



2022 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to congratulate our 2022 Citizen of the Year Juneen Schulz and Young Citizen of the Year Jye Davey.

Juneen and Jye were recognised for their significant community achievements along with three other Citizen of the Year nominees – Lindsay Love, Mary Baker and Sally Gorman – and one other Young Citizen of the Year nominee – Aiden Marshall - at an awards ceremony held at the Meeniyah Hall on Wednesday 19 January.

Juneen is a quiet achiever and a strong community leader. Her passion for local – to buy local, eat local, grow local - within the Corner Inlet community has influenced and actively helped facilitate the growing popular re-emergence to produce and showcase local food. Juneen is a powerful educator, mentor, garden muse, empowering many diverse personalities in the community to join in with others.

Juneen was one of the founders of the Buckley Park Community Farm, which grew out of a desire to be able to support the community with good wholesome food wherever possible. Her outreach in the community is deep and wide over many years.

Jye Davey is a real people person and at the age of 21 he shows thoughtfulness, maturity and compassion beyond his years. 2021 can only be described as a very trying year for everyone but there was always one bright spark in Meeniyah and that was Jye Davey at the local IGA Store. A visit to the supermarket became the social event of the day for many people during lockdown, especially those living alone.

During lockdown he delivered groceries to elderly people who were housebound, unpacking their purchases and putting them in the freezer and made their day with conversation, bits of local news and cheerful chatter. He wasn't just the grocery delivery person - he was a friendly visitor. During the terrible five-day power outage in the middle of winter his visits became even more important to pensioners whose homes were all electric.

To read the achievements of all our nominees and to see upcoming Australia Day events near your please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Mayor Mohya Davies:

"I would like to congratulate our 2022 Citizen of the Year Juneen Schulz and Young Citizen of the Year Jye Davey alongside all our Australia Day Awards nominees!"

"Being nominated for an Australia Day Award is a real honour and each nominee should be extremely proud. The awards recognise people in South Gippsland who dedicate their time, skills and energy for the benefit of their local community and it is clear that each and every one of you have achieved that and more."

"I have seen Juneen at work over many years – her passion is gardening and cooking. She has inspired many young people with the development of kitchen garden projects in schools with the combination of growing produce and then cooking the produce to provide inspired meals. She has also developed community gardens in both Foster and Toora to bring people together to grow, cook and share food. She is a true asset to our region and deserves all the recognition for her efforts, as do all of our award nominees."

"Passionate people are the lifeblood of our communities – South Gippsland is very blessed to have so many people who are passionate about the region and are willing to dedicate their time to make it the best it can be."

PR2725 20/01/22