



Gladstone Region  
*Australia Day*  
AWARDS 2024

*Celebrating outstanding  
members of our community*



**Australia Day**  
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



**GLADSTONE**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**We're all part of the story**



Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre  
Goondoon Street, Gladstone  
Thursday, 25 January 2024



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Gladstone Regional Council would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Bailai, the Gurang, the Gooreng Gooreng and the Taribelang Bunda people.

We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Gladstone Regional Council is committed to cultivating a culture of inclusion and connectedness, acknowledging that our communities are richer when diversity is embraced.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A WELCOMING CITY

Gladstone Regional Council is actively aligning with best practice multiculturalism as identified in the National Welcoming Cities Standards and declares itself a welcoming community. We embrace diversity, foster social cohesion and are focused on building economic success.

Council endeavours to use a whole of community approach to not only embrace diversity, but also harness its strength and identify opportunities to enhance our multicultural focus. As a Council, we will benchmark cultural diversity and inclusion policies and practices across the organisation and continue to identify how further efforts can be directed.



# MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR



The Australia Day Awards ceremony is an event I thoroughly look forward to each year.

The Australia Day Awards recognise and reward members of the local community who have a consistent record of excellence, have made outstanding achievements in their field, and/or have contributed significantly to the growth and development of sport, community events, arts and cultural life in the region.

These achievements are worth celebrating and I have no doubt that all winners and nominees take a lot of pride in our community and are consistently striving to make the Gladstone Region a better place.

This year marks the second time the Mayor's Community Champion Award will be awarded to an individual for their outstanding contribution to the Gladstone Region community.

In addition to this, 2024 marks the first time the Mayor's Young Community Champion Award will be awarded to a young person aged 15 to 25.

These two Awards are in addition to the seven existing award categories.

I want to offer my sincere appreciation to all winners and nominees in each category for everything they have contributed towards the Gladstone Region.

I also want to thank those who took the time to nominate a person or event for the 2024 Australia Day Awards, so as a Council we can shine a light on some of the fantastic work being undertaken in our community.

**Mayor Matt Burnett**  
*Gladstone Regional Council*

## INDEX

Acknowledgement of Country .....	2
Acknowledgment of a Welcoming City .....	2
Message from the Mayor .....	3
Award Categories and Nominees .....	4-5
Citizen of the Year Nominees .....	6-9
Young Citizen of the Year Nominees .....	10-11
Sport and Recreation Award Nominees .....	12
Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award Nominees .....	13-15
Arts and Culture Award Nominees .....	16
Community Event Award Nominees .....	17-18
Community Volunteer Award Nominees .....	19-22



# AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINEES

## *Citizen of the Year*

This award recognises an individual for their outstanding contribution and/or achievement to the Gladstone Region community during the preceding year. The winner will be an Australian Citizen living in the Gladstone Region. Community contributions and achievements may be in any area of community life, including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability.

### **Nominees:**

- Alison Harrington
- Amanda Ryan
- Debra Chapman
- Jemma Manwaring
- John Hodson-Gilmore
- Kim O'Neill
- Leslie Diefenbach
- Lyndal Hansen
- Natasha Kocks
- Patricia Doherty
- Ron Streeter
- Ronald Doherty

## *Young Citizen of the Year*

This award recognises an individual aged 15-25 for their outstanding achievement and/or contribution to the Gladstone Region during the preceding year. The winner will be an Australian Citizen living in the Gladstone Region. Community contributions and achievement may be in any area of community life, including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability.

### **Nominees:**

- Abiksha Murali
- Callie McKay
- Holly Morton
- Jaz Girard
- Kasey Pfeiffer
- Kayla Chapman
- Rommiel Lorey Malig
- Sidney Crawshaw

## *Sport and Recreation Award*

This award recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual or group that has made a significant contribution towards the sporting or recreational achievements of the Gladstone Region in the preceding year, including official coaching, sports officials, management and administration of sport and recreation activities.

### **Nominees:**

- Katrina McDonald
- Jack Smith
- Kylie Cameron
- Molly Black
- Rebecca Desertiaux
- William (Bill) Webb

## *Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award*

This award recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual or group aged 15-25 that has made a significant contribution towards the sporting or recreational achievements of the Gladstone Region in the preceding year, including official coaching, sports officials, management and administration of sport and recreation activities.

### **Nominees:**

- Ethan Sharpe
- Felicity Webb
- Hayden Tabone
- Kayden Gibson
- Linzi McBean
- Milly Sharpe
- Sidney Crawshaw
- Talon Egan
- Tom Crawshaw
- William (Billy) Price



# AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINEES

## Arts and Culture Award

This award recognises the significant achievement and dedication by an individual or group who produces and promotes outstanding creative work in the Gladstone Region in the preceding year.

### Nominees:

- Ann Hooper
- Jennifer Ryan
- Kerry Birt
- Leslie Gordon Lister (Waraba)

## Community Event Award

This award recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual or group that has delivered community events that generate civic pride and connect our community.

### Nominees:

- Anglican Church Gladstone - Food Centre and Rays Soup Kitchen
- Cancer Council QLD - Biggest Morning Tea
- Gladstone Combined Services - Combined Services Gladstone Touch Football Day
- Integreat Queensland - The Flourish Festival
- Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club - Rip Awareness Session
- Turkey Beach Progress Association - Turkey Beach 50th Birthday Bash

## Community Volunteer Award

This award recognises the outstanding dedication and contribution by an individual to one or more areas of the Gladstone Region in the preceding year by demonstrating voluntary service, expertise and community leadership that has led to the enhancement of the activity and/or region.

### Nominees:

- Alahnie Rozycki
- Alan McKay
- Alison Harrington
- Chloe Sydes
- Daniel Trainer
- Dennis Fairbrother
- Emma Roulston
- Graham McVean
- Helen Randall
- Isla Osmond
- Jakob Humphries
- Jeffrey Wilkinson
- Jessica Toms
- Josephine Meng
- Lisa Edwards
- Nicole Allison
- Patricia Doherty
- Rachel Smith
- Rommiel Lorey Malig
- Ronald Doherty
- Tayla Bullen

## Mayor's Community Champion Award

This award recognises an individual for their outstanding contribution to the Gladstone Region community. Anyone may be nominated for the Mayor's Community Champion Award. Community achievement and/or contribution may be in any area including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability. **Mayor Matt Burnett to announce.**

## Mayor's Young Community Champion Award

This award recognises an individual aged 15-25 for their outstanding contribution to the Gladstone Region community. Anyone may be nominated for the Mayor's Community Champion Award. Community achievement and/or contribution may be in any area including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability. **Mayor Matt Burnett to announce.**



# Citizen of the Year Nominees



**Alison Harrington**

Alison is a retired business owner who dedicates much of her time to our local community. When not looking after her grandbabies or volunteering with several organisations, she designs and makes dementia fidget mats for dementia patients in the Gladstone Region. Each fidget mat takes her around 30 hours to design and make and is donated to those in need. Alison considers the life stories of the dementia patients, so she can custom design each fidget mat for each person. The time and care she takes in creating these mats for our most vulnerable citizens, is reflected in the joy and peace it brings to them. Alison does not hesitate to spend every moment possible to create these mats and how much of an impact they have on those with dementia and their families.



**Amanda Ryan**

As principal, Amanda dedicates much of her own time to Yarwun State School and its students. She sacrifices her hours to ensure they have three classes with three teachers to get the best education, rather than combining classes. She puts energy and enthusiasm into making sure every child in her care receives the best education and then goes home to be a mum to her own four children. Amanda manages an entire school, along with the great teachers, aides and staff. She achieves the best for every single student, fights for every bit of funding and makes do with what is allocated. Amanda teaches every student at the school like they are her own child, making sure no one is left behind or falls through any cracks.



**Debra Chapman**

Debra has spent years volunteering for the State Emergency Service (SES). She has strongly supported many local clubs and community groups financially, over the years. Deb and her daughter Kayla were both very active in the recent bushfires, not only volunteering, but also supplying food to the emergency workers and fire victims as well. They are still helping organise hay and supplies for fire affected farms, by providing fuel for trucks to transport the hay. They have financially supported the Miriam Vale Rodeo Association, the Miriam Vale Senior and Junior football clubs and the SES, just to name a few. Debra is a generous and community minded person who totally deserves this award.

# Citizen of the Year Nominees



**Jemma Manwaring**

Jemma volunteered her time during the Gladstone Hospital Maternity Ward Bypass to advocate for the return of services and support women and families affected by the closure. She achieved this by facilitating community events such as rallies and support meetings; disseminating key information via social media and media interviews; being a point of contact with media outlets and providing guidance to women who were interviewed by media; meeting with politicians to address the bypass and improve maternity, general health and the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme services in the Gladstone Region. Jemma also leads the Gladstone branch of the Australian Breastfeeding Association.



**John Hodson-Gilmore**

John takes pride in the communities of Calliope and Gladstone. He works for the people towards better health and the community respects him. He is a local paramedic who can be found on his days off at the kindy teaching children about safety, or at the school helping raise awareness about the ambulance. He wants to make sure they feel safe during a time of need. John goes above and beyond to check in on patients in his own time and takes great pride in working for the Gladstone community. He goes above and beyond the call of duty to make the Gladstone Region a better, safer place.



**Kim O'Neill**

Kim is a committed member of several sporting committees in the community. As chair of the Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club Nippers for the past two years, she provides a safe, fun and inclusive educational experience for our youth. This reflects her direction and engaging committee of helpers. Kim's efforts have been rewarded with the state award for Services to Nippers in 2023. While on patrol with a new junior patrolling member, she did multiple rescues to help someone return to safety. Coordinating members, she determined who was most at risk of returning to shore and assessed their wellbeing. As well as Kim's commitment to Nippers, she is also involved in Netball. She serves on the committee, coaches and competes, setting a high bar for expected behaviours and members' conduct.



# Citizen of the Year Nominees



**Leslie Diefenbach**

Les (Dr Dief) has been a doctor in the Gladstone Region for more than 50 years. He has consistently provided high quality medical services and has been a teacher and mentor for numerous trainee doctors. He has looked after three generations of Gladstonians and delivered many babies. Today, he still provides high quality medical services and he looks after many patients in New Auckland Place. Dr Dief has dedicated his life to the health and well-being of the Gladstone Region's people. He has seamlessly adjusted to the many changes in medical practice and is a modern GP not afraid of the new technologies.



**Lyndal Hansen**

Lyndal has lived in the Gladstone Region for over 40 years. She has assisted the not-for-profit sector through roles in State Government, Amarna (her consulting business of more than 20 years), and as co-founder/CEO of NFP House. This was a one-stop-shop established in 2019 to assist local not-for-profit organisations. Her family has also owned/operated a small business for more than 20 years. Lyndal values volunteering and the contributions it makes to the community. She was instrumental in the Gladstone Basketball stadium being built, helped establish Welcoming Intercultural Neighbours (now Integreat QLD), provided business mentoring to the Boyne Tannum HookUp and Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry and still serves on the QAL Advisory Committee. Lyndal's passion to help others sets her apart. By starting NFP House, she wanted to strengthen our society's fabric.



**Natasha Kocks**

Over the past few years Aussie Helpers CEO, Natasha Kocks, has brought the head office here to the Gladstone Region. This charity has helped many farmers, especially in October 2023 during the fires at Lowmead and Miriam Vale. They were on the ground providing feed and fodder to desperate farmers. Aussie Helpers also donated to Mount Larcom State School helping their agriculture campaign. They have hosted galas and sponsored local events such as Star Of the Sea Caulfield Cup with these funds being channelled into our local community. Farmers from across the Gladstone Region and Australia have been personally helped by the team at Aussie Helpers. These farmers were brought to our beautiful community and funds channelled into local businesses to help make them feel special for a large gala event.

# Citizen of the Year Nominees



**Patricia Doherty**

Patricia is one of the Gladstone Region's most dedicated community champions and volunteers. She dedicates much of her life to ensuring the wellbeing of women and ensuring all community members feel included and have a safe space to join in with community. She achieves this through her tireless voluntary work through the QCWA and Lions. Patricia never shies away from committing herself to leadership positions. She is an incredible mentor and guide in both these organisations. Her dedication to ensuring the values of these organisations are upheld have seen her take on many executive positions in both organisations over the years. Currently, she is president of the QCWA Tannum Sands branch and is also our Country Kitchens champion for Boyne Tannum.



**Ron Streeter**

Ron has been part of the community for over 70 years. Through business and socially, he has continually energised people enhancing their lives. He has influenced many from apprentices through to older workers and community members alike. Ron is president of the Boyne Valley's Community Shed and was a major driving force to have it built. His resilience is valuable to everyone, especially in times of emergency events. This nomination indicates how much he and his family are appreciated, as it recognises his years of tireless work and selfless commitment. His dedication to helping others, his unwavering commitment to making a difference, his infectious smile and sense of humour are qualities that make him an inspiration to all.



**Ronald Doherty**

Ronald epitomises this award as an individual and volunteer but also a team player in our community for many decades. His volunteering and leadership has been prominent at the Boyne Tannum Lions Club and the Men's Shed at Tannum Sands. Ron has been instrumental in the ongoing development of these clubs and serves in an executive position for both. Some examples of his guidance in delivering back to the community include the Boyne Tannum HookUp, Under the Trees, World's Greatest Shave, making donations and supporting Strong Communities with their early learning assistance initiative for regional families. He has also helped with BAM BBQ's, the Raglan Fly-In and always assists the QCWA ladies.



# Young Citizen of the Year Nominees



**Abiksha Murali**

Abiksha has been busy in 2023 through her wide-ranging community involvement. She is a concierge volunteer at the Gladstone Hospital and volunteers at Council events like Ecofest, Luminous and PopCon. She was School Vice-Captain at Gladstone State High School, helping with events such as Shave for a Cure and Relay for Life. Her cultural activities included representing GSHS at Capricornia level for the State Honours Ensemble Program in Rockhampton for violin. She was also a member of Verdi Strings-Puccini winning first place and Best Strings Ensemble at the Gladstone Eisteddfod. Abiksha participated in SPARQ-ed's Senior Research Immersion program run by the University of Queensland at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane. Working in a biomedical laboratory, she investigated and created a project on DNA sequencing.



**Callie McKay**

Callie brought a great shine to everything she was involved in during 2023. Through her football involvement at Seagulls Rubby League Club, she has been an integral part of the team providing a never say die attitude and taking on the additional responsibilities of kick. From her performance this season, she took out the Most Influential Female Player award for Seagulls football. Callie has also had an outstanding year through Surf Life Saving. Her engagement and support for others saw her awarded Nipper vice-captain in her final year of junior competition. This year she also obtained her Surf Rescue Certificate where her skills were put to the test promptly on patrol, undertaking a rescue over the summer holidays. Callie is a reliable team member for the club and applies her role model skills, from being a big sister to coach.



**Holly Morton**

Holly is a regular volunteer in the Gladstone community devoting many hours to help at community events and services. They include the Police Citizens Youth Club school holiday events, Headspace YRG, a Suicide Prevention Program Leslee's Sunflower and a Youth Mental Health Camp called Young People Making a Difference. She has been volunteering since 2017/18 and is motivated to make a difference when it comes to mental health and inspiring youth to reach their goals, despite their challenges. Holly is using her own experiences to bring about much needed change in the system.



**Jaz Girard**

Jaz is a member of the Toolooa State High School Interact Club and has been since Year 7. She will take on the Vice President's role in 2024. She puts a lot of effort into her academic work with the result she receives mostly A's. Jaz is also a swimmer who has attended State level events. She has completed a lifesaving course as a stepping stone to teaching children to swim at her swim club. Her hope is this will reduce pressure off her busy coaches. Jaz also volunteers her time to do charity work.

# Young Citizen of the Year Nominees



**Kasey Pfeiffer**

Kasey represented the Gladstone Region at several events across Australia and the world in 2023. They included SPARQ-Ed in Brisbane, Curious Minds in Adelaide and STEM Girl Power in Brisbane. She is currently completing an online Quantum Computing course through MIT (US) and has been accepted to the Future Leaders Academy (Cook Islands). Kasey is also an Horizon Hydrogen grand prix national finalist. She was a Senior House Captain at Tannum Sands State High School and received excellence awards for her academic achievements. She participates in events such as athletics carnival, Year 6 Orientation and ANZAC Day, and is an active member of Meraki Circus which performed at Under the Trees. Kasey ran a Science Week event at Boyne Island State School in 2023 to encourage Primary School students to participate in STEM.



**Kayla Chapman**

Kayla has spent years as a State Emergency Service volunteer and has been involved in local community groups. She also started MV Hay Donations where her and her mother Deb kicked in \$5000 to kick-start the fund. It has provided hay to the many farmers who were burnt out in the recent bushfires. Not only has Kayla started the fund but she is active in distributing the hay, going with the truck on delivery runs. She also spent a lot of hours volunteering during the recent bushfires. Kayla is a very caring young person and deserves consideration for the Young Citizens award.



**Rommiel Lorey Malig**

Rommiel has had a busy year in academia, cultural activities and volunteering. She participated in the National Youth Science Forum with other STEM students. She also volunteered there to help incoming Year 12 students. A trip that focused on activating women in manufacturing may have helped Rommiel find a future career pathway. Participating in cultural activities allowed her to step out of her comfort zone by performing in shows. She is the trumpet lead for three different music ensembles, where she competes in Eisteddfods, performs for the school community and at ANZAC parades. Rommiel also participated in the school musical "Head over Heels". As an active member of Interact and the treasurer, she helps raise money for charities and assists Rotary at events. She was also the Gladstone State High School Captain and a member of the Youth Council.



**Sidney Crawshaw**

Tannum Sands witnessed a young hero emerge from the waves on January 1, 2023. Sidney was then a 14-year-old volunteer life saver who demonstrated incredible courage and quick thinking when the elements were fierce and the sea untamed. That day, Tannum beach was being patrolled by the Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club when a man found himself in a treacherous rip. He was desperately trying to rescue his own children caught in the current. Sidney transformed into a fearless warrior of the waves. With determination, he paddled out to the troubled man and his swift response was nothing short of extraordinary, saving a life in the process. What makes this story even more remarkable is this was Sidney's first rescue. His heroic act made everyone proud and served as a great example of selflessness and bravery.



# Sport and Recreation Award Nominees



**Katrina McDonald**

Katrina has volunteered, alongside her father, for 16 years with the Calliope Roosters Senior Rugby League Club. She has dedicated many week nights and weekends to the club and players to be their Senior First Aid Officer

(FAO) and an Executive Committee member. She provides the best support to players, taking pride in assuring their safety, recovery and maintenance to consistently play rugby league. This year, Katrina lost her father, Greg (Captain) McDonald, suddenly towards the end of the season. It was a huge shock. Even though Greg had stepped back in the role of the main FAO, he loved to share his time helping his daughter at home games, and when she needed extra coverage. Katrina continued in the role following his passing and was surrounded with support. The strength it took for her to show up for the club and community during this hard time was astonishing. Katrina's passion for player safety goes beyond her club to any injured player on the field.



**Molly Black**

Molly is a swim teacher with Above & Beyond Swim School. Her dedication to teaching children to swim is truly commendable. She has shown commitment and passion by working with the school since 2020, taking a break to focus

on teaching and then returning to work there full time. Her hard work and dedication has positively impacted many children, helping them develop a crucial life skill and ensuring their water safety. Molly's commitment to children's well-being extends beyond teaching swimming. She completed a Sport and Recreation certificate so she could provide a holistic approach to their development. Her passion for sports and recreation, combined with her love for teaching, makes her an exceptional mentor. She prioritises children's safety, growth and enjoyment in every activity. Her genuine care shines through in her work as a true champion for children's well-being and sport and recreation.



**Jack Smith**

Jack has shown exemplary sportsmanship on and off the field, winning several events on the triathlon scene. A worker at one of our local industry giants in his spare time, he trains and dedicates his life to competing in events most weekends and

helping other inspiring athletes to do better. He has competed in nine multi-sports events recording seven wins - three Australian titles and four world champion qualifications. Jack is a young man who is very humble about his achievements. He is a real asset for our Gladstone community.



**Rebecca Desertiaux**

Rebecca puts in 110% always for her job, the Gladstone South Swimming Club, the families, staff and the children. She is always working behind the scenes doing everything she possibly can to help. She goes away to support and be

there for the children swimming at meets. Rebecca even works on her time off. She is a fantastic person that deserves to be recognised.



**Kylie Cameron**

Kylie opened her business, Kylie Pilates, in our region just six months ago and has mentored and served our community as a role model for generating a better quality of life for any demographic. She is passionate about her

values and dedicates six days a week to improving, supporting and helping others take care of their bodies through fitness. Something that Kylie does so well is she recognises someone's goals and fitness journey and shapes her mentoring approach to benefit them. Kylie does not just follow a script or do what everybody else does. Her health and fitness mentoring style through Pilates is inspiring and rewarding for everyone.



**William (Bill) Webb**

Bill has administered and coached sport in the Gladstone Region for many years. He was on the board of Meteors Sports Club when it was \$90,000 in debt, three years ago. He volunteered as functions and marketing manager and

was acting groundsman at Meteors for 10 hours a week. Bill created a home for the Special Olympics at Meteors and started the Free Sports for Kids campaign to assist disadvantaged children. There are now 110 children enjoying free uniforms, coaching and free Football Queensland fees. He has numerous coaching certificates and is the Football Technical Director at Meteors Football Club. He is an Australian PGA member coaching 130 junior golfers in the region and has introduced golf to Kin Kora State School and Calliope High School. Bill is passionate about helping kids reach an elite level in sport. In the past year, he has attended the Asian Pacific Golf Teaching Conference and PGA seminars in Melbourne, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

# Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award Nominees



## Ethan Sharpe

Ethan was the 2023 Australian All Around Level 9 Open Champion in Men's Artistic Gymnastics and the national champion on rings and floor. He won gold for Queensland in the team event and bronze on vault. To qualify for nationals,

Ethan was all around State Champion and won gold on pommel and rings, silver on floor and vault and bronze on high bar. Becoming the Gladstone Region's first men's artistic national champion was remarkable after he tore a wrist ligament in 2022 and could not train for six months. As Gladstone Gymnastics Club Men's Captain, Ethan encourages and supports young gymnasts through coaching, showing them how to train to succeed at the highest level. He qualified as a Men's Intermediate Bronze Judge in 2023 and can now officiate at State and National level. When not competing, he supports all regional events by judging or volunteering so they can proceed. Ethan encourages young gymnasts to become well-rounded individuals with a good work ethic and respect for others.



## Felicity Webb

Felicity is the current national Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) bars champion for the second consecutive year. She is ranked third on beam and fifth overall. Last year, she was the overall national champion. She also coaches a 'steps'

development group to promote the sport within the Gladstone Region. Felicity was part of the Gladstone Gymnastics level 9 WAG team that placed first at the Australian National Gymnastics Championships. This year, she has been recovering from a leg injury and has persisted to achieve these results. She is a respected role model who is looked up to by both upcoming gymnasts and peers at her school (Trinity College). Felicity is the current Gladstone Gymnastics club WAG captain and strives to improve the success of gymnastics in this region. She is proud to be a member of the Gladstone Community.



## Hayden Tabone

Hayden has had a great year in the water. Through his swimming with Bullets, he has had success at the State Short Course Titles, competed in the Queensland Tilly Cup Team gaining a bronze and went on to compete at a national level.

On top of his achievements in the pool, Hayden has also thrived in surf competitions. He undertook a rescue in Wild Cattle Creek with a member of the public during the Surf Club rips awareness session, which definitely put his swimming skills to the test. He also travelled away with the Nipper team to their development camp, assisting with water safety and helping younger members develop their surf skills in the Gold Coast wave conditions.



## Kayden Gibson

Kayden is an amazing swimmer and the most humble boy you will find. He is now 15 years old but in April was the only 14 year old to qualify and compete in the open age group at the National Championships. This came after a week of

swimming at Age Nationals where he competed against his own age group and won two gold and two bronze medals. In August, he was awarded top country swimmer at the Queensland Short Course Championships and also broke a Queensland Allcomers record. Kayden spends many hours in the pool and gym to achieve these results. He has also been selected in Swimming Queensland squads. Look out for this name at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games when he is older, if he continues to improve year in and year out like he has done so for years.



# Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award Nominees



**Linzi McBean**

Linzi's golf handicap of 4.8 is exceptional for a junior golfer. She has been working hard on her game over the past couple of years and this has shown in her 2023 results. She has won six Junior Opens across Central Queensland and has been

Gladstone Golf Club's Senior Ladies Champion for the third consecutive year. Linzi was 19th in the Queensland Schools Championships (girls 13-19) and 25th in the Katherine Kirk Championships for girls up to 19. She also qualified for the Greg Norman Junior Classic. Linzi is a talented athlete and, with further support and encouragement, could become a high ranked state amateur player. She has the potential to progress further in years to come. She has helped coach beginner ladies clinics this year and also works casually at the Gladstone Golf Club once or twice a week. Linzi displays great communication skills, attention to detail and forms relationships easily.



**Milly Sharpe**

Milly is a committed race walker and trains six days a week to pursue her passion. She has broken numerous regional and club records during the year over distances from 800m to 5000m. In the past year, her results have

included winning a bronze medal at the National Schools Track and Field Championships in the U15 3000m race walk, becoming State Champion at the Queensland Athletics Championships in 3000m U16 race walk, State Champion at Little Athletics Championships in 1500m race walk and State Champion at Queensland Schools Championships in U16 3000m race walk. She was selected to represent North Queensland in the National Schools Championships in Perth in December 2023 in the 3000m race walk and has qualified for the 2024 Australian Athletics Championships in the 5000m race walk. Milly is now officiating and has assisted at several events, including two days at the Little Athletics State Championships. She is committed to promoting race walking by helping with clinics at Gladstone Athletics.



**Sidney Crawshaw**

Tannum Sands witnessed a young hero emerge from the waves on January 1, 2023. Sidney was then a 14-year-old volunteer life saver who demonstrated incredible courage and quick thinking when the elements

were fierce and the sea untamed. That day, the beach was being patrolled by Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club when a man found himself in a treacherous rip. He was desperately trying to rescue his own children caught in the current. Sidney transformed into a fearless warrior of the waves. With determination, he paddled out to the troubled man and his swift response was nothing short of extraordinary, saving a life in the process. What makes this story even more remarkable is this was Sidney's first rescue. His heroic act made everyone proud and served as a great example of selflessness and bravery. Sidney is a young homegrown legend in Tannum Sands and his actions remind us of the importance of having heroes in our lives.



**Talon Egan**

Talon is an exceptional young man whose dedication and commitment is second to none in his field. He trains harder and longer than all of the adults and went on to achieve a 4-0 result in Mixed Martial Arts this year. He also won the

BEAST Junior Australian Championship Title as well. Talon was selected for the Australian ISKA team to compete at the World Championships in Germany. He excelled on the international stage and won the Gold Medal for himself and Australia. He remains undefeated in Mixed Martial Arts, Wrestling and Submission Grappling, both locally, nationally and now also internationally. Talon not only competes but volunteers many hours to help coach and mentor younger athletes. He is well respected by his peers, coaching adult classes when required. He works part time at Wards Brewery and maintains high academic scores at school. This year he was recognised at the Mayor's Youth Awards.



# Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award Nominees



**Tom Crawshaw**

Tom has had some stellar performances this year in the water. Through his swimming with Bullets, he won medals at the State Swimming Championships as well as the Youth Titles for Surf Life Saving Queensland. After gaining

a silver medal in the surf race in March, Tom challenged himself to undertake endurance racing. He proved himself to be extremely competitive on his first hit out, only to sustain an injury to prevent him finishing with a medal but earning the respect of his peers.



**William (Billy) Price**

Billy achieved great success in hockey and netball in 2023. He played hockey at a local (Meteors Hockey), state (Capricornia Schoolboys, Gladstone Rep Hockey) and national level (QLD U16 Schoolboys). He also

umpired at local and state level and was selected by Hockey Australia to umpire at the U13 National Championships. Billy has also begun mentoring numerous children. He is a member of the Valleys Netball Club and represented Chanel College at the QISSN tournament as part of the school's first boys' netball team. His performance earned him a place in the QLD All-Stars team. Billy has also been completing his Certificate III in Sports and Recreation at the Gladstone Aquatic Centre, conducting swimming lessons and lifeguarding. His lifeguard skills came to the fore when he saved a young girl from drowning earlier this year. Billy's dedication to his role as a lifeguard, coupled with his sporting and mentoring, highlights his character and willingness to positively impact the community.





# Arts and Culture Award Nominees



**Ann Hooper**

Annie has been involved in Gladstone musicals for many years in roles such as rehearsal pianist and as part of the pit crew (orchestra). She has worked on shows such as Little Mermaid, Grease, Legally Blonde, Wizard of

Oz and Anything Goes - to name a few. She is the bass clarinet player for the Gladstone Adult Concert Band, First Alto Saxophone in Lost for Words Stageband and in the Gladstone Carols by Candlelight band (either on Saxophone or piano as required). Annie regularly volunteers to play piano/organ for the Catholic Church masses. She is one of the organisers of the Boyne Island Carols by Candlelight and is often seen accompanying students at Eisteddfod or volunteering in other roles there. Annie has been a tutor at the Gladstone Independent Schools Music Association music workshops and is very giving of her time to help the younger generation develop their musical skills.



**Kerry Birt**

Kerry is a member of Gladstone Performing Arts Company - Choir & CODA branches - as well as being involved on the GPAC executive committee. She has been involved in several musicals in Gladstone either

as a cast member, part of the backstage crew, assisting with sewing - anything required really. She has also been the producer/ideas person behind several shows including the theatre restaurant Mystery on the Orient Express, Gladstone Spectacular and the GPAC Arts event/workshop held in Agnes Water, to name just a few. Kerry is also a member of the Carols by Candlelight chorale. She freely volunteered time for two days to help students at a singing workshop held by the Gladstone Independent Schools Music Association. She has been a driving force behind trying to create an Arts hub in Gladstone - an area for all Arts groups to use. Kerry is a great supporter of all Arts events in the Gladstone Region.



**Jennifer Ryan**

Jennifer is an artist and author who has shared her talents with so many people across our region for many years. She has taken her book to kindies and schools and read with them as well as completed workshops on

the moral of the story. She has participated in art projects from Rules Beach to Agnes Water, raising the profile of the arts. Jen used her talents to run workshops on recyclable art in Sunfest and also on various different art genres with adults. She won the Martin Hansen Arts on Easel section last year and exhibited her work in the winter collections at GRAGM. Jennifer is an accomplished artist with a current exhibition in Bundaberg. Over many years, Jennifer has shared her artistic talents with students, kindy kids, teenagers and adults.



**Leslie Gordon Lister (Waraba)**

Gordon is an Aboriginal Cultural man who has been actively involved in the community, sharing his Traditional Aboriginal Art and their stories. He has also shared his extensive cultural

knowledge through the Ecofest workshops and artist talks at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum. He recently won the Local Murri artist award at the 2023 Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards. Gordon has also been actively involved with local schools creating art pieces and sharing culture. He is an active member of ARTmatters Gallery, a not for profit collective where he volunteers and displays art.

# Community Event Award Nominees



## Anglican Church Gladstone - Food Centre & Rays Soup Kitchen

We believe in demonstrating charity with love and dignity. Food Centre provides low-cost food and household items and Ray's Soup Kitchen offers our vulnerable people a sit down

meal and friendly companionship if they want it. We base our giving on the model of Jesus who gave freely and our volunteers, many who are not Christian, embrace our ethos and love giving of their time and energy to help those less fortunate.



## Cancer Council QLD - Biggest Morning Tea

Cancer Council Queensland's Gladstone Branch is a passionate, driven, caring and committed group of 15 volunteers who support patients, survivors and their carers throughout the region.

They do this by raising funds throughout the year for research, support services and prevention programs. Fundraising and event participation includes Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Relay for Life Survivors and Carers Afternoon Tea, Daffodil Day, Pink Ribbon Morning Tea and Christmas Parcel Wrap at Gladstone Centre Plaza. The branch has raised several thousand dollars over 40 years and will continue to assist the Cancer Council with the goal of a cancer free future for our community. This award would shine a light on the dedicated efforts of the branch in the Gladstone Region and show the appreciation they deserve.



## Gladstone Combined Services - Combined Services Gladstone Touch Football Day

Gladstone's community spirit and pride was on show in June 2023 when 30 local Touch Football teams came together to raise money for

the Arnold McCrow fund. The fund was set up to support the families of the police officers killed on duty at Tara in south-west Queensland just before Christmas 2022. The Combined Services event included teams from the Gladstone Police, Gladstone Ambulance, Gladstone Firefighters and Young Veterans (combined services teams) as well as Rio Tinto, McCoskers, Gladstone Ports Corporation, Woolworths, Coles, Youth Justice, Ship and Sail, Aurizon, Alpha High Purity Aluminium and InTo Jobs. Each team played four games against other local businesses and emergency services. All funds raised went to the not-for-profit COGSY (Community of Gladstone Supporting Youth) who run a job ready program and assist local youth (17-25 year olds) gain employment in our industry sector. COGSY received almost \$15,000 to help increase awareness of its role in the community. \$12,000 was raised for the Arnold McCrow Fund.



## Integreat Queensland - The Flourish Festival

The Flourish Festival exemplifies unity and connections across our diverse community. Held in July 2023, it provided a platform for cultural exchange and mutual understanding,

allowing Gladstone residents from all walks of life to come together. This sensory delight featured international food, music, dance, and art exhibitions, bringing the world to Gladstone. It celebrated the rich cultural tapestry of our community, showcasing how Queenslanders from diverse backgrounds contribute to our region's growth and multiculturalism, highlighting the power of inclusivity. The Flourish Festival embodies resilience, determination and community wellbeing. The festival's impact extends beyond its immediate scope leaving a legacy of inclusivity, understanding and empowerment. This success is testament to the dedicated Integreat Queensland team, supported by invaluable volunteers. The Flourish Festival showcased the region's spirit of inclusivity leaving a significant mark on celebrating our diversity.



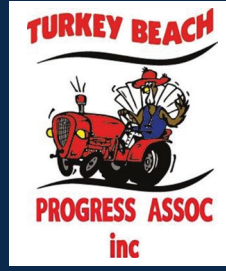
# Community Event Award Nominees



## Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club - Rip Awareness Session

After three rescues in four weeks in Wild Cattle Creek over December 2022/January 2023, Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club decided to act. A free community education session

was held with people invited to join in activities and watch the outgoing tide's power. Strong swimmers went into the rip to demonstrate how to progress against it. It was an opportunity to speak with new families in the area and groups like local paddle boarders, so they could understand the complexities of different tides. Ironically, two members of the public got into difficulty with exactly the issues being explained and had to be rescued. This highlighted the information session's importance given the dramatic increase in rescues over the past 12 months. The club also demonstrated the Beach Safe App for use at beaches across Queensland. It identifies safe swimming spots, patrol hours and surf club locations and provides language interpretation for neighbouring Pacific and Asian countries. The surf club hopes to do more events to increase risk awareness and promote beach safety.



## Turkey Beach Progress Association - Turkey Beach 50th Birthday Bash

The initiative to celebrate this milestone for Turkey Beach was due to Annette Cella who conceived the idea and worked tirelessly for more than 12 months to achieve an

outstanding result. While it is 50 years since the State Government first released blocks of land, there had been Shacks on the Foreshore since the 1940's, so much of the history gathered dates to these times. As well as the extensive museum display, there were numerous stalls and other entertainment for the gathering of several hundred past and present residents as well as many visitors. Annette received generous volunteer support as well as excellent assistance from the Gladstone Regional Council and is a significant achievement for this small coastal village. Annette deserves high accolades for a huge effort in organising a wonderful occasion.





# Community Volunteer Award Nominees



**Alahnie Rozycki**

Alahnie is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. This year's Youth Council has been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops and events to improve their understanding of local issues

and to actively represent young people in the region. Alahnie has worked on the Youth Council to contribute positively to the community.



**Chloe Sydes**

Chloe is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. This year's Youth Council has been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops and events to improve their understanding of local issues

and to actively represent young people in the region. Chloe has contributed positively to the community through her Youth Council work.



**Alan McKay**

Alan is one of the most reliable go to people who throws himself into all things footy and surf club. At the Tannum Sands Surf Lifesaving Club, he played many roles this year including training to obtain his Bronze Medallion, allowing

him to patrol and compete. He also attended mid-week training helping with water safety and coaching our nippers to stay at the top. On Sunday, you can find him on the beach, marking off results and carting goggles and water bottles around. Alan also stepped in to be Fundraising Coordinator - a critical and thankless job for sports clubs. He has brought fresh ideas and set up sustainable and reliable future revenue streams. For his many efforts, he was awarded the club's Male Lifesaver of the Year and Best Overall Member. Alan is also involved in the Seagulls Football Club with his children actively participating. He is a pleasure to work with and an invaluable asset. The community benefits from his efforts.



**Daniel Trainer**

Daniel is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. The 2023 Youth Council has been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops and events to improve their understanding of local issues

and to actively represent young people in the region. Daniel has contributed positively to the community through his Youth Council work.



**Dennis Fairbrother**

Dennis is the First Officer of the Colosseum Rural Fire Brigade and a long time local in the Miriam Vale Community. He has spent countless hours of his own personal time, both on the fire ground and logistically, supporting fire

fighting activities and recovery efforts for several years.



**Alison Harrington**

Alison is a retired business owner who dedicates much of her time to our local community. When not looking after her grandbabies or volunteering with several organisations, she designs and makes dementia fidget mats

for dementia patients in the Gladstone Region. Each fidget mat takes her around 30 hours to design and make and is donated to those in need. Alison considers the life stories of the dementia patients, so she can custom design each fidget mat for each person. The time and care she takes in creating these mats for our most vulnerable citizens, is reflected in the joy and peace it brings to them. Alison does not hesitate to spend every moment possible to create these mats and how much of an impact they have on those with dementia and their families.



**Emma Roulston**

Emma is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. The 2023 Youth Council has been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops and events to improve their understanding of local issues

and to actively represent young people in the region. Emma has contributed positively to the community through her Youth Council work.



# Community Volunteer Award Nominees



**Graham McVean**

The Gladstone Bowls Club was in significant debt and barely functioning when Graham McVean stepped forward at the 2018 AGM to try and turn the club around. Using his business experience and commercial acumen,

he has delivered on that promise, overseeing the construction of new facilities which will allow provision of desperately needed counselling. Graham has led the team through Covid and major renovations, driving change like removing poker machines, encouraging families and community groups to use the facilities. He works seven days and often over 50 hours a week, all on a voluntary basis. He has repositioned the club as a community focused organisation, supporting activities like Barefoot Bowls, competitions for local industry, entertainment for those living in Aged Care facilities and cent sales which fund several local charities. Graham has hosted events for local businesses and fun activities bringing families and locals together. His greatest achievement has been the hiring, support and mentoring of many local people.



**Isla Osmond**

Isla is a young lady who is making a difference to the lives of rescued animals. She has started a business, Isla's Dog Bakery, and makes treats which she sells online and at local markets. All the profits go to Gladstone Animal Rescue.

Isla is still in primary school and has developed this successful business, including a donation of more than \$3000 for rescued animals.



**Jakob Humphries**

Jakob is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. The 2023 Youth Council have been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops and events to improve their understanding of local issues and to actively

represent young people in the region. Jakob has contributed positively to the community through his Youth Council work.



**Helen Randall**

Helen has volunteered at Tannum Sands Boyne Island State Emergency Services (TSBI SES) Group since 2014 and as a Group Support Officer for the Calliope Rural Fire Service since 2019. Since joining the SES, she has volunteered for

more than 900 hours, of which 126 were served in the past 12 months. She has volunteered more than 80 hours at activations and training events this year. Helen is SES Senior Field Officer, Volunteer Education Specialist (VES) and TSBI Group Secretary. She is competent in traffic control, storm damage, working at heights (ground crew), land search, radio communications and administrative and logistics support. Helen has deployed to critical incident fires at Deepwater, Rosedale/Lowmead, Baffle Creek, Maryborough storms, Brisbane floods and land searches. She has achieved two grants worth \$11,850 and \$14,000 to establish a training room, new kitchen and flooring for the SES facility. Since 1993, Helen has volunteered at Gladstone Women's Health, TAFE, Hibiscus Gardens, Red Cross and Gladstone Seafarers.



**Jeffrey Wilkinson**

In 2023, Jeffrey celebrated 40 years in Scouting and is currently the District Commissioner for Port Curtis District Scouts. He ensures Scouts have a strong presence in the community and takes pride in mentoring

leaders. He wants them to develop new skills to share with younger members. Jeff coordinates maintenance for the Scout campsite at Lake Awoonga and can often be found there tinkering with machinery. He has attended major Scouting events and conferences and has been instrumental in coordinating leadership programs. Jeff leads by example. He loves Scouting and working with young people who all respect him as a role model. He and his team have participated in local community events, integrating with groups in activities and working with industry and local government. Jeff has also volunteered at Gladstone South State School tuckshop and is a member of the Gladstone Maritime Museum committee, where he helps with maintenance and conducts tours.

# Community Volunteer Award Nominees



**Jessica Toms**

Jessica is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. The 2023 Youth Council has been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops, and events to improve their understanding of local issues

and to actively represent young people in the region. Jessica has contributed positively to the community through her Youth Council work.



**Nicole Allison**

Nicole established Gladstone PAWS and volunteers tirelessly to take in, look after and re-home a variety of dogs, cats and other animals in the Gladstone Region.



**Josephine Meng**

Josephine has been with Volunteer Marine Rescue since 1979 and at Round Hill since 1991. Inspired by her late husband Doug, she has done crew, management committee and radio work. At Round Hill, she has activated boat crews

and advised the Water Police and other relevant agencies when required. Josephine has been on Zone and State Council and is a member of the Local Disaster Management Group. She has been there for the boating community during floods, fires and cyclones when communities need to be contacted. Memorable work included the largest east coast incident, the Spirit Fire, with no lives lost and the Dianne's sinking in 2017 where six people died. Josephine's radio work can be enjoyable when someone becomes a dad or grandfather. She has been President of the Agnes Water/1770 Local Ambulance Committee since 1996 and a member of the Queensland Ambulance Service Commissioner's Reference Group since 2005. Through Lions, Josephine helped secure a \$2.1M grant in 2001 to improve the Discovery Coast's medial services.



**Patricia Doherty**

Patricia is one of the Gladstone Region's most dedicated community champions and volunteers. She dedicates much of her life to ensuring the wellbeing of women and ensuring all community members feel included and

have a safe space to join in with community. She achieves this through her tireless voluntary work through the QCWA and Lions. Patricia never shies away from committing herself to leadership positions. She is an incredible mentor and guide in both these organisations. Her dedication to ensuring the values of these organisations are upheld have seen her take on many executive positions in both organisations over the years. Patricia also takes on executive positions at divisional levels as well. Currently, she is president of the QCWA Tannum Sands branch and is also our Country Kitchens champion for Boyne Tannum. This is a health promotion program supporting communities across Queensland to adopt healthier lifestyle behaviours.



**Lisa Edwards**

Lisa has been a breath of fresh air bringing her market brain to her role as secretary of the Tannum Sands Surf Club. As a new member in 2022, she was in awe of what a surf club actually did for its members and offers the community.

Lisa has looked to partner with other community services groups like Rotary to have combined efforts in the community. This has allowed us to lift and our profile and brand to assist the Fundraising Committee. Lisa's collaborative style is to leverage the similarities between sporting clubs, service groups and business to achieve common goals and share membership and skills to move everyone forward.



**Rachel Smith**

Rachel is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. The 2023 Youth Council has been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops and events to improve their understanding of local issues,

to actively represent young people in the region and to contribute positively to the community.



# Community Volunteer Award Nominees



**Rommiel Lorey Malig**

Rommiel has had a busy year in academia, cultural activities and volunteering. She participated in the National Youth Science Forum with other STEM students. She also volunteered there to help incoming Year 12

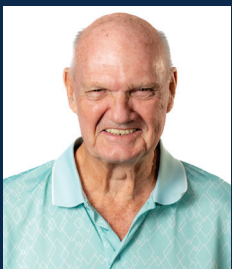
students. A trip that focused on activating women in manufacturing may have helped Rommiel find a future career pathway. Participating in cultural activities allowed her to step out of her comfort zone by performing in shows. She is the trumpet lead for three different music ensembles, where she competes in Eisteddfods, performs for the school community and at ANZAC parades. Rommiel also participated in the school musical "Head over Heels". As an active member of Interact and the treasurer, she helps raise money for charities and assists Rotary at events. She was also the Gladstone State High School Captain and a member of the Youth Council. Rommiel enjoys giving back to her community and is grateful to live in the Gladstone Region.



**Tayla Bullen**

Tayla is a member of the 2023 Youth Council. The 2023 Youth Council has been actively involved in volunteering, attending meetings, training workshops and events to improve their understanding of local issues, to actively

represent young people in the region and to contribute positively to the community.



**Ronald Doherty**

Ronald epitomises this award as an individual and volunteer but also a team player in our community. He is always there to lend a hand. His volunteering and leadership has been prominent at the Boyne Tannum Lions Club and

the Men's Shed at Tannum Sands. Ron has been instrumental in the ongoing development of these clubs and serves in an executive position for both. Some examples of Ron's guidance in delivering back to the community include the Boyne Tannum HookUp, Under the Trees, World's Greatest Shave, making donations and supporting Strong Communities with their early learning assistance initiative for regional families. He has also helped with BAM barbecues, the Raglan Fly-In and always assists the QCWA ladies. Ron has given back to our Gladstone community over many decades, through being gracious, a selfless human, who is committed to achieving better outcomes and providing a legacy for our community.

FREE  
EVENT



GLADSTONE  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# AUSTRALIA DAY

## Family Fun Day

Friday  
26  
January



**Millennium Esplanade  
Tannum Sands  
10am-1pm**

**LIVE MUSIC FOOD STALLS  
ACTIVITIES AND GAMES**







**Australia Day**  
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



**GLADSTONE**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**We're all part of the story**