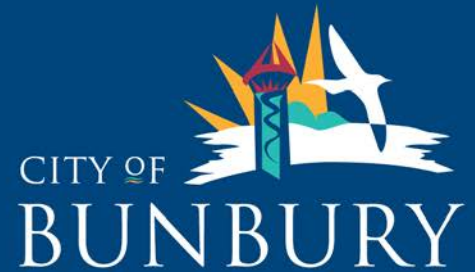


MEDIA STATEMENT



Thursday, 26 January 2017

Community champions and new citizens celebrated on Australia Day

Champions of our community were celebrated today with individuals and groups recognised for their contribution in the City of Bunbury's Australia Day Awards.

The Bunbury Citizen of the Year Award was presented to hard-working volunteer Joyce McGinn, who has contributed to a wide and varying range of organisations over the past two decades.

Joyce regularly volunteers over 50 hours per week, in the process working to enhance the lives of many and adding to the caring spirit of our community.

The Young Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Luella Knuckey, who has a long and established record of serving her school and the wider Bunbury Community locally, nationally and internationally.

Luella has immersed herself in many community and school events/activities. Her involvement in a wide variety of different programs has always seen her give back to the community by mentoring younger people and supporting the elderly or unwell with an extremely positive, enthusiastic, mature and helpful attitude.

Bunbury Multicultural Group was presented with the Community Group/Event of the Year Award for its work towards building a cohesive multicultural community.

The not-for-profit group organises the South West Multicultural Festival, which has been growing and evolving over the last 10 years, in addition to other smaller activities promoting multiculturalism throughout the year.

The festival has grown from an audience of around 200 at its inception to an estimated 7000 last year and the committee works strategically so their work reinforces cultural amalgamation and assimilation.

The highly regarded Willcox Brown Perpetual Trophy was presented to Bunbury Respect Inc in recognition of their dedication and tireless effort in spreading the message of respect throughout the Bunbury community.

The commitment and devotion demonstrated by Bunbury Respect Inc in educating young people and the broader community in making a conscious effort to "Choose Respect" creates a positive message throughout the Bunbury community and fosters a culture of respect.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was an honour to be able to acknowledge the hard work carried out by volunteers in the community.

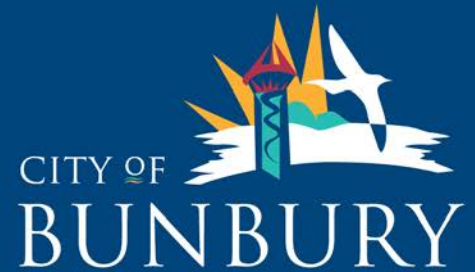
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“I congratulate the worthy winners of these awards and all of the nominees who were recognised for their contribution to the City by other members of our community,” Mr Brennan said.

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

The morning’s events also included a citizenship ceremony in which 33 people from 11 countries pledged their loyalty to Australia and our people.

Mr Brennan said it was an opportunity to reflect on the importance of citizenship as a unifying bond strengthening the local community.

“Australia Day is a time for us to congratulate our newest citizens and welcome them to the Australian family,” Mr Brennan said.

ENDS

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