

MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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Community Citizens for 2019

The Shire of Esperance would like to congratulate the nominees and winners of this year's Australia Day Council's Citizen of the Year Awards.

The Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Erica Austen for the many volunteer roles she has fulfilled. Notably Erica is involved Netball - she has coached, scored and time kept, helped out at the canteen and game duty, assisted with constitutions, incorporation, fixtures, grievances and bylaws. Erica has a role on the Newtown Netball Committee; the Esperance Netball Association Committee and the Goldfields Netball Regional Committee.

Helen Scott was the recipient of the Senior Citizen of the Year Award. Helen Scott joined the Esperance RFDS in its inaugural year and has undertaken many leadership roles, including President. Helen has been tirelessly and actively involved in all of the organisation's fundraising programs which have raised over one million dollars in the last 20 years. Helen continues to provide great value to the RFDS, assisting and mentoring others within the organisation.

Rory Close was the Young Community Citizen of the Year Award winner. Rory joined the Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service in 2013 starting as a junior member in the running team and has gone on to complete many roles within the brigade as he has risen to become a Senior Fire Fighter. Rory is a consistent and reliable member of the service, having responded to over 200 triple zero calls.

Other nominees for the Active Citizenship Award include Michele Stokes, Rick Capelli, Michael Harding, Grantly Creasey, Emily Woodland, Paul Moore, Roger Robertson, Timothy Laycock and Kyron Smithson.

Helen Young was nominated for the Senior Citizen of the Year, while Maddilyn McGrinder, Joshua Van Staden and Stanley Halls were nominated for the Young Community Citizen of the Year.

Shire President Victoria Brown said, "I would like to congratulate Robin Scott OAM who received the Order of Australia in the General Division for over fifty years of service to the community of Coomalbidgup and the Coomalbidgup Bush Fire Brigade.

“We have some incredible people in our community and it is great that we can recognise some of them at the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards. I would like to congratulate and thank all the people nominated this year and those who won. Don't forget to keep an eye out for people to nominate for next year's awards!”

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ENC: Photos, credit to Jake Dietsch, Esperance Express

Top: Nominees and winners of this year's Australia Day Council's Citizen of the Year Awards
Bottom: Active Citizenship Award winner Erica Austen, with Federal Member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson, Australia Day Ambassador, Katie Curo and Shire President Victoria Brown.

