

WALGA

# WALGA Local Government Awards 2025 Honours Recipients

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Celebrating Excellence in  
Local Government



Department of Local Government,  
Industry Regulation and Safety



# A message from the WALGA President



## Karen Chappel AM JP

The WA Local Government Association Honours Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members, Local Governments, and Officers to their community, the Local Government sector, WALGA and the State.

In deciding winners for each category of the Honours awards, the Honours Panel have considered the demonstrated character, integrity and proper conduct of the nominee.

The Honours Panel was established by WALGA's State Council as an independent group to provide a fair, and unbiased process for the administration and selection of the annual Local Government Honours Program.

Nominated by their peers, the individuals being awarded in 2025 are the true embodiment of Local Government.

These are the people who want to make a difference as Elected Members and Officers, to form a Local Government sector that strives to work for the benefit of their community.

This year, we are presenting two WALGA Life Memberships. Life Membership recognises an individual's outstanding service, not only to their local community, but also to WALGA and the broader Local Government sector.

Congratulations to President Cr Katrina Crute from the Shire of Brookton, and Deputy President Cr Liz Guidera from the Shire of Katanning, who have both been incredible representatives of their communities and regions.

As Chair of both the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network and the Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group, President Krute's tireless advocacy was instrumental in securing \$187.5 million for improvements to critical and strategic freight routes.

Deputy President Guidera has been a community leader for more than three decades since her election to the Shire in 1994 and is currently Chair of Regional Development Australia Great Southern, the Katanning Hub Community Resource Centre, and the Katanning Club.

The 2025 Troy Pickard Young Achievers Award recipient is Cr Christine Hamilton-Prime, from the City of Joondalup. First elected at just 19 years of age in 2009 as the youngest Local Government Councillor in Australia, Cr Hamilton-Prime is an outstanding contributor to the City and an incredible representative for the future of the sector.

In 2025, we have 19 recipients of the Eminent Service Award – the largest cohort we have ever seen in this category. Your significant participation, leadership and contribution is to be commended.

I encourage you to take the time to read through this booklet and acknowledge the dedication and commitment these incredible individuals have made towards the betterment of their communities, the State, and the Local Government sector.

Congratulations to all those who are receiving an award in the 2025 Honours Awards Program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Chappel'.

**Cr Karen Chappel AM JP**  
President, WA Local Government Association



# Life Membership Award

For outstanding service and contribution to WALGA.



## Katrina Crute

Katrina Crute has made a significant contribution to Western Australia's Wheatbelt region through her tireless and dedicated lobbying for increased and sustained State and Australian Government funding to improve roads throughout rural areas.

President of the Shire of Brookton since 2017, Katrina was first elected to the Shire in 2009 and served as Deputy President from 2013. During her dedicated service to the Brookton community, Katrina has played a key role in the establishment of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN). This organisation involves numerous Local Government representatives from across the northern and southern Wheatbelt regions with the remit of lobbying for upgrades to any local roads. This plays a key role in the movement of primarily agricultural freight in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia.

As Chair of both the WSFN and the Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group, Katrina was instrumental in securing \$187.5 million for improvements to these critical and strategic freight routes. This allocation of funding will continue to have a positive and long-term impact on the safety and efficiency of roads that were not originally designed to safely cope with the size and number of vehicles now required by the agricultural industry to remain competitive.

As President of the Shire of Brookton, Katrina has been successful in obtaining funding for both a regional

Community Emergency Services Manager and the construction of new facilities for local bushfire brigades. Engaging with all sectors of the Brookton Community, Katrina oversaw the sale of the Shire of Brookton's Kalkarni Aged Care Residence in 2019 and development of the refurbishment programs for the Brookton Memorial Hall and Brookton Railway Station.

A passionate, positive and decisive Elected Member, Katrina's leadership of the Brookton community during the COVID-19 lockdown period was inspirational, ensuring the concerns of all community members were acknowledged and understood by Council.

An advocate for long term community planning, Katrina spearheaded the development of Brookton's Strategic Community Plan (SCP), an innovative road map for the future that involved extensive community consultation and was recognised as a best-practice approach by WALGA.

Highly regarded as a leader who values continuous improvement, Katrina has completed the WALGA Diploma of Local Government and always encourages fellow Elected Members to pursue personal and professional development opportunities.

Katrina is the Shire's Delegate to the Central Country Zone, has been a member of the Zone Executive Committee since 2015, was a Deputy State Councillor from 2019 to 2023, and has recently been nominated to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (now Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety) Council Plans Working Group.



# Life Membership Award

For outstanding service and contribution to WALGA.



## Elizabeth (Liz) Guidera

A champion of Katanning's diverse community, Liz Guidera has been a community leader for over three decades since her election to the Shire in 1994.

Liz has made an outstanding contribution to both the Katanning community, and the greater region, through her collaborative leadership approach, with a focus on mentoring emerging leaders and guaranteeing continuity of excellent governance standards.

Liz served two separate terms as President of the Shire of Katanning, from 2001 until 2003, and then again from 2015 until 2023. In her most recent term, Liz stepped into the role of Deputy President to guarantee a seamless leadership succession and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and history. This ensured cohesion within the Council, good governance and effective representation.

Liz has always been a tireless volunteer, understanding the importance of grassroots initiatives and organisations to improve the quality of life of people in her community. She continues to be a dedicated advocate for all groups in the Shire, particularly its multicultural and First Nations populations, across sectors such as education, law and order, and regional development. Of note has been her involvement in the establishment of the Katanning Early Childhood Hub. Recognising the vital importance of early learning, health, and community connection for culturally diverse families and First Nations children, Liz championed this project from its earliest stages. She played a pivotal role in securing funding, engaging key stakeholders, and

persistently advocating through multiple rephrasing and negotiation stages with the State Government. Throughout the process, she balanced her official responsibilities with genuine, on-the-ground community engagement to ensure the Hub met the unique needs of the community and would be both inclusive and sustainable for generations to come.

Liz has shown a strong commitment to mentoring fellow Elected Members and emerging leaders within the Shire, which has been critical in building confidence and capacity in new Elected Members. Her leadership has always been characterised by her strong vision, her focus on accountability to the community, and her deeply held belief in working together for the greater good. She is a compassionate and impactful leader, and her influence extends far beyond the Shire of Katanning, where she has helped shape policy, foster collaboration, and elevate the profile of rural and regional communities across the entire Local Government sector.

Liz is the Chair of Regional Development Australia Great Southern, the Katanning Hub Community Resource Centre, and the Katanning Club, and is a board member of the Great Southern Development Commission and Rural Health West. She is a former Chair of the Rural Regional and Remote Women's Network (WA) and continues to support community groups such as school P&Cs and local sporting clubs.

Liz is currently a member of the Shire's Audit & Risk Committee, Behaviour Complaints Committee, Great Southern Treasures, Southern Link VROC and is a former Deputy Chair of the Great Southern Country Zone.

# Eminent Service Award

For eminent service and distinguished contributions to WALGA and the Local Government sector.

## Eminent Service Award



### Paul Anderson

Paul Anderson began his Local Government career in 1987 as an accountant with the Shire of Yalgoo, and after almost 40 years of dedicated service to the Local Government sector, is now Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Perenjori, for the second time. Paul was appointed Assistant Shire Clerk at the Shire of Perenjori in 1989, and CEO of the Shire in 1992. Paul has also served as CEO at the Shire of Shark Bay and the Town of Mosman Park, Contract Strategic Planner at the City of Rockingham, and advisor to the CEO at the Shire of Roebourne (now City of Karratha).

Paul returned to the Shire of Perenjori in 2021 as CEO, where, over the last four years, he has played a key role in updating strategic and operational business plans and has been instrumental in implementing governance procedures and systems for Council meetings. An inspiring leader, Paul is a highly respected mentor, encouraging employees to feel confident to share and implement ideas. Paul ensures the Council receives timely, professional advice on all matters, providing strategic leadership and sound guidance to the administration.

His notable contributions to local communities include management of the \$4 million Perenjori Community Hub, the construction of an \$8.5 million multipurpose Community Recreation Centre at the Shire of Shark Bay, the revitalisation of the Denham Foreshore, the construction of a 90m recreational jetty at Denham with vessel pens, plus a commercial jetty at Monkey Mia. He spearheaded the project to construct a multipurpose building for volunteer organisations in Shark Bay, negotiated with Horizon Power for the provision of Shire reserve land for the construction of the first Solar Powered Hydrogen Power grid supply in Western Australia and upgrades to the power supply to Denham, and facilitated an increase in the Home and Community Care Service to enable vulnerable Shark Bay community members to stay in their homes.



### David Bolt

Elected Shire President after only two years as an Elected Member, David Bolt diligently served the community of Murray for over a decade. President from 2017 to 2025, David was elected as the Member for Murray-Wellington in the 2025 State election. Throughout his time with Council, David was an energetic, strategic, and innovative leader, highly regarded for his integrity and transparency, presiding over a well-functioning, dynamic and committed Council. With an extensive background in the information and communications technology sector, David applied this wealth of business and technology experience in the strategic planning requirements of Council.

David remains passionate about promoting the region's economic opportunities, tourism, businesses, and helping grow and support industry diversification and skilled jobs. As a result of his leadership, the Shire is recognised nationally for its economic development and tourism initiatives and has developed a reputation as an innovative and community-focused region.

David was a member of many working groups and committees seeking outcomes such as improved healthcare services, climate and environmental action, and community safety. He was a member of the Outer Metro Joint Development Assessment Panel, the WA Local Government Association's Peel Country Zone, the Shire's Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee, and the Shire's Audit Committee.

David has previously served as Chair of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum, a Board Member of the Peel Development Commission, and Chair of the Rivers Regional Council supporting Australia's first large scale waste to energy project.

## Eminent Service Award



### Gary Cosgrove

President of the Shire of Mingenew since 2019, and an Elected Member for 14 years, Gary Cosgrove has consistently demonstrated strong and compassionate leadership throughout his tenure, particularly during critical events, such as the recovery efforts following Tropical Cyclone Seroja in 2021. Throughout the Seroja crisis, Gary drew on his experience as Chair of the Local Government Emergency Management Committee to help lead recovery efforts across the region, raising a broader awareness of the long-term challenges of housing shortages and population retention.

In 2022, Gary championed innovation and operational improvement in Local Government, through the introduction of a bi-monthly Council meeting schedule that has reduced the administrative burden and improved Elected Member engagement – an initiative that has since gained broader sector interest.

Gary has been Chair of the Mid-West Regional Road Group since 2016, and a member since 2013, successfully advocating for increased State road funding for the Midwest region.

A longstanding champion of sport and recreation, Gary has actively contributed to both strategic planning and on-the-ground involvement, including spearheading upgrades of local sporting infrastructure and advocating for accessibility and affordability, ensuring local sport remains inclusive and financially viable for all residents.

Gary led a community-backed campaign in 2024, advocating for the integration of proposed Mineral Resources accommodation within the Mingenew townsite which would provide local job opportunities and see economic benefits to the Mingenew region. His balanced approach acknowledged the economic importance of the resource sector while prioritising the long-term prosperity of the local community.



### Gary Coumbe

Deputy President of the Shire of Nungarin since 2015, Gary Coumbe has been a respected Nungarin community member for over 60 years. Elected to Council in 2005, Gary has shown consistent leadership, sound judgement and a deep understanding of community needs over his 20 years of dedicated service.

An approachable, hardworking and committed Elected Member, Gary is a highly respected leader, and is well known for his open communication style, his ability to work seamlessly with others and his long-standing support of the Shire President and other Elected Members. He always has the best interests of the community at the forefront, and he is constantly proactive in encouraging new businesses and opportunities to the region.

Gary is passionate about preserving the history of the Nungarin community, and is Chair of the Nungarin Heritage, Machinery and Army Museum. In this role, he has organised numerous community events, secured grant funding, and rallied volunteers with his trademark mix of energy and humour.

His ability to connect with people and inspire action is testament to his inclusive leadership style, and his impact on the Nungarin and wider region has been both meaningful and memorable. Gary has also been a player, member and office bearer in many of the community's sporting clubs, and remains involved in numerous community groups, such as the Nungarin Fire Brigade, Nungarin Landcare and the Nungarin Farmers Co-op.

## Eminent Service Award



### Joe Ferrante

A resident of the City of Stirling for over 50 years, Joe Ferrante was elected to Council as the Lawley Ward representative in 2011. Well-known and respected by the community, Joe is committed to improving services for seniors, protecting local heritage, and preserving green open spaces. Joe continually advocates for safe and effective traffic management, increased security patrols, improved public consultation, and a greener city. He is a vocal supporter of the small business community in the City, providing support and advice to groups and businesses whenever possible.

During his 13 years as an Elected Member, Joe has driven many initiatives that have improved the lives of City of Stirling residents. Amongst many notable achievements, he lobbied for body cameras to be used by Community Safety Officers, and CCTV to be installed in community areas. He also championed for the public to be consulted by the City regarding the refurbishment or removal of the bridge in Dog Swamp Reserve and lobbied for a review and investigation into a new local law regulating shopping trolleys within the City, resulting in a draft of a proposed City of Stirling Shopping Trolleys Local Law 2025.

Joe has been a dedicated member of numerous Council and community committees, including the Planning and Development Committee, Tamala Park Regional Council, Tamala Park Regional Audit Committee and CEO Performance Review Committee, Mindarie Regional Council, Crime Prevention Advisory Group, Road Safety Advisory Group, Resources Management Committee, and the Infrastructure and Community Development Committee. He has also been a Delegate of the North Metropolitan Zone since 2023.



### Peter Fitchat

With 20 years of experience working for Local Governments and Regional Councils across Australia, Peter Fitchat brings a wealth of knowledge to his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Dundas. A proactive and innovative thinker, Peter is often sought out by other Local Governments and government departments for advice or opinions on matters of policy. In a location where staff attraction and retention is difficult, Peter has managed and empowered a small tight-knit team to become employees, all local residents who are fiercely loyal to the Shire.

Since his appointment to the CEO position, Peter has been active in the Goldfields region as a member of many regional groups and committees, including the Goldfields Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC), the Shire of Dundas Local Emergency Management Committee, the Local Government Emergency Management Group, the District Emergency Management Committee, and the District Leadership Group.

Peter played a key role in the formation of the Shire of Dundas Economic Development Working Group, and secured funding to establish the Dundas Coastal Planning Strategy Committee which has since developed a plan for managing the 480km stretch of coastline and the fishers' and squatters' shacks within the Shire.

Peter was instrumental in the Shire's decision to purchase the local IGA supermarket and Licensed Post Office, which has not only diversified the Shire's income stream to assist in managing the fluctuating mining industry, but increased the Shire's employee numbers from 30 to 80 people.

## Eminent Service Award



### Des Hickey

President of the Shire of Corrigin since 2019, and elected to Council in 2009, Des Hickey has provided exceptional leadership and guidance to the Corrigin community throughout his 16 years of elected service. Passionate about the delivery of high-quality services, facilities and infrastructure within the Corrigin region, Des has driven numerous economic development projects. These include the community cropping program, the development of the Rotary Park Playground, the upgrades of the Corrigin Airstrip lights, the upgrade of the Medical Centre, and the development of the Corrigin Community Recreation Centre Precinct.

Des' compassionate leadership style was most evident during the Corrigin Shire bushfire in February 2022. Despite his family farm being directly impacted, he continued to put the needs of the community before his own personal issues. During this crisis, Des chaired many meetings related to the fire and undertook numerous radio and television interviews.

Des actively participates in local community and sporting groups, and regularly attends community events such as ANZAC Services, Australia Day awards, and Men's Health Breakfasts, to name just a few, providing the community with the opportunity to engage with him regarding their concerns.

Des has an extensive knowledge of regional road networks and was the Shire's delegate to the Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group. He is the Chair of the Central Country Zone, represents the Shire on Roe Regional Organisation of Councils (ROEROC), and is a former member of the steering committee of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Group.



### Kelton Hincks

Kelton Hincks has over 30 years of experience in Local Governments across the State, beginning his career as a Facilities Officer at the City of Melville in 1993. Currently Director of Infrastructure and Works at the Town of Cambridge, Kelton has held the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer and continually demonstrates innovative thinking and a strong work ethic which has resulted in him growing into a respected and effective leader.

A highly motivated, business-oriented, emotionally intelligent leader, Kelton has driven many notable and innovative projects at the various Local Governments he has worked for. Throughout his career with the Town of Cambridge, he has instigated the Town's first Project Management Framework, created a capital project priority matrix and instigated an Interactive Project Map which allows the community to view current projects in their specific areas.

Kelton was responsible for the delivery of major projects at the Town of Cambridge including the Perry Lakes water replenishment, the Alderbury Reserve changerooms, the Sydney Cheek Pavilion refurbishment, the Lake Monger (Galup) Management and Activity Plan Capital Works, the Matthews Netball Centre courts lighting, the Cambridge Street reconstruction, and the Lake Monger Community Shed design and construction.

Kelton has also spearheaded many human resources and cultural improvement programs at the Town and has instigated a range of integrated planning and reporting frameworks such as the Town's first long-term financial plan and a new strategic asset management plan.

## Eminent Service Award



### Albert Jacob

For almost 20 years, Albert Jacob has served the community as an Elected Member, a Western Australian Member of the Legislative Assembly, a Western Australian Cabinet Minister, and now Mayor of the City of Joondalup. Albert was first elected to the City of Joondalup Council in May 2006 before winning the seat of Ocean Reef at the 2008 Western Australian State election. After serving eight years in State Parliament, including as Minister for Environment and Heritage, he was elected Mayor of the City of Joondalup in October 2017.

Albert is respected on all sides of politics, as shown by his ability to bring together State and Federal Members of Parliament to address local issues. He regularly interacts with State Ministers to raise issues on the City's advocacy agenda, and he recently secured funding of \$4 million for the Duncraig Adventure Hub.

Albert was involved with the Ocean Reef Marina project in 2006 when he was first elected to Council, and he has again championed the initiative and lobbied for State Government support for the project. On completion, the Marina is expected to provide ongoing employment for more than 900 people and deliver a \$3 billion boost to the economy.

Albert is a dedicated and visionary leader who consistently demonstrates unwavering professionalism, and an approach grounded in community collaboration. His ability to remain composed and objective, even in challenging situations, has earned him the respect of colleagues, Elected Members, and the community alike.



### Nige Jones

Elected to the City of Joondalup in 2015, Nige Jones is a community leader who is dedicated to improving opportunities for residents across the City. Nige always leads with integrity, is an innovative thinker, and was a finalist for the Australian of the Year awards in the WA Local Hero category for his inspiring work in transforming a rundown sports department at a senior high school into the 'Institute of Soccer', drastically improving the lives of a group of students struggling with aspects of their schooling.

Nige has been instrumental in achieving tangible outcomes for the business community and is an active participant in both the Joondalup Business Association and Wanneroo Business Association. Recognising an opportunity to deliver valuable insights to business members, Nige recently secured National Australia Bank funding for networking events and small business courses, helping to support local business owners and foster local economic development.

Nige is committed to being an accessible and responsive leader, who believes in the importance of active listening, and always ensures the silent majority are engaged, listened to, and represented. Drawing from a professional coaching background, Nige always offers practical solutions coupled with direct communication.

A former soldier, Nige has worked in Australia, the United Kingdom and Ireland, and is an experienced coordinator with a demonstrated history of working in the education management industry. Since his election to Council in 2015, Nige has been a member on all major committees, including the Audit and Risk Committee, Major Projects and Finance Committee, and the CEO Recruitment and Performance Review Committee. He has also been a member of the Metro Outer Joint Development Assessment Panel, Tamala Park Regional Council and a Delegate on the North Metropolitan Zone.

## Eminent Service Award



### David Lagan

Elected to Council in 2011, David Lagan is an exceptional community leader who has served two separate terms as Deputy Mayor with the City of Stirling.

Throughout his 13 years representing the Inglewood Ward, David has been dedicated to fostering a progressive and stronger community and is continuously supporting small businesses through his close links with the City's economic development team. Passionate about community development, David has advocated for numerous upgrades and improvements across his Inglewood Ward, including the 40km/h speed trial along Beaufort Street, which has been a long-standing request from the community.

David is a member of numerous internal and external committees, including the City's Infrastructure and Community Development Committee, the Road Safety Advisory Group, the Local Emergency Management Committee, the Crime Prevention Advisory Group, the Tamala Park Regional Council, the Catalina Regional Council, and is the presiding member of both the Shire's Audit Committee and Strategic Property Committee.

During both of David's tenures as Deputy Mayor, the City of Stirling won numerous awards, including a Disability Employment Service Provider/Local Government Partnership Award for a collaboration with Workpower on a revamped recycling shop at the Recycling Centre Balcatta, a Water Corporation gold status award as a Waterwise Council, a Parks and Leisure Australia (WA Division) Open Space Planning Award, and an Excellence in Road Safety award for the Moorland Street Bicycle Boulevard project.

David is a WALGA Deputy State Councillor and has been a Delegate to the North Metropolitan Zone for 10 consecutive years.



### Jarrad Logie

Elected to Council in 2009 at just 27 years of age, Jarrad Logie has made a remarkable contribution to the Shire of Williams in his 16 years of dedicated service. Elected Shire President in 2019, Jarrad also served as Deputy President for two years from 2017.

Jarrad's leadership style is driven by a strong connection to the community, proactive development strategies, and a commitment to transparent and inclusive Local Government. He always emphasises the importance of community involvement in governance, and consistently supports initiatives that encourage local business and community groups to promote the Shire as a desirable place to live, work, and invest. Jarrad is an advocate for young families and supported the development of a local childcare centre in Williams.

He lobbied for the establishment of aged housing facilities, providing suitable accommodation options for senior residents in the Shire, and played a pivotal role in the development of new industrial blocks, promoting local economic growth and employment opportunities. Jarrad has also been a strong proponent for improved road maintenance, ensuring better connectivity and safety for residents.

As Shire President, Jarrad presented the revised Strategic Community Plan to residents, outlining the Shire's vision and priorities for sustainable development into the future.

Throughout his 16 years of service to the Williams community, Jarrad has been a member of many Council committees and community groups, including the Audit Committee, the Works and Plant Committee, and the Local Emergency Management Committee.

## Eminent Service Award



### Desiree Male

With over 16 years of continuous service as an Elected Member with the Shire of Broome, Desiree Male has made a significant and lasting contribution to the Broome community. Elected to Council in 2009, and elected Deputy Shire President in 2017, Desiree has always served the community with passion, integrity and professionalism.

Desiree is Chair of the Shire's Audit and Risk Committee, providing strong guidance on the Council's financial management, which has contributed to the organisation's improved financial situation, positioning the Shire for long-term growth and resilience.

She has led many advocacy campaigns, resulting in numerous positive outcomes for the community, including securing funding for Stage 1 and 2 of the Chinatown Revitalisation Program, the Broome Youth Precinct and Skatepark, and the Walmanyjun Cable Beach Foreshore Redevelopment.

Desiree is passionate about housing affordability and supply in the Broome and Kimberley region, and she has consistently raised the issue of housing as both a local and State-level priority, contributing to policy discussions and lobbying for regional solutions.

Desiree is a board member of the Kimberley Development Land Commission, and she regularly mentors emerging leaders. Driven by results, inclusivity and strong values, Desiree is respected for her approachability, her commitment to strong governance principles and her collaborative problem-solving skills.



### Sam Mastrolemba

Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Broome since 2017, Sam Mastrolemba joined the Shire in 2012 as Director of Corporate Services. An inspirational and visionary leader, Sam is also a strategic thinker dedicated to achieving the organisation's strategic objectives.

Throughout his seven years as CEO, Sam has been instrumental in ensuring the cultural balance of the town, while at the same time promoting business development opportunities, and delivering on significant capital projects for the region. These include the Chinatown Redevelopment Project Stage 1 and Stage 2, the Guwarri Town Beach Redevelopment project, the Walmanyjun Cable Beach Foreshore Redevelopment project, and the development of key worker accommodation at Sanctuary Road, to name just a few.

A true community advocate and mediator, Sam works closely with the various multicultural groups in the Shire and has formed a true partnership with the Yawuru traditional owners, showcasing what can be achieved with a collaborative leadership approach. He is an ethical, professional and hard-working CEO who is respected by his team for always delivering on his promises.

Led by Sam, the Shire is also actively progressing service delivery procedures to ensure consistent service standards which allows for business continuity in a region and sector that traditionally experiences high staff turnover rates.

Sam considers community feedback an essential part of delivering quality services, and this has seen significant engagement from community groups willing to work with and partner with the Shire.

## Eminent Service Award



### Stephanie Proud

Serving the City of Stirling as an Elected Member for 17 consecutive years, including two years as Deputy Mayor, Stephanie Proud is a highly valued and respected member of Council. Proving herself to be an exceptionally dependable Elected Member, Stephanie always provides a meaningful contribution to Council discussions and her balanced perspective and ability to determine positive outcomes based on merit, are highly regarded.

A passionate advocate for road safety, Stephanie has participated in the Road Safety Working Group since 2007 and was a councillor at RAC WA from 2014 to 2017. Committed to waste and recycling efforts, she actively participated in the Mindarie Regional Council's 'Face Your Waste' campaign, which used transparent bins to highlight the importance of recycling.

Stephanie is a strong advocate for community health and wellbeing, championing greater access to local recreation facilities. She has been instrumental in developing skate and BMX parks across the City and played a key role in installing outdoor exercise equipment at Jackadder Lake in Woodlands and Luketina Reserve in Wembley Downs.

Currently the Presiding Member of the City's Planning and Development Committee and Chair of the Mindarie Regional Council, Stephanie has been a Delegate and Deputy Delegate of the North Metropolitan Zone for six terms. As Deputy Mayor, she has presided over 28 citizenship ceremonies, naturalising over 2,500 new Australian Citizens residing in the City of Stirling.



### Leeann Reid

An inspiring leader who has been the Manager of Cultural Services at the City of Melville since 2008, Leeann Reid has significantly influenced Melville's vibrant cultural community through her many, highly regarded visionary initiatives.

Leeann's passion for cultural development and her commitment to values and principles that have been collaboratively informed, sees enormous momentum flow out into the community to create more just, inclusive and positive community and cultural environments.

Leeann has been instrumental in introducing numerous cultural initiatives, including the development of Western Australia's first Cultural Infrastructure Strategy, creating a road map for the next 20 years for the City of Melville's investment, planning and priorities for cultural infrastructure. She has also led the way in establishing a deep, authentic communication with Elders and Traditional Owners to explore, understand and identify not only the names but the stories, uses, heritage and histories of the many important cultural sites around Melville.

Leeann has led consultation, groundwork, visioning, and planning to create a Cultural Heart precinct and Library and Cultural Centre which will be a large-scale initiative to bring together library, museum, gallery, performance, outdoor, creative, children's and community spaces in an integrated facility.

A natural mentor, Leeann is an honest, authentic, and purposeful leader, and she regularly demonstrates outstanding and compelling vision that contributes to the continued development of the Melville community.

## Eminent Service Award



### Stevan Rodic

Appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the City of Stirling in 2024, Stevan Rodic began his Local Government career in 1997 on the front counter of the City of Stirling, processing development applications. With a career now spanning 29 years, Stevan has since worked in high profile planning roles at the Town of Cambridge and City of South Perth, with the Perry Lakes residential subdivision in Floreat and the South Perth Peninsula, two of Stevan's impressive visionary projects.

Stevan returned to the City of Stirling's Planning and Development Directorate in 2019, managing the Development Services team for six months before becoming Director. He led the team through incredibly challenging circumstances including COVID-19 lockdowns and the State Government building stimulus measures. Throughout this time, his team's customer focus was commended by Elected Members and the broader community.

Stevan is focused on ensuring the City of Stirling ranks among the highest performing Local Governments in Australia, while at the same time learning from other Local Governments, and he wholeheartedly embraces the philosophy of being a lifelong student.

During Stevan's first year as CEO, the City of Stirling won three major awards including the Australasian Reporting Awards celebrating organisations that excel in reporting on accountability and transparency, the Strategic and Master Planning Award of Excellence for its Community Infrastructure Plan 2023-2033 and the Productivity Through Infrastructure Award for the Trackless Tram project, presented by Prime Minister Hon Anthony Albanese.

Stevan is an inspiring leader who makes time for everyone in the organisation, fostering mutual respect through an open-door policy.



### Peter Varris

With a career spanning over 40 years in Western Australian Local Governments, Peter Varris is a highly respected and experienced employee who has held roles across rural, remote, inner, and outer growth metropolitan Local Governments. His extensive Local Government leadership experience, knowledge and skills in financial and asset management, and ability to foster relationships have significantly benefited the Local Government sector over the last four decades.

Appointed Executive Director Infrastructure and Environment with the City of Vincent in 2022, Peter has realigned the strategic direction of the portfolio which has seen increasing collaboration across service delivery areas, established a more robust planning approach, and rebuilt trust and confidence within the organisation and with the community.

Peter's interpersonal leadership skills are exemplary. He builds cooperative relationships, values diversity, promotes inclusion, and communicates with influence. His flexible communication style enables him to relate to people from diverse backgrounds, build and maintain cordial working relationships, and navigate complex and politically sensitive issues towards mutually beneficial outcomes.

In his current role, Peter has led with a strategic approach to service delivery, planning for the future and collaborating with the corporate strategy and finance teams to improve the development of the capital works program and inform the budget process. Prior to the promotion to his current position, Peter was the Executive Manager Corporate Strategy and Governance with the City of Vincent, where he refocused the corporate strategy, established the internal audit function, and assisted the CEO and organisation to induct three new Elected Members.

## Eminent Service Award



## Karen Wheatland

Karen Wheatland was elected to the City of Melville in 2017, and elected Deputy Mayor in 2024. Throughout her eight years as an Elected Member, Karen has consistently demonstrated a profound and sustained commitment to empowering communities, advancing equity, championing sustainability, and promoting the value of Local Government across Western Australia.

As an Elected Member, Karen has significantly shaped policies and initiatives that deliver meaningful, lasting outcomes. Her passionate and impact-driven leadership style spans diverse and critical sectors, including gender equity, environmental sustainability, First Nations advocacy, and youth and community development.

Karen is Chair of the Resource Recovery Group and the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, and through her leadership roles she has led transformative waste reduction and sustainability strategies, including FOGO expansion and carbon offset generation.

A nationally recognised advocate for women in leadership, Karen was President and now National Vice President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association, demonstrating her commitment to female empowerment and representation.

Karen has championed strategic frameworks to grow women's participation in sport and has contributed significantly to recognising and celebrating others through her role with the WA Women's Hall of Fame where she documents stories of remarkable women and lifts the profile of community leadership and civic contribution. A WALGA State Councillor since 2023, Karen is a tireless and respected champion of the Local Government sector and regularly promotes the value of Local Government through the media and through her many speaking engagements.

# Merit Award

For notable service and contributions  
to WALGA and the Local Government sector.

## Merit Award



### Michelle Boylan

Since her election to the Shire of Harvey, Michelle Boylan has provided steady, values-driven leadership, and, through her understanding of community needs, is always responsive to her electorate's concerns. A police officer for 13 years, Michelle has been passionate about community development strategies that provide for a safer, more supportive and more inclusive region, particularly for youth and families.

An inspiration to others because of her deep empathy for her community and extensive contributions to local governance, education, and youth services, Michelle is a role model and mentor to the next generation. Respected as a leader across the broader political and civic landscape, Michelle was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council in early 2025.



### Chris Brereton

As Manager Community Development at the City of Stirling since 2002, Chris Brereton manages an annual budget of \$20 million, 249 staff, and a program that benefits nearly a quarter of a million people within the City. Chris is dedicated to mentoring staff and encouraging them to take on leadership roles within the Local Government sector.

A leader with integrity, Chris has a collaborative management style bringing together organisations, community groups, and individuals with a shared vision. In 2010, under Chris' leadership, the City of Stirling became one of the first Local Governments in Western Australia to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Chris' ability to engage and collaborate with stakeholders has also led to the effective implementation of award-winning programs like the Kaleidoscope Initiative, a program to connect migrants with meaningful employment in Western Australia.



### Jennie Carter

Jennie Carter has served for three separate terms as an Elected Member with the Town of Bassendean, first elected in 1987. A current Elected Member and a prominent and well-respected local figure in Bassendean, Jennie has written several books about the Town and is passionate about preserving the history of the area. Jennie has been involved in an extensive range of community groups, and is a volunteer with numerous organisations, particularly in the field of environmental and heritage protections and recognition.

An articulate leader who is well versed in communicating a diverse range of issues to the wider community, Jennie has shared invaluable and extensive historical knowledge that has provided insights into many matters brought before Council for consideration.

## Merit Award



### Vicki Davies

Vicki Davies has been employed with the Shire of Capel for 27 years, currently holding the position of Administration Officer, Planning Services. Throughout her time with the Council, the Shire has grown by 330%, and as a result, Vicki has participated in developing strategies to manage the significant transformational changes required within the planning and development teams. Vicki has calmly guided the teams through this expansion period, despite facing many challenges, such as role changes and organisational re-structures.

She is currently leading the planning department in the enterprise resource planning change, contributing her vast experience in systems and processes to the consulting team. Vicki has exceptional customer service skills and regularly receives positive feedback from the Shire's ratepayers.



### Krystal Dawe

As the Shire of Murray's Director of Community and Economic Development, Krystal Dawe is passionate about building communities through strong partnerships and a place-based approach, using innovative planning and economic development initiatives. With an inclusive, engaging and empowering leadership style, Krystal is responsible for many initiatives within the Shire of Murray, including economic development, place activation, tourism and visitor servicing, events, library services, community development, sport and recreation and customer service.

Since Krystal's promotion to the Director position in 2021, the Shire has achieved numerous accolades, including winning WA's Inaugural Premier Trail Town Accreditation and WA's Top Tiny Tourism Town, both for Dwellingup.



### Kerry Dayman

A dedicated Elected Member with the Shire of Nungarin since 2012, Kerry Dayman is passionate about the development of the Nungarin community and is well known for her likeable, approachable, and confidential style of community leadership. Growing up in the Nungarin community, Kerry works tirelessly to improve infrastructure, services, and facilities for those in the Shire. She is passionate about preserving sporting clubs and opportunities in the Eastern Wheatbelt region, and has been a member, player and office bearer in numerous clubs within the Shire.

Throughout her 13 years of service to the Shire of Nungarin, Kerry has always demonstrated her willingness to go above and beyond to ensure she has a positive impact on the entire community.

## Merit Award



### Wendy Dickinson

Wendy Dickinson is a highly respected leader within the Shire of Harvey, recognised for her commitment to community engagement, sustainable development, and exceptional governance standards. Elected to Council in 2017, Wendy has played a pivotal role in ensuring the Shire remains a vibrant, forward-thinking, and inclusive community.

Through her collaborative leadership style and her support for business, tourism, heritage, and environmental sustainability, she has helped shape a stronger future for the region. Wendy has a deep-rooted connection to the Shire, a passion for history, and a commitment to listening and addressing community concerns. Wendy is the Chair of the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council and was both the Deputy President and President of the Brunswick Agricultural Society.



### Samantha Durston

Commencing her Local Government career as a Planning Officer at the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in 2013, Samantha Durston played a pivotal role in streamlining the City's approval processes and ensuring compliance with local regulations. Moving to the City of Swan in 2018, Samantha continues to be an effective ambassador for the Local Government sector, leveraging her expertise in architecture, planning, and project management to deliver high-quality community infrastructure that enhances public wellbeing.

She has a proven track record of successfully delivering on major community projects, including the Midland Library Renewal project, the Alice Davoren Seniors and Community Centre Renewal project, the Ellenbrook Youth Centre, Brabham Sports Pavilion, and Swan Active Ellenbrook. Her visionary leadership has not only enhanced the built environment but also fostered greater community involvement and awareness.



### Chris Hatton

Passionate about community safety and secure environments, Chris Hatton has been a dedicated Elected Member of the City of Stirling for the past five years. Chris is deeply committed to working for the community and ensuring that Council allocates resources wisely on essential services and infrastructure. Chris is focused on reducing traffic congestion, preserving green spaces, and advocating for sensible housing densities that balance growth with the preservation of the area's character.

A local school teacher, board member of Balcatta Senior High School, former State Member of Parliament and former Board Member of the Constable Care Child Safety, Chris actively participates in a wide range of community events and openings, which underscore his commitment to staying engaged with the community and understanding their needs.

## Merit Award



### Allen Hicks

With a Local Government career spanning almost 40 years, Allen is a team leader of the highest integrity. As the Shire of Wagin's Manager of Works since 2004, Allen began his career with the Shire of Yilgarn in 1986, followed by 15 years as the Works Supervisor at the Shire of Koorda. Allen is highly respected amongst both his works crew and throughout the Wagin community, and his work ethic is second to none.

Diligent, innovative and with a strong moral compass, Allen's exceptional leadership qualities were particularly welcomed during the January 2025 fires where he coordinated his team to use Shire equipment to assist volunteer brigades, despite the dangerous conditions. Always taking incredible pride in his work, Allen's contribution to the district can be found in every road, footpath, culvert, water pipe, sporting facility, public park and garden in the Shire.



### William (Bill) Huxtable

An Elected Member with the Shire of Westonia since 2013, and Deputy Shire President from 2017 until 2021, Bill Huxtable has been a committed community leader for over a decade. As a strong advocate of community heritage, Bill has driven the Westonia Cemetery revitalisation project, which has preserved the historical integrity of the site, ensuring access, and generating a respectful and friendly environment for visitors.

He has been an active participant in the NEWTravel project, was involved in building community participation and tourism through his role with the Shire Development Assessment Panel, represented the Shire as a Delegate on the Great Eastern Country Zone and was the proxy representative on the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC). Retiring this year, Bill's vision for the Shire of Westonia and dedication to the local community has been outstanding.



### Frances Liston

As the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Executive Manager Governance and Risk Services, Frances Liston has delivered transformational change through the implementation of a raft of new governance and procedural policies that have yielded profound, measurable outcomes for the City. Joining in 2022 at a time when the City was under review in relation to organisational culture, Frances used a systematic risk and priority-based approach to develop policies, procedures, guidelines and manuals to address the highest risk areas first.

Her leadership, innovation and commitment to best practice have elevated professional standards within the City, and serve as a benchmark within the Local Government sector. Her insight, determination, knowledge and firm belief in the importance of Local Government has reformed the City to be able to operate efficiently and in good conscience.

## Merit Award



### Erin Lochhead

As the Shire of Capel's Co-ordinator Human Resources, Erin Lochhead is a valued employee who has driven numerous positive projects throughout her 13 years at the Shire. Awarded the 'All Rounder' honour by the Shire in 2022, Erin continually displays honesty, empathy, accountability, respect and excellent teamwork, and is highly respected by both staff and Elected Members.

Often filling the roles of Acting Manager Organisational Development and Acting Manager Community Development, Erin has spearheaded many successful projects such as the Shire's transition to a new payroll system, which included hands-on delivery of change management and training processes and played a pivotal role in the Shire of Capel Staff Industrial Agreement 2024. She is a qualified mental health first aider and a Public Interest Disclosure Officer.



### Mikayla Love

Elected to the City of Busselton in 2021, Mikayla Love is passionate about representing the younger demographics of the Busselton and Dunsborough community with a particular focus on youths at risk. Mikayla aims to build and enhance a sense of motivation and self-belief in the local youth by engaging with the community and modelling leadership qualities.

Since her election to Council, Mikayla has served on 10 committees and working groups and represents the City in the Busselton and Sugito Sister Cities Association. She is involved with the Peron-Naturaliste Partnership, and represents her City as a Deputy Delegate on the South West Country Zone.



### Natalie Major

Elected Deputy President of the Shire of Williams in 2019, Natalie Major has been an Elected Member since her election to the Shire in 2009. Well known for being approachable and community-focused, Natalie regularly attends community events and is always engaged with local issues.

Her willingness to stay accessible makes her a relatable and trusted figure. Natalie has represented Williams in regional partnerships, including the Hotham Williams Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils, promoting cooperation and shared growth with neighbouring Shires. She is a Bush Fire Radio Base Operator, supporting local emergency responses, and has been involved in many committees related to community development and governance, infrastructure improvements, planning, and services that impact families, businesses, and seniors.

## Merit Award



### Andrew Mattaboni

Serving an outstanding 25 years with the Shire of Capel, Andrew Mattaboni began his career with the Shire as an accountant in 2000, and was promoted to Manager Finance in 2008, a position he continues to hold. A highly respected leader, Andrew is a member of the Asset Management Working Group and has driven the implementation of the Shire's Purchase Ordering System.

He has spearheaded the redesign and development of the Shire's Chart of Accounts and the Shire's annual budget system and has managed numerous successful external financial audit processes. Andrew has also filled the roles of Acting Director Corporate and Community Services, Acting Executive Manager Corporate Services, and Director Community Corporate.



### Paige McNeil

Elected to the Shire of Mundaring in 2021 and immediately assuming the role of Deputy President, Paige McNeil achieved the historic milestone of becoming the first publicly elected President of the Shire of Mundaring in 2023. Also elected as a WALGA State Councillor by the East Metropolitan Zone in 2023, Paige has had a profound impact on the Mundaring community in her four years as an Elected Member and community leader. Her commitment to good governance underpins all her work, and she advocates for transparency, accountability, and integrity in all aspects of Local Government operations.

Paige's leadership during a super-cell storm that struck the Perth Hills in January 2024, which caused widespread destruction, was critical to the re-establishment of essential services across the region.



### Jodie Riedmann

Jodie Riedmann has been employed with the Shire of Capel for 29 years, commencing in October 1995, and working in many different roles throughout her long and loyal service, including Customer Service, Payroll, Classified Clerical Officer, Administration Officer for Sustainability and Environment, and most recently as the Administration Officer in Environmental Health Services.

A genuine team leader, Jodie has also stepped into the Customer Service Coordinator role, which involved training, encouraging and motivating the customer services team. Nominated by her peers for the annual Values Awards for Teamwork in 2022, 2023 and 2024, Jodie is always willing to go that extra mile, capitalising on her three decades of experience and Shire knowledge to provide exceptional customer service to the Capel community.

## Merit Award



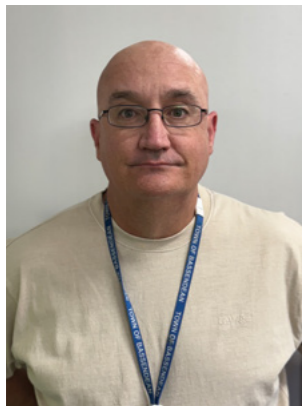
### Ange Rogers

Elected to the Shire of Murray in 2015, Ange Rogers is passionate about the development of the Murray community, balancing the needs of the rural sector with sustainable growth and economic development within the Shire. As President of the Coolup Progress Association, Ange is well known throughout the Shire for listening to what residents want and need and conveying this back to Council. Over the 10 years since her election, Ange has been an active Elected Member and sits on numerous committees and community organisations including the Outer Metro Joint Development Assessment Panel, the Audit Committee, the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee, the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.



### Anita Scott

Serving an outstanding 37 years, Anita Scott began her career at the Shire of Capel in 1988 as a typist clerk. After taking on numerous roles over her long career, including Senior Administration Officer and Customer Service Coordinator, Anita was promoted to Rates Co-ordinator in 2021 and remains a highly valued role model and leader both in the Shire and the community. Throughout her dedicated service, Anita has been integral to the introduction and implementation of a range of streamlined systems and processes that have greatly benefited residents and staff at the Shire. These projects include the installation of an electronic rating system, the implementation of SynergySoft, the design of a new system to support and manage rapid development growth in the Shire, and the management of a comprehensive training and mentoring framework for staff.



### Jeff Somes

Employed by the Town of Bassendean as Environmental Health Officer since 2018, Jeff Somes has made a substantial and lasting contribution to improving public health outcomes for the local community. His responsibilities have included the implementation and oversight of several key health initiatives such as the Town's mosquito management plan, food safety program, light industrial inspection program and attending market stalls to provide valuable education to the community. Prior to his work with the Town, Jeff held similar roles with the City of Swan and the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup. Throughout his career, Jeff has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of the community and to the continuous improvement of public health practices within the sector.



### Serena Williamson

Deputy Mayor Serena Williamson is an inspiring leader who, since her election to the City of Gosnells in 2017, has been committed to continuous improvement in the City through her support and involvement in many community projects and programs, including the Sutherlands Park, the YES Youth Plaza, and family-friendly spaces such as all abilities playgrounds. Serena has lived in the Gosnells region her entire life and is passionate about building community infrastructure that is inclusive, accessible, and future-focused. She has been the Chair of the Metropolitan Regional Roads Group since 2021, served as President and Deputy President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association WA Branch, is a delegate to the South East Regional Energy Group, and is a strong advocate for a cleaner, greener, and safer City of Gosnells.

## Troy Pickard Young Achievers Award

For noteworthy contributions to Local Government,  
demonstrated leadership and commitment  
to professional development.



### Christine Hamilton-Prime

Christine Hamilton-Prime has been an Elected Member with the City of Joondalup for over 15 years, first elected at just 19 years of age in 2009 as the youngest Local Government Councillor in Australia.

An outstanding contributor to the City, Christine is passionate about the creation of improved services and facilities for young people, seniors, community groups and local volunteer organisations within the City.

Throughout her dedicated service to the Joondalup community, she has driven improvements to the City's innovation, cyber security, and health med-tech sectors, and has spearheaded the creation of the Joondalup Innovation Precinct.

Christine has represented the City at local, national, and international forums, including the Jinan Sister City Delegation to China in 2015 which coincided with the signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement. Christine was also the City's delegate on the Invest and Trade WA Mission to India in July 2022. As an Elected Member, Christine leads with integrity, ambition, and a forward-thinking mindset, always advocating for initiatives that prioritise the long-term well-being of the community.



WALGA

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