



**REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
& COMMUNITY AWARDS**

AWARDS

Savala

**PRESENTATION DINNER
FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2019**

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



**FAIRMONT
RESORT & SPA
BLUE MOUNTAINS**



AWARDS PROGRAM

Introduction

Master of Ceremonies, Harrison Lance, Central West Chief Of Staff for PRIME7 NEWS

National Anthem

Performed by Maple Creek Music

Entrée

Speeches

Cr Mark Greenhill OAM, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council

Thomas Brand, Director of Sale & Marketing, Fairmont Resort & Spa

Presentation

People's Choice Award Presentation

Geoff Griffin, Director, Awards Australia

Speech and Certificates of Achievement Presentation

The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing

Award Presentations

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Crown Land Manager Excellence Award

The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Individual Excellence in Crown Land Management Award

The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing

Prime Super Agricultural Innovation Award

Scott Boyle, Relationship Manager Southern NSW & ACT, Prime Super

Main Course

Featuring performance by Maple Creek Music

Award Presentations

Ricoh Australia Customer Service Award

Jean Dennehy, Regional Wholesale Manager - NSW, Ricoh Australia

Wholistic Financial Solutions Small Business Achievement Award

Catherine Smith, CEO, Wholistic Financial Solutions

Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award

Annette Mackay, Relationship Manager Northern NSW, Prime Super

Dessert

Award Presentations

TransGrid Leadership Award

Krista-Lee Fogarty, Head of HSE, TransGrid

Awards Australia Connecting Communities Award

Geoff Griffin, Director, Awards Australia

Entertainment

Maple Creek Music

MENU

Entrée

Alternate

Confit of pork belly, parsnip puree, apple compote, crackling GF
Jannei ash goats' cheese, pickled shitake mushroom, semi-dried tomato, toasted quinoa, nasturtium GF, V

Main Course

Alternate

Roasted chicken breast, smoked bacon & kipfler potato salad gremolata DF, GF
Miso glazed NZ king salmon, bok choy, ginger, wakame DF, GF

Dessert

Alternate

Strawberry and passionfruit curd pavlova, double cream GF
Vanilla bean crème brûlée, almond biscotti

BEVERAGES

Jade Estate



Jade Semillon

Traditionally unwooded, acidity is the key and offers a drink now style. Refreshingly crisp, light bodied but long finish. Green apples with grapefruit and lime citrus characteristics.

Angove

Chalk Hill Blue Bubbles

Whilst it is primarily a fruit driven wine, some complex yeast flavours are also evident and the finish is soft and clean. The lasting spritz makes this a great celebratory wine for any occasion.

Soft drink available upon request

Sydney Brewery



Lovedale Lager (4.7%)



A traditional Munich style lager.

Lovedale lager combines three types of german hops to create a smooth citrus aroma that is complimented by a slightly toasty malt backbone. The finest hunter valley water is filtered for particles, which removes harsh minerals and provides a blank canvas to create an ultra clean lager with finesse and style.

Paddo Pale (5.0%)



Like the suburb it was named after, this ale arguably has it all. Somehow though everything's kept in just the right balance and proportions. Which of course only goes to make it more desirable and appealing. So, on first tasting, look for a true citrus and floral ale aroma, but then stand back for a full malt experience in the mouth, followed by a big bitter finish. Our paddo pale is quadruple hopped with cascade, galaxy, topaz and amarillo hop flavours. See, it's got it all. And it's all great.

Windfall Estate

Merlot 2017

Aromas of dark berries with an earthy undertone. Rich flavours of dark berries and satsuma plums are balanced by underlying earthiness and sweet spice.

Rose 2017

Fragrant aromas of raspberry, cherry and plum with subtle spice and floral notes. Fresh and vibrant flavours of sweet cherries and raspberries are given complexity by hints of savoury spice.



PRIZES

Seven category winners will be presented with \$2,000 and a trophy, the other category winner will receive Television exposure on PRIME7 and a trophy.

All nominees and finalists receive a letter of congratulations and a certificate of encouragement for their nomination.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD



The People's Choice Award celebrates and raises awareness of the Finalists' achievements.

Conducted on Facebook, friends, family and members of the community vote for who they think should be the People's Choice. Please note this voting does not affect or influence the judging of the Award categories.

Thanks to Awards Australia, the winner of the People's Choice Award will receive \$250!

ENTERTAINMENT

Maple Creek Music

Looking to create a personalised musical soundtrack for your wedding day? Or want to take your event to the next level? Say hello to Maple Creek Music. From the groovy dance floor fillers of Michael Jackson and Pharrell Williams, to the pop anthems of Katy Perry and Taylor Swift - Maple Creek has it covered.

Cassie and Blake (Maple Creek Duo) are one of NSW's most in demand duos, performing regularly at weddings, corporate events and parties. They also expand into their 5 piece groove machine for larger events looking for some extra punch. Get in touch today to get Maple Creek to be a part of your next event.



JUDGES

The NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards would like to thank all of the Executive, Expert and Category judges for their invaluable support. Their expertise, knowledge and contribution is fundamental to the realisation and success of the Awards year after year.

EXECUTIVE

Annie Kiefer, State Honorary Secretary, CWA of NSW

Kate O'Mara, Director, Special Projects, Regional Development Australia Hunter

Jane Nolan, Head of Residential Operations, Uniting

Thomas Brand, Director of Sales & Marketing, Fairmont Resort & Spa

Kylee Warner, Senior Project Manager, Crown Reserves, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Neville Tomkins OAM, JP, Chief Commissioner, Scouts Australia - NSW

Councillor Chris Van der Kley, Deputy Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council

Gemma Rygate, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Volunteering

Tim Doolan, State Manager, CRT

Rosemary McKenzie-Ferguson, Founder, Craig's Table

EXPERT

Justin Popp, Senior Policy & Project Officer - Crown Lands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Brian Wood, National Sales Manager - Wholesale, Ricoh Australia

Sherrie Castaldini, Senior Community Engagement Specialist, TransGrid

Ed Mallett, Managing Director, Employsure

Martin Mead, Consultant Agronomist and developing Southern Cross Dorper Stud in Lochinvar

Sandra Strong, CEO, Mackellar Care Services

Patrick Roberts OAM, Past District Governor, 9675 Rotary

CATEGORY

Freya Mudie, Project Support Officer - Regional Services, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Jean Dennehy, Regional Wholesale Manager - NSW, Ricoh Australia

Sophie Packer, Communications and Marketing Advisor, TransGrid

Catherine Smith, CEO and Founder, Wholistic Financial Solutions

Scott Boyle, Regional Manager - Southern NSW, Nth East VIC, ACT, Prime Super

Annette Mackay, Regional Manager - Northern NSW, Prime Super

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT **CROWN LAND MANAGER EXCELLENCE AWARD FINALISTS**



The management of Crown reserves is based on a partnership between government and the community. A Crown land manager is the name given to an entity that is appointed to be responsible for the care, control and management of Crown reserves on behalf of the people of NSW. The type of entities that can be appointed as a Crown land manager include a local council, a Local Aboriginal Land Council, an incorporated association, a corporation or a statutory land manager.

This Award will recognise a Crown Land Manager that exemplifies outstanding community service ethos, dedication and commitment to their communities.



Dirawong Reserve Land Manager

Dirawong Reserve Land Manager have turned a degraded site to a pristine condition. The Dirawong Reserve Land Manager Board comprises of four local volunteer community members appointed by the Minister. Volunteers manage the 300-hectare site consistent with the Minister-approved Plan of Management. The Board manages local contractors, provides hands-on involvement in maintenance of the Reserve and directly engages in public education. The Board actively manages tracks, minimises intrusive man-made infrastructure and raises community and visitor interest. They have upgraded walking tracks for easier public access whilst reducing environmental damage. Despite limited funds, they have helped preserve Indigenous history and culture in the region.



Cowra Showground, Racecourse and Paceway Trust

Cowra Showground, Racecourse and Paceway Trust has dramatically changed the future of the Reserve, which is a 60-acre site along the river. Users include the Cowra Jockey Club, Cowra Harness Racing Club, Cowra Show Society, Cowra Pony Club and Cowra Campdraft Club. The Trust renovated and refurbished the heritage-listed turnstile gates at the Showground, upgraded the camping area and increased its capacity. They provided a covered meeting place, restored the 1940's stable block and derelict Caretakers Cottage and employed an onsite caretaker. The improvements have attracted more users and increased participation in major events. The Showground Trust is a member of the Cowra Tourism Corporation, which helps market the site.



Dooralong Community Reserve Land Manager

Dooralong Community Reserve Land Manager has undergone extraordinary work for the Reserve. They are a group of local, appointed individuals who are responsible for the overall management of the Crown Reserve. The group handles management of bookings, full maintenance of the Hall and Reserve, liaison with authorities and community groups, finance management, local history and general enquiries. Other initiatives include the first "Dooralong Showcase Countrywise" under the umbrella of the Central Coast Council's Harvest Festival. Organised by the Reserve Manager from scratch, the event was attended by 3,000 visitors, 45 volunteers and 38 businesses. The event also helped the Reserve Manager reach out to younger people.



Johns River Community Hall & Recreation Reserve

Johns River Community Hall & Recreation Reserve hopes to leave a long-lasting legacy for the community. A group of five Land Managers have been involved in the Reserve for a combined total of 125 years. Their main role is to ensure that the 10-acre Community Hall and Recreation Reserve precinct is well cared for, from an infrastructure and financial viability perspective for continued enjoyment of the public. All Land Managers are volunteers coming from different backgrounds. They handle maintenance and repairs, management of various functions, and work with volunteers and community labour to save vital dollars. Their primary source of income is their signature monthly Community Markets.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT **INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE IN CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT AWARD FINALISTS**

The management of Crown reserves is based on a partnership between government and the community. Individual community minded volunteers participate in the management of Crown land and devote many hours of unpaid service to their communities managing and caring for Crown reserves.

This Award will recognise an individual volunteer involved in the management of Crown land that exemplifies outstanding community service ethos, dedication and commitment to their communities.



Barry Thomson

Barry Thomson of Boggabri is ensuring the community benefits from use of the grounds. Barry has been President on and off since 1988 of the Boggabri Showground and Public Recreation Land Manager, which is run by seven volunteers. Barry spends each weekend emptying rubbish at the local tip, repairing broken pipes and dripping taps and shower and mowing the area. He even goes out at all hours of the night if needed. He makes sure organisations and clubs using the grounds have safe areas and have correct insurance cover for events. Barry is also the president of the Boggabri Pony Club, which hires the Showground monthly.



Neil Rose

Neil Rose of Norah Head is committed to maintaining the Reserve for current and future generations. Neil has been a Trust and Land Manager Board member for six years at the Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve. As current Board Chairperson, he ensures all areas are maintained and protected according to relevant legislations. He helps manage the finances, coordinates with the Land Manager Board and ensures that the Reserve is safe and available to the public. He also liaises with the Marketing Committee and Reserve Managers on publicity matters and maintains income from tours and event bookings. Neil has been active in community service for over 30 years.



Arthur Hatch

Arthur Hatch of Mullumbimby has been instrumental in turning the Reserve to a flourishing community jewel. The Mullumbimby Showground is managed by a voluntary Board which was dissolved in 2011 due to financial misconduct. Arthur is part of the replacement Board, serving first as Treasurer and now as Chair. He confronted a \$30k debt for an inoperable mower, \$20k unpaid creditor invoices, no money in the bank and mismanaged land. Arthur prioritised stabilising the financial position of the Showground. He provided physical labour and project and budgetary management services. The Camping Site provides 50% of the Reserve's annual income and the Showground now has over \$300k.



William Kember

William Kember, OAM of Ganmain is passionate the growth of regional communities. The Ganmain Showground Trust manages the Showground and organisations attached to it, including the Poultry Club, Pony Club and Camping Ground. Will has been an active member for over 45 years and is now Chairman of the Showground Trust. He has been instrumental in gaining funding to develop buildings and infrastructures and encourages various organisations and local horse trainers to be active users of the Showground. He instigated its use as a camping facility, thus encouraging tourism in the area. This injected \$50,000 into the Showground and enabled the Trust to build toilets and showers.



PRIME SUPER AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD FINALISTS



Australian agricultural production and supply chain management has a long history of innovation to maximise efficiency, develop new products, and open new market opportunities, despite the challenges of climate, soil types and location. Nominees for the Prime Super Agricultural Innovation Award will showcase this spirit of innovation through their application of technology or process improvement to demonstrably enhance production and increase efficiency, maximising returns along the value chain, particularly where that value flows back to the primary producer.



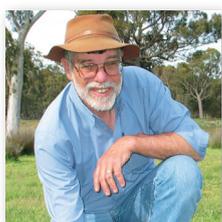
Back Up Charlie

Back Up Charlie of Urana is committed to maximising sheep farming efficiency. It is a flexible dual lane lead up race, designed for sheep handling applications like crutching trailers, jetting plants, weighing boxes and scanning cradles. Invented by sheep and cereal grain farmer Charlie Webb, it is compact and transportable, helping handlers reduce capital expenditure normally spent on multiple sheep handling facilities and features hock bars, which keeps sheep forward facing. Back Up Charlie won the 2016 Henty Machinery Field Days Machine of the Year, the 2017 Australian National Field Days at Orange, The Land Machine of the Year and the NAB Agribusiness Award of Excellence.



Dr Amy Moss

Dr Amy Moss of Armidale is striving to improve chicken meat production efficiency. Her research revealed that by replacing some ground grain in chicken feed with whole grain, the chickens' digestion is improved. Her study found that 30% whole grain improved production efficiency by 7.7%. If implemented globally, this would produce enough chicken to meet protein requirement for 100 million people. This translates to \$92 million in feed cost savings and 22.5% less nitrogen excreted into the environment. Amy received a grant to support the Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition; an animal nutrition conference focusing on the incorporation of new ideas and technology to Australian agriculture.



John Ive

John Ive of Hall has a passion for environmental improvements. For four decades, John has been co-managing their family farm, Talaheni, in the Yass Valley. His innovative on-ground activities have addressed dryland salinity, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and soil moisture improvement, which resulted in enhanced sustainability and production gains, particularly ultra-fine wool. His latest innovation is the sequestration of eleven times more carbon than total livestock. John believes in constant monitoring, regularly adjusting his practices as monitoring indicates. He is an active member of the Yass Valley Revegetation and Murrumbateman Landcare and has been named one of 36 influential Australian farmers selected as a Climate Champion.



Lorraine Gordon

Lorraine Gordon of Lismore has created Australia's largest community of primary producers keen to boost their margins by forming collaborations. Through Southern Cross University, Lorraine and her team implemented the "Farming Together Program," which established agricultural co-operatives as key strategy for growing the sustainability of smaller, family-owned agricultural operations in Australia. Farming Together works with farmers to identify business needs, pair expertise and fund business expansion projects. It has so far created a pool of over 200 specialist advisers, reached 28,500 primary producers and supported 730 producer groups. Lorraine has been made Director of Strategic Projects at SCU and also runs two rural businesses.

RICOH
imagine. change.

**RICOH AUSTRALIA
CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD
FINALISTS**

Businesses and organisations spend a great deal of time and money trying to win and retain customers. The highly demanding discipline of customer service is arguably the critical success factor for many organisations and businesses.

The Ricoh Australia Customer Service Award will recognise individuals that provide customer service excellence, best practice and innovative thinking in customer service. It may also be someone who is implementing customer service strategies which are integral to business success. The nominees will have a positive impact on their organisation and demonstrate dedication to product knowledge and commitment to the customer.



Eagle View Escape

Eagle View Escape of Rydal is passionate about hosting guests and exceeding expectations. For over 20 years, Eagle View Escape is a 100-acre property located west of the Blue Mountains has offered boutique accommodation. They take pride in their excellent staff management which contributes to their successful guest service approach. To benchmark services, they utilise TripAdvisor’s analytics suite to gain insights into specific “competitor sets” for benchmarking. They also engage an external company to conduct an independent customer service analysis on their behalf. They won the Australian Achieve Awards for Travel, Tourism & Accommodation Services category in 2017 and 2018 and the Customer Services Excellence category in 2019.



Ronald McDonald House Charities Orange

Ronald McDonald House Charities Orange is devoted to giving families the gift of togetherness during tough times. After ten years of fundraising, the House opened in 2015 and has since accommodated at no cost, over 590 families across five health districts. They provide accommodation for families with sick child in hospital and for high risk pregnancy mums. The House is run by two staff, supported by 111 dedicated volunteers. Staff and volunteers undergo significant training relative to their roles such as safeguarding of children, first aid, and mental health training. To ensure quality service, families are asked to complete a survey after their stay.



Mountain Whispers

Mountain Whispers of Blue Mountains is dedicated to offering access to nature on a grand scale. Mountain Whispers comprises five historic guest homes situated in the boutique Blue Mountains towns of Leura and Katoomba. They aim to fill a unique niche in the region by combining the intimacy of a bed-and-breakfast with the polish and attention of a five-star luxury hotel. They offer bespoke service and allow personal contact with owner and historic restorer, Lorraine Allanson, who is available 24 hours a day. They achieve customer service excellence by meticulously attending to details that matter most to guests such as ease of booking, to uncompromising hygiene standards.



Botanical Art

Botanical Art of Lawson highlights an authentic approach to personal care and connection. Botanical Art, a family-owned and operated florist business servicing the Blue Mountains and beyond. Owners Brendon and Elizabeth Cannon are responsible for daily deliveries and flower arrangements, respectively. They share equal responsibility in providing excellent customer service. Brendon presents the business to potential new customers whilst Elizabeth is first point of contact for visiting or calling customers. Their personal approach includes taking time to educate customers on plant care and remembering customers’ names and their likes and dislikes. Botanical Art won the Best Retail Business Award at the 2018 Blue Mountains Business Awards.

WHOLISTIC FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS SMALL BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS



Small businesses play a vital role in our communities and Wholistic Financial Solutions is proud to support these ventures through the Small Business Achievement Award, which provide opportunities for growth, productivity, leadership, employment and community enhancement.

The Wholistic Financial Solutions Small Business Achievement Award will acknowledge and highlight the successes and achievements of small businesses in the ACT and regional NSW, whilst also recognising their community contributions.



Clarke Keller Architects

Clarke Keller Architects of Barton are passionate about producing high quality designs. Clarke Keller is a Canberra-based firm that applies national expertise at a local level. Their practice typically encompasses regional community projects and they specialise in innovative learning, sustainable living and human-focused work environments. Over the last four years, the business has grown to 25 staff and has added interior design services. In 2019, one of its many projects, the ANU Hann Neumann Building by Clarke Keller, received two Australian Industry of Building Awards, a Master Builders of Australia Award, and three ACT Architecture Awards, presented by the Australian Institute of Architects.



Meralli Solar

Meralli Solar of Uralla has a passion for powering regional communities. Established in 2017, Meralli Solar redefines smaller utility-scale solar farming in Australia by delivering quick installation, low-cost high-return solar farms, to regional areas. They have delivered four privately funded projects and with completion of the Kanowna project, will have reduced CO2 emissions by 39,000 metric tonnes per year. They have 11 employees and make conscious efforts to source significant labour and materials from communities where projects are located. Meralli Solar works closely with every community it operates and sponsors local organisations like the Armidale Women's Networking Group and the Northern Nations Indigenous Football Team.



Wollongong Emergency Family Housing

Wollongong Emergency Family Housing aims to provide a voice for the vulnerable. They are a not-for-profit charity working under a community management model to support families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They work to keep existing accommodation or attain new tenancies through early intervention, case management, referral and advocacy. The Wollongong Homeless Hub in particular, is a specialist homelessness service that operates as a drop-in centre. They cater to a diverse client base, including non-English speaking refugees, youth and Indigenous people. WEFH has collaborative involvement with other homelessness services and non-government and government organisations. In 2017, it successfully supported 1,900 clients.



Accelerate Physiotherapy

Accelerate Physiotherapy of Garran is passionate about giving back. Established in 2017, Accelerate Physiotherapy treated 3,068 patients in their first six months of trade. Their net revenue has increased by 25% in the last 12 months and they continue to see an average of 100 new patients per month. Services include workplace injuries and ergonomic advice, spinal injuries, post-operative rehabilitation and general health management, serving the Canberra and Queanbeyan region. They proudly service the Easts Rugby Union Club and Queanbeyan Blues Rugby League Club. Accelerate Physiotherapy currently has 11 staff which includes 5 full-time physios. Staff are encouraged to get involved in the community.



PRIME SUPER EMPLOYER EXCELLENCE IN AGED CARE AWARD FINALISTS

With an ageing population, aged care facilities and the services they provide are an important part of the lives of an ever increasing number of people. The Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award recognises and acknowledges businesses, organisations and not for profits who have a strong focus on staff engagement, safety and well being, training and providing staff with higher education learning opportunities and development. The Award will also recognise the provision of quality services for clients, patients and residents.

The Award acknowledges aged care facilities, organisations, not for profits and businesses making a positive difference in the industry in NSW and the ACT.



Peninsula Villages

Peninsula Villages of Umina strives to be a leader in staff relations. Incorporated in 1980, Peninsula Villages is a not-for-profit residential aged care provider in the Central Coast catering to over 350 residents. They offer supported living, ageing in place, dementia-specific and palliative care and holistic care. They have 317 full-time, casual and permanent staff. In 2017, Peninsula Villages rolled out a multiskilling staff training program. In 2019, they introduced a new team wellbeing program, focusing on group personal sessions, a Fitbit challenge, free breast screens and quit smoking hydrotherapy. They offer extensive Learning and Development programs and numerous career pathways to ensure staff satisfaction.



Cowra Retirement Village

Cowra Retirement Village commits to become the region's employer of choice. Founded in 1988, the Village is a community-owned, not-for-profit retirement village with 82 residential aged care beds and are currently delivering 30 home care packages. With 120 employees, they are the largest employers in the Cowra community. They offer a range of employment types, flexible rostering and family friendly hours and deliver online training in a range of subjects. They instituted a staff welfare program for staff and their families and introduced a Staff Excellence Awards program. In 2019, the Village were finalists in the Cowra Business Chamber Awards Employer of Choice category.



Koonambil Aged Care Ltd

Koonambil Aged Care Ltd of Coonamble is dedicated to staff development. Koonambil Aged Care Limited is a community-owned, mission-based organisation in Coonamble and the only provider of residential aged care in the local area. They currently have 30 beds that allow ageing in place and respite and eight independent living units. With 30 local staff, Koonambil is the largest non-government employer in the region. As part of its continuous improvement strategy, they regularly undertake anonymous Staff Opinion Surveys. All employees have access to further training, education and qualifications for their role. The Koonambil Enterprise Agreement provides all staff with above award wages and conditions.



Crowley Care

Crowley Care of Ballina promotes a unique staff-driven culture. Established in 1979, Crowley Care is a not-for-profit organisation offering dynamic aged care in Ballina and the Far North Coast. Some services include independent living, home care, private care, transitional care and residential aged care. Their 250 mostly local staff enjoy benefits such as the Employee Assistance Program, offering access to confidential counselling sessions. They provide onsite paid training sessions and external culture training sessions. A Leadership Development Program has commenced for future leaders or influencers. Crowley won the 2019 Aged and Community Services Australia award for Regional, Rural and Remote Provider of the Year.

TRANSGRID LEADERSHIP AWARD FINALISTS



Tenacity, dedication, selflessness and leadership are the key qualities of those amazing individuals who are the “driving force” in their community. These individuals are at the forefront of community contribution in their field of endeavour.

They may have overcome significant difficulty, adversity or hardship to achieve excellent outcomes and raise pride in the community. They may have pioneered significant changes in their community, business or organisation that have altered the way people think and perform for the better. The TransGrid Leadership Award will acknowledge role models who through their leadership pave the way for others to follow.



Yenn Purkis

Yenn Purkis of Mawson is an advocate of positive change. Yenn is an autistic and non-binary author, presenter and community leader and has been active in the disability community in Australia and internationally since 2005. Yenn was a victim of bullying and violence, unemployed for years, locked in prison and psychiatric wards but has used their difficult past to drive their passion for making change and become the leader they are today. Yenn is now part of the ACT Government Disability Justice Strategy reference group, has facilitated the Canberra Autism Women’s Group since 2011 and won the 2016 ACT Volunteer of the Year award.



John Southon

John Southon of Trundle is the principal of Trundle Central School and has shown selfless dedication for the community. He has managed to coordinate multiple individuals and agencies to deliver sustained drought relief to the Trundle community. Under John’s leadership, students have been empowered to help their families in times of significant rural need. Their mental health has also been improved. The School was featured on BBC, China News and Seven Network’s Sunrise, leading to visits by rural aid, rotary clubs, government and other organisations. In the last 12 months, they have secured 250 food and toiletry packages and have injected \$70,000 into the Trundle economy.



Jillian Critchley

Jillian Critchley of Engadine has made significant impact on the lives of disabled youth. Both her daughters and husband Peter have CMT, a physical disability and Jill has been a committee member of the CMT Association of Australia for 10 years. Jill is the founder of the Charcot Marie Tooth Aussie Kids Program and also designed the CMTAK Mentor Program. She helps organise annual conferences where medical and health professionals and people with CMT from rural and regional areas can discuss treatment and support. She was an NSW/ACT finalist in the Australian Family Early Education and Care Awards 2017, Early Childhood Educator of the Year category.



Sarah-Jane Dunford

Sarah-Jane Dunford of Morpeth has profound drive for improving safety. Sarah-Jane founded the Hunter Safety Awards and the NSW Regional Safety Conference and Expo. She volunteers as Chair of the Women in Safety committee, the Australian Safety Awards and the Hunter Valley Branch of the Safety Institute of Australia. She donated over \$200,000 in pro bono safety consulting to small regional businesses in NSW and has donated over 70 photorealism paintings to charities to raise money. She founded the Share-a-Paddock campaign to promote green pastures to farmers in drought and donated three-fourths of her bison farm to a beef cattle farmer for free for 12 months.



AWARDS AUSTRALIA CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AWARD FINALISTS

Awards Australia believes that strong connections with others helps to build vibrant communities where people live, work, meet, learn and interact.

The Awards Australia Connecting Communities Award recognises grass-roots, 'real life' initiatives (led by local community groups or not-for-profits) that demonstrate genuine involvement, long-term value and add to the life of their community. These initiatives may meet a specific need or simply be a 'fun' way to celebrate being part of a community. These initiatives foster a strong sense of community spirit, which plays a vital role in enhancing the way people connect in their community.



Soul Café

Soul Café of Newcastle hopes to help the vulnerable reengage with the community. Soul Café has been providing free, healthy meals and support services to the homeless, financially disadvantaged and socially isolated since 2003, offering five breakfast services and five lunch services weekly. In 2018, they provided 33,400 meals, takeaways and food care packs. A registered charity, they are community-backed and funded and receive no government funding. Soul Café has 150 volunteers who contribute more than 360 hours weekly with a long-term goal of elevating the circumstances of vulnerable people. Soul Café was a runner up community organisation in the 2018 Australia Day Awards.



Theresa Mitchell

Theresa Mitchell of Tweed Heads South is devoted to helping the homeless. Theresa founded Agape Outreach Inc. in 2009 after seeing many hungry homeless people in the local park. Since then, the charity has helped over 10,000 people yearly. Theresa also runs a food rescue program that collects two tonnes of food per week from supermarkets, farms and bakeries that would otherwise end up in landfill and donates these to those struggling to put food on the table. An Op-Shop attached to Agape Outreach sells inexpensive clothing and free blankets and warm clothes to those in need. Theresa also accompanies the homeless to medical appointments and Court.



Outback Theatre for Young People

Outback Theatre for Young People of Deniliquin promotes sustained engagement with communities. OTYP is an art company that provides remote, rural and regional young people access to professional arts experiences that are developed in their communities, for their communities. They provide opportunities to share their creative ideas and dreams and experience arts careers whilst using their voices and feeling more part of their towns. They produce theatre, dance, music and film. OTYP participants include those who face isolation, poverty and struggle with literacy. Their projects are delivered for two to three years and are fully embedded into the community through a unique and tailored Artistic and Operational Framework.



Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW

Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW empowers young people to reach their potential. PCYC established the PCYC "Fit for Work" program in 2017 in partnership with the NSW Police Youth & Crime Prevention Command and in cooperation with local businesses and agencies. PCYC works with youth at risk to break the cycle of disadvantage through crime prevention, vocational education, youth capacity building and social responsibility. Participants attend the 10-week Program which comprises of fitness challenges, classroom training, presentations and excursions. They work to obtain certificates in Retail, White Card, First Aid and Barista. The Program concludes with at least a week of work experience and a graduation ceremony.

2019 SEMI FINALISTS

Each year we receive hundreds of outstanding nominations for the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement & Community Awards. Each of these people, organisations and businesses are doing incredible work in regional NSW and ACT, and together with our partners we're honoured to help recognise them.

Allan Brown, Tygalgah
Alumy Creek Reserve Land Manager, Grafton
BaptistCare Carey Gardens, Red Hill
Booyong Public Recreation and Preservation of Native Flora Reserve Trust, Booyong
Byron Youth Service, Byron Bay
Caroline Joseph, Bellingen
Cotton Australia, Mascot
Dorothy Brown
Fighters Against Child Abuse Australia, Moorebank
Gordon Williams, Uralla
Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, Wagga Wagga
Harold Gibson, Corlette
Heather Rowe, Mittagong
iClick2Learn, Dubbo
iSimulate Pty Ltd, Fyshwick
Jillian Kelly, Coonamble
Kit Bag for Kids, Sydney
Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance, Warners Bay
Linda Maidens, Moree
Logistics Health Pty Ltd, Narrabri
Lupins for Life, Jindera
Mark Morgan, Yanco

Maroba Aged Care, Waratah
Multicultural Aged Care Illawarra, Warrawong
Murray Haven Homes, Barham
Murwillumbah Showground Land Manager, South Murwillumbah
Natalie Bramble, Dubbo
Navorina Nursing Home, Deniliquin
Nicholas Packham, Bathurst
Ophir R65909 Reserve Crown Land Manager, Summer Hill Creek
Orange Visitor Information Centre, Orange
Oxley Community Transport Services Inc, Taminda
Oxygen Recruitment & HR, Bathurst
Pairtree Intelligence Pty Ltd, Molong
Paul Hoschke, Bellingen
Peter Linnegar, Tumut
Pinnacle People Solutions Pty Ltd, Armidale
Rain Agribusiness, Narrabri
Rally for Recovery, Tomakin
Rod Crowfoot, Dubbo
Ronald Charles Harrison, Araluen
Southern Cross Care Broken Hill Ltd, Broken Hill
Sparrowly Group, Haberfield
Steve Semmens, Bathurst
Tarlo/Middle Arm Landcare, Tarlo
Tweed Palliative Support Inc, Dulguigan

PUT SOMEONE FORWARD

Do you know someone amazing? Perhaps they're doing incredible things for the community, or they've got a brilliant idea and it's going to change the world. Maybe they've overcome incredible challenges to see their dreams succeed. Or maybe they've helped you, at a time you needed it the most.

Put them forward for the 2020 Awards – submit their details into our referral form and we'll be sure to get in touch with both of you when nominations official re-open next year.

http://bit.ly/NSWACT_Nominate



SOCIAL MEDIA

For access to all of the live updates from the 2019 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards Gala Presentation Dinner, connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.



NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards
[Facebook.com/NSWACTRACA](https://www.facebook.com/NSWACTRACA)



@NSW_ACT_RACA
#NSWACTRACA



Thank you to **Sarkodie Photography** and **PixFlix Productions** who will be capturing the evening. Photos and a highlights video will be posted to our Facebook page shortly after the Awards Gala Presentation Dinner.



ABOUT US

The NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards started in 2002, with the purpose of encouraging, acknowledging, and rewarding the valuable contributions individuals, communities and businesses are making throughout regional New South Wales and the ACT. The awards create the opportunity to recognise their hard work and dedication and their contribution to the future of regional New South Wales.

The Awards are proudly owned and operated by Awards Australia.

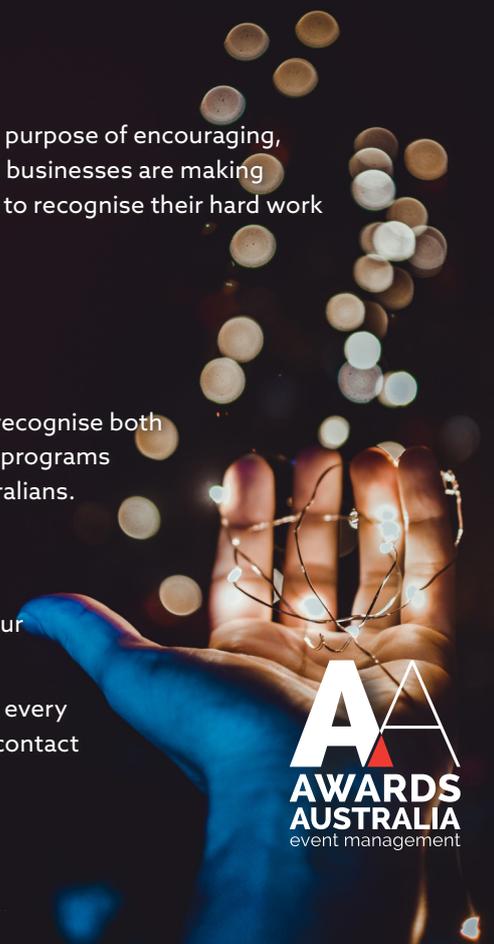
WHO IS AWARDS AUSTRALIA?

Since 1989, Awards Australia has provided a unique way for businesses to support and recognise both their customers and the community as a whole. Over the years our prestigious Awards programs have received thousands of nominations and celebrated hundreds of inspirational Australians.

PARTNER WITH US

Are you looking for an innovative and fun way to grow your business that aligns with your values and will enable you to form a deeper connection with your community?

Awards Australia are currently seeking partners for a variety of Awards programs run in every state and territory of Australia. Find out more today – come and speak to us tonight or contact Josh Griffin, Partnership Manager on 0413 020 552 or email josh@awardsaustralia.com



AWARD PARTNERS



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RESORT & SPA
BLUE MOUNTAINS



AWARD CATEGORY PARTNERS



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