

## 2022 Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony

A group of inspiring Centralians were recognised for their contributions to the Alice Springs community and new citizens from around the world were welcomed as part of Alice Springs Town Council's Australia Day celebrations today.

A total of 108 new Australians received citizenship from a diverse range of countries including Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, The Philippines, Germany, France, New Zealand, India, Cambodia, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Ireland, Canada, Nigeria, Nepal, Tonga, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Cuba, Mexico, Fiji, Italy, The United States of America and Russia.

"It is an honour as Mayor to be able to confer Citizenship on so many people from all walks of life and share this tremendously special day with them and their families," Mayor Matt Paterson said.

"It gives me an incredible sense of pride to see the smiles on so many faces on a day such as today and welcome these new residents to our wonderful community."

Following the citizenship ceremony, the 2022 Centralian Citizenship Award winners were announced.

### 2021 Centralian Citizenship Awards recipients (bios on following pages):

- Centralian Volunteer of the Year – **Steve Rogers**
- Centralian Senior Citizen of the Year – **Margaret Borger**
- Centralian Event of the Year – **Mother's Day Classic Alice Springs Fun Run and Walk**
- Centralian Young Citizen of the Year – **Jessie Woolford**
- Centralian Citizen of the Year – **Virginia Loy**

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“We are lucky to have so many amazing influences in the Alice Springs community and Australia Day gives us the opportunity to recognise a handful of these local heroes,” Mayor Matt Paterson said.

“I want to congratulate everyone that has won an award, as well as everyone that was nominated. These individuals have truly made an outstanding contribution to their community and have helped to make Alice Springs a better place.”

Concurrently, Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre in conjunction with the Alice Springs Public library hosted the Australia Day Pool Party with free entry from 12pm–4pm, celebrating the end of the Summer Reading Club.

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## 2021 Centralian Awards – biographies of recipients

### Centralian Citizen of the Year – Virginia Loy

Born on the 26th of January 1954, Virginia Loy has made Alice Springs home, married to Michael Loy (deceased), raising her family and working at the Alice Springs Hospital as Chief Radiographer until her recent retirement.

Virginia was rated in the top 3 per cent in the world in her vocation, but chose to stay and make Alice her home. She lobbied strongly and was instrumental in getting the MRI machine to the Alice Springs Hospital.

Since retirement, Virginia has dedicated herself selflessly to volunteering her time to community groups and supporting the elderly and vulnerable.

In the past 12 months Virginia has achieved the following:

1. Led and gained support from Rotary Clubs in Alice Springs for her project/initiative raising major funding to Purple House to purchase 2 vehicles.
2. Lead organiser of the annual Rotary club of Alice Springs Melbourne Cup Sweep raising \$12,000.00 to go towards assisting local students' further education through the Rotary Club Education Scholarship Fund.
3. Virginia is the current Chair of the Rotary Club of Alice Springs Education fund which awarded \$18,000 to a worthy local student to go on with further study. As the Chair, much of the work in marketing and convening the meetings to interview potential candidates fall on the Chair. A lot of hard work for an already very busy person.

This is a 3-year scholarship that is awarded annually and involves inviting and interviewing the many applicants to secure a worthy recipient who is then awarded the scholarship. Virginia was also able to award a second annual grant, Bill Van Dyke award, to the value of \$3,000.00 to another young student.

4. As well as being the current Chair of the Rotary Club of Alice Springs education fund, she is also the current Club President and donates much of her time to worthwhile events to help in the community.
5. Virginia is also very involved in the Catholic Church, volunteering to help with the elderly food delivery program and cleans the church on a weekly roster.
6. As a member of friends of Araluen, she is a regular volunteer and helps in many areas.

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## Young Centralian Citizen of the Year – Jessie Woolford

CAFLNT Head Boundary Umpire and Umpire Coordinator, 17 years of age, Jessie Woolford facilitated and lead the first ever all female umpiring squad in the NT who stuck together for the duration of the season, made news headlines and umpired the AFLNT Women's Grand Final for the 2021 Season.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-20/cafl-marks-first-all-female-umpire-Kame/100307230>

Jessie had just recently taken over managing all 40+ CAFLNT Umpires, was finishing year 12 and had a part time job.

As the head umpire coordinator Jessie's job was extensive, each week she had to run 2 training sessions on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon. One session would focus on theory and the other practical. Each week it was something different, based on her observations from games the weekend prior. It should also be mentioned that all umpires were from different walks of life, so the added challenge was earning respect from all parties, which she did with ease.

Jessie's weekly task was organising all 40+ registered umpires with games based on their availability and their set discipline. Managing the various schedules, taking into consideration feedback received during the week and keeping it fair were all weekly challenges. She also had to wait for AFLNT to publish the games and umpire requirements per game before she was able to enter and advise us as fellow umpires. She would then have to manually enter each person into the system to allow us to view our weekend schedule, again all whilst completing year 12 and working part time.

Jessie was a breath of fresh air to a group predominately of older generation male umpires. She brought life and a fun to the umpiring group bringing together everyone. Although, Jess got paid for games she individually umpired, the added work was done out of the kindness of her heart and love for the organisation.

There is no one more suitable to receive this award than Jessies as she has and will continue to inspire young people especially women to take on a new challenge and succeed.

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## Community Event of the Year – Mother’s Day Classic 2021 Alice Springs Fun

### Run and Walk

In 2022, Mother’s Day Classic (MDC) celebrate their 25th Anniversary as the largest fun run and walk (100,000 registrations in over 100 locations across Australia every Mother’s Day) raising awareness and funds for life saving breast cancer research. Mother’s Day Classic is an inspiring, community driven tradition for thousands of Australian families who want to show support for a cause that affects so many.

Seven years ago, Alice Springs joined this national event that has now become a traditional way to start Mother’s Day for many local families, friends, work teams, gyms, schools, and community groups all coming together to get active for breast cancer research. On the day, Alice Springs turns into a sea of pink with participants, volunteers, and local business joining forces to create an experience to remember.

This community event caters to the elite runner wishing to run a personal best time on a well-marked and correctly measured course and also to the people who elect to walk a short lap and raise their arms in triumph under the pink finish arch for a photo memory of their achievement. It’s a relaxed supportive event full of encouragement and fun for all. Participants range from babes in prams to the oldest a spritely 96-year-old, who walked the full distance. The MDC courses are always safe, wheelchair friendly and managed by amazing, crazily attired, and friendly volunteers.

A testament to this event being a valued addition to the Alice Springs community is that we always have ample volunteers who support MDC every year; along with a generous group of local businesses who kindly offer their full support, without question year in year out. With this sponsorship we have many lucky draw prizes, and the event is now recognised for the wonderful breakfast and coffee that everyone is welcome to share, in the beautiful outdoor setting by the finish line. There are many community members who choose not to walk or run but join the event to sit and share stories and comfort over breakfast. Here there is a tribute wall where the names of those in the thoughts of others can be placed. There are fancy predominately pink costumes, loads of flowers, a fun MC, great music and even dancing!

Since its inception MDC has been the largest annual fun run and walk in Alice Springs with between 295 and 500 participants each year. Adhering to all event Covid restrictions this year, Mother’s Day Classic 2021 attracted 390 entrants and raised \$10,000.00 donated directly to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

As organisers of the first Mother’s Day Classic - Alice Springs we aimed to deliver a fun, healthy, all-inclusive, and inspirational community event that would bring people together on Mother’s Day to support and remember those touched by breast cancer.

The event has grown each year and is now a Mother’s Day tradition for many members of our community and we can’t wait to do it all again this Mother’s Day.

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## Centralian Senior Citizen of the Year – Margaret Borger

Margaret came to the Northern Territory in 1964 as a nurse. She worked in Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy before moving to Alice Springs, with her husband and young family.

Margaret supported her children and the activities they were involved in during these years. Girl Guides, Scouts and Rugby were among those to benefit from her support.

Margaret was involved with Community Health Nursing and a highlight of these years was lobbying for and being successful in obtaining funding to build the Santa Theresa Women's Centre. She identified the need, and benefits by providing Aboriginal Women with this type of community facility. Her retirement years have seen her involved with National Seniors, the Over 50's group, community radio and U3A and Holyoake to name just a few.

**National Seniors** - Margaret has been involved with this groups since its formation. She has served on the Committee and undertook the organisation of the very successful National Seniors Expos which was held for several years. She has recently retired from being the Alice Springs National Seniors representative on the NT Seniors Policy Group, a position she has held for many years. This is a Group that takes ideas and information from the NT to the National Level, who then lobby the Federal Government for improvement for services, allowances and changes, to Federal Policy for all seniors. Having Margaret as their representative on this group ensured all Members has the change for input, and Margaret always ensured there was a two-way process of feedback. She is a strong voice for improvement of services and facilities for Alice Springs seniors. She has been a very vocal voice for the establishment of a Seniors Village and has kept members informed of progress for the much-needed housing option for Alice Springs seniors.

**University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (U3A) - Over 50's Group** - Margaret was a founding member of this group and has held several positions on the Committee. She is currently a Committee member. This group manages the Over 50's Club rooms and hold regular outings, guest speakers and all the other wide range of activities offered at the Club rooms,

**Community Radio** - As part of the U3A Committee, Margaret has been an instigator, and hosts an on-line radio program. This gives Margaret an avenue to promote issues of interest to Seniors as well providing music and entertainment.

**Sing Australia** - Margaret has a beautiful singing voice and is a keen contributing member of the Sing Australia Group.

**Holyoake** - Holyoake is an organisation that supports individuals, families and communities who are impacted by alcohol, other drugs and related well- being issues. Margaret was a member and Treasurer from many years. The scope and need of this organisation in Alice Springs were recognised by Margaret as another avenue to assist children, and families.

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This list is not exhaustive, as Margaret has been involved in so many groups and organisations over the years. Margaret has recently become a full-time carer for her husband, but still finds time to volunteer her time. Her whole life has been involved with helping others. She supports any issues that promote family and good healthy lifestyles.

She can relate to a large cross section of people and her great sense of humour and happy disposition makes her a popular person.

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## **Volunteer of the Year – Steven Rogers**

Steve Rogers volunteers to distribute meals-on-wheels for Anglicare.

Though Steve was amputated from one leg and is wearing a prosthesis, he goes to the trouble to walk to your door, gives me the meal with a large smile and usually wishes me a good week-end as he comes on Friday or adds a few nice few words.

All the people who gets delivered meals on wheels by volunteers take the opportunity to acknowledge all of them, who give their time week after week to deliver the meals-on-wheels, but Steve's courage and joviality is very much appreciated.

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