

2 —Pastoral Times, Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Deni's hometown heroes prove the strong values of local life

While the Ute Muster is by far Deniliquin's largest amplifier in telling the world what this town has to offer, we're proud to say that's not the only thing we can hang our hat on.

The sporting royalty to come out of this region is evident.

There's those who called Deniliquin home for a short time — like cricketers Adam Gilchrist and Simon O'Donnell — and locally-educated lads making a name for themselves in football like Todd Marshall, Sam Lloyd and former Sydney Swan Leo Barry.

But this district has



also produced some of the best established and upcoming names in the cultural world too.

Just last week we featured hometown boy Dylan Hare, who is now making waves for his hilarious cameo appearances on the ABC hit show *Black Comedy*.

So impressed with Dylan's passion and natural ability for the role, what was initially meant to be a fleeting

involvement with the show, has turned into something with more substance, giving Dylan access to some of Australia's best producers.

In today's edition we feature an 'old hat' in the industry — Deniliquin-born film and television producer Michael McMahon who will be bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment and contribution to the industry.

We can also lay claim to a portion of the band King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard who have been touring the world, and most recently Mexico, with Deni lads Eric Moore and Michael Cavanagh front and centre.

One third of comedy trio Axis of Awesome — Lee Naimo — is also a former Deniliquin High School student.

And how many more are there out there that have gone on to big things that we don't hear or know about.

While each has had to leave Deniliquin to follow their dreams and 'hit the

big time', each would undoubtedly credit their country upbringing and the values instilled in them growing up in Deniliquin as a contributor to their success — Mr McMahon certainly does.

It's easy to write Deniliquin off as a small country town with limited prospects, especially as the drought takes its hold again, but you cannot argue that it is the backbone for many people we consider to have reached great heights.

These stars of their respective industries show that life is what you make it, and Deniliquin has given them a hand up.