



MEDIA RELEASE | WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Weddin Shire celebrated Australia Day on 26 January 2025 with a series of ceremonies held across Grenfell, Caragabal, Greenethorpe, and Quandialla. The day brought the community together, showcasing heartfelt addresses, fun family friendly activities, and a strong focus on acknowledging those whose dedication and service make Weddin Shire a compassionate and vibrant community.

At the Grenfell ceremony in Taylor Park, last year's Weddin Shire Citizen of the Year, Karen Stuttle, was honoured as the 2025 Australia Day Ambassador. In her moving address, Karen shared her perspectives on overcoming adversity, the importance of resilience, and the vital role of nurturing future generations. Addressing parents, children, and the wider community, Karen emphasised that the future is in the hands of the youth. Her reflections on love for her family, her cultural background, and the town of Grenfell, offered a deeply personal and inspiring message.

Weddin Shire Mayor, Paul Best, also addressed the crowd and was delighted to announce the following award recipients:

Weddin Shire Citizen of the Year:

Lynne Peterson and Peter Mitton were jointly named the 2025 Weddin Shire Citizens of the Year, recognising their long-standing commitment to the community. Lynne was acknowledged for her contributions to the nursing profession, while Peter was honoured for his provision of PA equipment to support many local organisations.

Weddin Shire Senior Citizen of the Year:

Mary Stokes was awarded Senior Citizen of the Year for her exceptional service to the Grenfell Lions Club and her ongoing support of community initiatives.

Weddin Shire Community Event/Organisation of the Year:

The Grenfell SES was named Weddin Shire Community Event/Organisation of the Year for their remarkable response after the 2023 Grenfell hailstorm. The Grenfell Historical Society was also highly commended for reaching 60 years of effort, preserving the history of the shire.

Weddin Shire Community Achievement Award:

The Grenfell Hospital & MPS Auxiliary was honoured with the Community Achievement Award for their continued contributions to local healthcare services and their commitment to improving the wellbeing of the community.

Higher School Certificate Award:

Thi Truong was recognised for outstanding academic achievements with the Higher School Certificate Award, marking an impressive start to what is expected to be a bright future.



School Youth Achievement Awards:

The following students were recognised for their exceptional achievements:

- **Jane Johnston** (Quandialla Public)
- **Emily Maslin** (Caragabal Public)
- **Saskia McClelland** (St Joseph's)
- **Daisy Forde** (Grenfell Public)
- **Ryan Toole** (The Henry Lawson High School)

In Greenethorpe, the community celebrated with the hotly contended North vs South Cricket Match at the Showgrounds, followed by a free BBQ lunch and award presentation. During the ceremony, Corrie Bryant was named Greenethorpe Citizen of the Year, in recognition of her dedicated service to the local community.

In Caragabal, the community gathered for a BBQ breakfast and award presentation in the park, while Quandialla's Australia Day Ceremony featured a family BBQ, live music, and the popular yabby races—bringing together locals for a fun and memorable evening celebration.

Weddin Shire's Australia Day events highlighted the shire's strong sense of community. The day was filled with moments of recognition, celebration, and connection and honoured individuals who embody the resilience, and spirit that defines Weddin Shire.

These events were made possible with the support of the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council.

Noreen Vu
GENERAL MANAGER

28 January 2025

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