

District Council of Grant Australia Day Awards Announced

Members of the District Council of Grant community have been recognised in the 2017 Australia Day Awards, which were announced at Council's Australia Day lunch celebration at the Port MacDonnell Football Oval on Thursday 26 January 2017.

District Council of Grant Mayor Richard Sage said "As a Council we feel that it is important to not only celebrate the award recipients but to honour all of our nominees as they have all made a positive difference to our community and should feel very proud to be nominated for the award."

The Australia Day Ambassador was Mr John (Jack) Cahill. For six decades Mr Cahill has combined his commitment to sport with his working life. He has played over 266 games in the SANFL and has coached 695 games for a number of AFL Teams. Mr Cahill grew up in Orroroo and has always had a fierce desire to be the best. He is held in such esteem within football circles that he has a room at the Adelaide Oval named after him. Mr Cahill has worked in the motor vehicle industry for 20 years and owned his own motor vehicle business. He currently combines his love of coaching and fitness to impart the importance of health and education to the students at Pulteney Grammar School and the community.

Mr Cahill assisted the Mayor to present this year's District Council of Grant Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year Awards.

The "Community Event of the Year" was awarded to the **Tarpeena Cancer Support Group**. Accepting the award on behalf of the Tarpeena Cancer Support Group was Mrs Poppy Howe. Mrs Howe, who lost a son to cancer, formed a group who met at the Tarpeena Football Clubrooms. The group has been able to donate to the Cancer Council by raising money from various functions, donations from people and businesses within the Tarpeena community, as well as a monthly stall held at the Tarpeena Family Market. In 2016 the Tarpeena Cancer Support Group donated an Accu Vein machine for the Mount Gambier Hospital and continues to support cancer patients at the chemotherapy suite of the Mount Gambier Hospital.

Port MacDonnell's **Mr Garry Talbot** was named the "Citizen of the Year", with Mrs Grace Gilmore of Mount Gambier (formerly of Port MacDonnell and Eight Mile Creek), Mr Ashley Hartwig and Mrs Gweneth Hartwig of Tarpeena; and Mr Roger Whitty of Tarpeena also being nominated. Mr Talbot has been a member of the Kingsley CFS for over 30 years holding positions of Group Officer and Deputy Group Officer over a 20 year period. With Garry's leadership the CFS brigade has been one of the best equipped and housed brigades in the State. He has now stepped down as the Group Officer but remains a fireman with the Kingsley CFS brigade.