

11 June 2015

**GROUNDSWELL GLOUCESTER CELEBRATES OAM**

Mrs Julie Lyford has been awarded an OAM for her services to the Gloucester community. Julie's Award recognises her selfless dedication to advancing all areas of life in Gloucester.

Mayor John Rosenbaum said: "It is wonderful to see due recognition given to a woman who has contributed so much to our community over many years not only as Councillor and Mayor, but as a dedicated citizen."

Julie's wide-ranging contributions to Gloucester over the last 29 years, to name several:

Gloucester Shire Council Mayor, 2007-2009  
Deputy Mayor, 1999-2000; Councillor 1995- 2012  
Chairperson, Youth Advisory Committee, 1996-2009  
Chairperson, Tourism Advisory Committee, 1998-2012  
Chairperson, Hunter Councils, 2009; Representative, 1995-2009  
Chair, Groundswell Gloucester, since 2012; Convener, Inaugural NSW Coal and Coal Seam Gas Community Conference, 2012  
Vice Chair, The Gloucester Project, current; Organiser, Farm Gate, ongoing  
Foundation Member, Gloucester Environment Group, since 1989  
Founding Member/Committee, Gloucester Arts Council Inc. since 1999  
Founding Member/Committee, Gloucester Gallery, since 2000  
(See attachment for complete list)

The OAM recognises all these contributions as well as Julie's most recent role as Chair of Groundswell, through which Julie seeks to protect the Gloucester community and its sustainable future from damage threatened by AGL's coal seam gas field and excessive expansion of coal mining.

On hearing of the award, Julie's thoughts immediately turned to the friends, neighbours and colleagues who stand with her. "Gloucester is a wonderful community and always will be. People make a place. For me this has truly been the only place I really call home, which is why it has been a pleasure and an honour to have been part of positive teams of wonderful people who love this valley." Julie said.

"Having migrated from England at the age of 18, I have always felt indebted to Australia for giving me such a safe, fascinating and diverse lifestyle where opportunities are there if you want to work for them. I shall always feel so lucky that I had the opportunity to make the choice to come to this country, indeed it is my gratitude that has driven me to give back to the community in whatever way is productive."

"It is really important that we continue to stand up and defend our beautiful Gloucester valley, protect the health of our community and safeguard the future of our water and lands. I look forward to working with and standing alongside the many Gloucester and Manning Valley residents who are the real champions of the future." Julie said.

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