

PRESS RELEASE

12 January 2018

TO: Media Contacts



2018 Australia Day Awards

2018 Australia Day Awards

The Shire of Collie invites the whole community to the 2018 Australia Day Awards and celebrations at Central Park on 26 January. The awards celebrate individuals and groups in the Shire who have gone above and beyond to contribute to the community.

A total of eight nominations were received for this year's Australia Day Awards in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Environmental Award

Winners of the awards will be announced during the Australia Day celebrations, which will be held at Collie's Central Park on Australia Day. The celebrations will commence with a parade at 7.30am, followed by the ceremony at 7.45am.

The nominations are:

Citizen of the Year

Nola Green

Nola Green has been nominated for her work with the Collie Community Radio Station and the Tidy Towns Committee among other volunteering roles.

Nola is chairperson of Collie Community Radio and contributed 650 hours to the station in 2017, presenting shows two days a week, mentoring new presenters, training and overseeing recording procedures.

Nola has been part of the Tidy Towns Committee for the past 40 years and organises the annual Keeping Up Appearances Garden Competition.

Nola is a life member of the Collie Repertory Club and has been a Justice of the Peace for the past 33 years.

Kenneth Burgess

Ken was founder of the community group 'Friends of Valleyview'.

Ken was the driving force behind the project that managed to raise more than \$100,000 in less than six months before he was diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Projects that were able to be completed at Valleyview due to this fundraising included the installation of solar panels, purchase of a new ute, purchase and installation of security cameras, front garden restructure, purchase and installation of air-conditioning in the kitchen, purchase and installation of an after-hours swipe card access system.

Young Citizen of the Year

Lauren Jackson

Lauren Jackson is the founder of the Children of the Maasai Education Program in Kenya and has been involved, working as a volunteer at the school from 2015. Upon learning the difference, a small amount of money can make to their lives, Lauren set up a foundation and began fundraising to help give these children a future. She was awarded IVHQ Volunteer of the Year in 2016, and continues to carry out health and food programmes through the charity. As well as raising funds for rice, Lauren's charity has helped with providing reusable sanitary kits for girls, deworming children, and supplying vitamin A for young children. Lauren also organised for Lions Sight First Eye Institute in Nairobi to provide a free eye clinic.

This year, Lauren has been active in promoting road safety, bravely recounting the effects on her and her family of the road death of her brother. She was a speaker at the recent World Road Trauma event that was held in Fremantle.

Lauren was also a member of the Shire of Collie's Youth Advisory Committee.

Justise Woods

Justise has volunteered with the Collie Community Radio Station for the past three years. As well as presenting her own programme, she has encouraged others of her age to also volunteer and has helped with training them. For the past four years, Justise has volunteered with the Collie Agricultural Society on their Junior Committee, and has helped with planning events aimed at young people. She has worked in the show pavilion leading up to the Collie Show and has acted as a steward during this time. Justise is also active in the Junior hockey, often helping with umpiring games.

Community Group of the Year

Friends of Valleyview

Friends of Valleyview was founded to raise funds for projects at Valleyview Residence. The two original projects funded included, the installation of solar panels and the purchase of a new ute. There were well over 120 local families and businesses who contributed to the fundraising efforts.

Friends of Valleyview started in September 2016 and within one month has raised \$50,000, and has to date raised more than \$100,000. With funds raised by the group, Valleyview has been able to purchase and install new solar panels, a new work ute, security cameras, an air-conditioning system for the kitchen, and the installation of a swipe card access system.

Fire brigades- Collieburn- Cardiff BFB, Allanson BFB, Collie-Preston BFB and Williams Road BFB

These four bushfire brigades- Collieburn- Cardiff BFB, Allanson BFB, Collie-Preston BFB and Williams Road BFB, have come together to work collaboratively over the past year and have achieved great outcomes for the Shire of Collie via bushfire response, controlled burning and training activities. They have worked together extremely well as a team unit, and continue to do so. In the last 12 months these four volunteer bushfire brigades have jointly attended over 30 bushfires, conducted around 20 controlled burns both on public land and private property, provided fire coverage at Collie Speedway and the Motorplex, and attended public events such as the Collie Show and Collie Christmas pageant. They undertake regular training both as individual brigades and as a combined group, and have also been active in promoting Bushfire Ready initiatives to ensure residents have the right plans in place to survive a bushfire.

Lions Club of Collie

The Lions Club of Collie has a long and proud history of supporting projects and causes that benefit the community. The Lions Club of Collie organises the Collie Christmas Pageant each year, giving the Collie community a focus for this major celebration.

The Lions Club of Collie brings together a wide variety of organisations, clubs and groups and provide an opportunity to raise funds and raise their profile in the community.

Most importantly, the pageant provides a family friendly evening that brings pleasure to thousands.

The Lions Club of Collie contribute to the community in many ways including, but not limited to- the Australia Day breakfast, Lions Hearing Clinic, Lions Save Sight, skin cancer checks, and Lions Christmas cakes.

The club provides a social outlet which gives its members the chance to volunteer for the community while enjoying fellowship. They sponsor a youth each year for a trip on the endeavour.

Environmental Award

Rotary Club of Collie

The Rotary Club of Collie have been nominated for their environmental work in the Collie community. Rotary International's 2017 President asked Rotarians worldwide to plant a tree for every member of their club. The Collie Rotarians planted a total of 6625 trees- which was enough for each member of their family and the some of the Collie community. The club have also been involved rehabilitation efforts at the Jack Mears Spring Site on the Collie River, and have continued an interest in dealing with roadside litter, conducting regular clean-ups of the highways. This is the third time the club have been nominated for the Environmental Award.

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