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Citizens recognised on Australia Day

The City of Albany recognised its outstanding citizens and welcomed new Australian citizens at a formal ceremony in Albany Town Hall on Australia Day.

Twenty-two nominations were received for the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards across three categories – outstanding community contribution by a local citizen, a local citizen under-25, and a local group or community event – and 33 people took the oath to become Australian citizens.

City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington welcomed the new citizens and congratulated the award nominees and winners.

“Albany is blessed to have so many people who volunteer their time to many causes and local groups and are tireless in their efforts to make our city the best community it can be,” Mayor Wellington said.

“We are also lucky to have so many new faces wanting to take the oath and commit to being proud Australians and embracing our country's values and enriching the diversity of our community.

“The Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award winners embody what being Australian is all about and are very deserving of their recognition.”

Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award – Tony Harrison
 Citizen of the Year winner was Tony Harrison, who was recognised for his involvement with Albany Boardriders, Albany Surf Lifesaving Club, Granny Grommits, South Coast Progress Association and his work as an environmentalist and active representative on numerous advisory groups.

Tony has acted as life guard and instructor for the Granny Grommits for more than 16 years, and is credited with keeping more than 100 women mentally fit and healthy as part of the program.

Tony has also been a mentor to younger generations through his 'Due South Surf Academy' business, and has supported new marine based businesses starting in Albany.



Australia Day ambassador Tim Britten presents Tony Harrison with his Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award.



Tony's passion for protection of our oceans and environment is also well known and he regularly shares his knowledge and passion for the sea.

Premier's Australia Day Active Citizen Award Under 25 – Heidi Mostert

Winner of the Under 25 category was Heidi Mostert, who was recognised for her involvement with the Highway Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, St John Ambulance and Albany PCYC where she is a dedicated employee as well as a volunteer.

As a fire fighter, Heidi also regularly volunteers to be deployed outside of Albany to help other communities affected by fire, most recently attending the bush fire at Mt Cooke which was sparked by lightning.

Her nominator noted that 'Heidi demonstrates on a daily basis her pride in being an active and productive citizen through her commitment to the community'.

Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for Community Group or Event – Scouts WA, Gilcreek Scout Campsite

The Community Group or Event winner was Gilcreek Campsite, run by Scouts WA.

The camp has provided a valuable service to the Albany and wider community since the 1960's with low cost, affordable accommodation giving groups a base from which to explore Albany and run meetings, conferences and workshops.

Their ongoing maintenance and improvement program has also ensured the campsite is inclusive of all abilities.

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Heidi Mostert receives her Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Under 25 Award from Australia Day ambassador Tim Britten.

