



Proud Aussies awarded

By Stacey Post

HER name might be on the medal and certificate, but Chris Rogers believes her Australia Day Citizen of the Year award goes to the three groups she has been involved with for the past 30 years.

Mrs Rogers said she was "overwhelmed" and "started to cry" when Muswellbrook Shire councillor Michael Valentine announced her as the 2012 Muswellbrook citizen of the year.

Young Citizen School Achiever was awarded to St Joseph's Aberdeen year 12 student Gordon Akauma.

The honour went to Mrs Rogers for her tireless contribution to the Upper Hunter Eisteddfod, Girl Guides and the Muswellbrook Baptist Church.

Mrs Rogers was president of the Upper Hunter Eisteddfod for six years and a

volunteer from 2008 until today.

The Girl Guides has been a true love for her having been leader from 1991 to 2011 and is today a district leader, a title she first received in 2008.

The Muswellbrook Baptist Church has also played a key role in Mrs Rogers life for the 30 years her and her family have called Muswellbrook home.

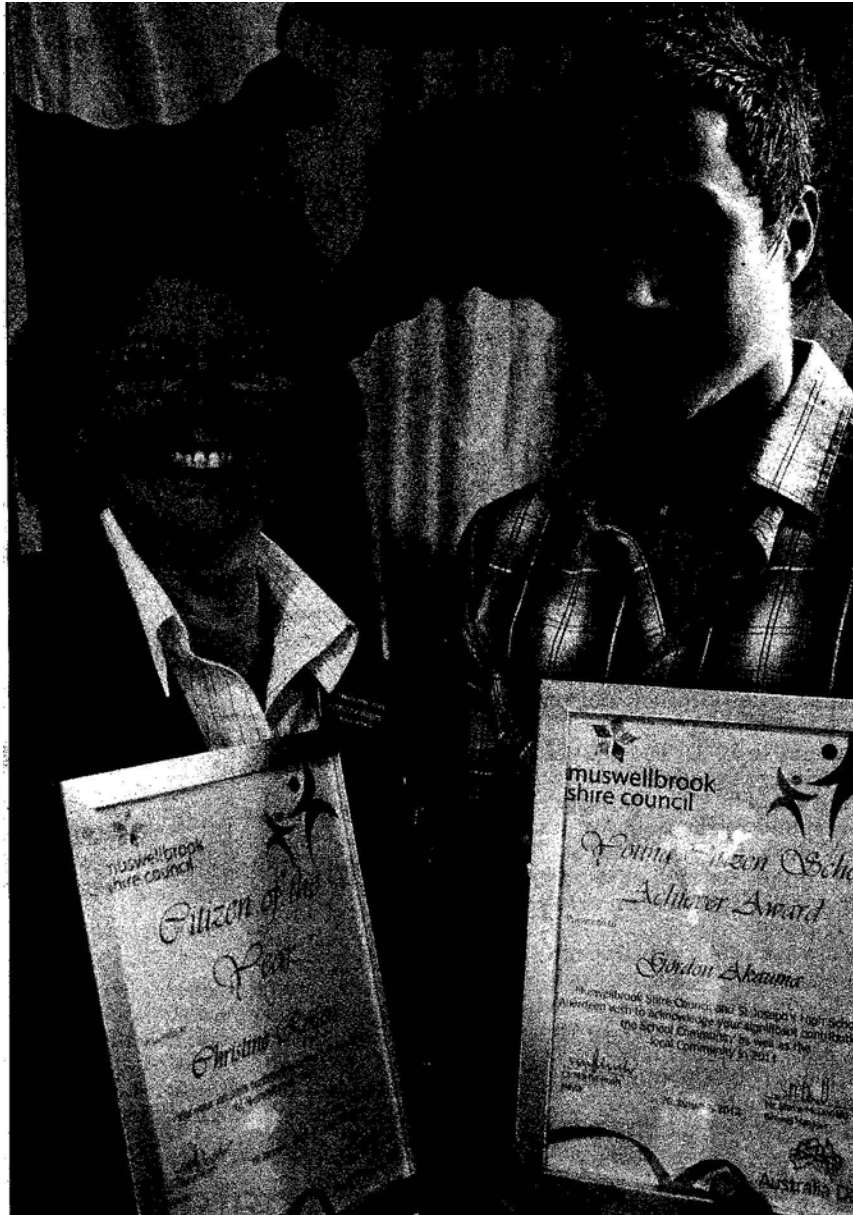
On top of all these outstanding achievements, Mrs Rogers has also been a member of the Upper Hunter Hall of Fame and the working party for Campbell's Corner.

Mrs Rogers, who still does not know who nominated her for the award, was very humbled by her win.

"Heck, I don't deserve it," she said.

"I am just a representative for all the organisations I am in.

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PROUD: Muswellbrook, meet your 2012 Australia Day Citizens of the Year. Recognised for their contribution to the community are Citizen of the Year recipient Chris Rogers and Young Citizen School Achiever Gordon Akauma.

Proud Aussies awarded at ceremony

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"I am taking this award of behalf of the guides, the eisteddfod and the church.

"I've seen this ceremony since it started and I always admire the people that received the award because they are truly worthy winners.

"Now I am one of them."

Student Gordon Akauma beamed a huge smile when he was announced Muswellbrook's young citizen for 2012.

Watching Gordon receive the honour was his family, mother Kristine Smith, sisters Clare and Isabel and grandparents George and Judy Smith.

Gordon said his family were extremely proud of his achievements, although he remained modest about taking out the prestigious award.

"I feel helping out where I can is just the right thing to do.

"It's about giving back to the community and I want to give back wherever I can."

Gordon's teachers put together his nomination which recognised his achievements to the community by participating in the last six Anzac marches, being the chair for the Allstars activity week and helping raise funds for St Vincent de Paul.

Academically, Gordon has shone as a student, he was president of the school representative council in



HONOUR: Citizen of the Year Chris Rogers was recognised for 30 years of dedication to Girl Guides, the Upper Hunter Eisteddfod and the Muswellbrook Baptist Church.

2011 as well as sports house captain and administration group leader, he was also awarded the Principal's Gold Award for outstanding contribution to the school and wider community.

Gordon is also a keen sports person representing in basketball and rugby league, including attending a flood relief charity trip to Queensland with the Muswellbrook Rams rugby league team last year.

Seven Muswellbrook residents were nominated for the Citizen of the Year Award including Iris Spittles, Jennifer Kershaw, Norman Jones, De-Anne Douglas, John Tobin and Chris Blackman.