

Date: 27 January 2017

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**SUMMARY:**

- 2017 Shire of Exmouth Australia Day WA Community Citizens of the Year announced.
  - Awards recognise individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to the community.
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## **Exmouth names 2017 Citizens of the Year**

George Simmons, Kyle Preest and the Exmouth Carols by Starlight Committee have been named the 2017 Shire of Exmouth Australia Day WA Community Citizen of the Year Award winners.

The announcement was made by Shire of Exmouth Action CEO Keith Woodward at the Shire's annual Australia Day celebrations at the Paltridge Memorial Swimming Pool yesterday.

George Simmons was presented the Citizen of the Year award for his services to Exmouth's Volunteer Marine Rescue Group.

"As Deputy Commander George has been involved in hundreds of rescues but he also spends countless hours on dry land making sure the group is ready whenever they get a call for help," Mr Woodward said.

"He is always the first person to volunteer his time, whether it be to get a boat serviced, install and maintain equipment or man the radio. Our community is a better place as a result of George's years of service."

Kyle Preest was named Youth Citizen of the Year for his work with Exmouth PCYC and junior sport.

"As well as helping organise and run PCYC discos, Kyle volunteers his time to coach and umpires junior sport," Mr Woodward said.

"He is a positive role model who shows excellent sportsmanship and team work and has a strong commitment to volunteering. Our community benefits significantly from the work he does."

The Active Citizenship Award was presented to the Carols by Starlight Committee, which has run the popular family event for 17 years.

"The event is supported by many local groups and organisations and attended by about 450 people each year," Mr Woodward said.

"It is one of the highlights of Exmouth's Christmas season and fosters a sense of community and inclusiveness."

# Shire of Exmouth **MEDIA RELEASE**



Mr Woodward thanked all those who were nominated for the award for their valuable contributions to the community and tireless work.

“Their efforts enrich our community and sustain our local sporting clubs, community groups and emergency services,” he said.

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Photos available on request:

- Award winners
- Australia Day celebrations at Paltridge Memorial Swimming Pool