

## **Coonabarabran to welcome Queen's Baton in lead up to Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.**



**Sunday 5 March, 2017**

Local legends are being called on to carry the Queen's Baton in Coonabarabran as it prepares to host the Queen's Baton Relay.

The eyes of the Commonwealth will be on Coonabarabran on Wednesday 31 January 2018, as the Baton journeys towards its final destination, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) Opening Ceremony on 4 April 2018.

Across Australia approximately 3,800 batonbearers are needed to share the dream of the 'friendly Games' as part of the QBR.

A community nomination program, which opens today, will offer the people of Coonabarabran and the surrounding region with an opportunity to carry the Baton.

Batonbearers are people of all abilities who inspire others to be great. Batonbearers will represent a community with pride and showcase to the world the region's outstanding community people, sporting achievements, cultural activity and landscapes.

Setting off in Australia on 25 December 2017, the Baton will travel for 100 days to connect with as many people as possible in every state and territory.

The Queen's Baton carries a message from Her Majesty The Queen through the entire Commonwealth. The Games are declared officially open when the message is read aloud.

In just eight days the Baton will start its global journey at Buckingham Palace on Commonwealth Day, Monday 13 March. It will travel through every Commonwealth nation and territory on its way to Australia.



**Gold Coast 2018**

**Queen's Baton Relay**  
**XXI Commonwealth Games**

From today until 15 May 2017, anyone can nominate a person who inspires them to be great. Nominations can be made at [gc2018.com/qbr](http://gc2018.com/qbr).

GC2018 are looking for people who:

- Have achieved something extraordinary or inspired others to achieve something extraordinary; or
- Have made a significant contribution to either sport, education, the arts, culture, charity or within their community; or
- Have excelled, or aspire to excel athletically or personally; or
- Contribute to a fun, friendly, vibrant and inclusive community;
- Are at least 10 years old as at 25 December 2017; and
- Are an Australian citizen or lawfully entitled to reside in Australia during the Relay period (25 December 2017 – 4 April 2018).

Mayor Peter Shinton is pleased to welcome the Baton to the Warrumbungle Shire and to Coonabarabran. Peter says, "We're delighted to be a part of an event that will take Coonabarabran to the world and I encourage you to nominate a local legend you think deserves to be a Batonbearer, whether they're an aspiring young person or someone who is already accomplished.

"The Queen's Baton Relay is a rare opportunity to shine a light on the people and places that help make our community truly great.

"The Queen's Baton Relay is not only a symbol of the Commonwealth Games, but an event that will connect Coonabarabran with communities across Australia and the entire Commonwealth.

"It's a tradition that celebrates community pride and that shows us how important a role sport plays to build our great community, which is why we've chosen to embrace the Baton's visit wholeheartedly. And it means that Coonabarabran will play an important part in the largest multi-sport event to be staged in Australia in a decade.

"I for one can't wait for the start of the QBR on Commonwealth Day, Monday 13 March, and to follow its journey around the world on its way to Coonabarabran and the Opening Ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games."

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[gc2018.com/qbr](http://gc2018.com/qbr)

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