DANDJOO

2025 CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

DARREN ROBERTSON

Darren is an outstanding and inspirational role model within our community, consistently going above and beyond in his service to others. Whether through catering support, generous donations, volunteering his time, or serving with the ambulance service, he contributes wherever he is needed without hesitation.

Nothing is ever too much trouble for Darren. He gives freely of his time and energy without seeking recognition or reward, motivated purely by kindness, compassion, and a genuine commitment to helping others. His generosity, reliability, and community spirit have made a meaningful impact and are deeply appreciated by those around him.

Darren very quickly joined up to volunteer with Gnowangerup's St John Ambulance service and the Bushfire Brigade. Since joining St John as an Emergency Management Technician in 2023, Darren has served over 250hrs, of which 140hrs were in 2025 alone.
Darren is regularly out and about offering emergency services during the night when everyone is asleep. He never says no and is very reliable to work with on difficult jobs.

Darren has been an active and committed community member for many years, contributing his time and expertise through service on various local boards and committees. His involvement across multiple groups highlights both his dedication to community development and the trust placed in him by others to help guide decisions and support positive outcomes.

Through these board and committee roles, Darren has contributed to planning, coordination, and decision-making that strengthens local organisations and initiatives. He is known for being dependable, practical, and solutions-focused, and he brings a collaborative approach to every group he supports. As a committee and board participant, he consistently adds value through thoughtful input, hands-on help, and a strong work ethic.

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2025 CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR

BORDEN, GNOWANGERUP AND ONGERUP BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

On 16/12/2025 Gnowangerup, Borden and Ongerup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades attended an out-of-control fire in Mindarabin. Lead by Incident Controller Darren Baum, they coordinated and managed over 100 firefighters and resources in extreme weather conditions. Their efforts saved 3 farmhouses and many livestock. I believe their extraordinary effort and determination stopped the fire from travelling to Ongerup townsite. Everyone's bravery, selfless mindset and tireless contribution needs to be highly recognised.

I was very proud of everyone involved and believe they are deserving of being awarded the Community Group award.

They saved houses around a house fire in Gnowangerup in 2025. Saved the Borden tip and surrounding bushland 2025. They attended 5 separate arson roadside fires that put a farmhouse and flora and fauna at risk February 2025. All members of the brigades are volunteers. They take time away from family and employment to attend the Mindarabin fire to save property and stock. An inspiration to all community members.

All 3 Volunteer Bush Fire brigades continuously stand-up day and night when needed. Their efforts saved property and lives, and they do it without seeking recognition. Definitely the quiet achievers of our community. Our hero's when needed.

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2025 CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

MURRAY HAYWARD

Murray Hayward Jnr is a well-respected young adult who gives up his time to help support our youth in Gnowangerup from helping out at junior football and cricket trainings to just playing basketball in the park. Murray is always there when children need someone to talk to.

Murray helped with both house fire incidents in Gnowangerup, he put his own life at risk trying to get into the house where an elderly couple lived. With the house fire on Hughes Street it was great to see the resilience in Murray to help our volunteers by standing with a fire hose knowing the situation and trauma he carried with him from the House Street fire in 2023.

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2025 CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

ROD MOIR

For over 30 years Rod, ably helped by his wife Susan, has organised, arranged and lead our Borden ANZAC Day service. This is the only daytime ANZAC service offered in the Shire. In this voluntary role Rod has ensured the ANZAC spirit and story has remained relevant and integral to our local calendar of events, contributing to growth in participation year on year. Rod's organisation of the poignant service includes preparing the grounds and rooms for the service, seeking out a different (and always interesting) guest speaker each year and also running the service on the day.

As a member of the Borden Bowling Club for over 40 years (and a Life Member since 2018) Rod has had a huge influence on the club, always welcoming and encouraging new bowls players, providing skills mentoring, and ensuring the club's facilities remain top class through his efforts watering and mowing the grass bowling club greens at the old bowling club and more recently helping with the rolling and watering of the synthetic greens at the newer bowling club premises. Over various years Rod has held almost every committee position of the Club and when it was Borden's turn he willingly took on the task of President of the Central Stirling Bowls League.

Rod is also active around the Borden Pavilion, rarely missing a busy bee and without fanfare for many years has quietly completed tasks like the weekly retrieval of the centre's bins on rubbish day, loose rubbish pick-up and weeding and when needed even coralling the many free campers found at times around the facility into more appropriate locations.

Selflessly, at times when the Shire has not had a Borden gardener, Rod has made it his job to place the town street bins back into their enclosures after the rubbish truck has been.

Without being asked Rod can also often be seen weeding parts of town that are missed, and consistently removing rubbish from the sides of the roads both in town and on the outskirts to ensure our town and its entrance remain tidy and rubbish free.

Rod is always inclusive. He makes people in our community feel welcome and valued. And he invites those visiting our community to become part of it for however long they stay. Rod's can-do, 'on the quiet attitude' to everything he does is inspirational to young and old. He truly 'serves' our community, asking for nothing in return and often without anyone being aware of what he is completing.

Rod is also a fantastic ambassador and friend to all age groups within our community, reaching out to phone people for a chat just when they might need it most or offering a word or two of encouragement when people embark on a new business venture, stand for a community club position or are just trying something new in their lives.