

Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award 2011 – Richard Johnstone

Nominated by Geoff Pearson & Ross Major from the Glenfield Bushfire Brigade

As a born and bred Williams person Richard Johnstone has been contributing to the Williams Community all his life. From Junior Farmers, Bushfire Brigade, Lions Club and Shire Council, Richard is the type of person that every community needs to function.

Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

The Volunteer Bushfire Brigade represents the biggest group of community volunteers in the Shire of Williams. Richard has been a part of the North West (or Narrakine) Brigade as long as he has been involved on the family farm and been a long-serving Fire Control Officer for that Brigade.

Richard has also taken on the huge responsibility Chief Bushfire Control Officer for a 10 year period (2000 – 2010) as well as Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer prior to this.

Williams Lions Club

When the Williams Lions Club was founded in 1974, Richard was on it's Charter as a Foundation Member. In over 25 year's membership he has served in all positions, including three times as vice president, as well as on other Lions committees. The major fundraising activities in the early days of the Lions Club has seen him spending his free time doing cementing, contract cropping, organising the children's Christmas tree and party and manning the Lions Save Sight and Hearing Clinics. Wherever the Lions were in action, Richard would be there to help out.

Richard's commitment to the community through his long involvement with the Lions Club has led to great benefits for the Community of Williams and also those travelling through the town.

Williams Shire Council

Richard served as Shire Councillor from 1972 to 1987 (15 years), and then again from 2005 and continuing.

As a Councillor, Richard has provided the Shire of Williams with dedicated and honest representation. For four (4) of these years, he served as Deputy President. Richard has served on numerous local government and community committees including roles as Representative on the Works and Plant committee, Williams Bridge Committee and Williams-Narrogin Landcare Group, willingly giving of his time and knowledge of local issues. Richard has always listened to the concerns of Williams Shire residents - he could be relied on to be a strong, vigorous advocate on their behalf.

Other Community Service

As well as the items listed above, Richard is always amongst the first to help at any community busy bee.

Richard's passion for Williams is unwavering and he is a staunch believer in the capabilities of our small community to prosper into the future. Richard is a worthy winner of the Williams 2011 Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award.

Congratulations Richard