Group with organising social and community events, Keniesha also shared her sporting skills, both on the court and off, with the Sea Lake Nandaly Tigers Netball team and coaching the "Net Set Go".

A high achiever academically, Keniesha was School Captain during her final year at Tyrrell College, as well as holding the roles of vice-Sports Captain, bus captain, and SRC leadership team member during her secondary education.

Keniesha's generous nature has seen her support various charities, as well as participating in organised fundraising with the Talent at Tyrrell performing group, which raises money for the Leukemia Foundation.

Always one to accept a challenge, in 2016 Keniesha undertook a nine-week program at the Alpine School for Student Leadership and Outdoor Education at Gnurad Gundidj.

In 2017, as one of only 25 students across Victoria, Keniesha expanded her theatrical interests after receiving the Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship for an immersion week program with the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Engagement in the Lady Somers Powerhouse Camp in 2019 enabled Keniesha to build her leadership and resilience skills. She returned the following year as a volunteer to assist other young people on their journey. She has continued to support this charity with participation in a 20km walk around Geelong during 2020.

Representing the Buloke and Berriwillock communities, Keniesha gained the honour of being a baton carrier in the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2018 Commonwealth Games – an experience she described as "amazing" – and reflection of the community spirit she embodies.

Commencing a double major Psychology and Criminology course at Melbourne University earlier this year, Keniesha experienced only a short time on campus before COVID-19 ended face-to-face classes. Having already applied to be the First Year and Wellbeing Representative at University College and joining the women's cricket team, these activities have been put on hold until on-campus learning resumes. Keniesha has subsequently moved to Geelong where she is currently continuing her studies remotely.

Nominations for Council's Citizen, Young Citizen and Event of the Year Awards are now. You can make a nomination by downloading the Australia Day Awards Nomination form from Council's website, with nominations closing on **Friday 20 November 2020**.

## COVID-19 Mental Health Support

### How are you going?

Our mental health is important, and as we look at coming out of lockdown it's important that we continue to look after ourselves and those around us.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has compiled a list of organisations and resources that can help you to support yourself or support those around you to manage these feelings and put some strategies in place to help you cope.

More information can be found here: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19>

Additionally, the DHHS has a 'Community Activation and Social Isolation' (CASI) Initiative which has been developed to help people who might be feeling lonely or have been disconnected from their regular networks during COVID-19.

You can call the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 to receive emotional support if they are feeling lonely or disconnected as a result of COVID-19.

#BulokeKind #BulokeSafe #BulokeCaring  
#BulokeStrong

## Working for Victoria Profile – Spencer Bowles



A change of pace and employment opportunities were the motivating factors which brought 24 year-old Spencer Bowles back to his home town of Donald. The incentive to pick up a job through Buloke Shire's Working for Victoria Program offered a welcome change to the high living costs of life in Geelong where Spencer was formerly employed.

Working for the Novotel Hotel as a Guest Service Agent (valet parking and reception), Spencer was also undertaking night management training during his time with the company.

Sensing this ultimately was not the job for him, and with employment opportunities available back home, he and his partner Nikita headed back to Donald.

Spencer was finding living in Geelong expensive and sensed an opportunity to make a great change.

"With my hospitality background I was always indoors. We were looking for a change and wanting to secure a future, so the chance to get work through this program was attractive", he said.

Currently engaged with the Shire's Building and Maintenance Team, Spencer has been involved in various outdoors activities.

"I've worked across a number of areas, and I'm looking forward to being outdoors in the summer. I like the change of scenery moving around the towns, and I feel I am doing something beneficial for the Shire.

"Staying active and learning new skills has been a bonus, with the on-the-job training being very handy".

Spencer is hopeful the program will lead to permanent employment and the opportunity to settle locally.



## Employment Opportunity

Buloke Shire Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply.

Council continues to recruit and we have implemented new processes that promote candidate and employee safety. As part of this we have moved to a virtual hiring and induction process until further notice.

### Economic Development and Tourism Lead – Permanent Full Time

Council is seeking applications from a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to take on the role of Economic Development and Tourism Lead on a permanent full time basis.

**Applications close at 5.00pm Friday 20 November 2020.**

**HOW TO APPLY** – Send an email with a copy of your resume to [recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au) or forward to: **Human Resources, Buloke Shire Council, P.O. Box 1 Wycheproof, Vic 3527. Buloke. Shaping our future together.**

## Got a Moment?

Council is supporting Bendigo Telco in a grant submission to the Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Program through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

The application seeks funding to improve digital infrastructure in the Buloke Shire, in order to offer businesses and the general community reliable and stable internet connectivity, and close the digital divide between rural and metropolitan Australia.

To assist in preparing the application, Bendigo Telco have put together a survey for businesses to complete, to help understand what some of the current challenges are in Buloke in relation to connectivity.

Businesses are encouraged to take part in the survey to help paint an accurate picture of current connectivity issues in the Shire. The survey will be available until the close of business on 16 November 2020.

**Take the survey at**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D6DTLQW>