

2019 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Kathy Simpson

Citizen of the Year

Motivated by a strong sense of volunteerism and a genuine commitment to “getting the job done”, Kathy Simpson has made a significant contribution to the Edward River community over many years, as both an elected representative – through her role as a Councillor on the former Deniliquin Council – and a tireless volunteer, involved with several local community groups and organisations. Kathy has been heavily involved with Deni Ute Muster over the past 20 years, including as a current board director and event volunteer, and as a member of the founding committee. Her longstanding involvement with the Deniliquin Golf Club, including as a former president, was recognised in 2018 when she was awarded a life membership of the club in recognition of her voluntary contribution.

Emily Butcher

Young Citizen of the Year

Deniliquin nurse Emily Butcher fundraised tirelessly last year to participate in the World Youth International Nurses in Action Program, which saw her undertake placements as a volunteer nurse in Nepal over two visits – providing nursing services to patients living in extreme poverty and in a range of environments, including hospitals, schools, orphanages, medical clinics and juvenile detention centres. Through participating in this program, Emily fundraised over \$2,500 to support World Youth International projects and purchase essential medical supplies, such as tourniquets and sanitary products, to take with her to Nepal.

Not awarded in 2019

Senior Arts and Culture Award

Due to no valid nominations being received for this category, the Senior Arts and Culture Award was not awarded in 2019.

Edward Public School

Junior Arts and Culture Award

Since its inception in 1978, Edward Public School’s annual production has evolved into a highlight of the local community events calendar. A proud feature of Edward Public School’s annual production is the fact that the shows are completely original – written each year by the school’s staff, allowing for local and topical content and utilising the special abilities and interests of the school’s students. The school’s 2018 production, titled *‘Places We Go’*, honoured the school’s late principal, Judith McGuinness, and was inspired by one of her books: the Dr Seuss hit, *‘Oh, The Places You’ll Go’*.

Brenda Norman
Senior Sports Award

Deniliquin High School physical education teacher and Channel 4 Change founder Brenda Norman made the headlines in 2018 when she became the first Edward River region resident to conquer the English Channel, successfully completing the 40-kilometre swim in August in 11 hours and 53 minutes. An incredible achievement for Brenda personally; the initiative also assisted in raising much-needed funds to develop and implement youth mental health initiatives in Deniliquin.

Ella Harvey
Junior Sports Award

2018 was a big year for Ella Harvey, who was recognised for her impressive successes in both netball and basketball, with her achievements including premiership appearances for both the Deniliquin Rams Under 15's and Deniliquin Netball Association Open Grade, as well as Best & Fairest awards from the Murray Netball League, Deniliquin Rams Football Netball Club, Deniliquin Netball Association and Deniliquin Junior Giants. In addition to her local achievements, Ella gained selection in Netball Victoria's 2018 Zone Academy, offered to around 175 of Netball Victoria's most talented netballers in the Under 16 age group, and competed at the Netball Victoria State Titles as part of the North Central Netball Region Under 15's team. Ella is a C-badged netball umpire and has spent extra time over the past year developing young sportspeople, including coaching an Under 10's team and assisting with the Deniliquin Netball Association's NetSetGo program.

Herd2Homes Dog Rescue
Community Event or Initiative of the Year

Founded in 2015 to help save working dogs from being euthanised, Herd2Homes Dog Rescue is a not-for-profit, registered charity operating out of two bases, Deniliquin and Wyee, on the NSW central coast. The charity's operations are headed locally by co-founder Peri Chappell, who spent much of 2018 rescuing working dogs from properties across drought-affected communities and rehoming them with new owners, while working with the rural community to educate working dog owners on options available for unwanted dogs. Since its establishment in 2015, Herd2Homes Dog Rescue has successfully rehomed over 1,700 working dogs and was recently featured on Network Ten's *Bondi Vet*.

Deniliquin Golf Club

Bill Hermiston Memorial Environment Award/Environmental Citizen Award

In 2018, the Deniliquin Golf Club launched its own initiative to reduce the volume of litter in our community, introducing its own Return and Earn program to minimise waste while earning revenue for the club. Driven by several of the club's volunteers, the initiative sees the club ensuring all bottles, cans and cartons are disposed of through the Return and Earn collection point located in Deniliquin. Since its inception, the initiative has halved the volume of rubbish leaving the club.
