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PRESS RELEASE

SMALL COMMUNITY MANAGED NOT-FOR-PROFITS RECOGNISED AT COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT TRIBUTE (C.A.S.T.) AWARDS 28 AUGUST IN PERTH

Those working on the ground in small community-managed not-for-profits were recognised at the Community and Support Tribute (C.A.S.T.) Awards 2015, held as the culmination to the three day conference Into the Spotlight: Our Role on Community’s Stage, which focused on giving small community—managed NFPs the tools to shine the light on their service and the benefits they offer to the community.

The conference was co-hosted by Linkwest and ConnectGroups at the Mercure Hotel in Perth CBD from August 26-28, 2015.

The C.A.S.T. awards honoured the work undertaken by Linkwest member Centres and ConnectGroups’ Self-Help and Support Groups and the positive difference they have made within their communities over the past 24 months.

Karen Tighe from 720 ABC Grandstand was the Master of Ceremonies at this event, and patrons, Dr Carmen Lawrence (Linkwest), and Prof Lyn Beazley AO (Connectgroups), presented the awards to the winners and finalists.

Judy Tennant, Principal Policy Advisor at the Department of Premier and Cabinet, represented The Hon Tony Simpson MLA at the award ceremony.

Six of the twelve awards presented on the day went to Linkwest member Centres, celebrating the achievements of these small community-managed not for profits in areas such as community building, the promotion of skills development, life-long learning, and responsiveness to community needs.

Details of the winners and finalists are provided on the following pages.

Linkwest CEO Jane Chilcott said: “The 2015 C.A.S.T. Awards presented a real opportunity to celebrate these amazing grass root organisations. Many of their leaders are the quiet achievers of the community sector, and we are thrilled to be able to shine the spotlight on their accomplishments.”

The event—which included a three course lunch in vintage Hollywood surrounds - was sponsored by the WA Department of Local Government and Communities.

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LINKWEST COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT TRIBUTE (C.A.S.T.) AWARD WINNERS AND FINALISTS

Community Building:
For the Centre which has demonstrated effective community development practices to contribute meaningfully to a stronger, healthier, more inclusive local community.

Winner: Brockman Community House
Finalist: Roleystone Neighbourhood Family Centre

"I Can't Believe It's Learning"
For the Centre that creatively encourages and promotes skills development through non-formal and informal learning.

Winner: Manjimup Family Centre
Finalist: The Meeting Place

Cutting Edge
For the Centre that has initiated an exciting learning programme which promotes, encourages and supports Lifelong Learning and development.

Winner: Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre
Finalist: Manjimup Family Centre

Centre Reinvention
For the Centre that has turned its ‘fortunes’ around by adopting new strategies which enable it to better respond to community needs.

Winner: Milligan Community Learning and Resource Centre
Finalist: Sudbury Community House

Unfunded Excellence
For the self-funded Centre that consistently engages its community with a varied programme of activities and events.

Winner: Norwood Neighbourhood Association
Finalist: Beaufort Street Community Centre

Linkwest Super User
For the Centre that has actively taken advantage of the training, resources and project opportunities offered by Linkwest.

Winner: William Langford Community House
Finalist: Yangebup Family Centre
BACKGROUND: LINKWEST

Nedlands-based Linkwest is a small not-for-profit organisation that is largely funded by the State Government’s Department of Local Government and Communities.

Linkwest is the peak body for community, neighbourhood and learning centres in Western Australia. It offers targeted and relevant training and support to those working in small community-managed not-for-profit organisations.

Linkwest, with a staff of six, offers crucial support to more than 75 members, including 35 regional and remote organisations. Some of its members include WA community resource centres. More than 70,000 Western Australians currently use these centres. The centres provide a friendly, welcoming place where local people can meet to learn, gain new skills, make friends and feel part of their community. They also provide a safe, affordable space for playgroups, community and support groups to gather.

Former Premier of Western Australia, Professor Carmen Lawrence, is Linkwest’s official patron. She has been a patron for the past five years.

The history behind the organisation goes back to 1978 – for many years it was known as Learning Centre Link, until it was renamed Linkwest in 2011.

It proudly hosts an informative conference for small not-for-profit organisations every alternate year in Perth. Into the Spotlight: Our Role on Community’s Stage, to be held from August 26-28, is the 19th biennial Linkwest conference.

http://www.linkwest.asn.au/

Jane Chilcott, Linkwest CEO

Jane Chilcott, CEO of Linkwest since 2011, has been instrumental in re-establishing the peak organisation’s focus and commitment to small, locally managed centres and not-for-profits. Jane’s knowledge of the sector and her extensive human resources background has helped many centres become better equipped at meeting the needs and aspirations of their local community.

Below: Linkwest Chair Nicky Howe (left) with Linkwest CEO Jane Chilcott.