MEDIA RELEASE

"Tireless" Coen advocate named Cook Shire Citizen of the Year

January 26, 2019
COOKTOWN

Coen Indigenous advocate Maureen Liddy was announced as Cook Shire's Australia Day Citizen of the Year at this morning's awards ceremony.

The event, held at Nature's PowerHouse, was attended by a crowd of about 100 despite wet weather and flooding across the region. Ms Liddy, who was unable to attend due to flooding, was described as a "tireless worker, change facilitator and advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Coen and across Cape York" in her nomination. Ms Liddy, who is a team leader at the Apunipima Coen Well-Being Centre, is a major support and volunteer for the annual Conquer the Corrugations Mental Health Awareness walk and won the people's choice "Spirit of the Walk" award in 2018 for her determination to walk the entire 42km event. Ms Liddy is also a driver of the Coen Palliative Care project, a leader at the Coen Women's Support Centre and has previously worked as a Family Responsibilities Commissioner and educator, including as Deputy Principal at Bloomfield school and Principal at Coen and Hope Vale schools.

Also recognised at the ceremony was Young Citizen of the Year Dylan Gilmore, who is an active member of the Cooktown Junior Rugby League Club, first as a player and now as a coach and role model for younger players. The Sports Award went to the Cooktown Junior Rugby League Club, Volunteer of the Year was Marilyn Morris, the Arts and Culture Award went to the Cooktown Historical Society and Councillor Alan Wilson, who was instrumental in bringing in the Container Refund Scheme in Queensland, was the Environment Award recipient.

During the event, locals welcomed new citizens Laura Armstrong and Emma Jackson, who have both been Cook Shire residents for a number of years, and heard from guest speaker Tasman Bain. The crowd also enjoyed a free morning tea and celebrated the Centenary of Cook Shire Council, which fell on January 16, 2019.

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