

Community volunteers to be honoured

Community volunteers who were part of the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfire response will be recognised at a ceremony to be held on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 at Kyogle Council's Roxy Gallery.

Members of the Kyogle Red Cross who were activated during the crisis will be presented with a special citation from the NSW Premier, and volunteers who ran the Community Managed Emergency Evacuation Centres at Kyogle, Woodenbong, Tabulam, Bonalbo and Mallanganee will receive a special award from Kyogle Council.

The citations and awards will be presented to the volunteers by Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland.

"Without our volunteers, we wouldn't have a community," Cr Mulholland said.

"They are the backbone and the heart of our community, swinging into action during times of crisis to protect those more vulnerable than themselves.

"We wouldn't be here without them and we couldn't do without them. They are our champions."

The award-winning Kyogle Community-Managed Action Plan for an Emergency Evacuation Centre was developed in the wake of the 2017 floods when the local Red Cross, Adventist Development Relief Agency, Country Women's Association and Lions Club with support from council staff and other community volunteers had to set up evacuation centres at Woodenbong, Wiangaree and Kyogle.

Kyogle Council's Local Emergency Management Officer Tony Lickiss said the Community Managed Action Plan was initially developed from an idea put forward by community members.

"It has really been a whole-of-community effort," Mr Lickiss said.

"Council is very proud of its involvement in the project and has been inspired by how the community has worked together to develop and implement it."

Mr Lickiss said Council wanted to thank and recognise the efforts made by the Emergency Centre Activation Teams who were there when needed, ready to support their communities.

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