



MEDIA RELEASE

26 January 2018

WALGETT SHIRE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

A crowd of some 200 people attended the Walgett Shire 2018 Australia Day Celebrations held at the Walgett District Sporting Club. The morning commenced with a full buffet breakfast, a presentation by the Australia Day Ambassador followed by the Award Ceremony.

This year's Ambassador was the Motivational Speaker, Mr Sam Bailey. Sam is a farmer, pilot, husband and best-selling author who achieved all of this from a wheelchair following a car accident that left him a quadriplegic. Sam gave a detailed account of how a tragic accident in his early twenties had presented an ongoing series of challenges to him in running his farm from his wheel chair and was given a rousing round of applause by the audience.

The Award Ceremony was conducted by General Manager, Don Ramsland and the Nominees and Winners were presented with their Appreciation Certificates and Awards by Mayor Ian Woodcock and Ambassador Sam Bailey.

This year's Walgett Shire's Australia Day Award recipients were as follows:

Sports Achievement of the Year - Carinda Public School Relay Team

Nominees: Arabella McKenzie, Blair Douglas, Charlotte Ricardo and the Walgett Rams Rugby Union – First Grade Team.

Community Event of the Year – Collarenebri 150 Years Celebration

Nominees: Come By Chance Picnic Race Club, Coolibah Kids Long Lunch, Hogs for the Homeless – No.1 Oval Project, Lightning Ridge Easter Race Meeting, National Aboriginal Children's Day and the Whiddon Group – Kookaburra Court Art Exhibition

2018 Young Citizen of the Year - Sarah Dugan

Nominee: Laura Pymble

2018 Citizen of the Year – Barry McKenzie

Nominees: Alice Thorn, Anthony Dowton, Ben Pak, Bernice Brogan and Gaye Davidson, Brennan O'Keeffe, Brett Smith, Clare Cherry, Gary Eason, Lawrence Hutchinson, Lyn Harding, Miriam Middleton, Rebecca Yeomans and Russell Hiscox.

Mayor Ian Woodcock extended a thank you to Sam and wife Jenny and presented them with a gift. He also expressed his gratitude to Councillor Bill Murray, Councillor Michael Taylor, Jennifer Colless, John Bevan and Julie Casey who assisted him with the difficult task of selecting the successful Award Recipients. Staff from the Walgett District Sporting Club Bistro were praised for the wonderful breakfast.

