



# Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

## Australia Day 2024

Awards

# Nomination Summaries





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **2023 Biloela Christmas Festival**

Rotary Biloela took the reins of the Biloela Christmas Festival after the closure of Biloela Enterprise, recognising the event's crucial role in community spirit. The free-entry event, attracted 2000+ attendees, spanning all ages and demographics, providing a festive space for connection and inclusivity. Despite the challenges of COVID and a hiatus in 2022, Rotary Biloela rallied support from businesses and volunteers to ensure the festival's return. The event not only showcases local talent but serves as a fundraising platform for artists, schools, and community groups. Despite weather challenges and unforeseen setbacks, the festival radiated joy, laughter, and community connection, embodying the spirit of Christmas.

Nominated by: Gail Rodda



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Adele Acton**

Adele Acton has been an active member of the Biloela community for over a decade who radiates positivity and leadership. Since 2015 Adele has been heavily involved in the Biloela Netball Association, from coaching club teams, to representative teams and has held the position of Coaching Convenor for the past two years. Achieving Intermediate Coach Accreditation in 2021, Adele was recognized as the Biloela Netball Associations Coach of the Year. She has been the Assistant Coach for Capricorn Netball Development Squads for the last three years and prior to all of this demonstrated versatility as an athletics and tennis coach. Beyond accolades, her true impact lies in mentoring coaches, showcasing selflessness, and balancing community service with family and business commitments. Adele is an invaluable asset, leaving an enduring positive mark on her sport and community.

Nominated by: Biloela Netball Association



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Katherine Austin**

Katherine (Kate) Austin, a devoted mother of four and part-time teacher at Redeemer Lutheran College Biloela, exemplifies selflessness through her volunteer work at Prospect Creek State School and Biloela Baptist Church. Amidst her busy life, Kate actively participates in school events significantly contributing to the community's wellbeing. Kate orchestrated the highly successful annual Ladies on The Lawn event, which raised \$15,000 in 2023. This substantial contribution enabled students to access extracurricular activities, acquire sports uniforms, cover transport costs for an Arts performance and receive Father's Day gifts. Kate's efforts have profoundly impacted the Prospect Creek State School community, showcasing the transformative power of volunteerism.

Nominated by: Katie Grainger



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Banana Shire Historical Society**

Banana Shire Historical Society is a vibrant organisation dedicated to preserving the history of the local area. The group of approximately 40 dedicated volunteers diligently maintain Greycliffe Homestead in Biloela, which welcomes visitors throughout the year. The Society recently celebrated the Homestead's 150 years in 2022 with a very successful Music Under the Stars event. Under their management, the homestead hosts events like concerts, school tours, and vintage car rallies. Through grants, fundraising and many volunteer hours, the group has been able to undertake extensive improvements over the years from developing digital and print resources, to constructing a purpose-built mule to display pack saddles. Their unwavering passion and dedication to acknowledging and celebrating the history of the Banana Shire, is a legacy in itself.

Nominated by: Sally Moller



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Banana Shire World War 1 Memorial Project**

In April 2023 the town of Banana unveiled the new WW1 Memorial. This poignant tribute emerged from the dedication of historian Jynette Brumpton, who discovered omissions in the original honour board, inspiring her to spearhead a new, accessible memorial in the town centre. Months of meticulous planning, fundraising, and unwavering community support laid the foundation for the grand reveal in April 2023. Key figures, including Bryson Head, M.P., Colin Boyce, and Mayor Nev. Ferrier were all present, emphasising the significance of the occasion. The memorial, now a central fixture in the town centre, stands not only as a physical tribute but as a living reminder of the resilience and unity that defines Banana's spirit.

Nominated by: Banana Shire Historical Society



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Baralaba Bash**

The Baralaba Bash has achieved consistent success, turning the modest town of Baralaba into a vibrant cultural hub. Now, in its second year, the Baralaba Bash showcased an impressive musical lineup featuring Felicity Urquhart & Josh Cunningham, Sammy White, Kelly Cork, Brad Butcher, and The Wolfe Brothers. With growing engagement from families and attendees, the Bash has evolved into an eagerly anticipated annual tradition. The success of this event positions Baralaba as a thriving destination, attracting premier Australian performers and visitors to the town.

Nominated by: Belinda Kummerfeld and Sharon Hare



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Biloela Information Centre**

The Biloela Information Centre has been an invaluable hub for over two decades, providing comprehensive visitor services to locals, tourists, and visitors alike. Going beyond mere information, the centre offers a selection of merchandise and souvenirs, enhancing the experience for those exploring the region. What sets the centre apart is its commitment to community engagement, offering opportunities for local residents to volunteer and actively contribute to the welcoming atmosphere. With a rich history of serving as a gateway to Biloela's treasures, the Information Centre stands as a testament to community collaboration, promoting tourism and fostering a sense of pride among both residents and visitors.

Nominated by: Roslyn Vanderwolf, Biloela Information Centre





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Brooke Boothby**

Brooke Boothby is a member of the Biloela Netball club, showcasing her talent both on and off the court. A dedicated player since the age of five, she proudly represented Biloela at four State carnivals across major Queensland cities. Brooke's commitment goes beyond local play, as she successfully trialed for the Capricorn Stars and Fires Squads, earning a coveted spot among the top players in the region. She secured a position in the Capricorn Claws U16 State Netball Team, competing at the prestigious Nissan State Centre in Brisbane. Officiating as a skilled umpire with a National Umpiring C Badge, Brooke mentors and coaches younger teams, contributing to her team Fury's Women's Division Premiership in 2023. Her passion for sports extends to Touch Football and Basketball, embodying an active community spirit through volunteering and positive role modeling.

Nominated by: Joanne Boothby



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Val Bradshaw**

Val Bradshaw has dedicated her time to volunteering as a gardener in Taroom for the last four years. Her efforts include orchestrating the planting of more than 100 plants in front of the waste transfer station, a project she continues to maintain diligently by tending the watering, weeding, and pruning. Val's green thumb extends to tree planting along various Taroom streets, with a particular focus on Kerman Street from the Post Office to the Bowling Club. Val has also transformed vacant blocks on the Main Street, adorning them with trees, and beautified the town further by planting and maintaining potted plants along the bustling main street. Val's commitment to Taroom's greenery has left a lasting and visually appealing mark on the community.

Nominated by: Terri Boyce



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Jynette Brumpton**

Jynette Brumpton's significant contributions and involvement in the Banana Shire community spans over five decades, including a commendable 35 years as a parent and teacher at Banana State School, a devoted parishioner at Banana Uniting Church since 1969, and an active member within the Banana Shire Historical Society and the Banana and District Community Association. Notably, her recent undertaking to establish the Banana Shire WWI Memorial highlights her strong commitment to community service. Jynette's vision came to life in April 2023, with the unveiling of a new memorial showcasing 190 names, historical letters penned by soldiers, and 73 portraits. This tribute ensures that the sacrifices of countless individuals from the Shire are remembered and accessible to all.

Nominated by: Gavin Arneil, Banana Shire Historical Society



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Hudson Casford**

Hudson Casford is an exceptional 11-year-old who defies the norm with his intense daily training across multiple sports. His dedication has translated into remarkable achievements in representative sports, excelling in tennis, soccer, swimming, athletics, netball, and touch football. Hudson's excellence in swimming was evident at the State level in 2023, securing qualifications in freestyle and breaststroke, with plans to compete again in 2024. His tennis journey saw success in JDS tournaments and a victory in the regional green ball competition which qualified his team to play at the Qld Championship School Tennis Competition in Brisbane in 2024. Hudson's versatility extends to touch football, cricket, and netball, where he showcased skills and earned accolades, including Best and Fairest. Hudson's hard work has resulted in significant achievements and is a testament to his passion and commitment.

Nominated by: Fallan Casford



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Melissa Corfield**

Melissa Corfield is a passionate face painter who honed her skills while working in Disneyland Florida. Her journey continued with a diverse array of events, from the Ekka in Brisbane, to kids' birthday parties and music festivals. In 2016, Melissa recognised a gap in face painters in Biloela, prompting her to establish her own business. Beginning with birthday parties, Melissa's dedication and artistry quickly gained momentum. What started as a small business flourished into a significant presence at various community events across the Banana Shire. Melissa has become a beloved fixture, infusing a touch of magic into community gatherings. Her story illustrates how a simple art form can evoke wonder in those who experience it.

Nominated by: Brendan Corfield



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Janique Dales**

Janique Dales, a standout athlete from Moura, made a remarkable mark in Little Athletics, earning a spot on the New Zealand development tour in 2023. Despite the challenge of traveling without her parents, Janique excelled in representing Queensland on an international stage. Throughout her Little Athletics journey, she broke an impressive 31 records, showcasing her exceptional talent. Janique is a multiple-time age champion in both Little Athletics and school sports, consistently qualifying for State Championships across various events. Passionate about sports, she expanded her horizons by joining a netball team and returning to soccer this year. Janique's dedication, record-breaking achievements, and sportsmanship make her an inspiring figure in the Moura community.

Nominated by: Trish Dales



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Shanae Dales**

Shanae Dales is a dedicated athlete, representing Little Athletics on the New Zealand development tour in 2023. Shanae always tries her best and encourages others to do the same. Despite her quiet nature, she competes passionately, breaking numerous records at the Moura Little Athletics Centre and consistently earning age champion.

Nominated by: Trish Dales



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Quinton Dales**

Quinton Dales, a standout athlete, has not only showcased exceptional achievements in little athletics but has also earned the prestigious opportunity of participating in the Little Athletics New Zealand development tour for both 2022 and 2023. Breaking 32 records in Little Athletics, including a regional record spanning multiple athletic centers, Quinton's dedication to excellence is evident. Despite facing a setback due to injury in early 2023, he demonstrated resilience and returned stronger than ever. Beyond his personal accomplishments, Quinton actively supports and encourages fellow athletes, embodying the spirit of sportsmanship. His involvement in promoting health and sports at a Rockhampton expo reflects his commitment to sharing his passion.

Nominated by: Trish Dales





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Molly Dendle**

Molly Dendle, the Cheerleading Coach at Studio 21 Biloela, began her coaching journey at 16. With enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility, Molly supports each student in becoming their best selves, emphasizing personal growth over competition. Molly has taught cheerleaders of all ages, including adults, and created a safe and supportive environment for women to gain confidence. Her teams compete at Eisteddfods and Regional Cheer Competitions, showcasing her talent and community commitment. Despite the challenges she faced as a new coach during COVID, Molly persevered, teaching via Zoom and adapting to changing studios to keep cheerleading accessible in Biloela. At 20, Molly's energy, passion, and dedication to her sport is inspirational.

Nominated by: Alex Klease



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Samantha Dendle**

Samantha Dendle is a dedicated community member, passionate about making a positive impact. As a Queensland Youth Parliament member in 2022 and 2023, she was elected Deputy Premier of the Queensland Youth Parliament in 2023. Honoured with the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Award for Leadership and Mateship in 2021 and 2023, Samantha's leadership extends to programs like Country to Canberra and UQ Changemakers. Hosting the podcast 'Playground To Politics,' she highlights rural individuals in politics. Samantha actively supports the 'Bilo Goes Blue for a Youth Space' campaign, advocating for a Youth Centre in Biloela. Samantha was awarded 2023 Junior Miss Showgirl at the Callide Valley Show. She also contributes to local sports groups, student council, and school leadership, earning numerous academic and cultural awards. Despite facing personal challenges in 2023 Samantha navigated treatments, held two jobs, and managed caring responsibilities. Undeterred, she completed year 12 and secured university entrance for Communications and Politics in Brisbane.

Nominated by: Deirdre Fagan



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Matthew Donohoe**

Matthew (Matt) Donohoe has embodied proactive leadership and community engagement throughout his schooling in the Banana Shire. Matt participated in the Rural Youth Ambassador Program in 2023 and was selected to be part of the National Rural Youth Ambassador Forum in Canberra at Parliament House. Matt has volunteered his time consistently throughout his schooling journey and has been an outstanding ambassador for Moura State High School. As the School Council President in 2023, Matt led successful fundraisers and events, showcasing his organisational skills. Campaigning for a Student Council stall at the Coal Festival, he demonstrated perseverance and community dedication. In 2023 Matt was the recipient of the CALTEX allrounder award at Moura State High School, recognising his commitment to both the school and wider community.

Nominated by: Moura State High School



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Anastasia Drane**

Anastasia Drane showcased dedication to Shotokan Karate in 2023, achieving proficiency at two belt levels and securing the titles of Queensland State Champion and National Champion in her age division. Her commitment extends beyond competitions, attending additional training sessions across the region. Anastasia's positive influence extends to her peers; she actively engages in class, serving as an inspiration for continuous improvement. As a young woman, Anastasia contributes significantly to the community, radiating positivity and fostering a supportive atmosphere.

Nominated by: Biloela Dojo (SKIA)



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Patricia Draper**

Patricia (Trish) Draper is recognised for her devoted efforts to enhance the Moura and broader community. Renowned for her boundless energy, Trish actively organises fundraisers, with a focus on crucial health issues, and supports various charities. Advocating for rural hospitals and aged care services, Trish openly shares her family story to garner broad support. Trish orchestrates impactful initiatives, including sausage sizzles and collaborations with local businesses, demonstrating her skills in community engagement. Her ability to secure support from businesses across Australia, as seen in the Moura Auxiliary Christmas Raffle, attests to her effective community involvement. Despite working full time, Trish dedicates weekends, days off, and evenings to community activities, acknowledging the invaluable support of her husband, employer, colleagues, and friends. Trish's contributions significantly impact critical health issues, making her a notable force for positive change in Moura and beyond.

Nominated by: Nancy Rowe



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Matthew Drysdale**

Matthew (Matt) Drysdale secured the 2023 title of Queensland Coal Shoveling Champion at the Moura Coal and Country Festival. His incredible feat of shoveling an impressive 500kg of coal in just 38 seconds earned him well-deserved accolades from his proud community. Undeterred by success, Matt, affectionately known as "the Bear," now sets his sights on the national title for 2024, fueled by a childhood dream to excel on the world stage. With unwavering support from the Banana Shire, Matt Drysdale aspires to make his mark and achieve the dreams he has cherished since his youth.

Nominated by: Barney Armstrong



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Jack Edwards**

Jack Edwards exhibits unwavering dedication to swimming, actively contributing to both Biloela Bluefins Swim Club and the Moura Swim Squad. Representing Bluefins at State Sprint Champs, Jack has not only qualified for his age group but also the open age group for the upcoming 2024 Champs. He proudly represented the Capricorn School swimming team at the Queensland School Swimming Champs and earned a spot on the CQ Swimming regional relays team for the States in December 2023. Jack's leadership shines as the 2023 Bluefins Swim Captain and Bindaree House Captain for Moura State High School in 2024. Overcoming personal challenges in 2022, Jack's resilience, positive outlook, and academic dedication make him an outstanding ambassador for Moura State High School. His swimming achievements inspire others, promoting community engagement and regional representation.

Nominated by: Amanda Wrigley, Moura State High School



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Acacia Ferry**

Acacia Ferry shows unwavering commitment to academics, employment, and artistic pursuits. Engaging in the Art Engagement program with mentor Sarah Larsen, Acacia, overcame challenges associated with autism. She crafted impressive artwork featured in the upcoming exhibition 'Passion and Purpose - Our Narrative.' Acacia also does Volunteer work at St Joseph's Kindergarten's Art Uplift Enrichment Program which demonstrates her dedication to early education. Known for her charitable spirit, she participated in Shave for a Cure in 2021, emphasizing her compassionate nature.

Nominated by: Sarah Larsen





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Jordan Flenady**

Jordan Flenady is recognised for his dedication, persistence, and enthusiasm in exploring a range of realms of art, culture, sports, and community engagement. Regular attendance at Art Engagement and Meditation sessions, guided by mentor Sarah Larsen, underscores Jordan's commitment to navigating challenges associated with ADHD and Autism. Teaming up with another ASD student, Jordan has co-created an impressive collection of artworks featured in the upcoming exhibition, 'Passion and Purpose – Our Narrative' at the Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery. His volunteer efforts extend to the Biloela State High School musical, showcasing proficiency in video and film, a love for music, guitar playing, and diverse interests in cricket, drawing, and outdoor activities, highlighting his multifaceted talents. Compassionate by nature, Jordan actively volunteers for yard maintenance, car detailing, and aspires to mentor younger students, drawing inspiration from his own experiences with bullying.

Nominated by: Sarah Larsen



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Flourish Festival**

The Biloela Flourish Festival is an annual community event by Integreat QLD which celebrates the cultural diversity within the Biloela community. The event displays a range of cultural activities, international cuisine, music, dance, and art. The depth of community involvement in this event demonstrates its significance in the Biloela cultural calendar, as well as the commitment of the organisational team. Bringing people together with a spirit of inclusion and joy, The Biloela Flourish Festival enriches life in the Banana Shire and creates a lasting legacy of unity.

Nominated by: Integreat QLD



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Dawson Foden**

Dawson Foden is a promising talent in the sport of Rodeo. He has participated in numerous events across Queensland and New South Wales. Embarking on his rodeo journey over five years ago, he initially honed his skills in the pee wee category. Over time, he has progressed to tackle the challenges of Junior and Novice bull events, laying a strong foundation for the more formidable competitions he'll encounter in the years to come. Dawson's commitment and progression, showcase his passion to master the art of rodeo and mark him as a rising star in the sport.

Nominated by: Tiffany Foden



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Jaxon Green**

Jaxon Green, a remarkable junior athlete, has showcased extraordinary determination and dedication in overcoming obstacles to proudly represent his school, community, and State. Despite enduring physical and cognitive challenges resulting from a pedestrian motor-vehicle accident, Jaxon has consistently given his all in sports. Excelling in cross-country and track and field, he achieved consecutive gold medals for Queensland, showcasing his staunch commitment. Jaxon's inspirational journey serves as a testament to his resilience, demonstrating to others facing challenges that perseverance and a positive mindset can lead to success. His achievements make him a true role model, motivating others to keep going, never give up, and embrace life to the fullest.

Nominated by: Kathryn Baxter



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Patricia Hahn**

Patricia (Pat) Hahn is a hard-working volunteer at the Biloela Information Centre, with a commitment to community service that spans numerous years. With a wealth of local knowledge, Pat seamlessly offers information to visitors, tourists, and fellow locals, contributing to the center's role as a hub for tourism. Pat has not only been an active volunteer but has also held the role of President of the organisation for the past five years. The leadership role demonstrates Pat's dedication, guiding the center with an understanding of the community's needs. Through her efforts, Pat has played a pivotal role in fostering a warm and welcoming atmosphere at the Information Centre, leaving a mark on the community she serves.

Nominated by: Biloela Information Centre



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Norma Heit**

Norma Heit has been a devoted resident of Jambin and surrounds for over 60 years, passionately volunteering at the Jambin School, managing the tuck shop and leading Religious Education. Her dedication extended to teaching multiple generations of her family at the school. Norma actively served on the CWA committee for over 40 years until its recent disbandment, tirelessly working to sustain its presence. She also contributed to the Jambin Hall, Bells Creek Tennis Court committee, and remains an engaged member of the Jambin Presbyterian Church. As a long-time judge for the Callide Valley Show Society, Norma shared her expertise in the cooking section. For over 50 years, Norma was an active member of the Biloela Eisteddfod Society until its closure. Norma cherishes the friendships built through years of volunteering.

Nominated by: Dianne Corfield



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Christopher Holmes**

Christopher Holmes, an exemplary Theodore community member, has demonstrated a steadfast dedication to leadership in community and business for 25 years. A key force in founding the Theodore Sport and Recreation Club, Chris played a vital role in developing its facilities into a central town hub, serving as president from 1997 to 2002. As the inaugural president of the Theodore Junior Roosters Rugby League Football Club, a role he held for eight years, he fostered the club's growth. Notably, as a board member and Chairman of the Theodore Hotel Co-Operative, 2002 to 2023, he showcased a commitment spanning two generations. Chris's enduring dedication and 'can-do' attitude have profoundly shaped the community assets in Theodore, bolstering its resilience and morale amid the many challenges faced by small country towns.

Nominated by: Ian and Anna Becker



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Ronald Horchner**

Dr. Ronald (Roy) Horchner, retiring after 53 years, dedicated 47 years to Biloela's rural community in various medical fields. His leadership and generosity were evident in 2020 when he returned from semi-retirement to work full time during the Covid-19 pandemic, showcasing a deep care for his patients. Beyond medicine, Roy's commitment extended to community organisations, sports, cultural activities, and active involvement with St Joseph's Catholic Parish. His enthusiasm for life and dedication to community service remain steadfast amidst changing times. Roy's enduring contribution reflects a heartfelt commitment to the Biloela community.

Nominated by: Trudy Ramsey





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Kellie Keller**

Kellie Keller has been a dedicated committee member of the Biloela Netball Association for the last four years. Kellie played a crucial role as Registrar during the implementation of a new registration system by Netball Qld. This season, she helped train a new committee member for the role, displaying her commitment to its ongoing success. In 2023 Kellie stepped up to fill a void as canteen convenor for two annual carnivals. With approximately 1500 attendees at each event, this was no small undertaking and Kellie's involvement ensured the Association could continue to host their biggest fundraiser. Her proactive involvement, from implementation to event coordination, reflects her strong connection to the Biloela Netball Association.

Nominated by: Joanne Boothby



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Jambin State School P&C**

Jambin State School P&C is a dedicated local committee, tirelessly serving its community. In 2023, they were part of the working group who organized the highly successful Banana Shire Australia Day celebrations in Jambin. Their commitment to the community is echoed in their support for local events, weddings, and shows. A notable achievement was the 'Pub in the Paddock Men's night,' attracting over 150 men to raise awareness for rural men's mental health. This small local school P&C consistently embodies community spirit, always ready to extend a helping hand, showcasing their dedication and positive impact.

Nominated by: Joy Pitman



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Harry Johnson**

Harry Johnson has been a dedicated community member for over three decades, leaving an indelible mark on Taroom. For over 17 years, he actively contributed to the Taroom Lion's Club, partaking in various events such as Anzac Day and the Local Show. For 33 years, Harry has been a backbone member of the Taroom Fishing and Restocking Club, tirelessly organising annual fishing competitions, regular restocking initiatives, and Learn to Fish Days for juniors. From 2005 to 2007, he played a pivotal role in establishing the Taroom Palliative Care Group and has provided 18 years of active membership. Harry's selfless dedication is the cornerstone of Taroom's community well-being.

Nominated by: Taroom Senior Citizens



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Harry Johnson**

Harry Johnson, a resident of Taroom since 1990, is well known in the town for his 33-year commitment to the betterment of the community, through his tireless efforts with the Taroom Lions Club, Taroom Fishing and Restocking Club, and the Taroom Palliative Care Group. His active role in organising fishing competitions, promoting family-friendly activities, and contributing to environmental initiatives like restocking fingerlings showcases his unwavering commitment to the community. As a 17-year member of the Taroom Lions Club, Harry supported community functions and essential services for the elderly. His 18-year tenure with the Taroom Palliative Care Committee underscores his commitment and dedication to the community's wellbeing.

Nominated by: Taroom Senior Citizens and Beris Bunk



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Ladies on the Lawn**

The third annual Ladies on the Lawn event organised by the Prospect Creek P&C at Prospect Creek State School has become a Shire social highlight. Led by President Kate Austin and Principal Rosalie Reynolds, the event's significance was evident as tickets sold out within an hour, marking its importance on the local calendar. Serving as a key P&C fundraiser, profits aid students in excursions, camps, and infrastructure. Beyond financial support, Ladies on the Lawn boosts community cohesion and spotlights local businesses. The Prospect Creek P&C's dedication and growing success with this event stands as a source of community pride.

Nominated by: Prospect Creek State School



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Sarah Larsen**

Sarah Larsen is a dedicated artist, mentor and highly active advocate of community arts. With over 30 years in the arts, Sarah is recognised for her expertise, and empowering emerging artists to follow their passions. In 2023, Sarah showcased her solo exhibition 'Eclectic Echoes' in Brisbane, earning finalist spots in the Bayton Art Award and Rio Tinto Martin Hansen Awards. Leading Biloela Area Visual Artists and Capricorn Printmakers, Sarah tutors, curate's exhibitions and facilitates art engagement for autism. As an author, illustrator, and owner of Asante Yoga, she adds cultural and holistic dimensions to the community. In 2024, Sarah continues her journey with exhibitions, workshops, and community projects, highlighting her commitment to enriching lives through art.

Nominated by: Bridget Corr



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# Alexandra (Annie) May

Alexandra (Annie) May has demonstrated exceptional commitment and multitasking abilities by actively contributing to three diverse committees while juggling full-time work, dual-degree studies (graduating in 2020), and planning her wedding in 2021. As Vice President of the Theodore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2019-2020) and current Secretary, Annie organises events like the street Christmas party, Theodore annual fishing competition, and Riverfest Theodore. Additionally, she serves as Treasurer for the Theodore Bowls Club (2020-present) and Secretary for the Camboon Campdraft and Recreation Club Inc (2018-present), handling various responsibilities and dedicating extensive hours to ensure smooth operations. Annie's commitment extends to community service, spending three years as a lifeguard at Theodore's local pool during weekends. Her remarkable contributions make her a valuable asset to the community.

Nominated by: Camboon Campdraft and Recreation Club Inc.



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Chloie McGeachin**

Chloie McGeachin has demonstrated proactive leadership and community engagement throughout her schooling in the Banana Shire. Chloie was the recipient of the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Award at Moura State High School in 2023 recognising her commitment to both the school and wider community. Chloie participated in the Rural Youth Ambassador Program in 2022 and was selected to be part of the National Rural Youth Ambassador Forum in Canberra at Parliament House. Chloie has volunteered her time consistently throughout her schooling journey and has been an outstanding ambassador for both Moura State High School and the Banana Shire. Embarking on an apprenticeship with Anglo-American in 2024, Chloie's dedication promises enduring community spirit and involvement.

Nominated by: Moura State High School





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Julie McNaught**

Julie McNaught demonstrates a selfless commitment to the Biloela community spanning 17 years. Julie's dedication to the users of the Rainbow Street Sporting Complex sees her diligently checking the fields and public toilets are clean and tidy at 4am each day. Following every event at the grounds, she diligently sweeps, cleans bins, and sanitises toilets, all without requesting any assistance or supplies. Julie goes above and beyond by preparing goody bags with cold water for kids and distributing ice blocks at the skate park on hot days. Julie's personal initiative benefits all users of the facility ensuring well-kept fields and amenities for all to enjoy.

Nominated by: Biloela Panthers



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Marion Meissner**

Marion Meissner is a pillar of the Banana Shire community, dedicating over 50 years of service to the Shire. Engaging actively across agriculture, culture, spirituality, community events, and education, Marion is a remarkable member of the community. As an esteemed educator, she's led musicals, mentored teachers, and upheld high education standards. Marion's leadership, grounded in ethics, promotes inclusivity and acceptance. Recent endeavours, like tutoring new Australians and chairing the Callide Dawson Special Needs Support Group, highlight her selfless commitment.

Nominated by: Callide Dawson Special Needs Support Group Inc.



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Moura Playgroup Under 5's Day**

For 35 years, Moura Playgroup has been a cornerstone of Under 5's Day, recently hosting a remarkable event at the Moura Community Centre. Drawing over 500 attendees, including visitors from Mackay and local schools, the morning was filled with free, fun, and enriching activities. Supported by community organisations, the event raised \$4000, funding high-quality play equipment for their weekly sessions. Operated by a devoted parent committee, Moura Playgroup provides a safe and stimulating space for Banana Shire families, fostering social outings and early childhood learning through play.

Nominated by: Karen Mayes



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Moura State High School Community Volunteering Team**

Moura State High School (MSHS) Community Volunteering Team are a relatively new group built on the well-known school culture of community involvement spanning multiple decades. Notable initiatives include supporting organisations with event planning and delivery, and the Young Mentors Program which involves students supporting seniors by sharing their digital skills and knowledge. The team are making a big difference, not only for the Moura community, but are providing a model for communities around the State of how to support seniors whilst building skills and knowledge of young people in safe environments.

Nominated by: Nancy Rowe



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Muddy Water Classic Family Fishing Comp**

Moura Fish Stocking Group makes waves each year with their Annual Fishing Competition, not only igniting a passion for fishing but also contributing profits to replenishing the Dawson River with fingerlings each March. These funds are indispensable, preventing a significant decline in fish numbers. The group extends their impact by maintaining the Dawson River Park grounds, providing free camping during events like the Muddy Water Classic, drawing tourism over Easter. The campgrounds' upkeep is solely managed by the devoted volunteers of the Moura Fish Stocking Group, showcasing their commitment to both ecological preservation and community recreation.

Nominated by: Janelle Hartwell



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Judith Pender**

Judith (Judy) Pender demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to her community, deeply rooted in the Callide Valley where she was born and raised. As a proud local, she worked in the district and raised her family in Biloela, becoming an integral community member over many years. Judy's dedication became evident in the mid-80s when she was named Shop Assistant of the Year for cancer fundraising efforts, becoming a familiar face for everyone. Throughout her years, Judy actively supported local businesses, and fundraising events, showcasing her diverse talents. From serving as the first female president of the Rotary Club to advocating for essential services and contributing to community projects, Judy's lifelong dedication has made a lasting impact on Biloela and its rural communities. Elected to Council in 2020, Judy continues to dedicate her time to her beloved community.

Nominated by: Graham Barnes



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Ella Phillips**

Ella Phillips has been a standout representative for her school, district, region, and State across a diverse array of sports. Her impressive achievements in 2023 include representing the Southwest region in Aquathon, Cricket, Touch Football, Netball, and Softball. Beyond this, Ella has demonstrated her equestrian prowess at the 2023 Pony Club State Championships for Show Jumping and has excelled at both State and National Inter-School Championships for Equestrian. As a tenacious and dedicated athlete, Ella's commitment to success and excellence has earned her the privilege of representing her state at the 2023 Australian Inter-School Championships in Melbourne and participating in various other State-level competitions across different sports.

Nominated by: Heidi Phillips



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Geoffrey Price**

Geoffrey (Geoff) Price stands out for his exceptional dedication and leadership in the Banana Shire, notably with the Biloela Basketball Association Inc. As current President, Coach Coordinator, Rep Coach, and Referee Coordinator, Geoff played a pivotal role in establishing and affiliating the association, significantly impacting the local sports community. His instrumental efforts in reopening the Biloela Multi-Sports Complex have not only provided a valuable space for sports enthusiasts but also enhanced community well-being. Beyond basketball, Geoff actively supports community initiatives, including the Biloela Scouts and Carols by Candlelight, showcasing his commitment to community and inclusivity. Geoff has an unwavering dedication to sports development, community engagement, and youth support embodying positive change and community unity.

Nominated by: Kristy Middleton, Biloela Basketball Association Inc.





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Pub in the Paddock Men's Night**

Pub in the Paddock Men's Night was a valuable community event focused on men's mental health, a significant issue within the Banana Shire. This initiative was organised by the Jambin State School Parents and Citizens (P&C) with an aim to raise awareness for locals. Through the efforts of this small group, the event attracted over 150 rural men, who heard expert speakers in a familiar environment. Generously supported by local businesses, Pub in the Paddock Men's Night not only addressed mental health but also fostered community bonding and helped remove the stigma of mental health. The Jambin P&C's dedication to wellbeing, inventive approach, and impact on the community reflect a commendable spirit.

Nominated by: Joy Pitman



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Red Tent Biloea**

The 'Red Tent' is driven by its steadfast commitment to inclusivity, empowerment, and holistic education. Originally exclusive to women, it has evolved into an all-encompassing sanctuary, fostering empowerment and wellbeing for all. Actively challenging societal divisions, the group promotes unity and celebrates diversity. Through insightful workshops on wisdom and holistic practices, it equips members with tools to break free from constraints, fostering self-care and balance. Serving as a transformative catalyst, 'Red Tent' reshapes community engagement, advocating for deeper connections and positive change.

Nominated by: Julie Smith



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Maia Shoecraft**

Maia Shoecraft's remarkable journey from a Cerebral Palsy diagnosis from birth to becoming a national long-distance para champion is awe-inspiring. Despite predictions of limited mobility, Maia, supported by her family, defied expectations. Overcoming numerous challenges, including surgeries and therapies, she embraced cross-country running and athletics. In 2022, Maia secured second place at State and National levels and in 2023, at just 11 years old, Maia clinched first position at the National Long-Distance Para Championships in Canberra. Her story shows resilience, determination, and the impact of unwavering support. This young athlete's success at the national level is a testament to her hard work, perseverance, and skill, making her a rising star in the world of para sports. Maia's achievement not only brings honour to herself but also serves as an inspiration to others, that with dedication and perseverance, one can conquer even the hardest obstacles.

Nominated by: Elizabeth Shoecraft and Rob Wilson



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Allan Tappin**

Allan Tappin has been a highly dedicated volunteer for 50 years, contributing to various aspects of Biloela's community life. His involvement started with his children's education, volunteering in kindergartens and schools, securing funds for projects, and contributing to events like the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Passionate about sports, he supported junior cricket and tennis, assisted the local Show Society, and participated in the Cameo group providing entertainment for seniors. Since 2012, Allan has volunteered at Wahroonga Aged Care Facility, helping residents with shopping and appointments. Engaging in the R.O.M.E.O Club, Biloela Probus Club, and various roles, Allan's cheerful and helpful demeanor has significantly contributed to making Biloela a happier place.

Nominated by: Aileen Trace



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **The Glenhaughton Ringers Reunion Taroom 2023**

The Glenhaughton Ringers Reunion, organised by Leesa Bongers in collaboration with Taroom District Development Association (TDDA) and the Taroom community, was an impactful celebration of the stockmen and women of the 1950s and 60s. In under two months, the event brought together attendees from Winton to Paris, transcending borders and fostering unity in the Taroom community. From the heartwarming Taroom Bowls Club gathering to the nostalgic revisiting of Glenhaughton Station, the reunion showcased an array of activities, cultural displays, and community engagement. This remarkable achievement not only bridged generational gaps, but also left a legacy by promoting camaraderie and preserving the cultural heritage of Taroom.

Nominated by: Taroom District Development Association



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Juanita Thomas**

Juanita (Nita) Thomas is Theodore Community Link's Youth Coordinator and Lifeguard and also a devoted volunteer, dedicating considerable hours to organise events and activities for her community. Her contributions include coordinating discos, managing P&C Swim Club nights, arranging lifeguard schedules, and actively participating in major events like Eat Street and Fun Runs. Nita's commitment extends to Theodore Touch and the Theodore Roosters Rugby League. Despite juggling two jobs and raising three children, Nita goes above and beyond to alleviate the workload for numerous volunteers. Her selfless sacrifices, including time away from her family, significantly benefit Theodore by fostering community engagement and providing crucial support for the town's youth through Theodore Community Links initiatives.

Nominated by: Theodore Community Link Incorporated



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Lacey Townsend**

Lacey Townsend exemplifies selfless dedication and with years of skill, experience, patience, and passion, Lacey is a respected leader and mentor. As President/Coach of Moura Rangers Soccer Club and Fundraiser/Event Coordinator/Treasurer/Administrator for Moura Pony Club, Lacey's investment and commitment has revitalised these Clubs. In her role as Coach for Moura Swim Squad, Lacey's dedication is evident in early morning and after-school sessions six days per week, attracting over 50 children.

Nominated by: Dee Lack, Moura Aquatic Centre



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Sonia Van Mol**

Sonia Van Mol is an active contributor to both the netball and touch football communities of Biloela, excelling not only as a competitor but also as a respected coach and valued community member. Sonia holds crucial roles in both Biloela Netball and Callide Valley Touch Football Associations, serving as a Junior and Senior levels Coach for Biloela Netball; alongside the role of Treasurer and a referee for the Callide Valley Touch Football Association. In 2023, Sonia coached the Under 16 Girls Biloela Representative Team, showcasing their remarkable competitiveness at the Queensland State Championships. Despite a demanding work career and the responsibilities of raising a young family, Sonia consistently finds the time and devotion for her netball and touch football commitments, making her a valuable and dedicated member of both sports communities.

Nominated by: Susan Macklyn





## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

# **Angus Wagner**

Angus Wagner, originally from Theodore, is a professional rugby union player and has played for the Western Force rugby team since 2020. His remarkable skills and devotion to the sport earned him a coveted spot on the Australia A side in 2023, where he proudly represents his country. Angus's journey in sports began in Theodore, where he honed his talent playing for the local Theodore Roosters. His roots in the community reflect his commitment to sportsmanship and inspire aspiring athletes in the region.

Nominated by: Robert Wagner



## **2024 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee**

### **Dillon West**

Dillon West is a cricket icon of the Callide Dawson areas. As an active player and serving as President, groundsman, and junior cricket coordinator for Moura Taipans, Dillon is making an enduring impact on budding young talents. Beyond imparting essential skills, Dillon played a pivotal role in integrating Callide Dawson into the Rockhampton Cricket competition, offering juniors an exciting platform for growth. This season, Dillon's strategic vision expanded junior cricket to Moura and Biloela, introducing home games and sparing young players the early morning journeys to Rockhampton. This initiative not only nurtures a passion for playing on home turf but also fosters community unity and support for local talent. Dillon's extraordinary commitment ensures equal cricket opportunities for rural children and his passion and dedication are reflected by the admiration of those coaches.

Nominated by: Angela Mallinson, Trish Dales & Kate McLellan