



January 2016

Active citizenship recognised at citizenship ceremony

Three local people have been recognised in the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards.

The Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards were announced at a ceremony at the City of Nedlands' Australia Day citizenship event held at John Leckie Pavilion at College Park in Nedlands held on Thursday 21 January.

Winner of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award is Mrs Diane Collins.

Inspired by comments made by then Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley, in 2009 Mrs Diane Collins sought to provide schools with microscopes. Since then, Mrs Collins has worked hard to provide 15,500 microscopes to 550 schools. This work seeks to engender a love of science in young people and lead more young people into the field of science. She obtained the support of 93 Rotary clubs for this project.

Mrs Collins is also actively involved in the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay's Kids Right2Sight project which tests the eyesight of children entering school, and its FEET project which will look at the feet, eyes, ears and teeth of the elderly and disadvantaged in WA.

Winner of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for a person under 25 years is Ms Vanessa Gawan-Taylor.

Ms Gawan-Taylor obtained her Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion (full surf rescue qualification) at the Swanbourne Nedlands Surf Life Saving Club and is now a voluntary patrolling lifesaver.

She has taken on leadership roles for the Nippers and Cadets, providing water safety for their activities, and is also the Age Group Manager for the older age groups. Vanessa organises and leads the surf rescue education activities on Sunday mornings for the older group, aiming to take them through their Surf Rescue Certificate. She teaches, among other skills, resuscitations and board and tube rescues.

Winner of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for a community group or event is LADS – Learning and Attentional Disorders Society of WA.

LADS has been providing counselling, advocacy and information services to children, adults, their families and professionals throughout metropolitan, rural and regional Western Australia since 1993. LADS benefits people dealing with ADHD and associated conditions through support, information, education and advocacy. Over the years LADS has helped thousands of children, adults and their families to develop skills to better manage the impact ADHD and learning difficulties have on them and their families, friends and colleagues.

LADS responds to hundreds of calls each year, provides low cost counselling and runs monthly support group meetings and community seminars and events. LADS aims to ensure everyone living with ADHD and learning difficulties has an equal opportunity to learn, strive and thrive.

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins praised all the winners and nominees.

"All the winners and nominees make a great contribution to our community, helping to make people's lives fuller and more rewarding. Their efforts are to be admired and I congratulate everyone for the good work they do in contributing to the life of the wider community," he said.

ENDS

About the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards

The Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards focus on community contribution and participation rather than personal achievement. The three awards highlight active citizenship, outstanding contribution to the local community and Australian pride and spirit.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500