

# SI-KAD News



Issue Jul 2007



**Stuart Robertson -  
Shire of Roebourne  
"Citizen of the Year"**

In launching the Shire of Roebourne citizenship awards in 1989, our then-President Glen Slee said, "The heart and life blood of the landscape that we call The Shire of Roebourne is reflected in some 200plus community based, voluntary organisations.

"The spirit and essence of the Shire of Roebourne Awards is to recognise, applaud, and bestow on many individuals, the honour of being publicly acclaimed by their peers."

These annual awards recognise the contribution of youth and adults in community service and

## "Citizen of the Year" joins WA Week nominees

sportsmanship and are the brain-child of current President Nan Williams.

SI-KAD now co-hosts the Awards in conjunction with the Shire of Roebourne at the Australia Day celebrations.

SI-KAD nominate "our" "Citizen of the Year" for the WA Week Awards.

In Jun 2007, Stuart Robertson did us proud.

Stuart and a mate left New Zealand to travel the world and arrived in Dampier in the early '70's. They were fit, full of dreams, and willing to have a go. "We took a couple of day's work on the service wharf," Stuart said. "I'd intended to make some big money, then go home and buy a farm." However, Stuart's destiny has manifested in over three decades selfless contribution to the people of Western Australia; within the Shire of Roebourne; and in par-

ticular, his own Dampier community. Stuart became an Australian citizen in 1984.

As a very active member of both West Pilbara Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue Group, and Dampier Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services, Stuart has effectively been *on-call* simultaneously for these two emergency service providers, for more than three decades.

"I joined the volunteer fire brigade in 1975," Stuart says, "and we started the sea rescue when a loose knit group decided to put a radio at the boat club, and look out for each other".

Craig Neil, former O-I-C Dampier Police Station states, ".During cyclone Clare in 2006 he braved rough and treacherous conditions to assist with a sea rescue. Had it not been for us, two surfers would have no doubtedly been in grave trouble".

### Executive Positions

#### President

Nan Williams

#### Vice President

Judy Wright

#### Treasurer

Philippa Ives

#### Correspondence Sec

Pernille Gray

#### Minutes Secretary

#### Publicity

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### Programme Areas

#### Education

Arran McOscar

#### Environment

Jenny Dynan  
Pernille Gray  
Viv Kamen

#### Health

Philippa Ives

#### International Goodwill and Understanding

Judy Wright

#### Economic & Social Development

Philippa Ives

#### Human Rights and Status of Women

Val Maas

## Tidy Towns in Fenacing Float Parade



A lot of effort by Pernille Gray, Jenny Dynan and the Girl Guides resulted in this colourful float promoting

"Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities"



Contact Pernille Gray  
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## Welcoming Sue Smalldon - Inducted 4 Jul 2007



**Sue Smalldon** - It was during a Pilbara Writers' Group workshop that Sue and Past President Glen Slee re-kindled a discussion about Soroptimists that had begun when they had both been pursuing the preservation of Burrup rock-art.

At her induction, Sue, an Archaeologist, Anthropologist (and an Accountant) raised her hand to co-ordinate our Unifem Spring Walk to coincide with International Day of the worlds Indigenous people. (Full article in Sept issue).



Arran McOscar with SI-KAD's Money for a Dunny "at work", and star of the "Pony Drop" (insert)

### Objectives of Soroptimism

#### To strive for:

- the advancement of the status of women,
- high ethical standards,
- human rights for all,
- equality, development and peace:

through International Goodwill and Understanding, and Friendship.

#### Soroptimist International is committed to:

service to local, national and international communities; and active participation in decision-making at all levels of society.



Left - **Vivien Kamen** - Viv was back for a brief visit in July, and is planning to connect

with Soroptimists in Delhi in October



Left - Marie Salome Umutesi Kayinamura SI-KAD **Project Independence** sister in Rwanda

and Right Erusaniya Kanyki SI-KAD **Plan Australia** foster child in Uganda



**SI-KAD** Our official name is Soroptimist International of Karratha and Districts Inc, hence we use the acronym, SI-KAD. We're like the group of cycads that are renowned for survival in harsh semi-desert climates!

## Fiona White-Hartig - recipient of the SI-WA Stella Giles Award for Excellence



Fiona White-Hartig, mother of three, is committed to raising the self-esteem and status of indigenous youth to create future leaders and mentors. Her dedication and determination to provide opportunities for indigenous girls in the North-West, and to empower them to become successful role models in their community, began when she arrived in Roebourne in

2004. Fiona formed Roebourne Girls Group (now Roebourne Girls FX Group) which started as a simple six-week grooming and deportment course to help the 15 participants prepare for interviews.

From this humble beginning the girls have gone on to take part in modelling courses and portfolio shoots, hip hop dance classes, a Pilbara Tour, and they have also showcased their talents in the Kimberly and Perth.

Fiona says, "I'm proud to say that we now have in excess of 60 members, with two girls studying at university in Perth and several on scholarships to private schools in the metropolitan area..."

The girls have been recognised with awards in Young Achievement Australia Small Business Competition, and in 2006 they won the WA Youth Awards- Group

Citizenship. In November 15 girls will be selected, on the basis of their commitment, weekly attendance and contribution to fundraising, to be part of a 3week cultural exchange to Los Angeles and New York.

The Stella Giles Award will assist Fiona on this trip where she will also study specialist programs for at 'at-risk' youth.

Fiona has also developed "On My Way" for indigenous boys (in partnership with the David Wirripanda Foundation). On My Way and Roebourne Girls FX Group are designed to increase school attendance and participation in further education; to build self esteem, and encourage healthy and safe lifestyles without the use of drugs and alcohol.

