



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 28 October 2014

La Trobe Community Awards

The inaugural La Trobe Community Awards were a huge success last weekend.

Amongst the awardees there were school students, long term volunteers, those who helped out in multitude of organisations, and those who had done some phenomenal work in a short period of time.

“The La Trobe Community Awards are a great example of what our community is capable of when we work together.” Said Jason Wood MP

Recipients of the La Trobe Community Awards came from organisations ranging from Schools and charity organisations to emergency services and environmental groups.

“I’m so glad we’ve had the opportunity to recognise the outstanding members of our community. Volunteering can sometimes be such a thankless role, and I truly feel these people need not just huge congratulations, but also a huge thank you.” Said Jason Wood MP.

In its first year there were 27 individual recipients of the La Trobe Community Award and two groups who received the Award. In unusual circumstances due to the extremely high quality of applications received, a decision could not be made for a clear La Trobe Medallion recipient – so two were awarded.

The first recipient of the La Trobe Medallion was Mrs Gwen Horner who at the age of 82 has given 65 years of service to a multitude of organisations. Among which are the Sassafras and Ferny Creek Fire Brigade, Ferny Creek Tennis Club and Ewing Memorial and Uniting Church. Gwen is known by the community as a selfless and loving person.

Ms Sharyn Thomas was the second recipient of the La Trobe Medallion. As the Director of the Hills Autism and Special Needs Support Group, a volunteer at the Emerald and Belgrave South Community Houses where she runs weekly cooking and life skills classes for people with special needs, and the founder of the group “We Made It”, Sharyn is an incredibly busy woman who is always willing to find more time for others.

“All of our Community Awards Recipients have demonstrated, through much hard work and effort, what it means to give back to our community in a way that it not so common – particularly Gwen and Sharyn. Thank you for providing such a great example for not just us, but all of our future generations. I’m now really looking forward to next year’s Awards already” Said Jason Wood MP.

The La Trobe Community Awards were open to anyone aged 16 or above, or any organisation who fit the description of ‘going above and beyond for their community’.

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For further information regarding recipients, please see attached document.

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