

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**7 NOVEMBER 2019**

**Queensland nominees announced for 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Australian of the Year Awards**

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The nominees for the 2020 Queensland Australian of the Year Awards include a travelling greengrocer, cancer researcher, pub choir leader, world-class tennis player and veterinary researcher.

They are among 16 people from Queensland in the running to be named the state's Local Hero, Young Australian, Senior Australian or Australian of the Year as the nation celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awards.

The 2020 Queensland award nominees are:

**2020 QLD Australian of the Year**

Clive Berghofer AM – Philanthropist (Wilsonton)

Dr David Cartwright – Neonatologist (The Gap)

Rachel Downie – Educator and social entrepreneur (Buderim)

Monty Boori Pryor – Story keeper, writer, multi-talented performer (Carlton)

**2020 QLD Senior Australian of the Year**

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Judith Clements AC – Cancer researcher (Woolloongabba)

Peter Dornan AM – Men's health activist (Toowong)

Professor Ian Lowe AO – Environmental scientist (Marcoola)

Dr Peter Reid – Equine veterinary surgeon and researcher (Carseldine)

**2020 QLD Young Australian of the Year**

Ashleigh Barty – Professional tennis player (Springfield)

Mark Halupka – Radio show host (Coopers Plains)

Astrid Jorgensen – Pub Choir founder (Lutwyche)

Luke Yokota – Men's nursing advocate (Carina Heights)

**2020 QLD Local Hero**

Adjunct Assistant Professor Nick Marshall – Founder, Albatross Nippers (Mermaid Waters)

Fari Rameshfar – Travelling greengrocer (Tolga)

Tiffany Spary – Homelessness activist and social enterprise founder (East Toowoomba)

Craig Tobin – Swimmer, coach, mentor (Mackenzie)

*\*see bios on following pages*

The nominees are among 128 people being recognised across all states and territories as part of the program, which began in 1960.

The four award recipients from Queensland will be announced on the evening of Monday 11 November 2019 at a ceremony at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

They will then join the other state and territory recipients for the national awards ceremony at the National Arboretum in Canberra on 25 January 2020.

National Australia Day Council CEO Karlie Brand said the Queensland nominees were leaders in their fields and in the community.

“The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Australian of the Year Awards is a particularly special time to be nominated,” said Ms Brand.

“The 2020 Queensland nominees represent the incredible diversity of Queenslanders and their contribution to our nation and our communities.”

For more information on the Australian of the Year Awards visit [australianoftheyear.org.au](http://australianoftheyear.org.au).

**ENDS.**

Nominee bios attached with this media release or can be viewed from [australianoftheyear.org.au](http://australianoftheyear.org.au).

Nominee photos can be downloaded from [australianoftheyear.org.au](http://australianoftheyear.org.au).

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## **Biographies – nominees, 2020 QLD Australian of the Year Awards**

### **Category: QLD Australian of the Year**

#### **Clive Berghofer AM**

##### **Philanthropist**

*Lives:* Wilsonton

Clive Berghofer AM thinks the wealthy should use their money to benefit others – and to encourage them, he's leading by example. The Toowoomba-based property developer recently donated \$50.1 million to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research – which at the time was the single largest donation on record in Australia, and just one of his many donations. Other recipients of Clive's generosity include The Cancer Research Centre at QIMR, Lifeflight, Red Cross, St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba Hospice and the University of Southern Queensland. A self-made man, Clive left school aged just 13 after a struggle with dyslexia – a condition then not properly understood. Despite never having read a book, Clive is among Queensland's wealthiest men – and one of Australia's leading philanthropists. In 2006, Clive was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to the community, through his philanthropic support of medical research, sport and educational organisations. His greatest wish is for more wealthy Australians to follow suit.

#### **Dr David Cartwright**

##### **Neonatologist**

*Lives:* The Gap

For more than 35 years, Dr David Cartwright has saved countless premature babies' lives, providing exceptional care while they spend up to the first six months of their lives in hospital. As former director of neonatology at the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital, David's work in the neonatal intensive care unit, caring for some of Queensland's sickest babies, has contributed to extraordinary advances in treating premature births. David helped establish of the Australian and New Zealand Neonatal Network (ANZNN) in 1994 – a collaborative network monitoring high-risk newborn and infant care by pooling data to provide quality assurance. Now retired, he still voluntarily assists some hospitals with their ANZNN data collection and submission. David is credited by many grateful parents for saving their babies' lives. Quietly, patiently and kindly, David has spent his career caring for precious new lives, bringing comfort and support to distressed parents, and educating innumerable junior doctors and nurses – making him admired and loved by many.

#### **Rachel Downie**

##### **Educator and social entrepreneur**

*Lives:* Buderim

Twenty-five years ago, Rachel Downie became an educator to help young people flourish. After losing a Year 9 student to suicide, Rachel decided she needed to find a way to support young people to say something when things aren't right. She discovered students often felt too frightened to come forward with possible life-saving information, because of peer expectations. This led Rachel to developing and self-funding Stymie – an old-fashioned word for stop – to allow students to anonymously report harm without fear. Rachel developed Stymie with extensive consultation and help from students and educators. Since 2014 she has presented Stymie to more than 300,000 students nationally. Implemented nationally and internationally, students are using Stymie to report family violence, bullying, cyber-bullying, depression, illegal activity, harassment, self-harm, and harm to their communities. In 2018, Stymie schools received more than 40,000 notifications from concerned students, empowering them to use their empathy and conscience to report harm, and further a culture of care in their schools.

#### **Monty Boori Pryor**

##### **Story keeper, writer and multi-talented performer**

*Lives:* Carlton

For more than two decades, Monty Boori Pryor has told stories about finding strength within. A descendant of the Kungganji and Birri-Gubba nations, Monty is a multi-talented performer, didgeridoo player, basketball player, writer and story keeper. Monty has shared his passion for literacy and knowledge of Aboriginal storytelling around Australia, Europe and Asia. He has performed solo didgeridoo with the Brisbane Symphony Orchestra and worked in film, television, modelling, sport, music and theatre-in-education. Monty has written six award-winning books, and was named one of two inaugural Australian Children's Laureates in 2012. He helped create a short film about the importance of storytelling, *Brown Paper Bag*. Meanwhile, his story of transitioning into his role of story keeper was made into the international Emmy-nominated film, *Wrong Kind of Black*. With passion, vigour and commitment,

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Monty creates a reconciliatory vision of Australia's past, present and future. Through sharing his experience of living in two worlds, he helps create greater harmony, understanding and unity.

## **Category: QLD Senior Australian of the Year**

### **Distinguished Professor Emeritus Judith Clements AC**

#### **Cancer researcher**

*Lives:* Woolloongabba

An internationally recognised biomedical researcher, Distinguished Professor Emeritus Judith Clements AC has brought hope to people with cancer, and created a visionary pathway for future scientists to understand and treat cancer. Judith has significantly contributed to both prostate and ovarian cancer research, and to developing associated research infrastructure and capability in Australia. For this work, she was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia in 2015. A collaborative leader, Judith has set up key research programs that aim to understand the molecular and cellular basis for the development, progression, and spread of prostate cancer to other tissues. This research has provided potential new diagnostic, prognostic biomarkers and therapeutic targets for prostate cancer, and led to a greater understanding of the way prostate cancer progresses. Judith is co-founder and, until recently, Chair of the Australian Prostate Cancer Bio-Resource, a national biobank for research. She was named a Queensland Great in 2019.

### **Peter Dornan AM**

#### **Men's health activist**

*Lives:* Toowong

Following a prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment, and after experiencing depression, incontinence and other side effects, sports medicine physiotherapist Peter Dornan AM put an ad in the newspaper, inviting fellow patients to meet. Since then, he has supported men diagnosed with prostate cancer. Peter's commitment to helping men share experiences and seek support has helped create a culture change in the treatment management for men with prostate cancer. Receiving a grant to research incontinence – a common consequence in men after prostate cancer treatment – he designed a successful program to treat the condition, and published a book used across Australian prostate cancer support groups. He also developed a nationally and internationally recognised program for managing patients with pelvic pain. Peter is a director of the Board of the Cancer Council of Queensland, for which he has helped raised significant funds. A successful writer and sculptor, he took up mountain climbing after prostate cancer recovery, successfully scaling Mount Kilimanjaro at age 60.

### **Professor Ian Lowe AO**

#### **Environmental scientist**

*Lives:* Marcoola

For more than 40 years, Professor Ian Lowe AO has shared his passion for environmental science with his community. He has spent his professional life as professor of science, technology and society at Griffith University in Brisbane, and is an adjunct professor at Sunshine Coast University and Flinders University. Ian has worked extensively on climate change research and action. He headed the Australian Conservation Foundation from 2004–2014, and is patron of Sustainable Population Australia. He was a referee for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, and attended the Geneva, Kyoto and Copenhagen climate change conferences. He has also advised local, state and federal governments. Ian is widely published, with books including *Living in the Hothouse* and *The Lucky Country? Reinventing Australia*. He has received numerous awards, including being made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2001 for services to science, technology, and the environment. His humour, intelligence and humility inspires everyone fortunate enough to hear him speak.

### **Dr Peter Reid**

#### **Equine veterinary surgeon and researcher**

*Lives:* Carseldine

Brisbane equine veterinary surgeon Dr Peter Reid has dedicated himself to engaging and educating the equine community, fellow veterinarians and scientists, on the deadly Hendra virus, which can be passed from horses to humans. A highly respected vet, practicing since 1974, Peter is admired by the equine community. He has built strong links with Australian and overseas scientists and researchers, to understand and combat lethal viral diseases in horses. Peter successfully lobbied the Commonwealth and State governments to fund the crucial Hendra virus horse vaccine challenge trials, at the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory. His published works include collaborative scientific papers into Hendra and Nipah virus animal vaccines, and Australian bat lyssavirus,

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which can also be passed to humans. He also collaborates with the Burnett Mary Regional Group, which helps manage natural resources in that region. In addition, Peter represents the Australian Veterinary Association researching the role of horses as potential sentinels for emerging zoonotic viral infections that cause encephalitis.

## **Category: QLD Young Australian of the Year**

### **Ashleigh Barty**

#### **Professional tennis player**

*Lives:* Springfield

Ipswich-born professional tennis player Ashleigh (Ash) Barty inspires legions of fans with her dynamic tennis game, formidable serve and down-to-earth attitude. The former cricketer and teen tennis champion is ranked the world's number one singles tennis player by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) – only the second Australian WTA singles number one after Evonne Goolagong Cawley. As an adult, Ash has won six singles titles on the WTA Tour, including one Grand Slam singles title at the 2019 French Open. She also sits in the top 20 of doubles players, and was a doubles runner up for the Australian Open at the age of just 16. She achieved one Grand Slam doubles title at the 2018 US Open with partner CoCo Vandeweghe. Ash also delighted fans around the world with her calm good-humoured acceptance of just missing out on reaching the 2019 Wimbledon quarter-finals. A First Nations woman, Ash serves as the National Indigenous Tennis Ambassador for Tennis Australia.

### **Mark Halupka**

#### **Radio show host**

*Lives:* Coopers Plains

Mark Halupka is the host of a disability sports radio show in Brisbane. After spending a lot of time as a child listening to the radio, he was determined to pursue his dream of becoming a radio presenter. While Mark has severe cerebral palsy and relies on the use of a wheelchair and communication devices, he never gave up on his passion. He found a position helping on a disability radio show and, within 10 years, launched his very own program. 'Markability' provides a platform for top athletes of all abilities to share their stories, helping disability sports to enter the mainstream. Even though he is unable to play sports himself, Mark aims to empower and motivate others to push the limits and reach for goals that might be considered inaccessible. Mark also visits community groups that nurture athletic ability, shining a light on the work they do in supporting people to achieve their dreams.

### **Astrid Jorgensen**

#### **Pub Choir founder**

*Lives:* Lutwyche

Founder and director of the community music initiative and social media sensation Pub Choir, Astrid Jorgensen uses her love of singing and community and her extensive social media presence to make a difference. At each Pub Choir event, Astrid brings together a crowd of strangers to learn and perform a popular song in three-part harmonies. The unique performance is filmed and shared widely on social media. In just two years, Pub Choir has raised over \$160,000 for multiple charities, including Love Your Sister, MND & Me, Second Chance Program, Black Rainbow, Red House, OzHarvest, Share The Dignity, Children's Ground, and Veterans Off The Street Australia (VOTSA). Driven by the belief that singing belongs to everyone, Astrid is revolutionising the concept of the choir. She is also passionate about diversity, especially female and First Nations people representation. Astrid uses her role as a leader to create a vibrant community and positively influence others through the joy of group singing.

### **Luke Yokota**

#### **Men's nursing advocate**

*Lives:* Carina Heights

After visiting his grandfather's aged care residence, Luke Yokota decided to study to become a registered nurse and started volunteering at the home. But when he told his grandfather about his plans, Luke was surprised and disappointed by his negative reaction to Luke's career choice. Now working in Queensland's Princess Alexandra Hospital in the intensive care unit (ICU), Luke has become a passionate advocate for diversity in nursing – a profession where men currently make up just 10 per cent of the workforce. Luke spends much of his time outside work in the ICU as a sessional tutor and lab instructor, supporting nursing undergraduates and medical students. As chair of the Men in Nursing Working Party, he works tirelessly to increase the awareness of men in nursing and address the barriers and negative perceptions they face when entering the profession. Luke's effort to inspire men to choose a caring profession includes writing and collating articles for an eBook about men and nursing, and public speaking.

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## **Category: QLD Local Hero**

### **Adjunct Assistant Professor Nick Marshall Founder, Albatross Nippers**

*Lives:* Mermaid Waters

Sports and musculoskeletal physiotherapist, Adjunct Assistant Professor Nick Marshall, has a passion for ensuring those with special needs and disability are included in the community. An advocate for increased participation in surf lifesaving activities for many years, in 2015 Nick created the Albatross Nippers – an all-inclusive Nipper program at Nobbys Beach, helping children with special needs experience nippers with other children of similar ages. The program has expanded to multiple Gold Coast beaches. In 2019, Nick's Albatross Nippers became the first group of special needs children in history to participate in a surf lifesaving carnival and competition. Nick has also liaised with his local city council to install beach matting and free beach wheelchair access, and was instrumental in designing the online Surf Lifesaving Australia special needs module, teaching clubs across Australia to better interact, engage and develop programs at their beach. Motivated solely by the desire to create a better, more engaged community, Nick's volunteer work inspires the Gold Coast community.

### **Fari Rameshfar Travelling greengrocer**

*Lives:* Tolga

People living in outback Queensland are vulnerable to missing out on fresh fruit and vegetables – especially during times of drought, cyclone and flood. So, it's no surprise that those living in outback towns and on cattle stations in the north-west and far north of Queensland are so happy when Fari Rameshfar's travelling fruit truck arrives each fortnight. For more than 30 years, the much-loved greengrocer has driven his refrigerated truck, through all weathers, to deliver fresh food to people living in remote Queensland. Fari, a qualified aircraft engineer, migrated from Iran to Australia in 1973, moving to the Atherton tablelands from Melbourne with his wife Ivy in 1983, to bring up their two children. A member of the Baha'i faith, Fari travels up to 2,000 kilometres each fortnight to deliver his quality fruit and vegetables – and even treats for children living in the outback. Fari is known and admired throughout the outback for kindness, friendship and service to isolated Australians.

### **Tiffany Spary Homelessness activist and social enterprise founder**

*Lives:* East Toowoomba

Social worker Tiffany Spary is the heart and soul of Base Services, a not-for-profit organisation that helps people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Toowoomba. Base Services provides lunch, food packs, hygiene items, clothing, towels, a listening ear, and access to vital support services. In 15 years, Tiffany's efforts have taken Base Services from a small soup kitchen to a major community hub for people in need. As well as feeding more than 80 people daily, the centre provides social-work services for people who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness, ex-service people and people with health issues, addictions, behavioural issues, or trauma. In 2016, Tiffany founded 2nd Shot, a social enterprise helping people exit homelessness through training, employment and other support. Since February 2017, 2nd Shot has trained, housed and created purpose for over 80 participants. A compassionate and humble leader, most of Tiffany's work is voluntarily. Her selfless efforts have inspired her team and her community.

### **Craig Tobin Swimmer, coach and mentor**

*Lives:* Mackenzie

After competing in the pool from the age of nine at state and national levels, Craig Tobin has continued his passion for swimming. In his spare time, he voluntarily coaches Down Syndrome and Special Olympics swimmers, volunteering more than 6,000 hours over the past 10 years. His contribution includes coaching these athletes to state, national and international levels – and helping improve the quality of their lives as a result. Previously running free, community-based swimming programs for refugee high-school children and other minority groups in his area, Craig now volunteers his annual leave to attend national and international swim meets. He also attends three Down Syndrome World Championships each year as a team coach. Craig has built a solid reputation nationally and internationally as a highly respected coach for Down Syndrome and Special Olympics swimmers. His coaching extends to teaching swimmers valuable life skills, like self-respect, self-control, teamwork, dedication and commitment – empowering them to become active, valued members of their community.

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