



**Moyne Shire**  
**2017 Australia Day**  
**Citizen of the Year Award**  
**Citation – Paul Sheehan**

**The Citizen of the Year Award acknowledges outstanding service and contribution over a number of years given by an individual to their local community.**

It is conservatively estimated that Paul Sheehan has been primarily responsible for injecting more than one million dollars' worth of funds into various sporting bodies within Port Fairy over the last forty years, as well as over two hundred thousand dollars to local health charities. And if this wasn't enough, he is also the undisputed Australian Potato Picking Champion with a 'hat trick' of titles.!

He has also contributed tens of thousands of hours of his own time – all completely voluntary – to improve sport administration and facilities within his Port Fairy.

Paul first became involved in the Port Fairy Cricket club in 1978 when the club was almost financially insolvent. He apparently said "he would give it a go for a year" and has since served 38 consecutive seasons. By the end of his first year the club was back on its feet financially. Over the next six seasons they won a division two premiership and were promoted back to division one. He was granted life membership in his twelfth year and in his eighteenth year oversaw the move from the Gardens Oval to the Southcombe Park Sporting Complex.

In his thirtieth year he had the whimsical idea of raising the clubrooms and building dedicated change-rooms beneath. He worked tirelessly to make this a reality and helped create an asset unrivalled anywhere in country Victoria. Of course, when it came to dedicating the pavilion there was no question that it be known as the P F 'Wally' Sheehan Pavilion.

His latest project came to fruition in 2016 with the Indoor Training Centre completed after many years of lobbying. He also does a lot of the mundane maintenance tasks; cutting the grass on both the ovals every week, watering the two ovals over three summer months moving the sprinklers several times a day, as well as spraying weeds and marking the boundaries. He rarely misses a Thursday night tea-team selection and never misses a working bee.

During the winter months Paul has dedicated himself to the Port Fairy Football Netball Club. A committee member from 1973-1982, and 1997-1999; team trainer from 1972 to 1981 and as a player early-mid 70's. He has also been a passionate advocate/supporter of the netball teams since their inception in 1988. He was made a life member in 2010.

Paul has been a lead organiser of the wine bar at the Port Fairy Folk Festival since 1997 which, along with the annual auction night, has raised over \$40k/year for the Football Netball Club. These funds have helped pull the club out of financial difficulty saving the club from installing pokie machines. He rarely misses Thursday night training and still volunteers his time for innumerable unpaid tasks such as collecting admission fees, selling raffle tickets, contributing at working bees, weed spraying, fertilising and turf maintenance.

**Other sporting club contributions include:**

Southcombe Park Sporting Complex Committee of Management: Member 2009 - present  
Port Fairy and District Sports Club: Committee Member 1989 - 1999 (serving 5 years as President)  
Port Fairy Basketball Association: Player 1969 - 1990  
Port Fairy Tennis Club: Player 1969 - 1995  
Port Fairy Squash Club: Player 1980 - 1995  
Port Fairy Golf Club: Player 1994 - present.

**His non-sporting contributions include:**

Heather Holcombe Day: Emcee and Auctioneer 2007 – present; this annual event raises over \$10k/year in profits to cancer charities  
Port Fairy Hospital Fundraiser: One of only three team captains and 15 individuals who participated in the inaugural 'Murray to Moyne' cycling event in 1987  
Port Fairy Community Youth Club: Leader 1972 - 1978  
Port Fairy Agricultural Show Society: Organiser of Miss Showgirl events from the mid 70's - mid 90's  
St Patrick's Church Parish Council: Paul contributed more than a decade of service to the local Catholic Church on its financial committee that helped run the church and primary school.