



press clip

Australia Day 'best ever'

STORY: Karisa McCauley

PRIDE was in the air, mingled with the scent of freshly cooked donuts, at the Ulladulla Milton Lion's Club Australia Day celebrations at Mollymook Beach Reserve.

Hundreds of locals and visitors alike took time to celebrate all things Aussie at the annual event, with large crowds throughout

the day.

Despite early morning weather worries, the day cleared and the celebrations went off without a hitch.

Lions Club publicity officer Elaine Smith said the day was possibly the best yet organised by the Lions Club.

"We were all rapt in the day," Elaine said.

"I think most Lion's members were flat chat throughout the day but it all came together really well.

"I think it was even better than last year - and we all said last year was our best so far."

Numbers were strong throughout the day and large crowds turned out to watch the entertainment from the Times Lions Youth

Music Scholarship finalists, the official addresses and the annual awards ceremony.

"We had additional shaded areas set up this year and many people sat and watched the entertainment throughout the day," Elaine said.

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"THERE was a great atmosphere across the day."

Mollymook's Australia Day ambassador, Sky News presenter Jacinta Tynan received a positive response with her inspiring address.

Jacinta spoke not only of her own life as a news reader and mother but of her role with the Sister2Sister foundation.

As a mentor with the Sister2Sister foundation, Jacinta has seen first hand the positive role people can play in others' lives and encouraged the crowd to give back where they can.

Crowds swelled for the annual Lion's Citizen, Young Citizen and Organisation of the Year awards with local youth advocate Liz O'Connell claiming the

top award.

Shoalhaven Anglican School graduate Mitch Barclay was named the Young Citizen of the Year while the volunteers from the State Emergency Service were celebrated as the Organisation of the Year.

Talented pianist Josiah Fajardo took out the Times Lions Youth Music Scholarship \$2,000 prize.

Swearing their allegiance to Australia in a ceremony conducted by Shoalhaven mayor Paul Green were new citizens Andriana Cuevas, George Stoddart, Ross Whitty and Alison, Grace, Bethanie and Peter Barr.

Also adding to the day were displays by the Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club, the Milton Ulladulla Vintage and Classic Car Club, Rural Fire Service and dozens of market stalls.



AUSSIE ICON: Tayla, Brooke, Tammy Bunyan, Barry and Chip Russell of Burrill Lake with Aussie car icon 1964 EH Holden. **PHOTO:** Kate Ryan.