Australia Day is done and dusted for another year and once again we saw a great day of celebrations around our municipality. It was great to see a good turnout for our ceremony in Gutteridge Gardens, where I had the honour of presenting the Australia Day awards. Congratulations to Douglass Doherty who was announced as Citizen of the Year, while the Young Citizen of the Year went to Jobi Starick and the Community Event of the Year to the Gone Nuts 101 Adventure Run. There were a number of great nominees across the different categories and while it’s not possible for everyone to win an award; you’re all winners in my eyes. Well done and keep up the great work. I’d also like to give a mention to the Council staff and volunteers responsible for organising Australia Day events; it would not be possible without them.

I know there will be people wondering when the carpark and civic space planned for Goldie Street in Wynyard will start to take shape and I’m pleased to report that Council intends to complete site clearing ready for the car park construction in mid to late February. Construction of the through road to link the carpark from Hogg Street to Jackson Street, including pedestrian access, will start immediately after site clearing. The remainder of the car park construction will be done after the through road so that impact upon businesses in the immediate area is kept to a minimum.

If you’re looking for something to do this weekend, the Salvation Army is holding a fashion parade fundraiser for Huntington’s Disease on Saturday night. The event is on at 11 Dodgin Street from 5.30pm and is $20 a ticket. All are welcome to attend.