



PAULINE GORDON IS THE DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL, A ROLE SHE COMMENCED IN 2017. PAULINE WAS RECOGNISED FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO GROWTH IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROSPERITY OF THE GYMPIE REGION AND HER GENUINE PASSION FOR THE COMMUNITY.

2019 MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Pauline Gordon

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GALA DINNER AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Traditionally, when announcing the winner, the LGMA CEO explains why the recipient has been nominated, attempting to keep the actual identity obscure for as long as possible. Gender, role and council are not divulged until towards the very end of the achievements' list.

This year, the team from Gympie and surrounding areas knew exactly who was being praised at about the half-way mark. The recipient, however, remained in the dark until the final words. To say Pauline Gordon was surprised would be an understatement!

Pauline Gordon is the Director Corporate and Community Services for Gympie Regional Council, a role she commenced in 2017. With the Award presented by Noel Atkinson from CQ University, Pauline was recognised for 'an outstanding contribution to growth in the economic and social prosperity of the Gympie region and her genuine passion for the community'.

Manager of the Year nominations are often supported by testimonials from elected members and business or community leaders. In Pauline's case, Mayor Mick Curran highlighted Pauline's commitment to the community, her inclusive and genuine approach and her consistently positive attitude towards leadership and partnership with her own team and community groups, businesses and residents. Lillian Burke, Butchulla Elder and President of Cooloola Aboriginal Services, praises Pauline and her staff for their caring and respectful approach and extensive cultural awareness. Auntie Lillian describes her as a 'very caring and sensitive lady yet still professional'.

Since commencing Pauline's leadership is creating change in thinking and approaches to reconciliation and Council's relationship with First Nations People. She is a strong advocate for recognition of the traditional owners of the land, driving completion of a Reconciliation Action Plan that will be practically applied across Council. This is evidenced through her ongoing work with the Wakka, Butchulla and Kabi people, indigenous to the Gympie region.

UNDOUBTEDLY PAULINE'S GREATEST SKILL IS HER ABILITY TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS. HER INTERPERSONAL SKILLS ARE EXEMPLARY, AND SHE SHOWS GENUINE CARE AND CONCERN FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH WHOM SHE IS INTERACTING, WHETHER LIAISING INDIVIDUALLY, OR AS PART OF A LARGER GROUP.

A genuine passion for the community and the drive to see the Gympie region grow and prosper are the foundations on which Pauline has established herself within the broader Gympie region. She is unwavering in her commitment to the community and encourages community members to express their expectations, aspirations and ideas in relation to council programmes and projects.

With a background in community development, Pauline has a strong understanding of regional disparities, socio-economic and political conditions and community resources. Following the Woollooga fires in 2018, Pauline activated a community recovery process, providing much needed resources and support to affected residents. She gathered a multifunctional team from across Council, engaged the community and corporate sectors and empowered them all to act within their levels of expertise to minimise the effects of the fires as much as possible.

Pauline's career history is evidence of her drive for growth in her chosen field. She seeks opportunities to develop as a leader, bringing new skills and energy into the workplace. She attends both leadership and discipline-specific conferences and training to fill self-identified skill gaps and is willing to learn from others when needed. She is part way through completing her Master of Business Administration, providing a theoretical basis for her extensive community-based work.

In relation to the development of staff, Pauline creates opportunities for staff to develop personally and professionally, not only in their chosen field of expertise, but across all disciplines of Council. At a recent breakfast of over 100 business leaders, Pauline encouraged and supported staff from across her directorate to facilitate discussion at tables, giving staff an understanding of the issues business leaders are facing and an opportunity for involvement in resolving these issues. Pauline is both empowering and excels in giving feedback that serves to build confidence in others. She recently mentored the Gympie Regional Council LGMA Management Challenge Team: *"Pauline's passion, dedication and expertise proved paramount to our success*

