

Mandurah's Environmental Volunteers Recognised for their Achievements

Volunteers up and down the country were celebrated during National Volunteer Week, and Mandurah was no exception.

Several events were held throughout the week, culminating in a spectacular celebration to recognise and honour the hard-working volunteers that care for our local environment.

Over 30 groups were represented for their efforts and achievements at Mandurah Country Club on 21 May.

Special guests included Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams and Professor Lyn Beazley who both praised and thanked the volunteers, and highlighted their achievements.

Mandurah's Deputy Mayor Caroline Knight presented the special recognition awards. "Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our City" she said. "Our community and our environment is so much richer for the generosity and passion that is given in abundance by our local people."

George Walley performed *Welcome to Country* and acknowledged Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group and their partners who organised the event.

The Master of Ceremonies was Lisa Munday, MLA for Dawesville. "It was an absolute pleasure to MC the annual National Volunteer Week Appreciation & Awards Ceremony" she said. "A huge congratulations to all our environmental legends, and an extra special congratulations to those who received an Achievement Award for being recognised as exceptional Volunteers within their community group. Great job everyone!"

The 120 volunteers in attendance were appreciative that all the time and effort they devote to volunteering in the environmental sector was being recognised:

"Mandurah is an amazing environmental hotspot with a rich First People's history and presence" said environmental volunteer and co-organiser Danny Willmott. "Volunteers play a crucial role in preserving and protecting our environment in a wide range of areas, from animal care, dune rehabilitation and litter clean-ups to community gardens and being activists for environmental causes. Volunteers do not spend their time doing this to receive recognition, but the National Volunteer Week event was a wonderful way to celebrate each individual volunteer and the groups they are part of. Well done Mandurah vollies!"

"It was a terrific event which highlighted the amazing diversity of volunteering organisations present in Mandurah" said Leonie Stubbs from Friends of Paganoni Swamp.

"It was fantastic to have so many local champions together and thanked for all their hard work" said Sally Kirby on behalf of the Mandurah Volunteer Dolphin Rescue Group and Estuary Guardians. "We left feeling thankful and re-inspired."

"This event not only thanked our wonderful volunteers, but also highlighted the impact that individuals can have within a community, and how far that impact can carry" said Sara Atkinson from Mandurah Joey Marsupial Care Wildlife Centre. "It was great hearing the local leaders giving their heartfelt thanks to the environmental volunteers, and recognising that their actions create a ripple effect that can carry through. What a beautiful way to leave your footprint on this world!"

"We were blown away by the speakers, individual recognition of all the groups via the slide show and certificates, the displays, the networking opportunities and the amazingly delicious food" said Cheryl Ivey from Mandurah Community Gardens. "The volunteers have inspired us and have set a very high benchmark for us to strive for as an individual living in our beautiful community."

"The speakers were interesting and there was a great vibe of passion from all who attended" said Robyn Ackroyd from Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group. "The food was extremely yummy and perfect portion sizes. Everything went very smoothly, a credit to the organising committee."

"As a newbie to this area of volunteering I enjoyed the appreciation awards" said Judi Rogers. "The volunteers and organisers demonstrated a great sense of thriving for a common goal."

“It was a wonderful event” said Doona Moore from MFAMCI Community Garden. “We are so lucky nature wants to be part of our neighbourhood and the wonderful groups of volunteers who are so giving of knowledge and time here in Mandurah and surrounds.”

“I really enjoyed the presentation” said Dael Olszowy from Coastal Waste Warriors. “Great speakers to listen to with lots of slides, making it easy to see what is happening around our City. It was interesting to talk to other people from other volunteer groups in the Mandurah area too.”

“We thoroughly enjoyed the appreciation event and were inspired by the selfless efforts of so many volunteers” said Jan and Gary Rew, also from Coastal Waste Warriors. “We are newcomers to volunteering and were amazed at the number of different volunteer groups in Mandurah and how passionate they are.”

“I enjoyed the afternoon and was excited to learn of the number of volunteer organisations that actively care for the Mandurah area” said Jacqui Horn from the Inner Wheel Club of Mandurah. “I collected the pamphlets so that I can share the information with our members.”

“I was very impressed with the wide variety of volunteer crews, especially those engaging the youth, our next generation of vollies” said Barry Posetti from Bouvard Coast Care Group. “All the speakers rocked. Lisa Munday was ‘the bomb’. George Walley is the MAN, always has been. Rhys Williams ‘showed off’ with his brilliant handling of the Aboriginal language, very impressive!”

“I enjoyed the Volunteer Event and thought it was so well run and so well organised, and ran so smoothly” said Judy Olsen from Men of the Trees. “The speakers were really good, and the venue, parking and catering were the best.”

“We are very grateful to our partners and funders” said Linda Thorpe from Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group. “We’d particularly like to thank, Coastal Waste Warriors, Bouvard Coast Care Group, Peel Multicultural Association, Seascapes Community Association, Volunteering WA, LotteryWest and the City of Mandurah.”



National Volunteer Week 2023 Sponsors



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