I would like to thank the Waratah-Wynyard community for supporting last year’s combined charities Christmas collection. Hosted at the Wonders of Wynyard Information Centre, the collection had an excellent response that went onto benefit many local families. Thank you to the individuals and service clubs who volunteered their time or gifts in support, and thank you also to the sponsors of this great initiative. How privileged we all are to live in such a wonderful caring and supportive community!

Yesterday I had the privilege of awarding the Australian Day Awards at Richard Gutteridge Gardens. Richard Lewis was named as our Citizen of the Year, Angus Thomson as our Young Citizen of the Year, and the Boat Harbour Craft Group International Women’s Day Event as our Community Event of the Year. All three are very worthy recipients and I congratulate them on their achievements. Four new citizens were also welcomed on the day, while our guest speaker Brian Ritchie delighted the crowd with his enthusiasm for his new found home. I was also delighted to present a cheque for $3969.40 to beyondblue as a result of funds raised at the Bloomin’ Tulips Festival Colour Run and again would like to thank all the participants of last year’s Colour Run for helping raise these funds for this very worthy cause. Thank you to those who attended and supported this annual event.