



Etheridge Shire Council



Media Release

Australia Day Event 2023

Etheridge Australia Day event was held at the Forsayth Turnout Grounds on Thursday 26 January 2023. The day was packed with fun and laughter with great food and lots of fun games and activities, finishing off with Australian trivia.

The Forsayth School students and their siblings played a violin concerto of Waltzing Matilda much to the audiences delight.

The Australia Day Ambassador Alison Alexander OAM travelled from Brisbane to share our celebrations. Etheridge was very fortunate to have such a special guest that joined right in with our activities and to make the award presentations so special to the recipients.

Alison Alexander OAM is a Brisbane-based food consultant and the inaugural Queensland Food Fellow and Food Ambassador for the Scenic Rim Regional area. She was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day Order of Australia Awards and in 2013, was awarded the Citibank Professional Excellence Award to honour her major contribution to the restaurant industry.

Alison is highly regarded by the locally industry for her renowned food knowledge and frequently celebrates Queensland produce and producers. Alison has been a guest presenter on ABC Radio for 25 years and has written for numerous publications. She regularly leads food tours within Queensland to encourage awareness of regional produce and appears as a guest chef, cookery teacher and speaker at events. She is often asked to judge food competitions and has been a Chief Judge for the Royal Queensland Show Preserves section.

Winners of the Etheridge Australia Day Awards are as follows:

- *Citizen of the Year – Deidre Hickey
- *Jnr Citizen of the Year – Josie Prior
- *Snr Sportsperson of the Year – Gill Graham
- *Jnr Sportsperson of the Year – Nikki Bethel
- *Snr Statesperson of the Year – Ralph & Lorna Bethel
- *Community Organisation of the Year – Etheridge Cares



Etheridge Cares, Kristy Bethel (on behalf of her daughter Nikki Bethel); Josie Prior; Gill Graham; Deidre Hickey ; center front – Senior Statesperson’s Ralph & Lorna Bethel.