

Australia Day 2021: A day to reflect, respect and celebrate

Whitsunday Regional Council has marked Australia Day 2021 by honouring the region's high achievers, while also welcoming those who took the pledge to become our newest Australian Citizens.

Community celebrations and official ceremonies were held across the Whitsunday region in Collinsville, Bowen and Airlie Beach.

Mayor Andrew Willcox said that it is always a great honour to be part of such a special day.

"On Australia Day we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about our country and reflect, respect and celebrate the Australian story," he said.

"We reflect on the history, both highs and lows, of an extraordinary nation and the new chapters being written every day.

"We respect the stories of others in our wonderfully diverse country.

"And we celebrate all the things we love about Australia: land, sense of fair go, lifestyle, democracy, the freedoms we enjoy and particularly our people.

"We are all part of the Australian story and we all have a role to play in its future," Mayor Willcox said.

"These are unusual times as we are in the midst of a global pandemic. It has had significant and profound effects on our community.

"Economic, social, industry impacts, employment, uncertainty, border closures, lockdowns, and of course the confronting reality of illness and loss of life.

"The Whitsunday community response to date demonstrates that when we truly come together as a united region, we are strong, we are resilient, we will bounce back, and we'll be better and stronger than ever.

"Like many people in our community, our Australia Day Award winners have one thing in common, and that is that they are genuine community minded people who hold a passion for what they do," he said.

The full list of the Whitsunday Region Australia Day Award Winners 2021 are as follows:

Collinsville

Citizen of the Year – Ann-Marie Williamson

Young Citizen of the Year – Siahana Batchelor

Senior Citizen of the Year – Denise Hall

Senior Sportsperson Award – Owen Williamson

Junior Sportsperson Award – Alexie Collett

Sports Administrator Award – Donna Bulloch

Senior Cultural Award – Sue Clark

Junior Cultural Award – Claudia Lee

Community Event of the Year – Springtime Garden Competition

Bowen

Citizen of the Year – Gary Martin

Young Citizen of the Year – Bowen State High School Senior Student Leadership Team

Senior Citizen of the Year – Christine Coventry

Junior Sportsperson Award – Shaniece Cora

Senior Sportsperson Award – Temone Power

Sports Administrator Award – Darren and Monika Piggott

Senior Cultural Award – Barbara Kwaak

Junior Cultural Award – Hayley Smith

Community Event of the Year – 2020 Don River Dash

Airlie Beach, Cannonvale, Proserpine & surrounds

Citizen of the Year – Mark & Sue Connors

Young Citizen of the Year – Aiden Payet

Senior Citizen of the Year – Colleen Byrnes

Senior Sportsperson Award – Christopher Murphy

Junior Sportsperson Award – Kasey Hogan

Sports Administrator Award – Craig & Hanny Spence

Senior Cultural Award – Whitsundays Arts Festival

Junior Cultural Award – Crystal Glisson

Community Event of the Year – Cyclone Ada Memorial

Wally Hinschen Volunteer of the Year Award – Ron Petterson



Media Release

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