



# Community Awards and Citizenship Ceremony

**26 January 2024**



**Australia Day**  
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.





## **Acknowledgements**

*The City of Karratha acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work and recognises their continuing connection to country, waterways and community. We pay respect to all Elders; past, present and emerging.*



# **Program**

## **Sunbrae Grove**

Acoustic Welcome Music

## **Master of Ceremonies**

Virginia Miltrup

## **Welcome to Country**

Josie Samson

## **Welcome Address**

Mayor Daniel Scott

## **Community Awards Presentation**

### **Active Citizenship**

Presented by Rio Tinto

### **Young Citizen of the Year Award**

Presented by Pilbara Ports

### **Citizen of the Year**

Presented by City of Karratha

*All nominees and winners to go to the stage at the  
end of proceedings for a group photo.*

## **Citizenship Ceremony**

*All new citizens to go to the stage at the  
end of proceedings for a group photo.*

# Past Citizens of the Year

<b>1989</b>	Nan Williams (Presented 1990)	<b>2007</b>	Stuart Robertson
<b>1990</b>	Hilda Rooney (Presented 1991)	<b>2008</b>	Maree Pont
<b>1991</b>	Major George Palmer (Presented 1992)	<b>2009</b>	Jim Farnworth
<b>1992</b>	Kelvin Lemke (Presented 1993)	<b>2010</b>	Sue Hedley
<b>1994</b>	Betty Ramsay	<b>2011</b>	Anita Cheeseman
<b>1995</b>	Kevin Richards	<b>2012</b>	Arran McOscar
<b>1996</b>	Richard & Sue Baldwin	<b>2013</b>	Grant Cucel
<b>1997</b>	Gwen McCoy	<b>2014</b>	Michael Booth
<b>1998</b>	William John Case	<b>2015</b>	Donna Stace
<b>1999</b>	Adrian Griffiths	<b>2016</b>	John Lally
<b>2000</b>	Dave & Bev Catto	<b>2017</b>	Joanne Waterstrom Muller
<b>2001</b>	Bev Horton	<b>2018</b>	Tammy Tennant
<b>2002</b>	John Macgowan	<b>2019</b>	Sandra Spadanuda
<b>2003</b>	Marshall Smith	<b>2020</b>	Damien Muller
<b>2004</b>	Anna Vitenbergs	<b>2021</b>	Ross Humphries
<b>2005</b>	Pastor Dave Stevens	<b>2022</b>	Luke Whatley
<b>2006</b>	Dr Scott Teasdale	<b>2023</b>	Robert Graham

# A message from City of Karratha

## **Mayor Daniel Scott**

We celebrate Australia Day by taking a moment to reflect, respect, and celebrate our future as a community, and remembering that we are all part of the story. We are given the opportunity to stand together as a nation and be proud of all that makes us Australian.

During this day, we welcome new citizens, as well as recognise those individuals who support others selflessly. Those who volunteer first, who raise others up – these people form the backbones of our community who continue to give their time, energy, and expertise selflessly.

Our Community Awards feature three award categories to recognise these dedicated people: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Active Citizenship (for a group or event).

Each and every person or group nominated for one of these categories should be incredibly proud, knowing that their community recognises and appreciates their commitment. I want to thank everyone who nominated others for these Community Awards, it is important to acknowledge the people in our community who are going above and beyond. Without your support this simply would not happen.

I must also thank our generous category sponsors; Rio Tinto and Pilbara Ports, it is a true pleasure to have them on board.

I would like to congratulate all of our nominees and winners for the City of Karratha Community Awards, as well as our 30 new citizens. I am very excited to see so many outstanding residents living here in Karratha, ready to lead our community into the future.

I also encourage everyone to come down to our Australia Day Celebration tonight, kicking off in Dampier at Hampton Oval from 6pm and featuring free family fun, live entertainment, market stalls, food trucks and fireworks from 8.15pm.

**Daniel Scott**  
**Mayor City of Karratha**

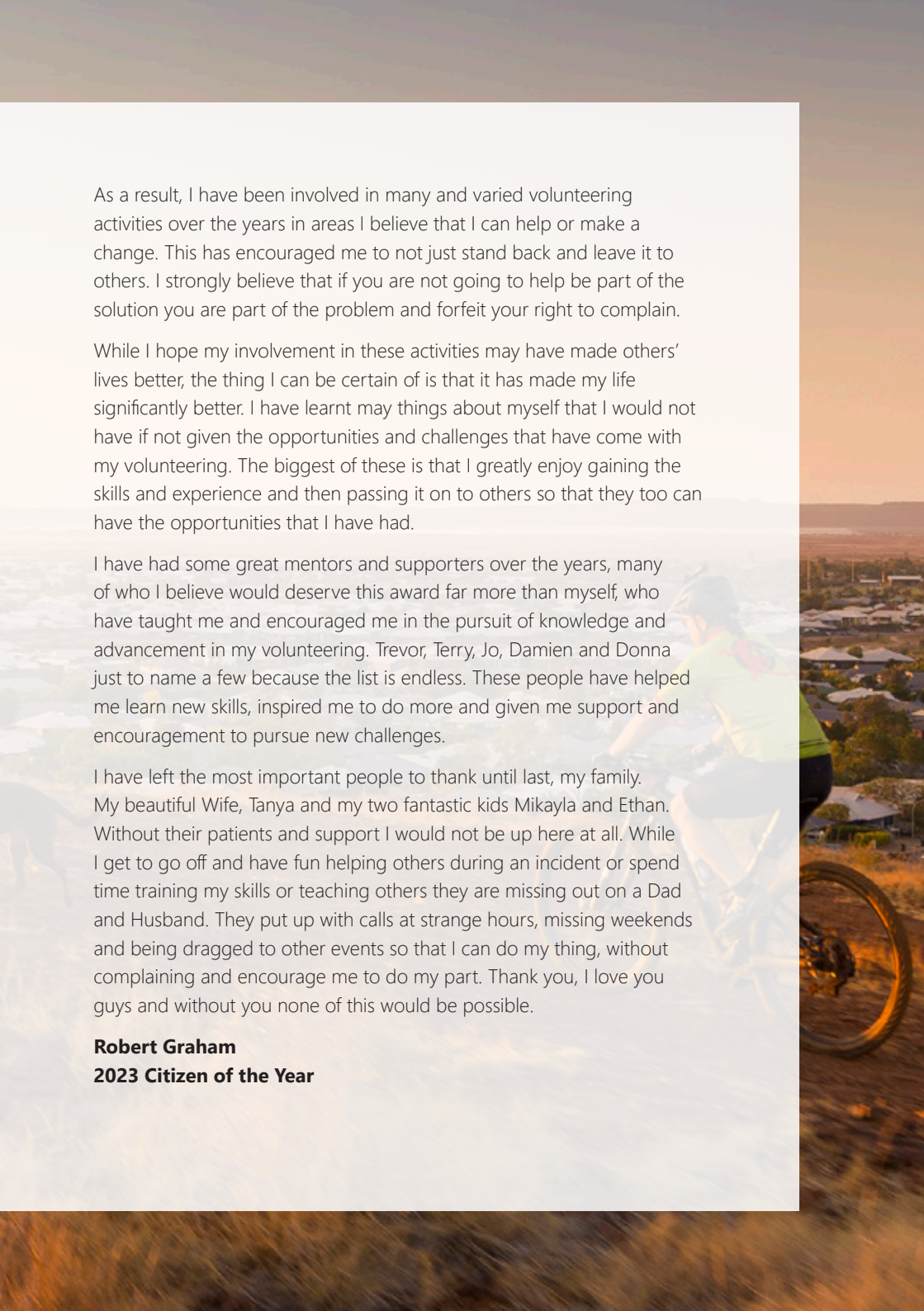


## A note from the 2023 Citizen of the Year, **Robert Graham**



Since being awarded the honor of the City of Karratha Citizen of the year last year I have had to think back about the things I have done over the years and concluded that volunteering has just been a way of life for me, whether I thought of it that way or not.

I was brought up in Port Hedland by two wonderful parents who were heavily involved in the community. Whether it was on the school P&C, starting sporting clubs or organizing the PCYC. This was never thought of as anything special by us but just what people had to do if we wanted these things to happen. We lived in a small town, and everyone got involved. This instilled the feeling of involvement and community at an early age.



As a result, I have been involved in many and varied volunteering activities over the years in areas I believe that I can help or make a change. This has encouraged me to not just stand back and leave it to others. I strongly believe that if you are not going to help be part of the solution you are part of the problem and forfeit your right to complain.

While I hope my involvement in these activities may have made others' lives better, the thing I can be certain of is that it has made my life significantly better. I have learnt many things about myself that I would not have if not given the opportunities and challenges that have come with my volunteering. The biggest of these is that I greatly enjoy gaining the skills and experience and then passing it on to others so that they too can have the opportunities that I have had.

I have had some great mentors and supporters over the years, many of who I believe would deserve this award far more than myself, who have taught me and encouraged me in the pursuit of knowledge and advancement in my volunteering. Trevor, Terry, Jo, Damien and Donna just to name a few because the list is endless. These people have helped me learn new skills, inspired me to do more and given me support and encouragement to pursue new challenges.

I have left the most important people to thank until last, my family. My beautiful Wife, Tanya and my two fantastic kids Mikayla and Ethan. Without their patients and support I would not be up here at all. While I get to go off and have fun helping others during an incident or spend time training my skills or teaching others they are missing out on a Dad and Husband. They put up with calls at strange hours, missing weekends and being dragged to other events so that I can do my thing, without complaining and encourage me to do my part. Thank you, I love you guys and without you none of this would be possible.

**Robert Graham**  
**2023 Citizen of the Year**

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of the Australian flag. The Union Jack is visible in the upper left, and the white seven-pointed star is prominent in the lower right. The colors are vibrant: red, white, blue, and green.

# Australian National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross  
We'll toil with hearts and hands;  
To make this Commonwealth of ours  
Renowned of all the lands;  
For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share;  
With courage let us all combine  
To Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.



# Active Citizenship

*Proudly presented by Rio Tinto*

## K-Pop

K-Pop brought together the local community of Millars Well to activate the pedestrian bridge to Kats oval and collaborated on a vibrant community art project that will forever bring a pop of colour to the neighbourhood. The vibrant, inclusive artwork also included contributions from Wangaba Roebourne Art Group. Self organised, K-Pop sought out its own funding through RAC grants with the simple objective of brightening regional shared spaces to make people smile and enhance livability. The group demonstrated inclusivity, creativity, collaboration and determination to bring their vision to life. The leaders of this organisation represent an incredibly talented cross section of Karratha's community. With representation from council members, private and public sector employees, NGO employees, mums, dads, creatives - the group brought together an incredibly passionate group of locals to ripple out local pride through vibrant community artwork. They modeled that placemaking doesn't need to be the responsibility of local government alone. They modeled what active citizenship and local pride can look like in what has historically been a transient town.

## Nikki Hemmett

Nikki Hemmett has been involved in multiple volunteer organisations over her time in Karratha. Most notably, Tambrey Primary School P&C, Dampier Sharks Junior Football Club, Karratha Karts Club, Karratha BMX Club, Karratha Basketball Association, Karratha Water Polo and various others. Nikki has been a strong part of the committee for all of the above clubs normally in a President, Treasurer, Secretary or Team Manager capability. Her ongoing contributions have seen these clubs and organisations flourish from Nikki's input and commitment. Nikki is proactive in organising busy bees, umpiring, coaching, marshalling, judging, etc... Her lists of skills and talent she shares combined with the time and effort is unparalleled. By doing and not telling, Nikki Hemmett has set the example of what a club person should be. She never asks or demands, she only ever volunteers and brings others along with her to improve the town she lives in.

The background of the page is a photograph of a river. In the foreground, there are several large green lily pads floating on the water. The riverbank on the left is covered with dense, green trees and bushes. The water in the river is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

## **Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.**

The Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc. plays a pivotal role in promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity in the City of Karratha. Through various cultural events, celebrations, and advocacy efforts, the association fosters cross-cultural understanding and advocates for equal rights. Their educational programs combat racism and promote social inclusion. The focus on inclusivity, diversity celebrations, and support for newcomers ensures a sense of belonging. The association's leadership inspires a harmonious community, and their capacity-building initiatives empower individuals, fostering a supportive culture. The positive impact on Karratha is evident through a more inclusive and accepting community, making them a role model for effective multiculturalism and social inclusion.


## **Dampier Community Association**

Association (DCA), established in 1968 and operating as a not-for-profit since 1977, is committed to representing and promoting the civic and social advancement of Dampier. With a focus on community, care, connection, communication, citizenship, advocacy, and support, the DCA serves as a vital resource for the town. Over its 50-year history, the association, run by a dedicated volunteer board and 14 committee members, has amassed an estimated 50,000 volunteer hours, leading to significant growth, including the employment of three staff members. The DCA encourages community engagement through numerous Dampier-based events, including the renowned Dampier Art Awards, and manages the Dampier Caravan Park and Community Hub. Beyond facility management and major events, the DCA provides various services and opportunities, emphasizing inclusivity and community well-being. Notably, the association has established a Dampier Community Garden with a focus on sustainability, facilitates art workshops and classes, supports seniors and youths through diverse programs, and engages volunteers through recognition events. Financially stable and with a positive reputation, the DCA's responsible management ensures a lasting positive impact on the community, contributing significantly to the betterment of Dampier's residents.

## **Pilbara Trailblazers**

Founded in 2021, Pilbara Trailblazers aims to unite individuals for grassroots running events in the Pilbara region. The club hosts two major events annually, a 12-week trail running program, and manages weekly Parkruns. By offering local outdoor activities, the club introduces new runners to trail running, enhances current runners' skills, and creates volunteering opportunities. Pilbara Trailblazers inspires people to adopt active and healthy lifestyles, supports goal setting, and





provides opportunities to explore local trails. Recognizing the importance of active recreation for physical and mental well-being, the club fosters an inclusive community that offers group support, encourages participation, and celebrates achievements while aiding individuals in overcoming challenges.

### **Karratha Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service**

The Karratha Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS), established in 1973, has been an unwavering pillar of safety for the Pilbara region for half a century. With a dedicated crew of 14 active firefighters responding to over 200 incidents in 2023 alone, the volunteers have shown exceptional commitment, responding to emergencies, including 110 bushfires and 43 road crash rescues in the past two years, totaling 1465 hours. Beyond their operational duties, the brigade actively engages with the community through youth cadet programs, school visits, fundraisers, and events like the iconic Christmas lolly run, a 25-year tradition that brings joy to over 10,000 people in Karratha. Despite their small crew, the volunteers undergo weekly training to maintain and enhance their skills for various emergencies, showcasing their dedication to community safety. The brigade's involvement in community events, school programs, and initiatives like McHappy Day fundraising contributes significantly to community well-being. The Karratha VFRS not only responds to incidents but also invests over 1500 volunteer hours annually, demonstrating compassion, commitment, and a desire to inspire the next generation of emergency service personnel.

### **Nor West Jockey Club**

The Nor West Jockey Club plays a vital role in supporting the local economy and community. Through large community events, it creates jobs, attracts visitors, generates revenue, and promotes local businesses. The club actively enriches the community by addressing important issues such as alcohol, drugs, smoking, mental health, and safe transport. Additionally, the Nor West Jockey Club is committed to providing work opportunities and valuable work experience for local disadvantaged individuals, aiming to open doors to future prospects for them. The club's focus extends beyond racing events, striving to create a better environment for patrons, volunteers, supporters, and officials while fostering a sense of community engagement and well-being.



# Young Citizen of the Year

*Proudly presented by Pilbara Ports*

## **Elise Murray**

Elise, a dynamic and wise Year 11 student at Karratha Senior High School, is a dedicated volunteer contributing to various projects and organisations in her community. Engaging in roles such as Youth Advisory Group member at headspace Karratha and WA Student Council, Breakfast Club, YES Cadet Junior Instructor, Blue Beanie, Karratha High Student Voice Rep, Pitter Pat Productions, and Generation Gap (ABC Radio), Elise actively participates in initiatives promoting mental health, education, youth empowerment, and community connection. Recognised in the 'Here I Am' booklet showcasing young leaders, she stands out as a mentor, advocate, and role model, showcasing leadership and dedication beyond her years. Elise's commitment to community improvement, her diverse involvements, and her fundraising efforts for mental health initiatives highlight her as an inspiring young leader with a promising future.

## **Toby Fountain**

Toby has been a role model for his peers at Karratha Senior High School since commencing in Year 7. He is a respectful, highly motivated student who consistently volunteers to support others. Toby has been a positive representative for the school both academically, through various sporting events and has performed and stage managed in school drama productions. He has been a House Captain for his year level for many years and in 2023 Toby was elected to the Karratha Senior High School student Council (now called the Student Voice). Toby's involvement extends to the City of Karratha Youth Advisory Group, where he offers valuable insights on youth matters. In sports, he excels in water polo, basketball, and netball, earning recognition and awards for his commitment and achievements. His attainment of the youngest-ever Level 1 Referee accreditation in Western Australia further underscores his long-term dedication to and impact on the sports community. His exceptional leadership, commitment to community service, and diverse achievements make him an exemplary role model.

# Citizen of the Year

*Proudly presented by the City of Karratha*

## **Beth Attard**

Beth is dedicated to supporting childcare services in the Pilbara region, emphasizing inclusive care through a holistic approach. She believes in the right of all children to attend Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services, participating in programs alongside their peers. Beth values and respects all children, working with educators to bring about positive changes in their practices, ensuring the inclusion of every child in care. She is actively involved in the community, providing support, mentoring, and leadership to educators. Beth travels extensively to collaborate with and support various services, offering continuous guidance to help educators understand and support diversity in learning environments. She leads by example, staying passionate in the ever-evolving childcare industry, addressing barriers and providing solutions.

## **Lauren Campbell**

For the past three years, Lauren has been an inclusion professional supporting over 30 early childhood services in the Pilbara. She actively collaborates with educators, children, and families, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all children. Lauren is particularly passionate about upskilling and mentoring educators across the Pilbara to guarantee the safety, security, and support of children in early childhood services. Her hands-on approach involves both in-person and virtual mentorship, including role modeling the use of resources and strategies, with a focus on capacity building and upskilling educators in various areas.

## **Jamie Bartlett**

Jamie is a dedicated and long-term volunteer committee member at Hampton Harbour Boat & Sailing Club, consistently going above and beyond for the club, with little to no recognition from members or peers. His commitment is entirely selfless, prioritising the community and members in all decisions and actions. Jamie is in a league of his own when it comes to volunteering his time to the club and community even with a very hectic family life and demanding career.





## **Lauren O'Connell**

Lauren, a seasoned early childhood educator and director, delivers six educational models, emphasising support for children with trauma and expanding knowledge among educators, community members, and professionals in the Pilbara. Lauren's passion drives her to provide meaningful training across various towns, filling knowledge gaps and promoting different approaches to supporting children affected by trauma. She is committed to creating a no-judgment, safe space approach, ensuring attendees feel safe and valued. Her work in the Healing Hearts = Strong Kids Practitioner program is contributing to the community's capacity-building and understanding of trauma-informed care for children in the West Pilbara. Lauren's dedication and networking efforts with local organisations further enhance her impact and role as a positive influence in the community.

## **Shane Harris**

Shane is a dedicated community sports volunteer, currently serving as the President of the Burrup Flames basketball association and actively participating in the Karratha Netball Association and Karratha Basketball Association. He contributes through coaching, umpiring, and volunteering at Northwest rounds, crucial for the success of these programs. Shane's commitment ensures the continued success of sporting initiatives, providing opportunities for diverse age groups. His selfless volunteering demonstrates a passion for sports, making him a valuable role model in the community. Shane's efforts extend beyond regular hours, organising coaching courses to empower others within the community to contribute, highlighting the essential role of volunteers in sustaining community sports.

## **Nat Gray**

Nat Gray, the driving force behind Milk and Kindness in Karratha, provides invaluable support to new parents through initiatives like the STEP program. She fosters a secure and encouraging environment, guiding parents to make informed choices and advocating for those in need. Nat's selfless contributions make her an exemplary role model in Karratha, demonstrating outstanding qualities in her tireless efforts for the community's betterment. Her approachability transforms Milk and Kindness into an inviting haven, creating connections and providing essential resources for parents. Nat's commitment extends to assisting healthcare professionals, showcasing her dedication and making her a beacon of inspiration in the City of Karratha.



## **Cassidy Lombardo**

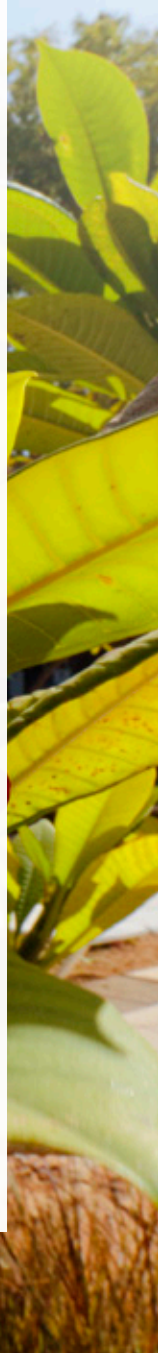
In recent years, Cassidy has held various positions on the Karratha Falcons Football Club Committee, currently serving as Vice President, and she is the founder and current President of the Karratha Falcons Netball Club. Beyond her committee roles, Cassidy actively seeks sponsorships from local businesses, contributing to the growth of both clubs. Her efforts have expanded the netball club, attracting diverse age groups with lower fees facilitated by sponsorships. Cassidy consistently advocates for coaches and umpires' development, organizing training sessions supported by sponsorships, all while maintaining a positive and supportive attitude toward her clubs.

## **Leah Price**

Leah generously dedicates her time to providing "Puppy School," "Advanced Dog Training," and 1:1 sessions to dog owners in the City of Karratha. Doing this voluntarily, she covers the financial costs herself, including oval/light hire and equipment. Leah extends her expertise to SAFE, aiding in the training of foster or recently rehomed dogs, particularly challenging breeds to rehome. For seven years, she has committed two evenings weekly to puppy and advanced training and additional time for various sessions. Leah's goal is to help dog owners have obedient, well-socialised pets, enhancing community safety and reducing injuries and associated medical or vet bills. She continually updates her knowledge, providing a unique service that significantly improves the lives of dogs and their owners. Notably, Leah's dedication goes beyond training; she played a heroic role by camping on the roadside to find a missing dog after a car accident.

## **Adam Duncombe**

For over 13 years, Adam has been a key contributor to the Rockbreakers charity group, raising over \$200,000 for locals in need. Beyond fundraising, he donates his time, energy, and resources to assist those requiring support. Adam dedicates significant personal time to coordinate sponsorship for the Rockbreakers charity golf day, engaging with businesses and the community to identify beneficiaries. His efforts inspire numerous companies and individuals to contribute time and resources for repairs and maintenance, making a positive impact on people in desperate situations. Adam embodies the true essence of charity, giving selflessly without expecting reward, fostering community unity through the Rockbreakers charity group.





## **Debbie Johnson**

Debbie selflessly supports disadvantaged and Aboriginal individuals and families in Karratha, offering a listening ear, advocacy, and life skills assistance such as opening bank accounts, enrolling children in school, and securing employment. Despite working full-time, she volunteers her time and has even opened her home to a family in need. Debbie's support has enabled many to obtain or retain jobs, gain provisional licenses, and prevent self-harm. Leading by example, she earns respect in the community, with many seeking her advice and support, showcasing her dedication to making a positive impact on others' lives.

## **Rhian Ambrosius**

Since moving to Karratha in 2013, Rhian has been an active volunteer, serving as a Senior Firefighter at Karratha Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services and as an Emergency Management Technician for St John Ambulance Karratha since 2019. With over 800 jobs attended, including during the 2019-2020 Black Summer, Rhian goes beyond her duties, volunteering for community events like Speedway, FeNaCING, Santa lolly runs, Youth Cadets, and school visits. As Lieutenant from 2019-2023, she organised training and collaborated with other emergency services. Rhian volunteered over 1000 hours this year alone with St John Ambulance, mentoring new members and obtaining a Trainer Assessor Qualification. Passionate about training, Rhian is building a cadet program for the volunteer fire brigade, which will be a stepping stone to becoming a volunteer firefighter.

## **Trevor Patton**

Trevor has been an exceptional volunteer at Karratha State Emergency Service Unit since 1985, contributing over 38 years of dedicated service. As the Local Manager for more than 16 years, he plays a vital role in operational and interagency coordination, ensuring readiness and response capability. Trevor, a qualified trainer and assessor, imparts his expertise through coaching, skill development, and training courses for Karratha SES personnel and other units in the Pilbara. His extensive involvement in radio communications, road crash rescue, and storm damage response is crucial. Trevor, also the SES Volunteer Association Vice President North, leads by example, excelling in diverse operational duties and consistently supporting the community in emergency situations. Since October 2006 Trevor has notched up more than 14, 685 hours service at Karratha SES, which equates to \$1,174 800 investment to the state of Western Australia. His commitment, versatility, and longevity of service make him a valuable asset and a shining example to all volunteers in the Pilbara region.



# Citizenship Ceremony

Today we welcome the City of Karratha's newest Australian Citizens:

Georgina Rosemary Arthur

Miranda Beth Bowman

Ubonrat Butyojanto

Felisa Signo Cruz

Ma Andrea Magisa Catanghal

Junghwan Cho

Gyumin Cho

Jeffrey Labayo Dacoco

Krishna Cassandra Go

Sheila Lou Bingcang Magisa

Cayden Skye Magisa Pagdanganan

Thi Ve Nguyen

Ama Nketiah

Akosua Christabel Karikari

Samantha Tracy Priest

Sovannara San

Nicola Dawn Patricia Yalden

Campan Yodsapol

Supaporn Pagkang

Kelly Danielle Rio

Manu Rio

Barend Daniel Van Dyk

Jo-Anne Mary Van Dyk

Justice Danquah

Marie-Anne Sharmaine Francesca Nathan-Danquah

Ezra Nathan Danquah

Elijah Jaxson Danquah

Stephen Gerard McDade





**PILBARA PORTS**

**Pilbara Ports is proud to sponsor the City of Karratha's Australia Day Awards Young Citizen of the Year category.**

The support of Australia Day celebrations has been made possible through Pilbara Ports Community Support Initiative, which provides funding and in-kind support for local not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs, charities, and local government authorities.

Pilbara Ports is proud to continue its active investment by recognising members of the community and supporting local events.

For more information, visit [www.pilbaraports.com.au/CSI](http://www.pilbaraports.com.au/CSI)



**Rio Tinto**

## **Community Giving – helping build thriving communities**

Proudly supporting the  
Pilbara Academy of Football







**Australia Day**  
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

