

Local Legend



Barry Small



Tributes to Local Legend Barry Small

I first met Barry in 2012 at a City of Mandurah event called Mapping the Community which was set up to inform a long-term plan for future community facilities in Mandurah. A small group of us continued to meet with the City on a regular basis to develop strategies to help our field to flourish (environment and heritage) and our community to thrive. Each of us had an area of interest and expertise, but it soon became evident that not only was Barry passionate about everything, he was also the most knowledgeable about flora, fauna, the waterways and more. He was also the most energetic, optimistic, enthusiastic and proactive member of the group, and emerged as the natural leader.

Barry lives and breathes every aspect of the natural and built heritage of Mandurah. He spends hours and hours every day giving to the community, and encourages others to do the same. I don't know when he sleeps! He is without a doubt an environmental pioneer and a local legend.

Linda Thorpe

Barry is a humble and tireless toiler for the local community and our environment. He wears many hats and is instrumental in promoting the region's environmental assets (focussing on waterways) while working hard to protect them for future generations.

He is a driver and leader in a number of organisations including:

- Friends of Samphire Cove who have worked tirelessly once a month, for years to improve the TEC and habitat for the threatened species Eastern Curlew.
- Clean Up Peel Waterways for many years and a driver of the Month of March Clean up event
- Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group
- Friends of Rivers, Peel
- Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah and Pinjarra

Barry is a passionate and tireless advocate for this area; very hard working, a campaigner and humble. He also has a great sense of humour. He will hate this, but he is so deserving of the award.

His biggest contribution to Mandurah is his tireless work for the environment, not only in his advocacy but in getting his hands dirty. He will stand up and fight for what he believes in and because of this has made a huge contribution in a number of areas for Mandurah. The Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah and Pinjarra brochure has been very successful in promoting the region's waterways and their values. The initiation and implementation of the Friends of Samphire Cove has helped change that site into a healthy Threatened Ecological community and habitat for the Eastern Curlew. The clean-up days have expanded to over numerous sites with over a hundred people taking part. Barry has been pushing for a marketing campaign to reduce the amount of rubbish dumped on our internationally-recognised waterways. We support his efforts and wish Barry all the best.

Thelma Crook

P.S. Barry is a treasure and deserves recognition.

Jane O'Malley

Barry is a local legend, whether recognised by an official award or not. Barry is everywhere, determined to do what he can to defend what's most important in the natural environment and, importantly, to improve and ensure our access to what it has to offer. But not alone; he demonstrates his outstanding ability to motivate the rest of us and gain our willing cooperation in numerous projects. A man of boundless energy and enthusiasm whose practically oriented wisdom in determining where community effort is most effectively directed has brought visible results. It's quite a few years now since I first met him, around my own interests including kayaking, bush preservation, birding and waterways protection. I've learned a lot and, like many others, most of it has been through joining in and experiencing at first hand the ways he manages to get so much done. A modest and determined achiever; it would bring honour to the Council to recognise his outstanding value to the community.

Don Bowes

Super-Barry is lead organiser of Friends of Samphire Cove and attends every month. He applies for grants, liaises with City employees, helps to obtain plants, helped to organise bat boxes, emails participants twice a month with updates, helps to get signs and, despite his walking stick, he still manages to sweep paths. Every month Barry attends Peel Preservation Group meetings and does our Facebook page, updating it frequently. He cross-advertises other local groups' enviro events and happenings there too, with helpful information about wildlife conservation and Australia-wide recycling, renewable energy and sustainability initiatives.

Barry helped to organise the Clean-up Peel Waterways 2019 and this showcased one of Barry's great strengths, which is pulling together various groups for a common cause. Barry is persistent and will tackle difficult issues from multiple angles until he achieves his desired outcome, for the benefit of the environment and local community.

Barry is the President of Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group which includes the Mandurah Tree Advocates. I went to the tree planting at Fraser's Landing in 2018 and there he was again, helping to man a stall. He was manning a stall at the 2018 Stretch Festival and he's starting to get involved in organising the environmental section of 2019 the last I heard!

I go to the Mandurah Environmental Volunteers Alliance meetings nearly every month, and there he is, providing input.

I have known Barry to approach businesses asking them to please remove their plastic straws.

Susanne Godden

I have known Barry for the last ten years through three groups all of which focus on the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary and its tributaries. Namely, Mandurah Over 55's Kayak Club, Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah & Pinjarra and Friends of the Rivers Peel.

Barry has a very strong environmental and community conscience, with a sense of duty that produces results that benefit all who wish to participate and protect this unique natural location.

He has co-developed approximately ten Canoe Guides/Trails (named after birds native to the area) which allow participants to explore the Serpentine, Murray and Harvey Rivers as well as the Inlet and Estuary. Other publications focus on walking trails, bird watching for water and shorebirds and in particular migratory birds, dolphin observation trails and historical/heritage sites within the Peel area.

Barry is also involved in the Australia Day Clean-Up and similar clean-up activities.

Barry has proven to be a very successful in his lobbying local governing bodies for facilities which allow the public to have access and to enjoy and participate in our environment. His influence helps to preserve our natural features for future generations. In my opinion, Barry would be a very worthy recipient of this award.

Graeme Cox

Barry is so self-effacing and the work he has continually done is never about him. He is always there to help in whatever way he can.

Paddi Creevey

I am so pleased that Barry is being nominated for a "Local Legend". It can't go to a more deserving person with all the community work he does in such a lovely manner. The following picture is etched in my mind: A community group had gathered to build the fairy terns a new nesting ground. A huge truck load of shells had been dumped at one end to be spread around the area. Barry, who had just had a knee operation, jovially arrived to help. Although having difficulty moving from A to B, this did not deter him. He positioned himself at the edge of the mound and remained rooted to the spot for an hour and a half shovelling shells into bags and containers for spreading. That's dedication to a community cause!

AG

Barry is well deserving as he does so much. He has served on the Mandurah Environmental Advisory Group and, more recently, saved several environmental organisations by incorporating them into Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group, which was a masterstroke but a massive task.

The annual clean-up events are also massive. Whether he's working with Parks & Wildlife or the City of Mandurah, he's a true environmental warrior and gets things done. The all-abilities boat ramp and beach-accessible wheelchairs are just two examples of his tenacity.

Barbara Sing

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Barry Small for the Local Legend award for July. I have known Barry for approximately 15 years and know that his involvement in community groups covers all that period of time.

My recollections of his past achievements are thus: He was involved in the Peel Canoe Trails set-up and a major contributor to the creation of the canoe trails brochure.

He supported Friends of Rivers Peel's annual Clean Up Australia Day activities with his involvement in the Over 55s Canoe Club and then when Friends of Rivers Peel was about to fold he was instrumental in the saving of the group and incorporating it into the Mandurah Heritage and Environmental Group. One of the questions listed is what is Barry's biggest contribution to Mandurah? I cannot answer for Mandurah but Barry is the glue that keeps the many and various community environmental groups in the Peel Region together and doing what volunteers do best and that is, serving the community.

Since Barry's mobility has become an issue for him he has managed to still be active in organising activities that help the environment in the Mandurah and Peel Region.

The reason there are few photos of Barry is that it has never been about Barry and look what he has done. It has been now that we have done this job; what's next?

Colin Elton

I have known Barry for about ten years. His passion for the environment is unbelievable; both with the waterways and bushland areas that surround the Peel region.

When he has a goal, his persistence is incredible and he will meet the challenges head on. If his approach is blocked in one way, he always finds another avenue to continue the challenge.

I am so pleased that Barry is being nominated, he certainly deserves it.

Lyn O'Brien

Through association with Barry through the Mandurah Over 55 Kayak Club and various environmental groups in Mandurah, I know him as a creative thinker, caring environmentalist, quiet achiever, one who sees ideas through and is reluctant to recognise the extent of his efforts.

Barry's ability to bring awareness of our local environment, practical ways to appreciate and care for it, creative ideas and the ability to see them through, is an inspiration to many people in our community.

Pip Newman

Barry has brought together a lot of smaller community environmental groups and works tirelessly to promote protecting our environment. He sits on many committees and is always positive and helpful to others. He is a behind-the-scenes hard worker who is always there when something needs doing. We need more community champions like Barry; I am proud to know him. Barry is very deserving of this award

Sally Kirby

I strongly support Barry for this award. We are a group of volunteers and, in spite of being on crutches because of his painful knee from a failed knee replacement, he leads us to do revegetation, weeding, watering and planting at the Samphire Cove Nature Reserve. I find him quite inspirational, but he rejects my attempts to tell him that. He does a lot for PPG and MEHG and is a great warrior for the environment.

Judy Trembath

Barry's favourite saying is "Eye on the Prize", and it sums Barry up. Never to be distracted by peripherals, he has clear community goals in mind, and works collaboratively to achieve them.

Barry has a good knowledge of how institutions and systems operate, always using this knowledge to respectfully and effectively communicate ideas towards community and environmental enrichment. Through thick and thin, Barry perseveres, always with a smile, with support towards others and with optimism.

Michael Bell

I have known Barry for the seven years since I joined the Mandurah over 55s Kayak Club of which Barry is a long time member. Barry is a highly experienced and capable kayaker and has mentored many club members to enhance their capabilities and safe paddling techniques. He is a clever, good humoured and friendly bloke.

From a kayaking perspective Barry has championed the cause of improving people's access to Mandurah's magnificent waterways. His efforts have seen maps produced showing local kayaking routes, including their environmental features, plus relentless lobbying of authorities to achieve accesses to the water for everyone.

Barry has a keen interest in caring for the natural environment and shares that enthusiastically with those around him. He invokes support in volunteered efforts aimed at improving our environs through respectful access and environmental monitoring, leading shoreline and waterway rubbish clean ups, plus promoting kayaking as a low-impact recreation.

A legend in many eyes, we are extremely fortunate to have Barry, so generous with his time, freely sharing his passion and knowledge for everyone's enjoyment of Mandurah's jewel, our world-class waterways.

Barry Small is a 'man possessed' working at doing good for our community.

Greg Robertson

Barry wears a number of hats in the community, so it was only fitting that his nomination for the Local Hero award include comments from the vast array of people he works with in his quest for the betterment of our community and our City. Every person commented on Barry's tireless work in protecting our local environment and ensuring everyone in our community has access to it. He is a natural leader, and a true community champion that people look to for guidance, support and the getting things done.

Barry epitomises the values of collaboration, courage, care and humility (many saying he will hate all the fuss of this award, but deserves it regardless). For those working at the City, Barry is always there to provide honest feedback and challenge the status quo, and he makes us better officers by doing so. It's no exaggeration to say Mandurah is a better place because of him.

Barry is referred to by those who work with him as the glue that keeps the many community environmental groups in the Peel Region together and doing what volunteers do best: serving the community. His biggest contribution to Mandurah is his tireless work for the environment, not only in his advocacy but in getting his hands dirty. His efforts have also supported the purchase of an all-terrain wheelchair to provide access to nature for all members of the community, and a yearly charity paddle (now in its 20th year) to raise money for the Children's Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation.

When asked about Barry and why he deserve this award, one community member stated, "A modest and determined achiever; it would bring honour to the Council to recognise his outstanding value to the community."

Bonnie-Beal Richardson





