



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**21 January 2021**

## **Celebrating residents who help make our city a better place**

The 2021 winners of the City of Melton Community Achievement Awards will be celebrated at Melton City Council's Australia Day celebrations on Tuesday.

The awards recognise the outstanding contribution of community members who have made a positive and lasting impact on individuals, groups and organisations within our city.

City of Melton Mayor, Cr Kathy Majdlik, said the awards were a time to reflect on local achievements and contributions.

"Congratulations to all our 2021 winners! To stand out among what was an impressive field of nominees is quite a feat," Cr Majdlik said.

"It always makes me so proud to see what our local residents are achieving and contributing to the community and it's a pleasure to recognise their efforts as leaders and volunteers.

"Thank you to all the nominees and winners for your dedication, passion, and for continually going above and beyond to give your time to so many worthy pursuits."

### **Melton City Council would like to congratulate:**

#### **Citizen of the Year – Annette Butterworth**

Annette has volunteered with local community, parent and pre-school groups in the City of Melton for many years. She served on the committee of management for the Melton Uniting Pre-School and as Treasurer for Rotary Club Caroline Springs where she championed the development of the BusyFeet Melton program in 2013. BusyFeet Melton is a weekly dance and movement program for children with disabilities that provides a safe and fun space for children to grow and develop. Annette has been the driving force behind this program, and during the COVID-19 lockdown, she was integral to establishing online BusyFeet classes.

#### **Young Citizen of the Year – Lauchlan Wright**

At 19 years of age, Lauchlan has been keeping the community safe for many years as a member of the Caroline Springs Fire Brigade. He also supports the annual Christmas brigade and runs programs educating the community on fire safety. Lauchlan attended the devastating 2019/2020 bushfires and his efforts won him the CFA Encouragement Award in 2020. Lauchlan demonstrates exceptional community leadership and is an outstanding role model in the community.

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### **Gender Equity Leader of the Year – Prabha Shrestha**

Prabha is a member of Nepalese community in the City of Melton and Vice President of the Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria, a women-led organisation committed to gender equality and women's empowerment. She designed and implemented a women's capacity and confidence program called 'Live well project with fun for girls and women'. This program has assisted more than 300 international students and women to access health and counselling services. Prabha also designed a short film on family violence called 'See-through me' and has facilitated community discussions to raise awareness of family violence prevention in the community.

### **Access and Inclusion Leader of the Year – Zoe Attard**

As the senior head coach at Specialist Hoops Basketball in the City of Melton, Zoe has made a difference to the lives of many people living with disability. Specialist Hoops is a basketball program which makes team sport accessible to people living with disabilities. Before joining Specialist Hoops, 90 per cent of participants had had little opportunity to participate in group sports. Zoe also referees basketball and coaches for the Falcon Rebels Basketball Club. Her ongoing enthusiasm and passion for supporting and encouraging participation in sport and helping people to improve their skills is outstanding.

### **Intercultural Engagement Leader of the Year – Ehab Hadaya**

Since settling in Melbourne in 2018, Ehab has actively supported many initiatives and the local Iraqi Assyrian community. He has volunteered with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, various disability services and participated in numerous workshops and events in support of newly arrived community members. Ehab was instrumental in supporting the activities of the Iraqi group that meets in Caroline Springs and actively distributing COVID-19 related updates throughout 2020. He also fundraised and even grew his own hair for two years to donate it for wigs to support children with cancer. Ehab has demonstrated leadership in encouraging participation in public life, fostering intercultural understanding and connection.

ENDS

Melton City Council media enquiries (not for publication): Kylie Kitchen – Media and Communications Officer on 0427 595 552.