



2019 *Australia Day*

- Young Citizen of the Year -

Our youth are our hope for the future. This Award recognises the achievements of young people and the valuable contribution they make to the local community. It should also serve to inspire other young people to take action in their communities.

Our Young Citizen for 2019 is working towards shaping his own bright future.

Finishing his studies in 2018, he is now looking to establish a career in agriculture. He has always shown great interest in this field, and in 2015 his vision to establish his own merino stud became a reality.

He has a highly developed sense of social and environmental sustainability, which has the potential to bring about a meaningful change in our society.

At the November, 2018 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Awards in Orange, he was presented with the Young Legends Environmental Award, under the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Award.

Some comments from the judges included:

- *He is a very active and engaged young person in the community; and*
- *He is a role model for young people.*

During his time at Finley High School, he was a member of the Leadership Group, and was very active in the School's Timor Immersion Programme. The prime focus of this experience is to raise funds to assist with basic health requirements such as first aid, dental, water quality and education.

He is an active member of the Jerilderie Football Club, commencing his playing career in 2010. He is a contributor both on and off the field. He has also represented Finley High in Swan Shield and represented the Picola Football League in interleague competition.

He is the current captain of the Jerilderie Cricket Club B Grade team.

Tonight's winner is an inspiring and hard-working young citizen, who is determined to actively work towards creating a more dynamic rural community.

He is a terrific young man, and his family and the Jerilderie community can be justifiably proud of him.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in presenting to you the **2019 Young Citizen of the Year ...**

- Mitchell A'Vard -