



MEDIA RELEASE

26 January 2025

Graeme McDonald, Cloncurry Shire's Citizen of the Year for 2025

Cloncurry Mayor Greg Campbell today congratulated the Shire's Citizen of the Year for 2025, long term local resident Graeme McDonald, and other Australia Day Award recipients at the town's Australia Day Award Ceremony.

The Awards are given each year in recognition of the dedication, achievements and contributions of community members, with categories covering individual achievements, volunteering, sports, arts and culture, community events and the Mayor's Community Spirit Award. The town hosts a range of other events following the Awards ceremony, providing community members and visitors with a range of opportunities to join in celebrating Australia Day.

The Australia Day Awards Panel recognised Graeme McDonald as Cloncurry's well-deserving Citizen of the Year for 2025. As a beloved local postman, Graeme has long been a friendly face and a reliable presence in the community. Beyond his postal duties, he is a dedicated member of the RSL and a passionate advocate for local initiatives.

Graeme's leadership and dedication extend back to his time as the General Manager of various Stanbroke properties in the region, including Fort Constantine. During those years, he showcased exceptional organisational skills and a deep commitment to the success of the community around him. His ability to bring people together and achieve shared goals is a hallmark of his character.

More recently, Graeme's tireless efforts to rejuvenate the local bowls club have been nothing short of remarkable. His commitment in hours, energy, and heart has brought the club back to life, creating a welcoming space for the community to gather, play, and connect. Graeme exemplifies the true spirit of community service.

Mayor Greg Campbell says "At a time where the number of volunteers nationwide is decreasing, the individual and committee effort recognised in Cloncurry today highlights our community spirit. That spirit is well and truly embodied in our Citizen of the Year.

"Graeme is President of the Cloncurry Bowls Club and heavily involved with the RSL and Lions Club. I am sure Graeme would welcome any new members to lend a hand to build on his great work."

Cloncurry has a busy Australia Day planned. Great Australian Bites, hosted by Cloncurry Shire Council and in partnership with HitFM and the Queensland Government, returns after a successful turn out in 2024. There will be a tantalising range of culinary delights on offer in the Shire Hall from 10am. The hotly contested Community Cricket Competition at 2pm at the Recreation Grounds. Again, this year there are 10 teams in the competition, and it is sure to be a great afternoon out, with prizes for the competition winners and best-dressed team.

“The Australia Day Community Cricket Competition is something Cloncurry looks forward to each year, and I am keen to see who the top team in will be 2025. I encourage the whole community to get out and amongst the action today, it is a great opportunity to reconnect after the Christmas break.”

More information about Cloncurry’s Australia Day activities and award recipients can be found on Council’s website www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au/australiaday.

Full list of award recipients

| Award Category | Award Winners |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Citizen of the Year | Graeme McDonald |
| Achievement Award | Beryl Murphy |
| Achievement Award | Elliot and Vanessa Watson |
| Achievement Award | Clint Ashbacher |
| Achievement Award | Queensland Fire Department - Cloncurry |
| Achievement Award | Cloncurry Eagles JRL Under 11's – Laurie Spina Shield |
| Arts and Culture Award | Irene Stewart |
| Community Event of the Year | Curry Merry Muster Festival |
| Community Volunteer of the Year | Carlie Maree Remfrey |
| Community Organisation of the Year | Queensland Country Women's Association – Cloncurry Branch |
| Senior Sports Award | Kierran Moseley |
| Dave Watt Memorial Junior Sport Award | Chelsea Saunders |
| Mayor’s Community Spirit Award | 2024 Community Fire Response |
| Southern Gulf NRM Sarus Crane Award | The McDonald Family |

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