



## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

*Olive Wellington is a parishioner in St Joseph's Parish, Hopetoun and she received an Order of Australia Medal in the 2020 Australia Day awards.*

Olive Wellington was very chuffed to be awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the 2020 Australia Day awards. Olive has dedicated her time to many charities in our local community including being the organizer of the St Joseph's Junior Red Cross for over thirty years, and being involved in the Red Cross in general for fifty years, receiving her fifty years' service badge only last year. Olive has held an office bearers' position for almost as long as she has been involved in Red Cross.

Olive is also a very familiar face at Easter when fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital appeal and has had the opportunity to visit the new hospital upon its completion a few years ago. Olive has been supporting the Royal Children's Hospital appeal for even longer than she has been involved in Red Cross.

She has also been a fundraiser for the Southern Mallee Giants, a member of the Catholic Ladies Guild and the Combined Probus Club as well as volunteering for Meals on Wheels.

Cynthia Maiden presented a native flower arrangement to Olive on behalf of the Hopetoun parishioners. Olive will be presented with her medal in either April or May by the Governor General at a ceremony to be held at Government House. A very deserved Award and our congratulations to Olive on this very special Award.

Olive's response:

*I am deeply honoured to accept this award of the Medal of the Order of Australia – OAM (Second Division) and to my friends who nominated me – I am humbled by their gracious thoughts and gesture.*

*Over the years in our town of Hopetoun many other people deserved greater recognition, so on their behalf I accept this special honour as well from them and the town.*

*Anything that I have achieved over the years was through the generosity, friendship and companionship of ALL that I found by being involved in most aspects of our little progressive town and beyond to Red Cross and the Royal Children's Hospital and I sincerely thank you – one and all.*

*I love Hopetoun and am extremely proud to be part of the Community. I have seen over the years many, many changes especially with our shrinking population. So for our towns' future to prosper we need to keep and nurture what we have, to support all local shopkeepers, businesses, tradespeople, happily join committees, cheerfully volunteer your time where needed, place all the happenings in the Courier. This will make a happy town to be lived in and prosperous.*

*On accepting this award, I know my large family will be surprised, overjoyed and proud of me, as I am of them.*

*Thank you*

