



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED, 3PM – Saturday, 23 January, 2016

Australia Day honours

A volunteer of more than 50 years who is dedicated to revitalising the Marion Historic Village and a teenager who is taking the lead in the fight against cancer have been recognised in the City of Marion's Australia Day Awards.

Marion Mayor Kris Hanna presented the awards at a special Australia Day ceremony in front of more than 100 family and friends at the Marion Cultural Centre on Saturday, 23 January. The winners are:

- **Citizen of the Year** – Peter Stretton
- **Young Citizen of the Year** – Charlotte Rayner
- **Community Event of the Year** – ANZAC Day Dawn Service – Lions Club of Hallett Cove
- **Sportsperson/team of the Year** – Rayna Ayensbury

Mr Hanna said Peter Stretton, 79, was a driving force behind the transformation of Marion's original village into a destination for people wanting to experience local history.

"Peter is a driving force in reinvigorating the Marion Historic Village by developing walking trails, an award-winning ANZAC Centenary exhibit for the display centre, and championing the area's significance," Mr Hanna said. "His contribution to our community dates back to 1962 when he volunteered to help build George Street Reserve in Marion."

Mr Hanna said Young Citizen Charlotte Rayner, 14, had shown great strength of character after losing two people she loved to cancer.

"Charlotte has responded to tragedy in a courageous and selfless manner," Mr Hanna said. "After losing her aunt and her mother's partner to cancer she became a Cancer Council youth ambassador and has worked to raise awareness of how to prevent this terrible disease."

Mr Hanna said winner of Sportsperson of the Year, 12-year-old Rayna Ayensbury, was a shining example of what talent and hard work could achieve.

"Rayna is an up and coming star in the world of BMX and cycling. She raised \$2000 by recycling bottles so she could travel to represent Australia in the World Championships in Belgium and has recently been selected for the South Australian Junior Track team."

Mr Hanna said the ANZAC Day Dawn Service organised by the Lions Club of Hallett Cove had brought the local community together to commemorate 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli. The event was held at a new memorial overlooking the sea at Hallett Cove.

Mr Hanna thanked all nominees for their outstanding service to the community.

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