

FROM THE COAST

Australia Day

There were many different Australia Day activities in Esperance for those who celebrate the day. Some of us participated in the annual 2.5km Australia Day Swim Thru with Shannon Dixon taking out first place. The Rotary Club of Esperance put on a Family Fun Day which had performances by Ray Ryder and local musicians, and there were markets and displays. During the evening The Outer Fringe World Festival returned to the Civic Centre with the Poncho Circus featuring the Hardly Working Act.

We proudly acknowledged the Australia Day WA Community Citizen of the Year Awards. These awards recognise individuals and organisations that make a notable contribution during the year. These local members of the community invest huge amounts of their time and effort and they should be proud of their work and achievements.

The Esperance Theatre Guild won the Active citizenship award for their tireless work throughout the year, in particular their work on Cabaret, the Musical. They are a group of volunteers bringing Esperance a variety of theatrical performances every year. They participate in many different community events like the Christmas Parade and assist in the development of a variety of skills including directing, producing and acting.

Suzanne Jose won the youth award for her work with Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving club. She has been patrolling with the club since she was 14 years old and is always down at the surf club taking groups of nippers and lending a hand where needed. Recently she has taken up the responsibility of Director of Coaching and Competition.

John Crawley won the senior award; he has donated many hours of his time to restoration projects like the Grass Patch Post Office and the homestead at Balbinya Station. Without John's passion, expertise and commitment many of these projects would not go ahead.

And finally our Citizen of the Year was awarded to Michael Harding for generously assisting and supporting individuals, sporting clubs, associations and community service groups in many ways. He has helped many groups by generously donating his time assisting with transport and providing donations including equipment, vehicles and trophies.

This year's winners have gone above and beyond and are such valuable members of the Esperance Community. It is also an honour to be nominated and I congratulate those who have worked hard for the benefit of the community. I look forward to hearing about next year's nominees and winners.