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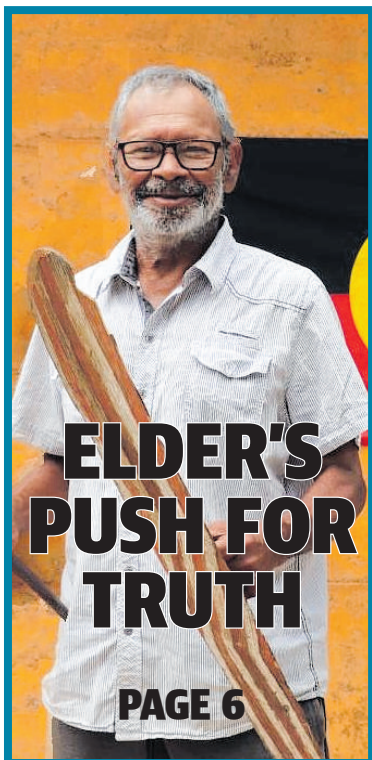
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ELDER'S PUSH FOR TRUTH

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Busselton Mayor Grant Henley, 2023 senior community citizen of the year Delys Forrest, and Vasse MLA Libby Mettam. Picture: Breanna Redhead

PAYING IT FORWARD

BREANNA REDHEAD

Busselton and Dunsborough residents gathered on Thursday to celebrate community members and welcome new citizens.

Among them was senior community citizen of the year Delys Forrest, 85, who has been a champion for local history including the Butter Factory Museum as

well as raising money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, being active in politics and volunteering on school committees.

"When you grow up and have a family, you get involved with so much in the community and it just grows and grows and grows, she said. "I just want to give back to the community that gave me so much."

Busselton Mayor Grant Henley opened the Australia Day event, praising first

responders and frontline workers who he said "put the safety and wellbeing of others before their own". At the Dunsborough service, Wadandi man Joshua Whiteland — who runs cultural, food and educational tours and programs through his business Koomal Dreaming — was named community citizen of the year.

REPORT PAGES 2-3

Terminal build call

WARREN HATELY

More than 25,000 passengers have made their journey through Busselton's airport in the past six months, prompting calls for infrastructure upgrades to passenger facilities.

Vasse MLA Libby Mettam says the success of Jetstar's Melbourne to Busselton route means it is time to build the long-awaited airport passenger terminal.

Renewing the call this week, the deputy Liberal Party leader called on the State Government to unlock funds earmarked for the project, but Regional Development Minister Don Punch said the Government was watching the progress of the the three-year Jetstar trial.

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Home deliveries and circulation

Phone 1800 811 855
 Email logistics@wanews.com.au

This publication is published by



A division of West Australian
 Newspapers Holdings Ltd

Newspapers, Herdsman Print Centre, 54 Hasler Road,
 Osborne Park 6107. Phone 9361 5401.

Responsibility for
 editorial comment in
 this edition is taken by
 Shannon Verhagen, 19
 Proffit Street, Bunbury
 WA 6230. Printed by
 Colourpress Pty Ltd,
 ABN 17 009 172 276,
 West Australian



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Busselton recognises

BREANNA REDHEAD

Busselton locals gathered at the foreshore on Thursday morning to celebrate community members young and old — welcoming new citizens into the country and praising those who have dedicated great service to the community.

Braving the early morning sunshine, the Rotary Club of Busselton Geographe Bay together with the City of Busselton held their annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at the foreshore amphitheatre.

City of Busselton Mayor Grant Henley opened the formalities, highlighting the efforts of first responders in the community.

“On Australia Day 2023, we reflect on the selfless and courageous sacrifice of thousands of first responders’ and frontline workers who put the safety and wellbeing of others before their own,” he said.

“We reflect on the resilience of communities and the spirit of helping, giving and supporting that defines us as Australians.”

Member for Vasse Libby Mettam also gave a heartfelt address, speaking on what it meant to be Australian.

“Australia is more than a country, it is also a promise,”



Busselton Mayor Grant Henley, 2023 Senior Community Citizen of the Year Delys Forrest, and Vasse MLA Libby Mettam. Pictures: Breanna Redhead

she said. “A promise of opportunity, equality, and safety for those fleeing violence, war and oppression and a promise of a better life.”

This year, the City welcomed 28 new Australia citizens, from 17 different countries, across both Busselton and Dunsborough.

Among the celebrating families were the Van Zyl family —

Billy, Leanda and their 14-year-old daughter Danielle — who moved to Australia from South Africa in 2016.

Speaking to the Busselton Dunsborough Times, Mr Van Zyl said the family were excited to become official Australian citizens.

“We’ve come a long way and it feels really good to be citizens of the country,” he said.

Apart from loving the beachside lifestyle, Mrs Van Zyl said it was the amazing community that made them want to call Busselton home.

“It’s one of the main reasons why we chose (Busselton) . . . it’s very community based and everyone knows everyone and it’s just so family orientated and so lovely,” she said.

The ceremony also recog-

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community and citizenship



Wadandi man Joshua Whiteland — who runs cultural, food and educational tours and programs through his business Koomal Dreaming — was named Community Citizen of the Year at the Dunsborough ceremony.

nised the hard working members of the community, with the awarding of the annual Community Citizen of the Year and Senior Community Citizen of the Year awards.

Taking home the coveted community citizen prize was passionate mental health advocate Marshall Grosse.

At just 18 years of age Marshall has made his mark on the community supporting a number of mental health initiatives, with a particular focus on young men.

With many accomplishments to his name, Marshall has been a part of Youth Advisory Board and mentor for mental health camp Zero2Hero, an ambassador for Movember, a motivational speaker at community events, is the host of mental health podcast Lads Chat, and is president of his school leadership team.

He said he was not expecting the honour.

“I didn’t really expect (to win) but I’m really stoked,” he said.

“I love what I do and have been

doing it for a long time now and I just want to help out as much as I can, so really excited.”

Also a winner was 85-year-old Delys Forrest, who was awarded the senior community person of the year for her service to a variety of community areas over more than 60 years.

Her efforts include significant contributions to ensuring the heritage of the Busselton District, particularly the Butter Factory Museum, being a long-time fundraiser for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, an active member of local and State politics and playing an active role in her children’s school parents and citizens committee.

She said her passion to help in the community felt very natural.

“I’m very excited, I heard I had been nominated but I certainly didn’t expect to win,” she said.

“When you grow up and have a family, you get involved with so much in the community and it just grows and grows.”

“I just want to give back to the community that gave me so much.”

At the Dunsborough service, Wadandi man Joshua Whiteland — who runs cultural, food and educational tours and programs through his business Koomal Dreaming — was named Community Citizen of the Year.

After the ceremony, guests were treated to a barbecue breakfast organised by the Rotary team.



2023 Community Citizen of the Year Marshall Grosse.

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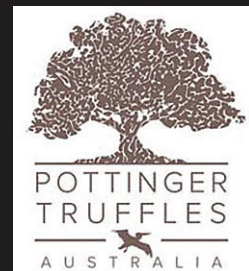
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