



Media Release

Buloke Australia Day Awards

25 January 2019

Buloke Shire Council announced its Australia Day Award winners at its inaugural Australia Day Eve event held in Wycheproof on Friday 25 January.

Alison McClelland (Citizen of the Year), Blair Gould (Young Citizen of the Year) and the Buloke United Walk (Community Event of the Year) had their amazing contributions to the Buloke community acknowledged winning the prestigious awards.

Citizen of the Year Alison McClelland has given many years of service to the Sea Lake community. She has been a long time contributor with the Sea Lake Off Road Club, filling the pivotal role of Secretary for the Mallee Rally. Alison is also the Chair of Advance Sea Lake and it was through this position she launched one of Buloke great success stories.

Through her efforts and those of the Green Lake Committee, water has been returned to the popular lake. This undertaking cannot be underestimated, the lobbying and crafting of the successful campaign was arduous but ultimately satisfying for Alison and importantly the whole community.

“Alison is a champion of her community. Hard working, passionate and determined, when you think back across the last 12 months in Buloke Shire and all that has been achieved, Alison is central to a lot of wonderful outcomes. Seeing water returned to Green Lake has brought so much joy to so many people and without Alison, the lake bed would probably still be sitting dry right now. Alison is always looking to broaden the economic and social base of Sea Lake and despite her busy lifestyle continues to move the town forward”, said Mayor Cr Carolyn Stewart.

Young Citizen of the Year Blair Gould is a remarkable young man. Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in 2014, Blair identified the need for support for children with his condition in the region. He met with his local federal member Mr Andrew Broad and began his advocacy work and fundraising for children with Type 1 Diabetes.

As a result of Blair’s work there are now support groups for children and adults with Diabetes in the region, eliminating isolation and lack of connectedness for fellow sufferers within Buloke. As a result of his participation in advocacy both individually and as a member of the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation, the need for further research and affordable treatment is being continuously campaigned for.

“Blair is such an impressive young man. He has such a get up and go attitude and is a leading light amongst our next generation. His leadership is an inspiration to our community and he embodies so much that is good within Buloke, he isn’t passive, he doesn’t wait around for changes to improve his situation, he makes it happen”, said Cr Stewart.

Community Event of the Year the Buloke United Walk was a unique show of solidarity held across Buloke. The initiative of Buloke Neighbourhood Houses, Buloke Well Being and Equity Group and Local Youth Groups took place in 10 communities across Buloke on 25 November 2018. Simultaneous

Community Walks were held to launch the 16 Days of Activism, the campaign against gender based violence.

“The Buloke United Walk was a shining example of what we are about in our Shire, local communities getting together to demonstrate their support to improving life for everyone. This event saw so many community groups and neighbourhood houses collaborate in a very visual show of strength, it was designed to raise awareness and it did that with an orange explosion”, said Cr Stewart.

End release

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