

# Community achievers celebrated this Australia Day

The annual Alpine Shire Australia Day Community Awards recognise individuals, young people, events and community groups who have excelled, risen above adversity and given back to their community over the past year.

Alpine Shire Mayor and award judging panel member Sarah Nicholas congratulated all nominees, and said there was some stiff competition for the ultimate winners of each award.

"For a small Shire, we have plenty of community members achieving simply amazing things," she said.

"From Rosie Spicer, our Bright and District Local Achiever, dubbed 'ultra nana' for her amazing fitness and competitiveness, to young Kiewa Valley gliding pilot and CFA volunteer Noah Tanzen, each of our winners has their own unique and remarkable story to tell.

"Our Myrtleford and District Local Achiever of the Year Lis Meehan has been described as an integral part of the Myrtleford community, having spent many years serving her community as a Red Cross co-ordinator and

volunteering for many groups and committees.

"Hannah Leverton is our Myrtleford and District Young Achiever, recognised for her involvement in Council Youth projects, as a valuable member of her school community, an active Scout/Venturer and Australia Scout Medallion recipient.

"Congratulations to our winners and to everyone who was nominated - you are what makes the Alpine Shire such a wonderful place to live, work and play."

Local Achievers and Young Achievers were awarded in each of the township areas, with an overall Citizen of the Year selected from the winners.

Cr Nicholas said Mount Beauty's Richard Puttyfoot was recognised as this year's Citizen of the Year for his ongoing dedication to the Kiewa Valley community.

"Richard is hailed as a 'jack of all trades' with a heart of gold, who is always willing to lend a hand," she said.

"As well as volunteering for many local community groups, his work as the Welfare Officer with the Mount Beauty and District Men's Shed and other volunteer work as a community carer help to make our communities robust.

"His kindness, tact and diplomacy with our more vulnerable community members and their families has been recognised and is being celebrated with these

awards."

This year saw two community members recognised with Lifetime Achievement Awards - Harrietville's Robyn Downey and Tawonga South's Mary Pike.

"Robyn is being recognised as an inspirational role model who works tirelessly to improve the quality of life for everyone in her community," Cr Nicholas said.

"Mary has held many longstanding roles and been instrumental in the establishment of a number of community organisations in the Kiewa Valley - her commitment to her community is invaluable."

Congratulations to the winners of the Alpine Shire Australia Day Community Awards 2022:

- Local Achiever Kiewa Valley and Citizen of the Year | Richard Puttyfoot
- Local Achiever Bright and District | Rosie Spicer
- Local Achiever Myrtleford and District | Lis Meehan
- Local Young Achiever Kiewa Valley | Noah Tanzen
- Local Young Achiever Myrtleford and District | Hannah Leverton
- Community Event | Wandiligong Nut Festival
- Community Organisation | Myrtleford and District U3A
- Lifetime Achievement Award | Robyn Downey and Mary Pike

Learn more about all of our wonderful winners [here](#).

Image credit: Ken Bell