

Mayor's Inspirational Award 2019

Australia Day Awards Ceremony - Wasleys

It is with great pleasure that I introduce a new Council initiative being a Mayors Inspirational Award aimed to recognise inspirational individuals of the highest level within our region. This Award is very special and will only be presented when an outstanding example of inspiration is brought to Councils attention. The Mayor in conjunction with Council Members will then decide the recipient(s)

This year Council acknowledge the following outstanding members of our community and the recipients are:

Former Wasleys Resident : Mr Terry Lee

Freeling Police Officer: Bereft Sgt Dave Byrne

Please give them a warm welcome to this ceremony....

Mr Terry Lee

2019 Mayor's Inspirational Award

Terry is a 69 year old Vietnam Veteran having served 20 years in the Australian Army. Terry has been married to his wife, Moira, for 41 years and they have three children and four grandchildren.

They lived in this small rural town of Wasleys prior to the horrific Pinery Fire that changed their lives. In November 2015 Terry and Moira were caught in the Pinery Fires, that on the 25th November 2015 swept through our region with the loss of two lives and injuring many others, 88 homes and untold damage to property. In the ensuing chaos as the fire swept toward the town, Terry and Moria were in separate vehicles heading toward the Daveyston Road. Moria lost contact and turned around in the thick smoke that blacked the sky, Terry unaware of this kept going.

As a result being caught in the fire, Terry suffered horrific burns and other injuries to 75% of his body, including his lungs and spent 3½ months in ICU, at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the following 9 months in the Burns Unit and Hampstead Rehabilitation Hospital. Terry is now undertaking ongoing rehabilitation programs.

The moment this terrible incident took place, Terry's life had been turned upside down almost everything he enjoyed physically just disappeared and the emotional roller coaster begun. Today, Terry struggles to complete some daily tasks most of

us take for granted, like getting dressed or making a cup of tea. But we are assured he's up for any challenge ahead..

However rather than dwell on his misfortune and feeling sorry for himself, Terry has vowed to relish the time spent with his caring wife Moria and acknowledged that without the loving care and support of Moria and his family he would be in a very direct place right now. His fondest memory since the fire was walking his daughter Heather down the aisle in September last year..

Terry doesn't dwell on his misfortune and enjoys talking with people, individuals and groups because he believes in some small way this may help encourage other people who have life changing injuries that are trying to navigate a pathway through their disability.

He is now living at home with Moira, close to the beach where he regularly walks. His recovery has been remarkable and is a testament to his strength of character and the expert medical care he has received at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. It should be noted however, Terry has received no compensation for his injuries...

Terry! Your amazing positive attitude to life and willingness to help and be a role model to others, despite the adversity the confronts you, is an inspiration to us all and those unfortunate folk who struggle with chronic injuries and severe disabilities making you a most deserving recipient of the first Light Regional Council Mayors's Inspirational Award..You are an absolute hero!

There is another chapter to this story and it's with pleasure I introduce Councillor Mark Frankcom to say a few words and present an Award to Dave Bryne... Welcome Mark and Dave!...