

Source: Daily Liberal, 9 June 2008

Queen's Birthday honour for our Wally

Champagne corks are popping for high profile community worker Wally Flynn who has received an Order of Australia Medal in today's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Mr Flynn gained recognition for long-time service to Dubbo through the airline industry, Northcott Society and a range of business, sporting and service organisations.

A proud but humble Mr Flynn said he felt sick for weeks after receiving the official letter.

"It's was probably all the excitement. I never, ever expected an OAM.

"From an early age my wonderful parents taught me to love and respect family, live life to the fullest and always give back to the community.

"I've followed that advice to the letter, never expecting reward or recognition.

"I am enormously thankful to my wife Shirley and children Nicky and Tony who have always been supportive of my community involvement.

"No one person can succeed in any venture without a good team around them and I feel privileged to have worked with so many fabulous people over many years."

Mr Flynn's community service began during childhood in his home town of Barraba. His father, Walter, was a dynamic merchant, leading citizen and mayor who took young Wally everywhere, including to civic events.

"I did everything from chipping in during official speeches and ribbon cuttings to chopping wood to keep pensioners warm during winter.

"Mum and Dad were great role models and I only wish they were still with me today to share in the joy and excitement of the OAM."

A born communicator, Mr Flynn established a great rapport with the public during decades as manager of Western Stores, Myer and Grace Bros.

He went on to become western regional manager for Hazelton Airlines and in 2004 was appointed honorary ambassador for Regional Express Airlines.

A Paul Harris Fellow, Rotarian of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year and Emile Serisier Roll of Honour member, Mr Flynn has been actively involved in countless charities and everything from sporting clubs and community groups to beautification and development committees.

“I’ve tried to help wherever there was a need by organising a street parade or charity drive or getting involved in a committee,” he said.

“On countless occasions free air tickets were organised for people in urgent need. A special case that springs to mind involved a family out west devastated by a house fire.

“One of the children was badly burned and needed to be taken to Sydney for treatment. The parents didn’t have a bob to bless themselves so I quietly arranged tickets for the mum and dad and five children.”

Mr Flynn helped raise more than \$70,000 for the community through the Macquarie Rotary “charity wheel”.

He is particularly proud of his association with the Mrs NSW Quest, organised to raise money for crippled children.

He nominated and supported Marilyn Carr who went on to win the Australia title and subsequent State winners Jenny Hanrahan, Jill Innes and Dale Wykes.



Wally Flynn has been recognised for his long-time service to Dubbo with an Order of Australia Medal.