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COORONG CELEBRATES AUSTRALIA DAY WINNERS

Coorong District Council’s most exceptional community people have had their achievements and dedication recognised after recently being announced as the 2020 Australia Day Citizens of the Year.

Known to be hard-working and fully committed to her volunteering, Naomi Stidiford from Tintinara was awarded Citizen of the Year for showing tireless dedication to her community, particularly in carrying out her volunteer ambulance duties.

Meningie’s Garry Hera-Singh was also named one of the deserving award recipients; Garry is a champion of the local fishing industry and has a passion for sustaining and preserving the unique Lower Lakes and Coorong environment.

A true pillar of her community, Tailem Bend’s Maxine Kiddie has been recognised for her inspiring and energetic commitment to volunteering for a range of community projects, organisations and events within Tailem Bend.

In the Community Event of the Year category, the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade and Cabaret was recognised as a deserving winner. This annual event is run by a dedicated committee as part of the Tailem Bend Progress Association. The pageant gets bigger and better every year, and is a popular highlight in the regional Christmas events calendar.

The Australia Day Awards are proudly presented by the Australia Day Council of South Australia in conjunction with the Coorong District Council.

Anthony Fioravanti, SA Police Superintendent of the Western District will join the celebrations at Tintinara as the 2020 Australia Day Ambassador. Anthony will draw on experiences from his career that has spanned 38 years, as well as his own Italian heritage.

Mayor Paul Simmons said the awards recognised outstanding examples of commitment and reflected a culture of generosity and a ‘community-first’ mindset, which is a credit to the region.

“This year’s awards recognise those who lead and inspire us, as well as those who see a need and step up to deliver results that make their community a better place,” Mayor Simmons says.

“The efforts of all our winners not only make their communities better places to live, they also inspire others to share their time and skills so that our towns can continue to thrive. Most importantly, these awards give us the chance to say ‘thank you’ to these standout individuals for their generosity and dedication to their communities.”

This year the awards will be formally presented at three Australia Day events to be held in Meningie, Tintinara and Tailem Bend on Sunday, 26 January 2020. Further information about the events can be found at the following website: www.coorong.sa.gov.au/australiaday.
A bit about the winners …

Citizen of the Year - Tintinara: Naomi Stidiford
Embodying the true meaning of a volunteer, Naomi gives much of herself in service to her community as a SA Ambulance Service volunteer, including over 5,000 hours each year on roster, delivering CPR 30 programs to the community, appointed as Team Leader since 2014 (administration, mentoring and training), and receiving her 10 Year Service Award. If that weren’t enough, Naomi has also been actively involved in the Tintinara Bowling Club, Tintinara Women’s and Children’s Hospital Auxiliary, Tintinara Action Club, Tintinara Area School Governing Council, umpiring for the Mallee Netball League and a trainer for the Border Downs Tintinara Football Club.

Citizen of the Year - Meningie: Garry Hera-Singh
Garry is a well-known figure within the Lower Lakes and Coorong fishing industry; his passion for his industry and the environment has led Garry to become an authority and strong advocate for the Coorong and Lower Lakes ecosystem. Over numerous years Garry has been involved in the Southern Fisherman’s Association, SA Fishing Industry Research & Development Board, RAMSAR Management Plan Community Reference Group, Coorong (National Park) Consultative Committee, Inland Fisheries Management Committee, National Native Fish Strategy, Murray-Darling Basin Committee, and the SA Water Barrage Operational Strategy. In 2019 Garry received the PIRSA SA Seafood Industry Ambassador Award.

Citizen of the Year - Tailem Bend: Maxine Kiddie
Maxine’s energy and passion for her community is an inspiration to all of Tailem Bend. She demonstrates leadership and unwavering commitment to any task, and has been a significant contributor to many community clubs, committees and events over numerous years. Maxine’s involvement and volunteering has extended to her current position as President of the Tailem Bend Progress Association, over 20 years’ involvement with Tailem Bend Music Hall, as well as the Tailem Bend Golf Club, Meals on Wheels, Tailem Bend Primary School (breakfast club), Tailem Bend History Group and Tailem Bend Rotary Club. Maxine’s organisational (and comedic) talents have really shone through her involvement with the Tailem Bend Christmas Parade and Cabaret over the past 4 years, helping to make the pageant a success each year.

Community Event of the Year – Tailem Bend: Tailem Bend Christmas Parade and Cabaret
The Tailem Bend Christmas Parade is a popular highlight within the yearly regional Christmas calendar, and never fails to provide fun and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. The event brings approximately 2,500 - 3,000 visitors to Tailem Bend each year, where they experience the parade, Santa’s Wonderland, food and drink stalls, live music and entertainment, and activities and games. Organised by a sub-committee of the Tailem Bend Progress Association, the event encourages local businesses, community groups and school children to be involved. The Tailem Bend Christmas Parade Cabaret was first held as a fundraiser for the Christmas parade and has now grown and evolved to become a successful event in its own right; the music and entertainment on offer means that the night is always well-attended and enjoyed by its supporters.

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Contact:
Ashlee Crossman
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL
Phone: 1300 785 277 | E: acrossman@coorong.sa.gov.au