



MEDIA RELEASE

25 January 2019

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10am 26 JANUARY 2019

RECORD NUMBERS AT CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Glenorchy City Council will welcome 62 new Australian Citizens and announce Citizen and Young Citizen of the year at the 2019 Australia Day Ceremony at the Derwent Entertainment Centre on Saturday 26 January from 10.15am.

Mayor Kristie Johnston said that she was extremely proud as both Mayor and as a Glenorchy citizen to be able to welcome the new citizens into the community.

“This year’s event has attracted a significantly larger crowd than normal, and it will be so uplifting to see the joy and emotion of people becoming Australian Citizens”, she said.

“Today is a significant day to reflect on the privilege of Australian citizenship and what it means to be Australian.

“Australia Day is a time for us to give a warm welcome to our newest citizens and acknowledge the importance of what it means to become a member of the Australian community.

“This year marks 70 years since Australian citizenship was introduced into law, creating for the first time a legal status of being uniquely Australian.”

“Glenorchy is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Tasmania and it is one of our City’s greatest assets which is recognised both within and outside our local government area.

“We are also delighted to announce the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

“This year the choice was extremely difficult to make, so joint winners were announced for Citizen of the Year.

“Both of these winners are so deserving and have done extensive community service. It is with great pleasure that I announce both Graeme Morris of Claremont and Barry Smith of Glenorchy as joint Citizens of the Year.

“Our Young Citizen of the Year is 16-year-old Montana Lipscombe of Chigwell. This young girl has an abundance of energy and her passion for music is astounding in one so young.





MEDIA RELEASE

Mayor Johnston said it was great to have Michael Veitch announced as the 2019 Glenorchy Australia Day Ambassador, a program proudly sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank.

Michael began his career writing and performing in television comedy in programs such as the D-Generation and Fast Forward before working as a newspaper columnist and regular broadcaster for ABC radio. He presented the national arts program, Sunday Arts, on ABC television for five years. He is also well known in radio, having broadcast across Tasmania for ABC Hobart 2009 – 14, as well as various stints on ABC Radio Melbourne. In addition to numerous television, film and theatre credits, he has written eight books, primarily on military aviation: *Flak, Fly, The Forgotten Islands, Heroes of the Skies, Southern Surveyor for the CSIRO* and *44 Days – 75 Squadron* and *the Fight for Australia and Barney Greatrex*. He has also worked extensively on stage, and in 2015 completed a successful national tour with a one-man show based on his interviews with former Second World War airmen, entitled *Flak*. His latest book 'Hell Ship' – the story of the plague ship, Ticonderoga was released in 2018 has also been worked into a one-man play, currently touring Australia.

Citizens and Young Citizen of the Year Profiles

Joint Citizen of the Year winner – Graeme Morris

Graeme has contributed many thousands of hours over 40 years to both the Glenorchy community as well as the wider Tasmanian community. He has been involved with many community groups in a range of different areas during this time. Graeme became a volunteer member of the Claremont Rural Fire Brigade in 1976, rising to the position of Deputy Captain. He was Treasurer of the 1st Claremont Scouts and then the Mount Faulkner and Abbotsfield Scout Groups after their amalgamation, supervising many camps and assisting with many fundraising events and working bees.

Graeme was the Assistant Coach of the Claremont High School Cricket and Football Teams from 1981 – 1985, Treasurer of the Claremont RSL Club from 1986 to 2003 and co-ordinated the construction of the new Claremont RSL Club. He was Chairman of the Mount Faulkner Scout Hall Rebuilding Committee after it was destroyed in 1995, coached the Claremont Junior Cricket Team and the Claremont Junior Soccer Team from 1998 to 2006. From 1998 to 2016 Graeme volunteered with Claremont Primary School and the Austins Ferry Primary School to tutor young people.

He was Chairman of the Claremont Guide Hall Rebuilding Committee, Co-Chair and member of the Windermere Reserve War Memorial Committee and for many years organised and conducted ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services at the Gardens Claremont Aged Care facility for those who are unable to attend community services. Graeme was an inaugural member and Treasurer of the Claremont Men's Shed, a member of the new Claremont Men's Shed Building Committee and has been made Life Member of both the Claremont RSL and RSL Tasmania.





MEDIA RELEASE

Graeme has been an outstanding volunteer in the Glenorchy community whose dedication, time and commitment has helped many. In addition to the contributions listed above he has been an excellent role model, mentor, teacher and friend to many.

Joint Citizen of the Year winner – Barry Smith

Barry has also contributed many thousands of hours to volunteering with a wide range of groups for over 50 years. He was a member of the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue at Queens Domain for 10 years and the Royal Commonwealth Society of Tasmania for 50 years, being awarded Life Membership with them and having held positions of Honorary Secretary, Vice President and President at different times as well as Editor of their Quarterly Newsletter for 35 years, also organising many displays and promotional activities.

Barry joined Red Cross in 1982 as Acting Administrator, becoming Executive Director the following year and then being responsible for fundraising, membership and disaster services which included many weekend and late night call outs. He represented Red Cross at many events, organised doorknocks and button days and worked closely with SES and other Emergency Services on local and statewide disaster planning.

Barry has had a 20 year membership of the World Ships Society which evolved into the Maritime Museum, has been a member and Secretary of the Arts Society, an Honorary Probation Officer, a member of the Royal United Services Institute and a member of Adult Education and University of the Third Age. In addition to this he has been heavily involved with the Glenorchy Precinct Program and The Citizens for Glenorchy Inc Group, the Glenorchy Clean Up program, Moonah Primary School, and Abbotsfield Primary School Parents and Friends.

Barry has made a significant contribution to the fabric of civic life in Glenorchy which has been recognised by him recently being awarded an OAM. He is a quiet and humble person putting in significant effort and personal sacrifice for the benefit of the community.

Young Citizen of the Year winner – Montana Lipscombe

Montana has been performing with various groups for a couple of years including the Bucaan Community House, Glenview Community Services, the Country Music Club (both locally and in Northern Tasmania) and Abbeyfield House, Glenorchy. She also assists with some of their general activities, bringing variety and brightness to the day of their members. Last year she was awarded the Most Popular New Talent (through the Tasmanian Independent Country Music Awards) and the People's Choice Awards.

Montana has been involved with the Cosgrove High Multipride Program – a school-based leadership program which works to combat bullying, harassment and racism. This program has organised





MEDIA RELEASE

significant events resulting in fantastic outcomes, of special note is that the number of behavioural incidents involving racism has dropped significantly at the school. She has also been involved in a mentoring role with some English Learning Australia (Migrant and Refugee) students in her class and is a core member of the grade 10 cohort who is liked by all. At the end of last year Montana was given Honoured Awards in a wide range of subjects, the Brett Webster Award, and the Glenorchy Masonic Citizenship Award which is awarded to a student who demonstrates exceptional qualities in respect to character and service.

Montana has a kind spirit and a generous nature and brings much joy to those she meets, supporting many in the community and particularly connecting the elderly to young people.

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