

2018 Celebrating Community Nominees

Category: RISING STAR (under 25) – young people who have made a significant contribution to their local community

Cory Tenardi - Mundaring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

Cory has a positive impact on the community through his work with the Mundaring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service, promoting bush fire safety. Cory became a Cadet Lieutenant in April, and was recently promoted to Probationary Fire Fighter at the age of 16, completing the first three modules of the fire fighter training pathway, passing with exemplary results. On completion of this, he also required sign off by the Captain of the brigade and the Commissioner of Emergency Services due to his young age.

Cory regularly gives up his free time to assist with all aspects of the Fire and Rescue service, is often present at call outs and shows initiative in finding solutions to tricky situations. Cory assists to train and inspire the members of the Mundaring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Cadet program and attends many school holiday activities promoting fire safety and awareness. He is a valued mentor amongst Cadets and is sought out by many of the younger members to assist during exercises.

Cory has on several occasions shaved his head in support of the Breast Cancer Foundation, raising much needed funds, and contributes his time to Hills Night Hockey as an umpire. Congratulations Cory.

Karri Simpson - Mundaring Woylie Guides

Karri has been nominated as an exceptional Girl Guide who contributes meaningfully to her community. She is always first to volunteer to assist in upcoming events and participates eagerly and enthusiastically with everything she does. She gives up her valuable time on the holidays and weekends for long hours, facilitates activities, and is always there to setup and pack down.

Karri demonstrates exceptional leadership skills, welcoming new girls to Guides and is conscious of including everyone in activities. She is a wonderful role model to the younger girls, who pick Karri out to assist with activities. This is something Karri manages with grace, patience and humour. She is awesome at working out a solution to any problem. She is a super helper at camps, pitching in with any job to be done, without being asked or directed.

Karri has challenged herself to earn many badges throughout the years, which has involved considerable challenges and skill development.

Karri was unable to join us tonight, however will be presented with her gift at a later stage. Congratulations Karri.

Category: INSPIRATIONAL VOLUNTEER – individual or group who through their volunteering role have made an outstanding contribution to the local community

Irene Maher - Chidlow Progress Association

Irene has been instrumental in starting the Chidlow Markets, which has become a monthly event for many years. Irene started the markets to raise funds for work on the Old Chidlow Hall, raising awareness of the Hall as a community asset.

Irene has handled promotion of the markets for over five years, building the markets up to include a twilight market. These events contribute positively to the sense of community in Chidlow. Irene has now trained a new market coordinator and continues to be her mentor.

Irene has been a very active member of the Chidlow Progress Association and has worked hard as the morning tea organiser for ANZAC Day services. Irene has always been very dependable and always thinks things through carefully.

Irene has given so much of her time and dedication and is now having a break, but will still be a friend of the Hall, and a film night and market supporter. Thank you Irene.

John Bell – Mount Helena Residents & Ratepayers Association

As the originator of the Hills Billy Cart Festival, John has been instrumental in facilitating this community event, encouraging families to work together on a project and fostering intergenerational collaboration and enjoyment. The event also created a focus point for the Mount Helena community. The Mount Helena Residents and Ratepayers Association delivered the event with support from a small army of volunteers who assisted with many tasks.

John has put enormous effort into inspiring Shire residents, over the past year, to get involved in the project and has persisted in bringing it to fruition.

John has been nominated as an inspirational volunteer for inspiring others to support an original idea, providing the gift of community cohesion and enjoyment; for his persistence in gathering supporters; and for employing positive promotion and inclusive practices to support a community-led project. Thank you John.

Neridah Zlatnik – Mundaring Netball Club

Neridah is genuinely altruistic and tirelessly puts others before herself. She values the people and the community in which she lives and is constantly giving back through her involvement in a number of local community groups and sporting clubs.

Neridah has served as Registrar of the Mundaring Netball Club for three years and as team manager for five years. She has served on the management committee of Hills Raiders Basketball Association as publicity officer for two years. Neridah is also involved with the Panthers Basketball Club as a management committee member and in her third year as team manager. In addition, Neridah is in her tenth year as an executive committee member with Mundaring Primary School Parents and Citizens Association

Neridah also assists with fundraising as a parent volunteer for Mundaring Woylies Guides.

Recently Neridah was involved on the organising committee for the Light the Night Mundaring event, a lantern walk which raised over \$5800 for the Leukaemia Foundation. Neridah was also volunteer event coordinator of the Mundaring Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Night.

A true community champion, we are pleased to acknowledge Neridah's contribution. Thank you Neridah.

Homework Club

The Homework Club run at Swan View Youth Centre assists at-risk children to gain the skills necessary to succeed academically. The Club is led by a team of committed volunteers, who all attend weekly Homework Club sessions at the Centre. In addition to this, the volunteers attend planning sessions when necessary.

Each of these people are incredibly patient, kind and encouraging, contributing to a safe and welcoming learning space for the children who attend. They endeavour to give one on one attention to participants when able. Parents and guardians have reported improved attitudes and academic success of their children. The children look forward to attending and being part of the group.

These volunteers inspire children to gain a love of learning, in addition to skills in numeracy and literacy. The following volunteers are deserving of today's recognition for their efforts in acting as mentors for these children, ensuring they feel supported and included:

Brigitte McCormick

Sophie Leonard

Georgia Peakall

Lucy Golby

Kira Blankley – Unfortunately Kira is unable to join us tonight.

Congratulations to the Homework Club volunteers.

Mundaring Combined Hardcourts Association

Mundaring Combined Hardcourts Association consists of representatives from local sporting associations who work together for the benefit of their members. The Association was the driving force behind the Mundaring Arena project, as their initial proposal in 2013 for an indoor sports stadium and dedication to seeing the project come to fruition, formed part of the Shire's plans for the Hills. Over the last five years, the group has worked with the Shire of Mundaring through the design and construction phases, garnering support from politicians and applying for grants to benefit the facility.

The Mundaring Combined Hardcourts Association is made up of members from the Hills Raiders Basketball Association, Eastern Hills Netball Association and Hills Night Hockey Association. Although each has responsibilities to their own members and individual sport, the Association provides the opportunity to work together for the benefit of everyone who plays sport.

The group is now focusing on bringing the outdoor courts up to the same standard as the Mundaring Arena. The Association continues to strive to work on behalf of their members to bring the best sporting facilities to the Mundaring area. Thank you Mary Ball, Wendy Howard, Fiona Malloch, Bob Little and Mike Wilkinson.

Category: LONG SERVICE – individual or group who have been community champions and continuously served their community for in excess of ten years

Rob Rowe – Helena Valley Estate Residents' Association

Rob has been President of the Helena Valley Estate Residents' Association for the last 18 years. He is the driving force that has kept the organisation going and is relentless in following up anything that is of benefit to residents of the estate. Rob constantly drives for things that can be done to improve the amenity of the area.

Rob was involved in the production and installation of "Slow Down" signs for the estate. His efforts on the Committee to improve playground facilities and a general tidy estate image is ongoing. Rob also keeps residents informed by producing the Helena Valley Estate Resident's Association newsletter. In his role as President, Rob chairs bi monthly meetings and has also taken on the job of Secretary for the last two years. Rob has made an outstanding and continued effort to ensure Helena Valley is an enjoyable place to live. Thank you Rob.

Tracey Jenkin – Girl Guides WA

Tracey, also known as Quokka, has been the lifeblood of Guiding in Darlington, holding the position of volunteer Unit Leader for over 18 years. Tracey will be retiring as Girl Guide leader this year. Throughout her time with the group, Tracey has held a variety of roles, including hall manager and district manager, but throughout that time she has always run Guide Units with dedication and passion. She has introduced girls to community service, and has supported and formed partnerships with local businesses and other organisations.

Tracey has given up countless hours of her own time to empower girls to grow into responsible and self-respecting community members. She is always organised, on time, and spends hours behind the scenes arranging meeting materials, organising the unit's equipment, managing administration and planning events.

Tracey has made an impact on the lives of hundreds of children in the shire and is worthy of the recognition and thanks she has been nominated for tonight.

Congratulations Tracey.

Hills Night Hockey Association

The Hills Night Hockey Association commenced in 1978 when a need was identified for a summer hockey competition in the hills. The dedicated committee worked hard to establish the competition and it has thrived and continues to be successful today. Over the past 40 years, the Association has assisted hundreds of Shire residents to improve their physical fitness and skills and strengthen their social connections within the community.

The Hills Night Hockey Association commenced with 11 teams in 1978. In 2018, 76 teams are registered to play, ranging from junior under sevens to senior men's and women's teams. Over the years many players have advanced to a level where they have been selected to play in State indoor hockey teams. The Association operates on the philosophy of making sport inclusive and affordable for all.

The committee has worked tirelessly over the past few years in conjunction with other sports groups and the Shire, towards the common goal of a purpose built, state of the art, indoor sporting arena.

Hills Night Hockey Association are now seeing coaches and umpires who commenced playing hockey in their younger years, sharing their skills and love of the game with the young players of today. Here to accept on behalf of the Association is Kerry Duncan.

Riding for the Disabled Hills Group

The RDA Hills Group celebrates 40 years of community service in 2018. The group has supported more than a thousand children and young people through riding activities and the provision of volunteering opportunities.

RDA Hills Group has been re-accredited annually as an "RDA Centre of Excellence" for many years, showing leadership in WA by supporting its volunteers to participate in training and professional development at an international level.

The group provides opportunities for young people with disabilities to pursue riding for recreation, therapy and a lifelong interest; opportunities for riders to participate in events at the Centre and at State and National levels; training for volunteers to contribute at many skill levels according to their interest, from basic level through to accredited coach. The group also provides advocacy for young people with a disability, to participate fully in community life.

RDA Hills Group is one of the few RDA centres in WA that offers a Hippotherapy program. This is an intensive individual program, for riders requiring a high level of therapy. The session is delivered by a professional occupational therapist with at least four specially trained volunteer assistants. Thank you Willie Warnock, Rod Warnock, Alison Wilson, Ron Wilson and Rebekah Millard.

Category: ACCESS MUNDARING – individual or group making a difference to create a more accessible and inclusive Shire of Mundaring

Café Mojo Mundaring

Café Mojo has been nominated by a member of the Inclusion and Disability Access Advisory Group in the Access Mundaring category for the welcoming, friendly and inclusive environment they provide for patrons. The Café is also a place of work for a person with a disability, who has been supported to build skills and work independently and is an asset to the team. The Café has implemented strategies to assist the person to be successful in their role and offers flexibility of working hours to suit their needs.

Café Mojo is a community hub, offering a range of activities and special events including Seniors specials, young mothers' groups, a FIFO support group, social knitting workshops and a book exchange, to name a few. A free space is available for clubs and community groups to meet with the aim of community capacity building. The Café runs community events, for example a recent swap meet held in Recycling Week enabled people to swap unwanted goods that might otherwise have been headed for landfill. A "plant share" initiative gives producers the opportunity to leave excess produce that is available for people to take and there are a number of people experiencing financial hardship who take advantage of this regularly.

The grounds are accessible from a number of entry points and provide relaxing spaces amongst nature. The staff are always happy, smiling and obliging, making the Café feel like a "second home".

Thank you and congratulations Ronald and Joanne.