



# Media Release



## **GLENORCHY CITY BATONBEARERS PREPARE TO SHARE THE DREAM OF THE GOLD COAST 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

**18 October 2017**

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) has announced the local batonbearers from Glenorchy City who will carry the Queen's Baton during the 100-day countdown to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018).

Across the community, hundreds of people will get the opportunity to engage with the Baton as it spends quality time in the region. Arriving in Glenorchy on 9 Feb 2018.

Among the batonbearers announced are nineteen-year-old Dakota Leary of Chigwell who is the current *Glenorchy City Council Young Citizen of the Year* and has been a member of the Glenorchy Youth Task Force for five years as well as being involved in several community groups and projects.

Mr John Ward from Rosetta is the current *Glenorchy Citizen of the Year* and has been fighting for the rights of grandparents for about 20 years after he began looking after his own grandchildren and became aware of the lack of support available to grandparents raising grandchildren. John established the *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Advisory Council*, is currently their Chair. He has received a number of awards over the years, culminating in him being awarded the *National Community Services Grandparent of the Year* in 2012.

Mr John Allen from Claremont has also been selected as a batonbearer and has served in Lions for 47 years. John has been a past Australia Day Citizen of the Year and currently represents Lions, Sunshine Home, Glenorchy Community Fund, Tasmania Lions Foundation and is an active member of the Glenorchy R.S.L. Bocci Club.

These three excited batonbearers will meet Glenorchy City Council's Commissioner Sue Smith and General Manager Tony McMullen on Thursday 19 October at 12.30pm to be congratulated on their selection.

Collectively across the country, batonbearers will take more than a million steps to bring the Baton to its final destination, the Games' Opening Ceremony on 4 April 2018.

The uniquely designed Baton starts its Australian journey on 25 December 2017, 100 days before the Opening Ceremony. For one month during the school summer holidays, the Queen's Baton will visit major events, iconic landmarks and children's hospitals.

From Canberra on 25 January 2018, the Baton will switch gears to a traditional Relay and be carried by great Australians through QBR celebration communities around the country.

Street level and community celebration details will be announced on 17 November.

Since its launch from Buckingham Palace on 13 March 2017, the Baton has inspired athletes and fans across Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas and Europe. Currently it is in Malaysia and is set to visit the remaining 15 Commonwealth nations in Asia and Oceania before arriving in Brisbane on Christmas Eve.

It will be 60 years since a Baton first carried Her Majesty's message to athletes of the Commonwealth at the Cardiff 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Wales.

GOLDOC showcased the uniforms batonbearers will wear today the first time.

Batonbearer names and the communities that they will carry the Baton in are available at [gc2018.com/qbr](http://gc2018.com/qbr)

**Glenorchy City Council Commissioner Sue Smith:**

"I am immensely proud of our batonbearers and the role they will take when the Queen's Baton comes to town. Many have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of others, some have accomplished great feats and others are working towards realising their dreams. Being a batonbearer recognises all of this, and more. I encourage you to support these great people in our community, and to share a memorable moment with the Queen's Baton yourselves."

**GOLDOC Chairman Peter Beattie AC:**

"We couldn't be more excited for the batonbearers who will be a part of this rich tradition. We are honoured to have so many great Australians carry Her Majesty's message for Gold Coast 2018 and we look forward to celebrating their stories and inspiring generations to come.

"For the batonbearers, this will be a rare and unforgettable experience."

QBR Hashtag: #QBR2018

GC2018 Hashtag: #GC2018, #SHARETHEDREAM      **ENDS**

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| For more information please contact:  |
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| <b>Media Opportunity</b>  |
| <b>Glenorchy City Council forecourt – 12.30pm on Thu 19 October 2017</b>                      |
| Present: Commissioner Sue Smith (if available), General Manager Tony McMullen (if available), |
| Batonbearers Dakota Leary, John Ward and John Allen   |

## **BACKGROUND**

The Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) continues to connect the Gold Coast with the entire Commonwealth.

Already the Baton has been passed between thousands of people across Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas and Europe, building excitement for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018).

The GC2018 Relay is the longest and most accessible in history, travelling through the entire Commonwealth for 388 days and 230,000 kilometres.

The Baton engages with all Commonwealth nations and territories of Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe, Asia and Oceania for 288 days before it arrives in Australia for a further 100 days.

The Baton arrives into Brisbane on Christmas Eve and approximately 3,800 batonbearers will carry it through every state and territory in Australia.

The Relay started on Commonwealth Day, Monday 13 March 2017, at Buckingham Palace when Her Majesty placed Her message inside of the Baton.

The distinctive design of the GC2018 Queen's Baton captures the boundless energy of the Gold Coast. In form and inspiration, the Baton is a symbol of our past, present and future.

The Queen's Baton arrives on the Gold Coast for the XXI Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony on 4 April 2018, where the Prince of Wales will remove Her Majesty's message from the Baton and read it aloud to declare the Games open.