



WALGA

HONOURS

2021



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Recognising Local Government
leaders and representatives for their
considerable contributions to the
sector and their communities



**LEADING
THE WAY**





Mayor Tracey Roberts, President WA Local Government Association

In our second year of managing the challenges of the global COVID pandemic, we are again reminded of the importance of investing in our local communities.

With international travel at a standstill, and limited travel options outside of the State, it's never been a better time to turn our focus to our local communities.

Here in Western Australia, we have been incredibly lucky in facing this pandemic, not least of which is the many amazing places, both in regional Western Australia and in our cities, we can visit, explore and enjoy.

We also have unparalleled services, programs and infrastructure available to all demographics right across our vast State, which have ensured our quality of life has remained outstanding even in the face of such global adversity. These local initiatives have been instigated by dedicated community representatives, including Elected Members and Local Government officers, who have ensured our State is a fantastic place to live, work, and travel.

In our 2021 Honours Program, I am delighted to acknowledge the services of a group of exemplary leaders who have all played a significant part in creating these communities we can be proud of across Western Australia.

These leaders have committed so much more to our local communities than we can ever document in this Honours Program, and I thank them all for their vision, their service and their compassion for others in our cities, towns and regional areas.

The 2021 Honours Program recognises outstanding leaders from Karratha in the north, to Albany in the South, and Leonora in the east. We also recognise many metropolitan representatives too, who have dedicated their lives to improving their local communities.

This year I am delighted to award WA Local Government Association Life Membership to Russel Fishwick, who has not only given 15 years of service to the City of Joondalup and many years of service to the WA Local Government Association but has dedicated over 40 years of his life to Local Governments as an employee of the Cities of Perth, Wanneroo/Joondalup and Victoria Park. Russel has played a major role in the way we are now able to vote in Local Government elections, through his role in improving the postal voting system during his time with the WA Electoral Commission.

Congratulations to our six Eminent Service Award winners Leigh Ballard, Gary Brennan, Rhonda Cole, Noel Dew, Ian Dolton and Dennis Wellington. All these leaders have played major roles in driving exciting and innovative projects in their local communities. It is these types of visionary projects that ensure our communities thrive and prosper and are wonderful places to be.

Congratulations to all 23 of this year's WA Local Government Association Honours Awards winners. They are all extremely worthy recipients, and I am continually inspired by the quality of local leadership we have across all our Western Australian communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Tracey Roberts JP
President

Life

MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Recognises long and outstanding service to the Western Australian Local Government Association and to the Local Government sector, as a State Councillor, an employee of the Association or an employee of a Member Local Government.



Russel Fishwick

Russel Fishwick has dedicated over 40 years to Local Governments across Western Australia, not only as an Elected Member, but also as an employee, who began his career as a Financial Officer with the City of Perth in 1978.

Russel has given immeasurable service to communities across the metropolitan region and, following his exceptional and long serving career in senior management positions with the Cities of Perth, Wanneroo/Joondalup and Victoria Park, Russel was elected to the City of Joondalup in 2006, where he has served continuously for the last 15 years. Currently Deputy Mayor with the City, Russel has held this position on three separate occasions.

Russel is an exemplary community representative who has led by example and dedicated countless hours to community programs and organisations, and has been involved in many development initiatives to improve opportunities and facilities for everyone in the City of Joondalup. Russel has played a crucial role in driving the Ocean Reef Marina Development Project, the Craigie Leisure Centre swimming pool and upgrade project, the installation of the synthetic turf and pavilion at the Warwick Hockey Stadium, and the coastal dual use path upgrade from North Beach to Sorrento.

He has been the presiding member of the City of Joondalup's Chief Executive Officer Recruitment and Performance Review Committee for 15 years and is a member of the Ocean Reef Marina Steering Committee, Strategic Financial Management Committee, Joondalup Performing Arts and Cultural Facility Steering Committee, the Strategic Community Reference Group, and the Art Collection and Advisory Committee.

A WA Local Government Association State Councillor since 2015, Russel represents the Association on the

Local Government Advisory Board, and is a member of both the Governance and Organisational Policy Services Team and the Honours Committee. He is a former Association representative on the State Crime Prevention Council and the State Graffiti Taskforce, and is the City of Joondalup representative on the North Metropolitan Zone.

Russel served for many years as Chair of the Mindarie Regional Council, (MRC) where he is still a member, and is the presiding member of the MRC's Audit Committee. He represents the MRC on the WA Local Government Association's Municipal Waste Advisory Council and the Forum of Regional Councils.

Russel worked for two years as the Manager for Local Government Elections at the WA Electoral Commission, where he was involved in streamlining the postal election process using information technology and scanning equipment. He was also responsible for drafting amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 and the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 1996 to further improve the postal voting system. Russell has co-authored a Department of Local Government Election Manual for conducting in-person elections.

A Justice of the Peace, Russel serves the community through his role as the Director of both the Finance and Education portfolios at the Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club (Inc), is a State Assessor for Surf Life Saving Western Australia and is an accredited State Surf Life Saving instructor. He is also a volunteer for the Cancer Council of Australia and St John's Ambulance.

Russel is a tireless community representative who always leads by example and, for his many years of service to Local Governments throughout Western Australia, he is a worthy recipient of the WA Local Government Association Life Membership Award.

Eminent SERVICE AWARD

Recognises personal commitment, eminent service and notable contribution to the Western Australian Local Government Association and/or the Local Government sector as a President, Mayor, State Councillor, Elected Member of a Member Local Government, or an employee of a Government Agency, the Association or a Member Local Government.



Leigh Ballard

First elected to the Town of Narrogin in 2011, Leigh Ballard has made an immense contribution to the Narrogin community, particularly through his active role in the merger of the Town and Shire of Narrogin in 2016. Elected Mayor of the Town in 2013, Leigh then went on to be one of the three appointed Commissioners of the interim Administrative Council, before being elected by popular vote as Mayor of the newly formed Shire of Narrogin.

A local business owner who is renowned for his skills in business development, marketing, strategic planning and regional development, Leigh specialises in telecommunications, agriculture and food, and the Local Government sector. He is an innovative and passionate community leader who is not only a team player but thrives on connecting people across all sectors of society.

Leigh has spearheaded numerous exciting initiatives for the Shire of Narrogin, including the hosting of two international hockey matches played at the Olympic standard hockey pavilion in the town, and the introduction of the Narrogin Dollars campaign, which provided economic stimulation to local businesses after the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. He was also crucial in the Shire's success in winning the 2020 Tidy Town of WA award.

Leigh is currently a member of Council's Audit Advisory Committee, Airport Advisory Committee, Australia Day and Honours Advisory Committee, Bush Fire Advisory Committee, Code of Conduct Complaints Committee and the Community Chest Grants Reference Group.



Gary Brennan

Mayor of the City of Bunbury, Gary Brennan has spent 40 years contributing to Local Governments across Western Australia.

Beginning his career as a Local Government Environmental Health Officer in 1974, Gary was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Wagin in 1989. He then went on to hold CEO positions at the Town of Port Hedland, the City of Bunbury and the City of Geraldton, where he led the Council through the merger with the Shire of Greenough. He has also worked in State Government and consultancy roles.

Gary was elected Mayor of the City of Bunbury in 2013, and again in 2017. Throughout his time as an elected representative, Gary has led many strategic projects in the City, including changes to the rating system and budgetary disciplines based on affordability, and the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project at Koombana Bay.

Gary is a mentor to new Councillors, and is an integral member of many Council and community committees such as the Bunbury Development Committee, the South West Development Commission's South West Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Hub Industry Leaders Group, the Bunbury-Geographic Economic Alliance, Regional Capitals Alliance WA and the Southern Joint Development Assessment Panel.

Eminent Service Award



Rhonda Cole

Rhonda Cole has provided exceptional leadership and guidance to the Narembeen community for 16 years, since her election to the Shire in 2005.

Rhonda was Deputy Shire President from 2009 until 2011, Shire President from 2011 until 2013, and was again elected President in 2015, a position she continues to hold.

Rhonda has driven many exciting economic development projects in the community, including the construction of the Narembeen Recreation Centre, the Narembeen Lesser Hall Interpretation, the Narembeen Community Precinct Extension, the Narembeen Aquatic Centre Redevelopment, the construction of the Narembeen Emergency Services Facility, and the development of the Narembeen's Men's Shed.

She represents the Shire on the Go Narembeen Progress Association, RoeROC, the Eastern Wheatbelt Declared Animal Group, the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network and the Development Assessment Panel – Wheatbelt.

Rhonda is passionate about the delivery of high-quality services, facilities and infrastructure within the region, and is highly respected amongst Councillors and community members. She mentors new and existing Councillors and dedicates extensive hours to the improvement of opportunities for everyone within the community.

Rhonda is President of the WA Local Government Association's Great Eastern Country Zone, a delegate to the Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group – Roe Subgroup and is a WA Local Government Association Deputy State Councillor.

Eminent Service Award



Noel Dew

Passionate about the preservation of Preston Beach and the Shire of Waroona's beautiful but fragile coastline, Noel Dew has been an outstanding elected community representative for 22 years.

Elected to Council in 1999, Noel has served as Shire President on three separate occasions, from 2007 until 2009, 2011 until 2013, and then again from 2015 until 2017. He also served one term as Deputy President from 2003 until 2005.

Throughout his exceptional service to the Waroona community, Noel has been a member of many Council committees, taskforces, advisory bodies and working groups including the Waste Management Advisory Committee, the Rivers Regional Council, the Peel Economic and Development Unit, the Wagerup Sustainability Fund Advisory Committee, the Council Staff Management Committee, Peron Naturalist Partnership and the Town Centre Strategy Working Group, to name just a few.

Noel is a highly valued and active community member and has been a member of the Preston Beach Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade for over 23 years, including 10 years as President. He pioneered and was the driving force behind the Preston Beach Volunteer Ranger Liaison Program.

Noel is a life member of CoastSwap and has received a Shire of Waroona Certificate of Appreciation for 20 years of service to the Waroona community.

Eminent Service Award



Ian Dolton

A farmer for 43 years, and passionate about the agricultural industry, natural resource management, and regional development, Ian has been a committed elected representative with the Shire of Bruce Rock for 22 years.

Always looking for new ideas or concepts that will improve Council operations or opportunities in the community, Ian was elected to Council in 1999, and served as Deputy President of the Shire for 12 years, from 2005 until 2017.

Dedicated to the improvement of the regional road network, Ian has been a member of the Shire's Roads, Works and Services Committee for 20 years, and has been the Council's delegate to the Regional Road Group since 2009.

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer since 2003, a role in which he dedicates significant personal time, Ian is also Chair of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee, and a member of the Local Emergency Management Committee.

Also passionate about the development of sports in the community, Ian played a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the Bruce Rock Recreation Centre, and the co-location of sporting groups to the new facility which has improved community connections through the creation of a social hub.

Ian has been a longstanding member of the Council's Natural Resource Management Committee, and a delegate to Bruce Rock's Land Conservation District Committee.

Eminent Service Award



Dennis Wellington

A dynamic leader who has spearheaded many exciting and innovative community projects and initiatives, Dennis Wellington has been a strong advocate for the Albany community, building positive relationships with neighbouring Councils, since his election to Council in 2001.

Deputy Mayor for four years, Dennis was elected Mayor of the City of Albany in 2011, a position he has held for the past 10 years.

Dennis was heavily involved in driving the Anzac Commemorative Events that occurred from 2014 until 2018 in the City and has been instrumental in leading the Council's vision for the 2026 Bicentenary for Albany.

Committed to the improvement of educational opportunities in the region, Dennis's lobbying efforts resulted in the expansion of the University of Western Australia campus to Albany and the building of student accommodation.

A trustworthy and highly respected leader, Dennis was personally involved in the recovery efforts after the May 2018 community fires, spending time at both the incident control centre and out at the fire grounds providing support and encouragement to emergency services staff and volunteers.

Dennis is the Chair of both South Coast Alliance Inc and Regional Capitals Alliance WA, is a member of the National Anzac Centre Advisory Group and was a Board Member of the Great Southern Development Commission.



Long and Loyal
SERVICE AWARD

Recognises long and loyal service of a high degree to a Member Local Government, the Local Government sector and/or the Western Australian Local Government Association, as a State Councillor or Elected Member.



Claire Anderson

Diagnosed with FSHD Muscular Dystrophy in her teens, and in a wheelchair at 29, Claire Anderson has always championed the rights of people living with disabilities, particularly since her election to the Town of Victoria Park in 2007. Deputy Mayor of the Town from 2013 until 2015, Claire was pivotal in the Town's move to become an equal opportunity employer for people with disabilities and introduced the principle of "We walk the same path" to the planning of the Town's first purpose-built community park, where all pathways and access points are equally suitable for everyone. Claire's passion for inclusiveness and access for all has helped set the standard for successive Councils to understand the unique challenges of people with disabilities.



Ross Chappell

A lifelong resident of the Shire of Lake Grace, Ross Chappell is also a dedicated and long serving Councillor. Elected in 2009, Ross serves on many Council committees, including the Audit Committee and the Lake Grace Sporting Precinct Upgrade. Chair of the Council's Bush Fire Advisory Committee, Ross is also a Level 2 St John's Ambulance Officer, and a Council representative to the WA Local Government Association's Central Country Zone. Currently Deputy Shire President, Ross has devoted much of his life to improving opportunities available in the Lake Grace community, particularly through his involvement in numerous community groups such as Apex, the Lake Grace Development Association, the Lake Grace District High School P&C, and the Lake Grace Drama School.



Peter Craig

President of the Shire of Leonora, and an Elected Member with the Shire for over 20 years, Peter Craig is a highly respected community leader who has presided over significant economic and community development opportunities, including the retention of many heritage buildings, the Gwalia Historic Precinct, the building of the J G Epis Centre, and the introduction of the cashless debit card in the Shire – all of which have positioned the Shire as a tourist destination. Peter is Chair of the Northern Goldfields Working Group, is Captain of the Leinster Golf Club, is President, and a Life Member of the Leinster District Race Club and is Vice President of the Country Racing Association of WA. Peter regularly drives from Leinster into Leonora, a round trip of 260 kilometres, to attend meetings and participate in Council activities.

Long and Loyal Service Award



Rodney Duckworth

Elected to the Shire of Kulin in 2003, Rodney Duckworth also served as Deputy President of the Shire from 2015 until 2019. A highly regarded community leader, Rodney is known for providing stability to a community during a time of significant change, and for creating strong bonds between all communities throughout this large Shire. He has held many portfolios during his time on Council and represents the Shire at the WA Local Government Association's Central Country Zone. Passionate about rural and regional emergency service provision, Rodney has been pivotal in securing the services of a doctor in the community, is a member of the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, and is the Council representative on the Emergency Management Committee. Rodney is also an active member of the Freebairn Community Centre and is the Master of Ceremonies each year at the Shire's Australia Day Awards Ceremony.



Ray Hammond

Since his election to Council in 2009, Ray Hammond has spearheaded the "Albany Heart Safe Project" which has seen over 100 lifesaving defibrillators installed across the Albany community. A strong advocate for tourism, economic development and business innovation in the Albany region, Ray has been integral, through his membership of the Waste Management Working Group, in the introduction of the FOGO waste system, which reduces the amount of organic waste going to landfill. A founding member of the Regional Tourism Group, Ray is also a member of the Local Emergency Management Committee and has previously served on Council's Audit and Risk Committee, and Economic Development Committee. Ray is an advocate for sustainable development along Albany's coastlines, and has forged strong community relationships through his leadership on this issue.



Jorgen Jensen

Serving the Shire of Mount Magnet continuously since his election in 2009, Jorgen Jensen was elected Shire President in 2015, and continues to hold this position. Jorgen is a committed community leader, who is respected amongst all groups throughout the community, recently evidenced during the COVID pandemic where he regularly communicated with and offered support to all businesses and organisations in the Shire. Jorgen is a member of the WA Local Government Association's Murchison Country Zone, is chair of both the Murchison Region Vermin Council and the Joint Mount Magnet/Sandstone Local Emergency Management Committee. He is also a member of the Mount Magnet Race Club and the Mount Magnet Gymkhana Committee.

Long and Loyal Service Award



David Lovelock

With 17 years of continuous service to the community of Victoria Plains, including six years as Shire President, David Lovelock has been an exemplary Elected Member, providing unbiased and diplomatic representation of all groups within the community. Throughout his dedicated tenure David has spearheaded new and improved community infrastructure and services, including the Aged Care Units, the Calingiri Sports Pavilion, and multiple community water supplies. His lobbying efforts were crucial in securing funding for the Agricultural Lime Route and also for improved road corridors that link rural communities. Currently Deputy President of the Shire, David has shown exceptional foresight in mentoring and encouraging new leadership into the Council.



John Salerian

A resident of the Shire of Waroona for over 85 years, John Salerian is a stalwart of the community, having served as an Elected Member for 12 years from 2007 until 2019. Throughout his loyal service, John served on many Council committees, including the Waroona Health and Medical Committee, the Waste Management Advisory Committee, the Long Term Residue Management Committee, and the Hamel Eco-Historic Precinct Working Group, to name just a few. John is a Patron of both the Waroona Amateur Swimming Club and the Waroona Agricultural Society, is a Justice of the Peace, and member of the Peel Community Care Board. To acknowledge his extensive and dedicated service to the community of Waroona, John was awarded an Australia Day Council of Western Australia Community Citizen of the Year Award in 2021.



Larry Scott

Elected to the Shire of Waroona in 2007, Larry Scott has served the Waroona community continuously for 14 years. A dedicated community member and passionate about the role of community groups within the Shire, Larry was Chairman of the Waroona Chamber of Commerce for 20 years, is a Patron of the Waroona Cricket Club, and a former President of the Waroona Golf Club. He is both a Life Member and former President of the Waroona Lions Club and a major sponsor of the Waroona Football and Netball Club. Larry is a member of numerous Council committees and Advisory bodies, such as the Finance and Audit Committee and the Recreation Advisory Committee. Larry was recognised for his community service in 2021 by receiving an Australia Day Council of Western Australia Community Citizen of the Year Award.

Long and Loyal Service Award



Sandy Stock-Standen

An active contributor to the Shire of Northampton since her election to Council in 2004, Sandy Stock-Standen has spearheaded many initiatives and programs in her 17 years of dedicated community service. Despite running a small business, and working in a separate job full time, Sandy has continued to commit significant personal time to the development of the Northampton community, particular to Horrocks Beach where she has advocated for projects such as the building of parks and pump tracks. Sandy has been involved in numerous Council committees and was involved in the development of the Pioneer Lodge retirement village and was the driver of a fundraising program to replace the roof on the building eight years ago. Sandy is also a Shire adviser with the Northampton Community Centre.



Robert Sutton

Passionate about road safety and the development of motor sports in the Great Southern Region, Robert Sutton has been an outstanding community leader since his election to the City of Albany in 2009. An inaugural member of the Great Southern Motorplex Group, Robert's lobbying efforts were crucial in securing State Government funding for the development of the Albany Motorsport Park. Robert is a member of the WA Local Government Association's Roadwise Committee, and the Airport Emergency Committee and has been a vocal advocate for improvements to the Albany Highway. He is a strong supporter of programs for youth in the region and is a member of the Youth Advisory Council. Robert is also a founding member of the Albany Kart Club and a past Captain and member of the Albany Surf Life Saving Club.



Mike Walmsley

President of the Shire of Waroona for a second time, Mike Walmsley has served a total of 13 years of dedicated service with the community. Throughout his long and loyal tenure, Mike has been instrumental in the expansion of a resource sharing agreement with the Shire of Murray to share a CEO which has resulted in significantly increased efficiencies between the two Shires. He is passionate about community development and has been a strong driver of the Town Centre Strategy which has seen underground power installation, streetscape improvements, the development of Drakesbrook Place and the revitalisation of the historic Memorial Hall. Apart from his numerous Council commitments, Mike is also a member and Steward of the Waroona Agricultural Society, Chair of the Quambie Park Board, and President of the Waroona West Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Merit AWARD

Recognises Elected Members who have provided distinguished service to the community through their Local Government.



Evette Smeathers

Well known for her integrity, values, good governance and vision, Evette Smeathers is a dedicated member of the Karratha community and has played an important role in growing the Shire of Roebourne into the City of Karratha and participated in the push to develop Karratha into the City of the North. Elected to Council in 2009, Evette is an advocate for youth and the Arts, and sits on numerous committees, such as the Red Earth Arts Precinct Working Group, and the Arts Development and Events Advisory Group. She has represented the Council for many years on the Pilbara Joint Development Assessment Panel and is Chair of the Audit and Organisation Risk Committee. Every year Evette is the Master of Ceremonies for the City's Australia Day Awards.



Craig Wright

Elected to the Shire of Waroona in 2007, Craig Wright is passionate about sports in the Waroona community, and is involved in all types of sports and social activities in and around the town. Craig is a Life Member of the Waroona Cricket Club, and the Waroona Demons Football and Netball Club, and has extensive involvement in the Waroona Bowling and Social Club and the Waroona Golf Club. During his time with Council, he was a member of numerous Council committees, such as the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Works and Services Committee, the Rivers Regional Council, the Industrial Land Working Group, the Peel Economic and Development Unit, the Waroona Roadwise Committee and the Waste Management Advisory Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Distinguished

OFFICERS AWARD

**For outstanding contributions made
by serving officers of Member Local
Governments to their Local Government
and the Local Government sector.**



Neville Hale

With an extensive career in the Local Government sector, Neville Hale is a dynamic, responsive and reliable community leader who leads by example with integrity and honesty. Neville has successfully driven many major projects and initiatives that have improved the lives of people living in regional Western Australia. Currently Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Tammin, Neville also held the shared CEO position with the Shire of Cunderdin from 2017 until 2019. Neville's previous positions include Acting CEO of the Shire of Quairading, CEO of the Shires of Lake Grace, Northam and Dalwallinu, and Deputy CEO of the Shire of Shark Bay. Throughout his long and dedicated Local Government career, Neville has presided over projects including the Lake Grace Recreation Centre Upgrade, the Northam Library Upgrades, the Shire of Dalwallinu Housing project and the Shire of Tammin Strategic and Community Plan.



Barbara Powell

With 17 years of dedicated service to the community of Kwinana, Barbara Powell is a passionate and visionary employee, who has driven a wide range of community engagement programs which have seen significant lifestyle improvements for various community groups, particularly youth, in the City. Currently the Director City Engagement with the City of Kwinana, Barbara's outstanding leadership and negotiating skills have seen millions of dollars in funding allocated to community projects including the Kwinana Adventure Park, the Darius Wells Library and Resource Centre, a Child and Parent Centre in Kwinana, the Zone Youth Space and multiple other community centres, sporting facilities and recreation precincts. She has been instrumental in driving many initiatives including the Leadership, Youth and Respect in Kwinana (Lyrik) Program, and the Connecting Communities for Kids Joint Advisory Committee. Barbara was Chair of both the Kwinana Better Futures Local Solutions Advisory Group and Care Options, and is a Board Member of Chorus, and member of the South West Group.



Do you know someone in Local Government who should be honoured in 2022?

Are you aware of anyone in Local Government who has made a notable contribution to the Association, Local Government or their individual Council? If so, why not consider nominating them for an award as part of the Western Australian Local Government Association Honours Program?

There are many Elected Members who have made a significant contribution to their Local Government and the Association who are worthy of formal acknowledgement. Chief Executives and Local Government employees, too, are often overlooked for the outstanding service they provide to Local Government and the Association through their various endeavours.

The Honours Program represents a tremendous opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Elected Members and officers, and to recognise those who have given so much of their personal and professional time to the betterment of their communities through Local Government.

**The nominations period for the 2022
Honours Program will open in late 2021
and close in June 2022.**

Information on the Honours Program can be obtained by emailing the Association at honours@walga.asn.au. Telephone enquiries can be directed to Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance, on (08) 9213 2036.



WALGA

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