

Our Australia Day Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2009 Australia Day Award winners. The winners were presented with the awards by Mayor of Townsville, Les Tyrell and NRL star Ben Ikin at Riverway on Australia Day.

JUNIOR SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR: JOSHUA HALL » Joshua has represented Townsville, Queensland and Australia in his chosen field of athletics. Joshua won bronze in the World Youth Championships in Ostrava, in the Czech Republic and gold at National All-Schools in Sydney.



Darren was the only judge from Australia to participate in the Beijing Olympics and also judged at the 2008 Gymnastics World Championships. He is the National Technical Director for Gymnastics

Australia and has international technical judging accreditation in Germany.



SENIOR SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR: PENNY PALFREY » Penny achieved some enormous sporting accomplishments during 2008, including finishing third place female overall in Perth's Rottneest Channel Swim and overall winner of the Tampa Bay Marathon Swim in Florida.

SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR: DARREN WOLFE » Darren has a long and extensive career as a volunteer coach, judge and committee member for Gymnastics Townsville, North Queensland's largest gymnastics club.



COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR: ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS » Since the opening of Lavarack Barracks in 1966 there has been a strong, ongoing

representation of the Royal Australian Regiment in Townsville. 2008 represented the 60-year anniversary of the foundation of the regiment, and to celebrate, the Royal Australian Regiment Association, North Queensland Division produced an outstanding event.

Dutchy Hemerik accepted the award on behalf of the Royal Australian Regiment.



CULTURAL AWARD: MAINLAND WARRIORS » The Mainland Warriors are an Indigenous cultural dance group made up of three different cultural backgrounds including Aboriginal, Torres Strait

Islander and Papua New Guinean. The formation of the group was initially to work with young people 'at risk', however this has been broadened to the wider community.

Sam Savage accepted the award on behalf of Mainland Warriors.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: EDDIE HUMPHREYS » In the Year of the Blood Donor it was quite fitting that this award went to Eddie who holds the title of Townsville Blood Service's highest milestone blood donor.

Eddie began giving blood at the age of 16 and has now given more than 400 whole blood donations plus plasma, the highest number of donations of any donor outside of the South East Corner of Queensland. Eddie said he would continue to give blood as long as he is fit and able.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: RAAMVI VIVEK » Academically brilliant, Raamvi has been Dux of every subject in every year since his enrolment at high school. Importantly however, he has been able to extend his talents beyond the classroom into the broader community with leadership and

extensive community service. Raamvi is an active member of Interact, Townsville Youth Council, his school Science Club and Environmental Club.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: TERRY RUSSELL » Terry's most outstanding contribution to the local community is in his work helping to address public drunkenness and anti-social behaviours, both as part of his employment and in a volunteer capacity. In the last year Terry has worked as a Police Liaison Officer in the Queensland Police Cross Cultural section and has been instrumental in instigating the Homelands Project in Townsville.

Terry Russell accepting his Citizen of the Year Award.



Our milestone year

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» Building a new structure for the organisation, including the appointment of CEO Ray Burton.

Cr Tyrell said that the 2009 year was shaping as another busy and eventful one.

"It is important that Townsville is highly proactive in attracting new investment, infrastructure and opportunities that will create jobs and lifestyle improvements for the local community," Cr Tyrell said.

"The obvious highlight is the V8 Supercar race in July, which will see the largest ever numbers of visitors making their way to Townsville.

"We are gearing up to support businesses and community groups to capitalise on the event and the millions of dollars it will bring into our local economy.

Cr Tyrell said council staff and local contractors will be kept busy as the council rolls out its \$230 million capital works program into the new year.

"During tough times it is more important than ever for governments at all levels to spend money on infrastructure to keep the economy moving," Cr Tyrell said.

"Our largest single capital works project this year is the allocated \$40 million to kick off a major water supply upgrade project which will deliver long term security over the city's water network.

"With construction scheduled to start early in the new year,

the project will cost \$140 million over three years and will be augmented by major upgrades at plants from Douglas to Mount Louisa and up to Rollingstone to cope with the expected population growth in the coming years.

"While our own roads program will come in at \$71M by the end of the financial year, the most significant change to our road landscape in 2009 will be the opening of the second stage of the Ring Road connecting Condon with the Northern Beaches.

"Significant planning, land acquisitions and funding arrangements will also be completed in 2009 on North Shore Boulevard, which will ease traffic problems in peak hour for those heading to our northern suburbs.

"North Shore Boulevard provides an alternative access for Bushland Beach / Mount Low residents and enables land parcels to be developed in Bushland Beach, Mount Low, Deeragun and Burdell.

"We will also have a better understanding of our city's drainage issues with a prioritised list of works to target problem areas of the city. While our problems won't be solved in the first year, we will be able to ensure adequate funding is allocated to roll out the program over a period of time.

"Another major project that has our city abuzz is, of course, the Flinders Street Revitalisation.

"We believe that the restoration of a 'high street' environment is essential to improving Flinders Street's accessibility and civic appeal.

The Council is now preparing submissions and meetings with State and Federal Government representatives to secure the \$56 million required for the construction of the precinct.

Cr Tyrell said the city's residents would also see the results of smart financial management within Council, with a slashing of excess spending and a concentration on improving service and facilities.

"I predict that in 2009 we will have reduced our current operating deficit and will reap the rewards of our tight year. While it is a must that we continue to spend heavily on infrastructure, we must run our operations in a business like manner and look for efficiencies and stronger partnerships," Cr Tyrell said.

Cr Tyrell said the council would work towards building a workforce with a focus on delivering the best service, planning and facilities in the new year.

"The council is one of the largest employers in the region and we have to meet March 2009 deadlines to have a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and Corporate Plan in place, which will provide surety and direction to our employees," Cr Tyrell said

"I also hope that the process of consolidation of polices and procedures from the previous two councils will mean that our customer service will continue to improve and residents will find it easier to deal with our organisation."