Red carpet
Youth Awards
2017 program
RED Carpet Youth Awards 2017 Program

Canapés
**Entertainment in foyer**
by finalist Chelsea Reid

**Opening performance**
by finalist Caitlin Brice

MC introduction
**Official welcome by Mayor**
Acting Mayor Danny Lowe

**Speech by major sponsor**
Albury Wodonga Community College
Board member Natasha Callewaert

Presentation of awards
**Individual Community Service award**, sponsored by Business Wodonga
**Advocacy and Action award**, sponsored by Rotary Club Wodonga Central

**Performance**
by finalist Alyssa Kupa

Presentation of awards
**Sport and Recreation Volunteer award**, sponsored by YMCA Wodonga
**Visual Arts and Media award**, sponsored by Dutch Media
Dinner served

**Guest speaker**
Adam Elliot

Presentation of awards

**Young Carer award,**
sponsored by GenesisCare Radiation Oncology Albury Wodonga

**Apprenticeship and Traineeship award,**
sponsored by ATEL Employment Services

Dessert served

**Performance**
by committee member Julian Terblanche

Presentation of awards

**Endurance and Persistence award,**
sponsored by Aware Industries

**Music and Performing Arts award,**
sponsored by Projection Dance

**Youth Ambassador award,**
sponsored by RACV

Closing and acknowledgements

Finalists and winners group photo

*The 2017 Finalist profiles are online at wodonga.vic.gov.au/rca*

*Tell us what you thought of the night*

www.surveymonkey.com/r/RCA17
Emily Cariss
18 years old

Emily is a strong, community-minded, young woman who gives selflessly to a range of causes, and who is always driven to help others. Even with her Year 12 studies and having to commute from Mt Beauty, Emily is still able to volunteer her time within the Wodonga community.

In the past year, Emily has reached her goal of volunteering over 300 hours of community service. She also received the Malone Community Spirit Award at Catholic College Wodonga and the People’s Choice Award for Interchange, plus made it to the second stage of the Lions Youth of the Year awards.

Some of her contributions include:
- Volunteered with Interchange since August 2015;
- Volunteered with the Catholic College Wodonga youth ministry program;
- Travelled to Condobolin for six days for community projects at local schools and farms;
- Led youth groups and mass each month, and helped in St Monica’s Primary School on Monday afternoons during 2016;
- Volunteered at Moira Kelly’s farm and, previously, coached three age groups twice a week at the Mt Beauty Swimming Club; and,
- Acted as master of ceremonies at the Mt Beauty debutante ball.

Lily Allan
17 years old

Lily is a hardworking, selfless member of our community, who just wants to make a difference in her everyday life. Lily volunteers for two hours after school on Mondays and also in the holidays. She volunteers at Wodonga’s Interchange as well as being involved in her school community.

Lily has won the Hollows Community Spirit Award at school for the past three years. This shows her dedication to the school community, contribution to cultural and social events, and demonstrates her care and concern for others.

Lily has also received a People’s Choice Nominee Volunteer Appreciation Award through the UMFC Interchange program for her outstanding contribution to making a difference in the lives of young people with a disability.

In 2015, Lily also wanted to make a difference through the Carevan program, so she organised Christmas hampers in her own time to donate to those less fortunate in the Albury-Wodonga region.

Overall Lily wants to contribute to making the lives of others around her more happy and vibrant.
INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sheldon Smith
18 years old

Sheldon is an amazing young man who directs his considerable energy to helping others and serving his community. Sheldon is actively involved in Scouts and regularly participates in various community initiatives. Some of his achievements include:

- The Queen Scout Award in 2017, the highest possible award in venturer scouting that requires more than 300 hours of service;
- Nine years with the 3rd Wodonga Scout Group (and from now on as a cub leader);
- Volunteering with Interchange each week and during school holidays;
- Leading youth groups with the Thurgoona Community Centre each week during school term, and serving as a committee member with the Thurgoona Toastmasters to further develop his public speaking and leadership skills;
- In 2017, nomination for the Lions Youth of the Year award, and a member of the Wodonga Youth Card Connect committee;
- In 2016, the Thurgoona Lions Club Community Young Person of the Year Award, and a finalist in the RED Carpet Youth awards for the Advocacy and Action category, and Individual Community Service category;
- The Malone Community Spirit Award at Catholic College Wodonga for the last four years which recognises community contributions at school; and,
- For the past nine years, fundraising with Red Shield Appeals, cooking meals for Carevan and collecting donations for McHappy Day. Sheldon has also helped to lead various environmental projects and bushfire awareness campaigns as a venturer with the 3rd Wodonga Scout Group.

Mason Wise
16 years old

Mason is a young man who is always helping others. He has a talent for media and sound and lighting, and uses these skills to volunteer. Some of his volunteering roles include:

- Running the sound and lighting for Belvoir Special School for the last four years;
- Assisting with Wodonga Council’s 2017 SoundOut;
- Volunteering his time to provide information, communication and technology assistance to elderly people at Wodonga’s Felltimber Community Centre;
- Working on the backstage crew at Catholic College from 2013–2017;
- Volunteering as the videographer for the stronger youth group in Wodonga; and,
- Assisting the Wodonga SES unit with videography.

Mason is generous with his talent and time, and nothing is ever too much trouble for him.
Joshua Hood
16 years old

Josh is a community leader at Catholic College Wodonga where he helps run events and raise awareness about a range of issues within the school and broader community. He is a passionate advocate for mental health awareness, and last year ran a Facebook Movember campaign in support of men’s mental health. He has raised over $1,200 in the last two years.

Josh also volunteers with a diocesan program, helping families with children who have disabilities. This is run annually at Feathertop Chalet in Harrietville. He is a committed member of the Wodonga cricket club, and has volunteered in the Milo cricket coaching program for the last two seasons. He also volunteers his time at St Monica’s Primary School, working with Year 1 and 2 students and helping to run a range of sporting events such as cross country carnivals, gala days and swimming carnivals.

Josh is a tireless worker for others, and is active in advocating for the areas he is passionate about.

Liam Mackay
20 years old

In 2016, Liam initiated and organised the inaugural Albury Wodonga Football Association (AWFA) Mental Health Round with the support of Melrose Football Club and Albury United Soccer Club to raise awareness for mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding it. The Black Dog Institute, headspace Albury Wodonga and Sports North East were all present on the day to provide information and a friendly face.

Liam’s aim was to create a space to start conversations and raise awareness of local mental health support available to young people and the community.

During this round, the Senior Women’s and Senior Men’s teams of both clubs wore specially designed shirts, observed a minute’s silence for those who have lost their battle with depression, and had various raffles and auctions. Close to $9000 was raised, with the money going to headspace Albury Wodonga and The Black Dog Institute.

This year AWFA has supported the initiative by allowing all clubs to participate, so now a whole round will be dedicated to raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing, promoting awareness of local mental health support services and continuing the conversation that started in 2016 (to be held on Sunday, August 6).

Liam has recently become a member of the headspace Youth Reference Group.
Sheridan Williams
24 years old

Sheridan has been a staunch challenger of bi-, trans- and homophobia in Wodonga since joining Gateway Health’s Alphabet Crew youth action group in 2014, and takes every opportunity to make a difference for young LGBTQI members of the community.

Through her involvement in WayOut, Sheridan has acted as a mentor to young and vulnerable members of the LGBTI community; represented WayOut at various stalls at schools and universities; and tirelessly worked to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia within our community.

Through the NSW Crossroads program, Sheridan is able to deliver lectures about sexuality and gender. Sheridan has also spoken out in the Border Mail against changes to the safe schools program; has participated in the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria regional consultations; and provided a youth perspective in local LGBTI community meetings.

Zachary Pearce
19 years old

Zach is an advocate for people with disabilities. He is an outstanding young man who, despite a mild mental disability, has become an AFL boundary umpire and leader of the Wodonga Bulldogs Jets all abilities football team.

He has been interviewed by 2AY and recently posted this message on his Facebook page: “Children with disabilities are not weird or strange. They want what everyone else wants! Just to be accepted”. This post reached nearly 30,000 people with 45 comments and 1,100 likes.
Tiana Stuart
18 years old

Tiana is a wonderful young lady who is very generous with her time. She has a great attitude towards life and is a great motivator. She selflessly gives up her time to help coach, train, support and educate those who need a hand at Wodonga Storm rugby league club.

In 2014 Tiana was awarded the Wodonga Storm RLC President’s award. In 2015 she became a qualified modified coach and coached the U9s league tag team. In 2016 she coached the U6 and U8 tackle team and assisted the U13 tackle team and the U15 league tag team. In 2017 Tiana completed the international coaching course to help the women’s league tag team and coach the Murray Cup youth team. She also helps out with the U15 league tag team and has completed an NRL sports trainer course where she now provides first aid for multiple teams.

Tiana was also nominated by Wodonga Storm and accepted by Group 9 to be the sports trainer for the U14 league tag representative team. She has also been helping the NRL Development Officer to educate and train primary school and high school students.

Tristan Hedditch
18 years old

Tristan is a dedicated member of the Scouts (Wodonga division). This year he achieved the highest honour that a scout/venturer can achieve, the Queen’s Scout Award, clear evidence of his dedication and leadership in this field. This award recognises adventurous activities, community involvement, leadership development and personal growth.

Some of Tristan’s highlights include; having been involved in the 3rd Wodonga scouts for four years; has done a range of courses from leadership to initiative; tree planting at Bear’s Hill reserve, multiple years of helping with the Good Friday Appeal and participating in Youth Albury Wodonga’s North East wilderness program.
**SPORT AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER**

**Ben Warhurst**
16 years old

Ben has been valuable contributor to the Wodonga Hockey Club in various events for several years. Some of Ben’s contributions and achievements include:

- Coaching the U12 girls in 2016;
- Coaching the U14 girls in 2017;
- Helping H2H (Hookin2Hockey) in 2015, 2016 and 2017;
- Serving as a committee member in 2017;
- Organising the canteen in 2017 (where he has really shone);
- Helping at all club events;
- Winning the 2015 and 2016 Noel Mason Youth Award that recognises the person’s personal qualities and their achievements (as player, umpire, supporter, coach) during the year; and,
- Winning the club’s Best and Fairest award for his age group in 2015 and 2016.

**Samantha Roberts**
15 years old

Samantha is one of the instructors at the Discover Sailing Centre at the Albury Wodonga Yacht Club. The centre is responsible for training both adults and children. Samantha initially volunteered as an Assistant Tackers Instructor, teaching children aged 7-12 years to sail, then as a qualified instructor. Samantha also volunteers at club functions such as the Junior Run Regatta and Discover Sailing days, where she takes young children out in dinghies to try out sailing.

Samantha has demonstrated both maturity and leadership skills while conducting sailing lessons and managing the class. She has completed 95 hours of volunteer assisting or instructing with the Tackers sessions during the 2016-2017 season. During this season Samantha competed in club sailing, achieving first place in the Spring Yardstick Division 3 and Spring Handicap Division 3, and third place in the Rear Commodore’s Trophy and the Summer Handicap Division 3. Samantha also competed in the 2016 Sail Country event (hosting entrants from across Victoria and NSW) placing 6th overall in the Junior, Optimist–Intermediate fleet.

Samantha has volunteered as a runner/timekeeper at her school’s junior swimming days. She volunteers as an umpire for her school’s Under 11 netball team and now helps the coach train this team. Samantha continues to play basketball and netball for her school teams (Trinity Anglican College) with her Under 16 Girls Division 2 basketball team winning their recent grand final.
**VISUAL ARTS AND MEDIA AWARD**

**Maddie Anderson**
18 years old

Maddie puts a lot of time and effort into her art and always gives 110 per cent, which is reflected in the end result of her works. She is constantly on photo shoots and spends hours editing her work. She often has a vision and sets herself a goal for a shoot, spending weeks making sure everything is perfect. Whilst photography is Maddie’s main art form, she also has painted and sculpted. Maddie has her own Facebook page and has also recently featured in a local art magazine. She has been able to attend professional workshops and collaborate with professional photographers. She has also been offered and accepted paid work with professionals as they photograph models. Maddie has won the Victory Lutheran College spring fair art show for four years in a row. She won the Alec Schulz award at Victory which is a good/public service and academic award. She has entered the Albury Wodonga photography exhibition for many years, and has won other awards within the Albury Wodonga photography group where she competed against professional photographers of all ages.

**Magdalene Arnold**
18 years old

Maggie Arnold has been a Fashion Production and Design student for the past 18 months at Wodonga TAFE. Maggie has enjoyed sewing and designing from a young age, and has helped construct costumes for high school and local productions. She has also taken part in the local FUSE and Natural Fibre Competition at Henty Field Days. Maggie has won awards in her field for textiles and excellence in the area of Creative and Practical Arts. Maggie has also been accepted for an American summer camp job next year, helping to teach sewing and fashion design. She hopes to further her education through university and get a career in the field.
Zoe McDonald
16 years old

Zoe is a very humble young lady with her art. She isn’t overly open about showing people her work, although she is proud of her efforts. She finds inspiration in friends across the country, in magazines that she reads, in pictures she has taken and pictures she admires, through experiences, and from her imagination. Her friends, family and teachers have always been proud of her efforts and willingness to put in 100 per cent.

She loves working with paint mediums including acrylic and impasto, and has a new love for oil paint. She also enjoys working with clay, photography, film, collage, pencil, fine liner, ink, woodcarving, fabric and odd bits and pieces like glitter and sequins.

Since preschool, Zoe has always been creative. She only began to take it more seriously and develop a passion for it when she attended an out-of-school art class in Year 5. Her artwork have been displayed at Catholic College Wodonga, around the home, at the Green Zebra cafe in Albury, and at her Nan’s house! She has won an art award for her year level four years in a row at Catholic College.

After school Zoe wants to further develop her skills by studying visual arts at university. She would also would like to take her love of photography around the world, exploring and creating paintings and artworks along the way.

Grace King
16 years old

Grace has achieved success in both photography and media arts, consistently achieving a high standard both within school and the wider community. She is a self-taught photographer, who has picked up various skills through teachers and doing work experience.

Some of Grace’s achievements include:

- Winning a design competition for the 2017 Victory Lutheran College school diary;
- Helping design Victory’s 2016 year book;
- Successfully selling photos from horse riding events;
- Having her photos featured in the North Eastern Zone pony club magazine; and,
- Having her photos used for business sponsorship.
James Towne
20 years old

James is an incredible young man. He currently has a caring role for his father who suffers Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). James is from a defence family and so has spent much of his childhood moving around the country.

He now cares for his father, who was medically discharged from the Army following his deployment in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands. James’ father is now under constant care due to the crippling disorder, and as a result is house-ridden. James’ mum works to help care for the family, which leaves James to provide the care his dad needs.

James has been described as “one of the most optimistic students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching” by one of his TAFE teachers. He is always a positive, upbeat member of the class who is also a natural leader with a lot of maturity.

Jayden Murphy
17 years old

Jayden is the primary carer for his father who suffers multiple medical issues. The two of them live together in Dederang, and Jayden attends Wodonga TAFE three days a week. His dedication to continuing his studies, while living out of town and being the primary carer for his father, is astonishing.

Jayden’s father suffers from severe arthritis, has had brain tumours removed, and has PTSD from his days in the police force. His parents split up and his mother unfortunately passed away in August last year. Jayden has gone through a lot in his short life.

Jayden is described by his TAFE teacher as a “respectful, mature and resilient young man”.
Elanor Tait-Russell
16 years old

Elanor helps care for her 11-year-old brother Alec, who has autism and who goes to school at Belvoir Special School.

When Elanor and Alec were at the same school, she would take time out of class every day to walk him to classes. This meant she could lose half an hour of her own class time each day getting him settled or helping him learn.

When Alec was struggling to keep up and learn basic concepts at school, Elanor would help teach him basic maths and English from prep to Year 3 level. She has also helped teach him gross and fine motor skills, such as how to throw and catch, and helped him learn how to swim.

Elanor’s parents both work, so if she is not at school or working she is usually with Alec. Elanor also helps out with jobs such as preparing meals and occasionally, when he was sick during school time, she would wash him before going to school.

Elanor has always put Alec first, which has meant she has had to miss out on things like social events, new experiences, travelling to see other family members and sporting events – particularly if he didn’t want to do these.

Her capacity to look after Alec means that both her parents can work and occasionally get out to have time to themselves.

At Elanor’s Deb, Alec was her “special dance” person.
Matt Shipard  
22 years old

Matt commenced his apprenticeship with Ai Group Apprentice and Trainee Centre in 2014 as a Maintenance Fitter at Nestle, Uncle Tobys. He completed his Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical Trade in 2½ years and is currently completing his second qualification in Engineering Fabrication. This is an incredible achievement, and demonstrates his commitment to his apprenticeship. Matt has excelled in his position, has perfect attendance and punctuality, always brings a level of maturity and leadership to the workplace, and is often buddied with new apprentices to show them the ropes. He delivers a consistent performance in the workplace, receives praise from his supervisors on his level of professionalism and consistency, and is always in search of the next task to complete.

He has an exceptional work ethic and is an outstanding team member. In 2016, Matt’s father had a hip replacement, so Matt took on the added responsibility of the family farm. Incredibly, he achieved this without missing a stride at work or in his study; he never complained, but just continued to get the job done.

Outside of work, Matt has participated in the Cancer Council Relay for Life in 2015, where he ran all night to complete 80km. In 2016, he joined a mission to Papua New Guinea. He is also a volunteer firefighter, was named Ai Group Apprentice of the Month in August 2016, and is a part-time shearer who is well respected in the region.

Sam McLean  
19 years old

Sam was the Catholic identity trainee at Catholic College in 2016. She did an outstanding job in fulfilling all the requirements set out in her role description. Sam has an incredible impact on the young people she is surrounded with. Sam has the ability to develop their leadership, confidence and life skills that then see many of them in leadership roles to the benefit of the whole Wodonga community.

Sam organised four leadership camps as a way of developing students’ confidence and leadership. She has been brilliant in creating a team of older peers in Year 11 and 12, and has lead younger students in Year 10. She grew in her ability to train, prepare and workshop leaders so they were skilled and prepared to lead the junior peers.

Sam is highly organised. She prepared well in advance for the many camps, sessions and school events both large and small that she had to coordinate.

Sam’s impact on the lives of young people is clearly evident, with two of this year’s RED Carpet committee being people who she directly mentored – Bridgette and Pippa. Sam has definitely inspired many other young people to be active in our local community!
Max Tittensor
18 years old

Max is a remarkable young man who has displayed great enthusiasm and a positive attitude throughout his Plumbing Apprenticeship.

Every day as an apprentice, Max is faced with challenges to overcome. Although he is a third-year apprentice, he operates as a tradesman. He has the unique ability to problem solve and communicate beyond his years of experience. His host employer, Phil Gosbell of Gosbell Plumbing, explains that it’s hard to find young people like Max these days; someone who shows initiative, gratitude and loyalty. Phil sets high expectations for his apprentice and confirms that Max is meeting and quite often exceeding goals. He goes above and beyond the call of duty and always volunteers to help out, even when not asked or expected to.

Phil hopes that in years to come, he can hand over his successful business to someone like Max. Max is also eager to start his own business after his apprenticeship. He is passionate about plumbing and can see himself working in the industry for the rest of his life. He looks forward to what the future holds.
Zachariah French
18 years old

Earlier this year Zach needed to move from living with his family to moving in with his grandmother. This meant he needed to navigate the public transport system of both Wodonga and Albury-Lavington, and develop some financial literacy as he is becoming financially independent.

Zach has played with the Wodonga Jets, the all-disability football team, and was chosen to represent Vic Country in the State Disability Football team. Zach’s disability has meant that staying in school has been challenging. Zach has been involved in a Living Skills program at SITE Disability Support Services and has learned more about how to live independently; shopping, cooking, washing laundry and interacting with others in a share-house setting.

Zach is doing VCAL at Wodonga Senior Secondary College (WSSC), which has included volunteering at Wodonga Primary School and running the basketball league at WSSC. He has also volunteered at the Wodonga Primary FROGS (Friends Of our GardenS) program and cared for the animals in the school animal nursery, teaching the children how to care for and feed the animals.

Zach has matured in how he faces his challenges; he now looks at them with a positive attitude and seeks improvement in various areas of his life.

Jayden Murphy
17 years old

Jayden has experienced an enormous amount of hardship already in his life. He has seen his father’s health deteriorate over several years, meaning Jayden has become his father’s primary carer.

He also went through the separation of his parents, and then subsequent passing away of his mother in August last year.

Through it all he has managed to find his way back into the education system, through Wodonga TAFE where he attends three days per week. Jayden describes his decision to go to TAFE as “probably one of the best decisions of my life... it has had a tremendously positive impact on my life”.

Swathi Mahendran
24 years old

Swathi is a resourceful, resilient and persistent young woman. Coming to Australia has required her to step up and take responsibility to live, learn and thrive in a completely new environment. It has been a steep learning curve, but one she has embraced and excelled in. She is determined and courageous, and is looking to carve a life where she contributes to society and inspires others.

In 2016 Swathi went through an arranged marriage, moved to a new country and experienced the loss of a family member. She had no plans for when she arrived in Australia and no idea what the people here were like. She came to Australia with a husband she had only known for three months. She was on a tourist visa, which meant she could not study or work.

In Swathi’s own words: “I have never been used to being alone and not doing anything in life. Even though my husband has always been supportive in everything that I tried to do, I was frustrated that I was not getting anywhere in my life”.

Throughout 2016 Swathi has excelled. She graduated from Wodonga Council’s youth leadership program, joined the headspace Albury Wodonga reference group, and started her own business. Then in 2017 she has started an unpaid internship with St David’s Uniting Care in Albury.

Olivier Ndayisaba
17 years old

Olivier is a highly motivated and remarkable young man. At just 11, Olivier and his family moved from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Kenya due to warring tribes who killed all the men in his village, raped the women and burned the houses.

But Kenya was still not safe. Olivier was able to go to school, but his class had 100 students and one teacher and he was picked on because he was Congolese.

His family of nine lived in a two-room house that was smaller than his current classroom at Wodonga Senior Secondary College. His father had to move the furniture each night so they could sleep on mattresses on the floor.

In Term 1 this year Olivier suffered a life-threatening injury at school when he intervened in a fight between two younger students and he suffered bleeding on his brain. He spent a lengthy recovery at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne.

This incident had the potential to disrupt his final year at school, end his dream of playing professional soccer and inflame racial tensions within the school. However, due to Olivier’s character, values and proactive approach to his physical and emotional recovery, he encouraged others not to view the incident as racially motivated. He did not give up on his studies or soccer, and is back at school as well as playing soccer for both the school and Murray United.

Olivier is an inspiration to staff and students at school and the Murray United soccer community.
Jessica Bickham
24 years old

Jess is a resilient and positive person who is a role model in the Wodonga community. She is a young, single mum of two children under the age of three. Jess has experienced homelessness and has a rare genetic condition (Osteogenesis Imperfecta OI) which means she relies on a wheelchair for mobility.

After a relationship breakdown, Jess was without permanent accommodation and moved around staying with various friends. At the time she had one child and was pregnant with another. Despite 20 attempts to secure accommodation, she was unsuccessful. It was only through Junction Support Services and Rural Housing that she was able to secure stable, long-term accommodation.

In February this year Jess started studying a Diploma of Community Services at Wodonga TAFE. She hopes to complete a Bachelor of Human Services and Masters of Social Work. She has had to overcome many obstacles to return to study, including overcoming anxiety issues.

“People always told me I should work in an office because I am in a wheelchair, but I refuse to accept limitations that other people place on me. I want to help people and make a difference in the community” Jess said.

Jess is planning on raising awareness of OI as part of Wishbone Day on Sunday, May 6, 2018.
Hudson Smith
19 years old

Hudson performed in the Highwater Theatre performance of Anchoring in the Wind last year. Throughout this time he was able to act as a role model for others in the performance. Hudson continues to encourage those around him at his school which has enabled his peers to perform to a higher standard.

Hudson has been able to overcome some personal challenges through his involvement with the Somebodies Daughter Theatre Company, as well as acquiring exceptional singing and acting skills.

He has also performed in Mind Fields Burns to Bright at old Parliament House in front of former politician Clive Palmer and Member for Indi Cathy McGowan.

Alyssa Kupa
16 years old

Alyssa started dancing at the age of 14 when she joined the U16 Border Danceworks dance troupe. In the world of dance this is extremely late age to start training to be a dancer. She has worked hard to learn and improve her dance skills and technique; then in 2016 Alyssa had both ankles fully reconstructed due to continual injuries (seven breaks between both legs).

Alyssa is very determined, attending her dance class during rehab, and then returning to dancing and competition as soon as rehab was completed.

As well as lots of success in a short amount of time, Alyssa also voluntarily teaches at her dance school two days a week, as well as mentoring young dancers. Alyssa also helps to teach other dance students at Wodonga Senior Secondary College (WSSC). In 2016 she was awarded the top Year 10 VET dance student at WSSC despite only being able to dance for half of the year due to her surgery.
Chelsea Reid
14 years old

Chelsea is an amazing singer who is very dedicated to her work. With more than 25 live performances in the past few years, some of her achievements include:

- Albury Christmas carols;
- Kiewa/Tangambalanga Christmas carols;
- PushStart competition over the last two years;
- Performing in front of the Governor General in 2015; and,
- Performing for the elderly residents of the Grange in West Wodonga for the past two years.

Caitlin Brice
18 years old

Caitlin has had a passion for drama since she was two years old. At this young age she performed as Squirt in a small Finding Nemo production with the Sharyn Reynolds dance company.

Once Caitlin had improved her acting skills, she auditioned for her first show Aladdin Jr in 2013. In 2014, she played minor roles in Little Shop of Horrors and Ma Baker’s Tonic. Caitlin’s first leading role was in The Final Winter in 2015. In 2016, Caitlin acted as Ariel in The Tempest and Charlotte Sowerberry in Oliver!. This year Caitlin was a part of the ensemble in Macbeth.

Caitlin has been recognised for her drama skills by her school (WSSC) when she was awarded the performing arts award two years in a row!
YOUTH AMBASSADOR finalists

Sam McLean
Emily Cariss
Swathi Mahendran
Tristan Hedditch
Joshua Hood
Alyssa Kupa
Adam Elliot is an independent Australian stop-motion animation writer, director and producer based in Melbourne, Australia. His five films have collectively participated in over seven hundred film festivals and have received over one hundred awards, including an Academy Award for *Harvie Krumpet*.

Each film has been voiced by notable actors including, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Toni Collette, Geoffrey Rush, Eric Bana, William McInnes, Barry Humphries and John Flaus. Elliot is also a voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and in 1999 was awarded The Young Achiever of the Year for Victoria.
The 2017 RED Carpet Youth Awards Nominees

The RED Carpet Committee congratulates all those nominated

Alyssa Kupa
Anthea Waldegrave-Knight
Ashlyn Bradley-Shea
Ben Warhurst
Bethany Armstrong
Blake Noske
Bobie Jones
Brandon Wagnegg
Breanna Stanley
Britney Jeffries
Brooke Cashin
Caitlin Brice
Caitlyn King
Cameron McIntosh
Catrina Alston
Chelsea Reid
Claire Lumby
Pozzer (band)
Eden Young
Edith Peters
Elanor Tait-Russell
Eliza Spalding
Emily Cariss
Erin McIntosh

Erynn Nicholls-Bridgeman
Gage Hodgkin
Georgia Puiatti
Grace King
Hudson Smith
Isaac Cassidy
James Towne
Jarrod Redcliffe
Jayden Murphy
Jessica Bickham
Josh Jensen
Josh Jones
Joshua Hood
Joshua Jordan
Kade Bogie
Lacey Armstrong
Liam Mackay
Lilly King
Lily Allan
Maddi Bullock
Maddie Anderson
Magdalene Arnold
Mason Wise
Matt Shipard
Matthew Whitehead
Max Tittensor
Micaela Schmitt
Michael Shimmin
Mikey Cox
Mitchell Parlevliet
Mykelti Kotzur
Olivia Knight
Olivier Ndayisaba
Sam McLean
Samantha Roberts
Sheldon Smith
Sheridan Williams
Swathi Mahendran
Tasmin Fischer
Tayla Orr
Taylor Morey
Thi Kim Chi Tran (Chi)
Tiana Stuart
Tristan Hedditch
Willem Manley
Zach French
Zachary Pearce
Zoe McDonald
A special thank you to RED Carpet judges:
Alison Leahy, Anthony Spadaro, Dee Everitt, Dominic Ballard, Ian Elston, Jenni Jarratt, Jo Harkin, Karina Kerr, Margie Benbow, Mick Randall, Paul Lempriere, Rileigh Malcolm, Ryan McNamara, Ryan Nicholson, Sharon Muggivan, Sarah Stevenson, Tara Leach

A very special thank you to the RED Carpet committee:
Bridgette Baker, Ethan Fields, Julian Terblanche, Jye McBurnie, Marnie Donnellan, Pippa Salmon, Storm Cruden

The RED Carpet Youth Awards is an initiative of Wodonga Council:

The RED Carpet Youth Awards have been supported by major sponsor Albury Wodonga Community College:

The RED Carpet Youth Awards would like to thank community partners:
The AWCC would like to congratulate all nominees for this year’s RED Carpet Youth Awards. Wodonga is fortunate to have so many fine young people who aspire to do their very best in their areas of self and community interest.

Your efforts have been recognised by family, friends, students and the wider community. The AWCC would like to wish you all the very best for your future endeavours and goals.

The Albury Wodonga Community College offers a wide range of nationally accredited courses and leisure courses. View our website or give our friendly reception staff a call today to start your next education adventure.