

Mum Megan wins Citizen of the Year



Megan Wray, known to many as “Mum”, with her horse Bert. Megan was honoured yesterday with an Australia Day award.

PONIES across the Fraser Coast are said to have given an extra snort and tail flick yesterday as their riders told them: “Mum Megan” made it big time on Australia Day.

Even Bertie the “crippled like me” old horse wandered up from the far paddock for a bit of enthusiastic mutual face chewing with Mum Megan Wray.

Gin Gin Megan was named Bundaberg’s Citizen of the Year and that was a mega blue ribbon win but by 6pm yesterday when Bundaberg mayor Lorraine Pyefinch presented her with the prestigious award in Lions Club in North Bundaberg, the 59-year-old many call “Mum” still hadn’t come to grips with the news.

Among the state’s most popular pony club leaders and the Fraser Coast’s number one trainer and judge of pony riders, Megan spent the day being “teary”.

“I’m a bit overwhelmed,” the woman who has given 23 years to pony clubs, councils and other community causes and projects said.

“Megan has been involved in all facets of local community for over 30 years,” the mayor said.

“She’s been a councillor in the Kolan Shire Council, president of Gin Gin Chamber of Commerce, director of Bundaberg Regional Development Board, foundation member of Gin Gin Community Alliance; volunteer trainer for Family Services and Qld Health and is actively involved in Pony Club and Riding for the Disabled.

“Megan, along with all our winners, is a fitting ambassador for our region and treasured member of our community.”

The English-born mother of two, who came to Gin Gin from Brisbane 35 years ago with her prize black Jersey cow, Bunyaris Dreaming Carnation, and settled into farm management, is now vice-president of the Pony Clubs Association Queensland, our regional director of coaching and our zone chief instructor for pony clubs.

She spends much of her voluntary work between Tiaro, Biggenden, Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

“I just love people, love horses, love ponies” and of course love my partner, Trevor Ryan.

“I put this great honour down to the wonderful people I work with.”