



**Moyne Shire**  
**2017 Australia Day**  
**Young Citizen of the Year Award**  
**Citation – Stephen Mirtschin**

**The Young Citizen of the Year Award acknowledges outstanding service and contribution given by an individual (under the age of 30) to their local community.**

Stephen Mirtschin has been awarded the 2017 Moyne Shire Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award for his commitment to education, volunteering, and sport.

As a student who enjoyed school it is apt that Stephen Mirtschin has found his career back in the classroom as a teacher. Valuing a life of inquiry based learning and leadership development, teaching has become a passion and a career path that he says he always wanted to follow.

While the trip from the Woolsthorpe Primary School to the Hamilton and Alexandra College where he is employed as a teacher may be short in distance, the journey has incorporated many accomplishments both locally and as far away as St Jose Balide's in Timor Leste and on exchange for a brief period at Cambridge University, England.

Stephen extended his commitment to the people of Timor Leste volunteering to assist their AFL International program and their university and teaching programs. He has participated as the assistant coach and team manager of the AFL IC Timor Leste football team and organised uniform and equipment drives where clubs, such as the Port Fairy Football Netball Club, were key contributors. Additionally, Stephen works online in a global teaching environment where he mentors, through engagement of conversation and sharing resources, pre-service teachers from Timor Leste.

With a passion for the environment and sustainability Stephen is active in organising school resources with the focus on reusability with donations being sent to schools in need.

Stephen's appetite for education also means he has shared his talent for sport with others, as a coach particularly with the Port Fairy Cricket Club and the Western Waves and is an advocate of the Moyne Shire promoting the liveability and the standard of lifestyle. This has led to bringing international standard cricketers to the region which in turn assists the development of our community's upcoming juniors.

As a quiet achiever, Stephen's passion for his community, near and far, and leadership had him represent the Moyne youth at the 2015 Rural Councils Summit and is an active member of the Moyne Youth Advisory Group for young people 18 years and above.