

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Shire of Esperance**

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**29 January 2018**

## **Australia Day Citizens of the Year**

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 Active Citizenship Award (to recognise a community group or event) was presented to APEX Esperance. APEX members donate their time to help senior citizens do everyday tasks like gardening and cleaning, raise and donate funds to groups in need and conduct tours of the port, encouraging tourism. They also regularly assist other community groups.

Other nominees for this award include SAFE Esperance and Esperance Music Festival. All nominees play a positive and vital role in our community and are commended for the services they provide.

Ewin Stewart was the recipient of the Senior Citizen of the Year (over 65 years of age) for 2018. Ewin has been an active member on many community groups, most notably being his 25 years as President of the Esperance Agricultural Society and 30 years as a member of Rotary. Ewin joined Esperance Miniature Railway Society in 2008, serving on the committee ever since and elected as President from 2013 onwards.

David Ford was also nominated for this award due to his dedication in assisting groups working for the benefit of the Esperance Community.

The 2018 Esperance Citizen of the Year was Paul Gaughan, an Esperance Community Paramedic with St John Ambulance. Paul is responsible for engaging with key local agencies dealing with health, emergency management, and mental health, responding to emergencies as an ambulance paramedic and mentoring, training and managing up to 90 Esperance volunteer ambulance officers and support staff.

In 2014 Paul received a Hero Award and in 2017 he was awarded the Ambulance Service Medal and the Volunteering WA- Volunteer Manager of the Year state award and his dedication to community goes above and beyond.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "We are fortunate we live in a place with such a strong sense of community and a culture that encourages volunteering. The Australia Day Citizen of the Year awards are a great way to recognise and thank those members of our local community who invest so much of their time and effort volunteering, so we can all continue to enjoy a quality of life envied around the world.

The tireless work of such individuals and community groups form an integral part in fostering national pride and community spirit.”

“These awards recognise the community contribution and participation rather than personal achievement. I would like to once again thank all volunteers for their dedication to our community and congratulate Apex, Ewin Stewart and Paul Guaghan for their well-deserved Citizen of the Year awards and our Australia Day Ambassador, Conrad Liveris for coming down to present the awards.”

**Ends**

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