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The General Manager
Eurobodalla Shire Council
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MORUYA NSW 2537

Re: **Nomination of Mark Berry**
Australia Day Awards – Eurobodalla Shire
'Citizen of the Year Award'

Mark Berry from Broulee has been a tireless, dedicated and professional citizen and asset working on many charities and not-for-profit associations for the past eight years in the Eurobodalla region. I wish to nominate him for the above award for the following reasons:

- **Friends of South Care, Eurobodalla Chapter¹:** Following a serious accident on his Broulee property on 25th October 1998, Mark was the first patient for which the Moruya Ambulance service and Hospital called on the newly commissioned assistance of SnowyHydro SouthCare Aeromedical Emergency Rescue service for an emergency retrieval to the Canberra Hospital Intensive care unit. Since his early recovery, Mark has been a strong advocate for the local NSW ambulance service, the Moruya hospital and SouthCare. Soon after his discharge from hospital, and while still in a wheelchair Mark joined and was voted in the inaugural "Chairman" of the Eurobodalla Chapter of "Friends of Southcare" at its inception in 1999. Since then, he has held many active roles on the committee up until this year. Mark has been involved with almost all of the fundraising events from the initial Stuart Diver dinner which in conjunction with his wife Sue was evolved into the annual 'Evening of Note' raising over \$20,000 in 2006. His expertise in marketing and promotion has been integral to the charity's success in gaining a profile within the local community, and raising over \$100,000 to support the ongoing operation of the emergency aero-medical retrieval service over the past 8 years.
- **Eurobodalla Dream and Achieve²:** is a charity which encourages and supports the talented and ambitious young people in our local community who have talent and aims to inspire them, and assist them in fulfilling their dreams by alleviating such obstacles as financial constraints. The first winner of this award was Abby Earl who was selected to attend a UN sponsored event called the Global Young Leaders conference in the USA. Mark has assisted the Dream and Achieve committee since 2005 in the background with the production of an electronic presentation of performer's profiles and website content management.
- **Far South Coast Junior Rugby Union³:** promoting rugby in the whole Eurobodalla region, Mark promotes junior rugby which started out with three registered players in 2003 and now has over 350 junior players involved in a

¹ Ian Duff (04) 2755-7978

² Kris van Schieveen, (04) 1334-0044

³ Mal MacCallum (04) 2068 2650

popular Twilight Rugby competition, along with many other activities supported by the ACT Brumbies organisation. Mark was one of 58 volunteers across Australia who won a national Telstra Community Rugby Award in 2004 and also won the ACT Brumbies Volunteer of the Year award in 2004 for his active and committed efforts to the establishment of Junior Rugby Union on the Far South Coast. In addition, Mark was instrumental in a number of our local junior rugby teams playing curtain raisers to the Brumbies Super 14 matches at Bruce Stadium Canberra and Mark initiated the nomination for a local WallaRugby team which was subsequently selected to play at half time to the Wallabies v Scotland Test match at Telstra Stadium in Sydney. This is an outstanding and non-selfish commitment to the younger members of our community, particularly when Mark does not have any children of his own.

- **Eurobodalla Dressage Association⁴:** working behind the scenes, Mark helped this new association set up a website for their followers enabling Eurobodalla Dressage Association to reach and compete outside of the immediate community and communicate with other regional dressage associations. This led the association, with Mark's assistance to set up databases. One of the main accomplishments was his persistence and resourcefulness in obtaining a software system to run dressage competitions (from England).
- **Dolphins Rugby Club⁵** further spreading his community involvement, Mark is on the committee of the Broulee Dolphins Rugby Club as the media contact and liaison officer. He actively promotes the games, successes, club activities and fundraisers. As most sporting clubs would know, it is these attributes and dedicated committee members that are a necessity to the clubs continued success.
- **Boys Night Out⁶** (prostate cancer community awareness and fundraiser event for Cancer Council NSW and TAFE NSW). Mark was extensively involved in planning, promoting and sourcing funds and involvement from within and outside of the shire to help the students and teachers from the Certificate IV Hospitality Supervision class at Moruya TAFE. His experience in computers, professionalism, exceptional writing and communication skills, extensive contacts and persistence helped students educationally and motivated them to achieve the goals and financial fundraising outcomes they desired. His commitment towards the project enabled the class to raise over \$8500.
- **Helping others achieve their goals:** Mark is a very busy person in our shire who has the heart, intellect and tenacity to help others fulfil their goals and dreams. For example, he helped Sarah Venamore by setting up her website www.equiste.com.au for her to promote her first book of Equestrian and arena exercises called the 'Right Track' and has recently re-vamped it to promote her second book 'Right Track 2'. He has also helped and advised numerous other businesses in our area with his expertise in electronic marketing and website planning and implementation.

Mark [and his wife] are owner/operators of a very successful boutique accommodation business consisting of five architect-designed self-contained short

⁴ Vicki Evans (04) 2871-5133

⁵ John Osborne (04) 1305-2552

⁶ Debbie Pakis (04) 1583-0950

break holiday units in Broulee. Since his accident eight years ago, he continues his rehabilitation and aims to further improve his mobility. He has touched the hearts of many with his dedication to local charitable causes.

He has either directly or indirectly changed the pathways for many casualties through SnowyHydro Southcare, raised the profile of junior rugby, assisted with the lives of prostate cancer sufferers and their families and helped people believe in their goals and achieve their dreams whilst asking for nothing in return. Mark Berry, to those who know him, is a quiet man, 'just happy to help out' and gains satisfaction from being involved in successful and worthwhile projects. He has such a kind way about him where nothing is a problem to him. He is the sort of person that all committees, charities and volunteer associations would want on their team as he not only has great ideas, he follows through on them all, makes promises that he keeps and is one of the most reliable idealists in which his ideas become real and he will never let you down.