

Community Citizen of the Year Award Nominees 2025

Community Citizen of the Year Award:

- **Janelle Ende** - For her unwavering dedication to rescuing and rehabilitating birds of prey, raising community awareness and tirelessly working to ensure the conservation of local wildlife through education and volunteer efforts.
- **Rohan Prowse** – For his dedicated work producing the weekly Friday Circulars newsletter, connecting the community with important courses, events and training opportunities, alongside his involvement in suicide prevention and mental health initiatives.
- **Michelle Louise-Jones** - For her dedication to wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and education through Geraldton Greenough Wildlife Rescue Inc., where she manages animal care facilities and provides invaluable support and public education on wildlife care.
- **Pia Boschetti** - For her innovative work in environmentalism and the arts, including her Flotsam and Jetsam project, which combines community clean-up efforts with creative art exhibitions, and her Young Jewellers Award, providing local students with the opportunity to create unique jewellery.
- **Lennelle Papertalk** - For her exceptional leadership and advocacy in Indigenous affairs, sports and youth engagement. Lennelle has made significant contributions through her work with WACRH, GSAC and state organisations, empowering Aboriginal communities and promoting health, education and employment.
- **Justin Larkin** - For his outstanding volunteer service with the Geraldton-Greenough State Emergency Service, contributing over 1200 hours and leading rescue operations, training and storm damage responses.
- **Amy Zinetti** - For her exceptional volunteer work with the Catholic Diocese Geraldton, organizing community events and bringing people together, particularly through multicultural gatherings and the Morning Coffee & Tea initiative.
- **Jake Peacock** - For his dedicated work in youth development through coaching both life and boxing skills and his commitment to providing opportunities for young people in Geraldton and beyond.
- **Celeste Larkins** - For her exceptional volunteer work with the Geraldton Local Drug Action Group, leading projects to raise awareness about mental health, drug use, and harm reduction strategies.
- **Isabel Ross** - For her outstanding leadership and dedication to the Beachlands community, coordinating a range of environmental, social and health-focused initiatives, including tree planting, fundraising events and neighbour support programs.

Active Citizenship:

- **Just Raptors** - For their dedicated service in rehabilitating injured birds of prey and raising community awareness about wildlife conservation, including successfully advocating for Geraldton to become an 'Owl Friendly City'.
- **Midwest Cat Shelter** - For over 10 years, this volunteer-run, non-profit charity has been dedicated to the welfare of cats in the Midwest, promoting adoption, providing education, and hosting events to support their rescue efforts.

- **Midwest African Association** - Since its incorporation in 2008, MWAA has fostered social networks for new arrivals and shared diverse African cultures through participation in festivals and community events, including providing first aid services at local cultural festivals.
- **Geraldton Mabuhay Cultural Association** - For over 20 years, the association has welcomed new arrivals, helped them settle into the community and celebrated their cultural roots through performances at multicultural festivals, while passing on cultural dance skills to the next generation.
- **Geraldton Hospital Auxiliary** - The Auxiliary has raised \$2 million to support the hospital by funding equipment, resources and improvements. This year, they funded the refurbishment of the foyer, dining area, kiosk and outdoor space, including replanting, outdoor furniture, and reticulation.
- **Geraldton Dog Rescue** - Since 2003, the volunteers at Geraldton Dog Rescue have tirelessly rescued and rehomed over 6,500 dogs and pups from the City of Greater Geraldton animal management facility. They provide care for the animals and offer them a loving foster home until they are re-homed.
- **Beachlands Community Garden** - For 10 years, the Beachlands Community Garden has been run entirely by volunteers, welcoming people of all ages and abilities. It has become a key community hub, particularly for new residents, offering a safe, inclusive and supportive environment while helping people settle into the area.
- **Friends of Geraldton Gardens (FROGGS)** - For their dedication to creating a botanical garden in Geraldton, showcasing local plant species at Maitland Park and their active participation in community events, including sponsoring the "World Environment Day" prize at the Flotsam and Jetsam Exhibition.
- **Switched on Seniors Geraldton** - For their dedicated volunteer work assisting over 400 seniors with mobile devices in 5 years, offering weekly iPad and Android classes, one-on-one lessons, and essential support during COVID, as well as empowering many students to become volunteers themselves.

Senior Community Citizen of the Year Award:

- **Lorraine Chapman** - For her dedicated volunteer work leading creative writing groups, inspiring writers of all ages and offering her time to various community organisations, including schools, rehabilitation centres and the Coral Coast Writers group.
- **Cecillia Barrett** - For her continued dedication to volunteering at Hillcrest Age Care, St Vincent de Paul, local soup kitchens and the St Francis Xavier Cathedral Museum, as well as her kindness in offering support and hospitality to those around her.
- **Leo Morey** - For his unwavering dedication and selfless volunteering at the Geraldton Golf Club, ensuring its smooth operation and enhancing the experience for senior members through his commitment to both small and significant tasks.
- **Yvonne Marsden** - For her extensive volunteer work with community organisations including the Sunshine Festival, Geraldton-Greenough Farmers Markets and the Midwest Multicultural Association.
- **Anne Dixon** - For her dedicated volunteer work with Centacare, supporting Christmas donations, community events and the Back to School Project, as well as assisting with the Switched on Seniors program at the QEII Centre.

Young Community Citizen of the Year:

- **Lee Nelson** - For her advocacy for young people, particularly those with disabilities, through instigating the annual youth market event "A Day in the Laneway" and establishing "Dress Up Geraldton," a service providing free formal wear to young people.
- **Aleesha Chant** - For her dedication to supporting young players at Chapman Athletic Soccer Club, taking on significant responsibilities since starting as a Tiny Tiger mentor at 12 and for being an inspiring role model to the club's junior members.
- **Tempany Rahu** - For her dedication and reliability in volunteering at the Red Cross for over four years, assisting customers and maintaining the shop, while being a positive role model in the community, especially as a person living with a disability.
- **Anthony Willems** - For his dedication to his school and community through consistent volunteer work, including helping with the school's breakfast club and caring for the garden and goats.

Mullewa Active Citizenship:

- **Binmaga Dance** - For their dedication to cultural revitalisation and community empowerment in Mullewa, offering free children's cultural dance workshops, creating paid employment opportunities for local youth and fostering cultural pride while preserving the traditions of the Yamaji people.