

Article from Corowa Free Press 12/6/2014

Margaret Hanrahan, better known as Peg, has been bestowed an honour far beyond any of her expectations.



Peg Hanrahan was excited to receive her confirmation of an Order of Australia Medal in the mail.

On the Queen's Birthday, Peg officially became a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for her service to the community of Corowa – an honour she quite modestly accepted.

"There are far more deserving people than I, yet I am honoured to receive the recognition," she told the Free Press.

"In all honesty I picked up the pen, ready to decline the honour as I didn't believe I was worthy – but after thinking about it, it isn't something that is taken lightly so in the end I am happy and blessed to accept."

Peg has long been a community driven individual and has an extensive list of achievements with a variety of organisations.

A past president and former secretary of the Corowa Catholic Women's League, Peg has been a member for more than 43 years and became a Life Member in 1991.

Her faith has also led her to another award that she received in 1994, the Leonine Cross Papal Award – which came from her service through the Catholic Women's League.

"That honour was also very much a surprise," Peg said.

"It comes directly from the Pope himself, which I feel very privileged to have been awarded.

"I sit that one up very fondly on my wall at home."

But there are many more accolades that sit proudly on the walls of Peg's Corowa home.

Along the journey, she has also received the Corowa Citizen of the Year in 1993, became a Life Member of the Corowa-Rutherglen Football Netball Club, a Life Member of the Women's Auxiliary Returned and Services League of Australia and served as President of that honour for 22 years.

Add in being an Executive Committee Member of the Catholic Women's League, Diocese of Wagga Wagga, for more than 15 years; a former Member of the Glowery House Committee; the Current Acting Chair, Corowa Branch, Albury Legacy since 2007; Past President, Corowa Branch, Australian Red Cross, for 4 years; Past President, Karinya House Committee, Southern Cross Karinya Apartments and Villages, Women's Auxiliary and member, for 12 years; Founding Member of the Corowa Committee, Albury; Current Member, Corowa Probus; Current Member, Friends of the Corowa Library; Current Member, 2/5 Australian General Hospital Association; President of the Laurel Club for some years and member since 2003.

Also, Peg has been a parishioner of the St Mary's Catholic Church in Corowa, for many, years.

"I absolutely love being involved in as much as I can," she said.

"Even at my age now, I still want to help out where I'm needed.

"I'm trying to take a step back in a few things, but I think being out there and helping gives me a real buzz."

Even though she turns 92 in November, Peg still has the fire in the belly to see her town continue to grow.

You will often find Peg lined up down Sanger Street selling raffle tickets for one of the many groups of which she is a part.

Having grown up and lived the majority of her life in the area, there is no place Peg would rather be.

"I love the town and the people in it," she said.

"The people of Corowa are just fantastic – many of which should also be getting awarded with an OAM.

"It is embarrassing, but helping people and being a part of such great groups is no chore to me."