

# MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 17 December 2018



## COORONG CELEBRATES AUSTRALIA DAY WINNERS

Some of the Coorong's most exceptional community people have had their local commitment, volunteerism and dedication recognised after recently being announced as the Coorong District Council's 2019 *Australia Day Citizens of the Year*.

Known for his great sense of humour that has lifted the spirits of many, Meningie's **Ian Qualmann** was named one of the deserving award recipients for his dedication to his town from firefighting and volunteering as an ambulance officer to multiple sports, community and service club roles.

Over 55 years of contributing to the Peake community has also earned farmer **Trevor Johnson** the award. A quiet achiever who goes the extra mile, his willingness to take on any job no matter how big or small has made him a local hero.

The generosity of two standout candidates from Tailem Bend has been recognised with awards going to **Lynton Piggott** and **Joyce Medlow** – two exceptional local volunteers who consistently dedicate volunteer time and energy to their community.

Highly-respected Tintinara couple **Jim and Jacki Cunningham** were also awarded the dual title for their hard work, being described in their nomination as: "commitment to the community personified".

In the *Community Event of the Year* category, the **Murraylands Ambrose, Scrambrose and LALA Classic** was the deserving winner. Founded 25 years ago, the annual event has gone from strength to strength for the Lake Albert Golf Club, attracting about 180 competitors to the popular three-day contest from up to 20 clubs across SA.

Three winners were chosen as *Community Projects of the Year*. The development of the **Tintinara Nature Playground** wouldn't have been possible without a whole of community effort. The long running Meningie-based non-profit **Coorong Cottage Industries** was recognised for its efforts to promote and support the region's artists and craftspeople, while the **Tailem Bend Community Centre Bucket List** initiative won the accolade for its work to start a conversation between older residents and their families over active ageing.

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

Mayor Paul Simmons said the awards recognised outstanding examples of hard work and dedication which reflected a culture of generosity and service within the region's communities.

"This year's awards recognise those who lead and inspire us, as well as those who see a need and quietly step up and deliver outcomes to make their community a better place," Mayor Simmons says.

#### Postal Address:

PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

#### Coorong Civic Centre

95 – 101 Railway Terrace  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Phone: 1300 785 277  
Fax: 08 8572 3822

#### Meningie Information Hub

49 Princes Highway  
MENINGIE SA 5264

#### Tintinara Customer Service Centre

37 Becker Terrace  
TINTINARA SA 5266



“Our winning community projects and events are outstanding examples of what can be achieved when we all work together for the betterment of our district.

“The efforts of all our winners are not only making their communities better places to live, they are also inspiring others to contribute their time and skills to ensure our towns continue to thrive. These awards are an important way for the whole district to say ‘thank you’ to these quiet achievers for their generosity and dedication to their communities.”

The awards will be formally presented at the Australia Day events to be held across the region on Saturday, 26 January 2019.

### **A bit about the winners ...**

#### ***Citizen of the Year - Meningie: Ian Qualmann***

A true community stalwart, Ian has given countless hours of service to the Meningie community over the past 50 years. A volunteer dedicated to many causes, Ian is a Life Member of the CFS with over 30 years' service. His involvement with the St John Ambulance Service spanned over 20 years, as has his work with the Meningie Lions Club. A love of sport also led to volunteering with the Lake Albert Golf Club, the Meningie Football Club, Meningie Cricket Club, Meningie Sailing Club and the Meningie Bowling Club. Known locally as a larrikin with a big heart, his efforts have also extended to the Meningie Progress Association, Meningie Agricultural Bureau, Meningie RSL and the Meningie Hospital.

#### ***Citizen of the Year - Peake: Trevor Johnson***

No job is too big or too small for Peake farmer Trevor, whose volunteering over the past 55 years has had a significant impact across his local community. A firefighter with the Peake CFS Brigade where he has served for 38 years, Trevor also gives his time to the Peake Memorial Hall, Peake Community Centre and the Peake Baptist Church. Peake sporting clubs have also benefited from Trevor's dedication. He has held several positions with the Peake Tennis Club over 30 years, is a Life Member of the Peake and District Football Club and an active member of the Geranium Bowling Club. In addition, Trevor goes the extra mile by cleaning up rubbish, maintaining public areas and fixing things at the Peake Hall.

#### ***Citizen of the Year - Tailem Bend: Lynton Piggott***

The Tailem Bend community has benefitted a great deal from Lynton's dedication and hard work. His contributions to the Tailem Bend Primary School have inspired many local young people to look up to him as a community role model. A quiet achiever, Lynton's involvement also extended to the town's netball, football, Rotary and Lions clubs, the town's cemetery committee, hospital, pageant committee, the Tailem Bend Progress Association, the Tailem Bend Music Hall and the Tailem Bend Singers.

#### ***Citizen of the Year - Tailem Bend: Joyce Medlow***

Joyce stands out as an avid community volunteer and supporter of Tailem Bend, whose efforts and achievements over the past 50 years are many and varied. Through fundraising, school and sports events, hosting overseas exchange students and sewing costumes for the Tailem Bend Music Hall and the Tailem Bend Calisthenics Club, Joyce has dedicated herself to many worthy causes. Beneficiaries of her hard work include the Tailem Bend Hospital, the Tailem Bend Combined Probus Club, Meals on Wheels, the Mobilong Inner Wheel Club, the Tailem Bend Primary School and the Tailem Bend, Murray Bridge and Mobilong Rotary Clubs.

#### **Postal Address:**

PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

#### **Coorong Civic Centre**

95 – 101 Railway Terrace  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Phone: 1300 785 277  
Fax: 08 8572 3822

#### **Meningie Information Hub**

49 Princes Highway  
MENINGIE SA 5264

#### **Tintinara Customer Service Centre**

37 Becker Terrace  
TINTINARA SA 5266



***Citizen of the Year - Tintinara: Jim and Jacki Cunningham***

With over 50 years of activity within the Tintinara community, Jim and Jacki are an inspiration. Both together and individually they have given much to the clubs and committees they have been part of. Both have been active in the TRADE (Tintinara Regional Areas Development Enterprises) group since 1991, the Tintinara Development Group Committee, Tintinara Historical Society, Friends of the CWA Committee and Culburra Community Complex. Jim is the Tintinara Lions Club president and served 15 years with the Tintinara Apex Club. Jacki volunteers with the CWA, Tintinara Basketball Club, Tintinara Netball Club, Culburra Tennis Club, Coorong Suicide Prevention Network, Tinty Lights Up and Coonalpyn Arts Group Town Mosaic Committee. The couple are considered to be “commitment to the community personified, serving their community with conviction, purpose and professionalism”.

***Community Event of the Year - Meningie: Murraylands Ambrose, Scrambrose and LALA Classic***

This event has grown substantially since it began 25 years ago, evolving into an annual three-day event that brings in 180 players, with up to 20 different clubs represented during the competition. Held at the Lake Albert Golf Club in December, the event is a positive, fun weekend for all that is attracting return visitors. Many competitors bring their families for the weekend, delivering an influx of visitors and flow-on benefits to the town’s business community.

***Community Project of the Year - Meningie: Coorong Cottage Industries (CCI)***

By offering locals the opportunity to sell their art and craft on consignment, Coorong Cottage Industries has supported emerging and established creators to produce goods and hone their skills since 1993. CCI celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018, with over 200 members benefitting over that time from the organisation which fosters and develops enterprise opportunities for Meningie and its surrounding areas.

***Community Project of the Year - Tailem Bend: Tailem Bend Community Centre Bucket List***

The ‘Bucket List’ concept provided older residents and their families with a unique way to talk about their plans for living their senior years to capacity. The Tailem Bend Community Centre Bucket List stall at the 2018 Engaging in Ageing Expo in Tailem Bend helped promote active ageing and celebrate the contribution of seniors to the community.

***Community Project of the Year - Tintinara: Tintinara Nature Playground***

Strong community support turned this project to transform the Tintinara Recreational Precinct playground into a nature play space from a dream into reality. The community secured a \$144,150 Fund My Neighbourhood grant, sourced materials from local businesses and pitched in with volunteer labour to build the playground. The community’s donations, volunteer work and other support is estimated to be worth \$100,000. It is clear that a strong volunteer work ethic and a team approach has produced a facility that many families can now enjoy.

- ENDS -

**Contact:**

Nat Traeger

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE | COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

Phone: 1300 785 277 | E: [ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au)

**Postal Address:**

PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

**Coorong Civic Centre**

95 – 101 Railway Terrace  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Phone: 1300 785 277  
Fax: 08 8572 3822

**Meningie Information Hub**

49 Princes Highway  
MENINGIE SA 5264

**Tintinara Customer Service Centre**

37 Becker Terrace  
TINTINARA SA 5266