

MEDIA STATEMENT



Tuesday, 26 January 2016

Australia Day awards recognise community champions

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan has paid tribute to the City's loyal and selfless community groups and individuals while announcing the recipients of the 2016 Australia Day awards at a special ceremony this morning.

Mr Brennan presented Ian Mills with the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for his outstanding voluntary contribution to the performing arts in Bunbury.

Mr Mills has taught music over many years to school and youth choirs, encouraging everyone to develop their love of music.

Sean Smith, the Youth Mayor of Bunbury and also a member of the City of Bunbury Youth Advisory Council, was announced as the recipient of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Under 25 Award.

Mr Smith has been involved in youth-focussed events, such as Shift Youth Arts Festival, Battle of the Bands and the Travelling Street Piano, along with other initiatives that adds vibrancy to our City.

The Community Group or Event Australia Day award was presented to Hands Up 4 Kids, which sources and places volunteers who make a tangible contribution towards improved reading by selected school students.

More than 70 volunteers hear children read during weekly one-hour visits to six Bunbury Schools, with a total of 130 volunteers helping out in 12 primary schools in the Greater Bunbury area.

Mr Brennan said Bunbury was fortunate to have so many individuals and groups who gave up their time to contribute to the community.

"I congratulate the worthy winners of these awards and all of the nominees who were recognised for their contribution to the City by other members of our community," Mr Brennan said.

"It is the tireless work of people such as these that make our City a vibrant, diverse and progressive place to live and visit."

Mr Brennan also welcomed 39 new Australians at a service this morning, with people from countries as diverse as Iran and India taking the oath to become citizens.

ENDS

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