

Media Statement

Locals honored at Australia Day Awards

Bryan Watson was named *Citizen of the Year* at Meander Valley Council's Australia Day Awards celebration.

Bryan has lived in Meander Valley his entire life. He has been heavily involved in the local community through both sporting and service clubs and was the Meander Valley SES Unit Manager for 20 years.

Bryan was a member of the Deloraine Lions Club for 35 years and has served as a volunteer for Ambulance Tasmania for a decade.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Kate Sheahan. Kate has represented Meander Valley at the Tasmanian Youth Local Government Forum. Kate is also a member of the Deloraine Devils Netball team and undertakes the role of field umpire at the Deloraine Football Club.

In 2018, Kate was the Tasmanian winner of the Simpson Prize, a national competition which encourages participants to explore the significance of the Anzac experience and what it has meant to Australia. Kate also contributes to the community through her role as a volunteer at Stepping Stones Leadership Camps.

The Rotary Club of Deloraine's Learn to Swim Program received the *Community Event of the Year Award*. The Rotary Club of Deloraine has been offering free swimming and water safety classes for more than 35 years. This valuable service aims to reduce deaths of children by drowning and was established as a Rotary Community Project. Over the last 15 years, 1370 children have been taught to swim.

Daniel Gurr was awarded the *Meander Valley Sports Award*. Daniel has been competitively woodchopping since he was five years old and is dedicated to the sport. Daniel has been a member of the Australian Under 21 Wood Chopping Team no less than three times and among his achievements are 2 World Titles, 6 Australian Titles and 15 Tasmanian Titles. His win at the World Rookie Stihl Timber Sports in France put Australia and his home town of Deloraine firmly on the map.

Meander Valley welcomed eight new citizens at the event and over forty volunteers from the municipal area were recognised for their efforts, receiving awards for 1000 hours, 3000 hours and exceptional service to the community.

"I am humbled to present these awards. They reflect dedication, commitment and the inspiring spirit of Meander Valley. Thank you to all who have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to serve others. This strengthens our community and makes us all proud to represent our municipality", Mayor, Wayne Johnston.

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