



MEDIA RELEASE

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PREMIER'S AUSTRALIA DAY ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS WINNERS

The Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards winners were announced at the Ralph Bower Adventureland Park yesterday during the Australia Day celebrations. The awards recognise members of our local community who have invested their time and effort to ensure that we continue to enjoy a quality of life envied around the world.

The Award for Community Group or Event category went to the Esperance Bush Fire Brigades. The tireless effort by the members of our local volunteer Bush Fire Brigades were outstanding with their endeavours in trying to control the recent fires under extremely challenging conditions. Our volunteers have been out in the field working to protect our community and the region, since the initial fire in November, as well as the additional fires through to today.

The winner of the Under 25 years Citizen of the Year was to Michael Ridgway, a volunteer St John Ambulance officer who dedicates a large amount of his spare time working for St John's. He recently spent many hours at the fire front in this role and is always putting his hand up when others can't make their shifts as well as maintaining his full time job as a car salesman.

The winner of the Citizen of the Year Award was Barry Wroth, a community minded person whose activities cover the complete spectrum of community service. He has dedicated many hours to various organisations such as the Esperance Theatre Guild, Esperance Bowling Club, Service work for the Apex club of Esperance, St John Ambulance, SAFE Esperance and in the past several sporting clubs and fundraising initiatives.

Other worthy nominees included the Emergency Services and Community Groups who responded to the Esperance Fires, Saving Animals From Euthanasia (SAFE) Esperance, Bay of Isles Community Outreach (BOICO), Marni Topping, Dennis Kelly, Christine Graham and Christine Smith.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "Congratulations to all the Award winners, and also to the nominees. The calibre of the nominations demonstrates the tireless work of so many individuals and groups in our community. Recognising and celebrating their efforts on Australia Day fosters both national pride and community spirit. What better way to celebrate Australia Day?"

Ends

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