



## MEDIA RELEASE

**3 December 2019**

### **2019 Mayoral Awards – Recipients Announced**

The 2019 Mayoral Awards recipients were announced today by Mayor Damien Ryan at an event to mark *International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD)*.

Alice Springs Town Council's Mayoral Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions by and for people with disability.

Following the Mayor's opening address, Daniel Giles OAM and his father Daryl will present a talk about Daniel's autism journey from diagnosis to now, followed by entertainment from King Marong and Connect to Culture.

The Mayor presented the following three awards:

- **The Noteworthy Award** – *A person with disability who has made a noteworthy contribution to the community*
- **The Champion Award** – *A person with or without disability who has been an advocate for the rights and well-being of people with disability*
- and, the **Michele Castagna Medal** – *Awarded to an individual that displays tenacity (in memory of the late Michele Castagna)*

“Our Council is honoured to be able to officially recognise these three outstanding individuals with these awards. They have enriched the entire Alice Springs community with their selfless devotion to improving the lives of those living with disability,” said Mayor Ryan.

#### **2019 Mayoral Award recipients:**

**The Noteworthy Award** – presented to **Graham Wilfred Jnr** – for his work in mentoring and supporting young people, most recently in his role at the Alice Springs Public Library as part of the Geek in Residence program.

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Civic Centre, Mon-Fri, 8am – 5pm Cnr Todd Street and Gregory Terrace

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Originally from Katherine, the Yolngu artist, designer and musician, was born in 1983 with spina bifida – his family was told he would never walk on his own. However his perseverance, inner strength and innate artistic abilities have led him to a new life in Alice Springs.

Graham came to the Alice Springs Public Library through the Indigemoji project – a first-of-its-kind digital project to create Australia’s first set of Indigenous emoji – and worked closely with young people to realise their ideas and designs. With his gentle manner and unconditional positive regard for young people, Graham is now a driving force in the youth area of the Alice Springs Public Library where, as Digital Mentor (funded by First Nations Media’s inDigiMOB), he continues to support young people in honing their digital skills. The program now regularly attracts up to 100 young people each day.

Graham consistently draws on his challenging life experiences in overcoming adversity to model how we can move forward together, transforming complex and variable spaces into rich, generative environments.

**The Champion Award** – presented to **Inosi Bulimairewa** – for his work in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to live to their fullest potential, through his day-to-day work as a prosthetic technician, and through his inspirational achievements as a World Champion para-athlete.

Inosi is the Alice Springs Hospital’s Prosthetics & Orthotics technician – the first in Central Australia – and it is his job to carefully manufacture prosthetic and orthotic devices required by people with a disability. He has developed a keen skill in manufacturing ‘deadly legs’ – prostheses decorated with beautiful patterns, designed to help reduce shame amongst Aboriginal Australians who use an artificial limb.

Beyond the prosthetics and orthotics laboratory, Inosi is himself an above-knee amputee. As a member of the Amputee Service, he provides a level of support to his peers that cannot be provided by most health professionals, as they adjust to life after an amputation.

Inosi is also a World Champion para-athlete in the Javelin having taken up the sport only two years ago. He taught himself to throw the Javelin – without a coach – learning from YouTube videos, and at the World Para-athletic Championships in Dubai recently, he threw far enough to qualify for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo next year. Through the Alice Springs Athletics Club, Inosi completed his

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Level 1 Athletics Australia Coaching Course in July this year, volunteering to support young local athletes to train and compete.

**The Michele Castagna Medal** – presented to **Andrew Harrison** – for going above and beyond, in his role as a volunteer community broadcaster with 8CCC radio, to raise the profile of those living with disability in our community, via his program *Local Connections*, which has a special focus on information and events relevant to people living with a disability.

Towards the end of 2018, Andrew reached out to 8CCC Community Radio with a desire to get involved as a Volunteer and, with the assistance of Bindi Enterprises, Andrew undertook a volunteer induction and training, with supported studio time.

*Andrew's Local Connections* program – Thursdays from 4pm-5pm – has aired throughout this year, featuring music from Central Australia and The Barkly interspersed with interviews with local musicians and songwriters, and community information and announcements about events relevant to people living with a disability in our region. He has also presented at the Big Day Out in Harmony event and MC'd the NDIS Information Day, paving the way forward for access and involvement of people with a disability, or mental health challenges, in community broadcasting.

Andrew's pioneering work has resulted in improvements for the individuals involved in his show, his audience of peers and the broader community, and has helped to increase the diversity of voices we hear in broadcast media.

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