

Media release

***Back Block Bards* Dementia Research campaign recognised as Community Event of the Year**

The *Back Block Bards* fundraising campaign for early onset dementia research is continuing successfully, being recognised as the "Community Event of the Year" in the Carrathool Shire Australia Day 2019 Awards and by adding another \$10,000 to its earlier donation of \$30,000 for research into early onset dementia.

The fundraising campaign by members of the Vagg and Parker families from the Hillston/Ivanhoe NSW district began five months ago at a *Back Block Bards* book launch and art exhibition in Hillston and involves sales of a book of bush poetry, artwork and a quilt all produced by the family members.

The Carrathool Shire awards were held in Goolgowi where Joan Vagg accepted the award for "Community Event of the Year" on behalf of Back Block Bards, congratulating all award recipients at the Australia Day event.

"It's a great honour for our family to be recognised for the launch of our fundraising efforts," Mrs Vagg said.

"We hope that our contributions to dementia research will assist in a cure being found for this terrible disease.

"With more than 1,000 books already sold in all states and territories, Australians have the opportunity to enjoy the verses written by family members as much as I do, at the same time supporting a great cause."

The campaign is also getting national attention in the media with Jon and Allan Vagg interviewed on the *Studio10* television program on 25 January.

Books can be purchased for \$25.00 each at backblockbards.org.au as well as at:

- Booligal Pub
- Deniliquin Peppin Heritage Centre
- Deniliquin - South West Arts Gallery
- Hay Newsagency
- Hay Tourist Information Centre
- Hillston - Red Dust & Paddymelons Gallery
- Mt Hope Pub
- Tooraweenah Pub.



Carrathool Shire Mayor Peter Laird presenting Joan Vagg from *Back Block Bards* with the Community Event of the Year award

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