

# FERNTREE GULLY ELECTORATE 2010 VICTORIA DAY AWARD



*The 2010 Victoria Day Awards Recipients with Nick Wakeling MP*

**The 2010 Ferntree Gully Electorate Victoria Day Awards ceremony took place on the 1st of July at the Knox Italian Community Club, Rowville.**

The awards ceremony is an opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of the wonderful volunteers in our local community.

This year forty-six community groups nominated an award winner, recognising a special and important member of their organisation.

The Ferntree Gully Electorate Victoria Day Awards, held annually on the 1st of July is an opportunity to recognise volunteers in our community who selflessly serve residents in Boronia, Ferntree Gully, Rowville and Lysterfield. The volunteers honoured provide thousands of voluntary hours benefiting countless residents across the electorate, making their lives easier, better and more enjoyable.

Recipients are drawn from a wide range of community groups, whether they are sporting, service, religious, emergency, support or neighbourhood groups. These organisations volunteer their time to benefit our community.



**RECOGNISING VOLUNTEERS  
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

## FERNTREE GULLY ELECTORATE 2010 VICTORIA DAY AWARD

The Ferntree Gully Electorate 2010 Victoria Day Awards celebrate and honour volunteers from varied community groups across the electorate. Each recipient performs a different role in the community and all are valued. Below is a small selection of some of the volunteer's honoured at this year's ceremony.



*Nick with Major Arthur Ford*

Major Arthur Ford was one of the first volunteers to arrive on the scene at Kinglake following Black Saturday in 2009. He spent many weeks working with families that had lost their homes and family members and he gives of himself far above the call of duty. Over the last 18 months he has provided counselling to many and has continued to visit the bush fire area. He was also heavily involved in helping those affected by the Upwey fires.

At the age of 13 Brittany began volunteering as an umpire for St. John the Baptist Netball Club. In 2008 she took it upon herself to start mentoring young girls and began training them up as umpires who are vital to the running of the competition. To date she has trained 11 such girls. In late 2006 Brittany was presented her 'C' Grade umpire's badge by the Mountain District Netball Association enabling her to umpire senior games, including finals.



*Nick with Brittany Page*

Despite suffering from Polio since 1945 Elsie has actively volunteered her time to St Vincent De Paul in Ferntree Gully since the 1980's. Elsie has spent a lifetime visiting disadvantaged families, supporting and encouraging them. Elsie also established the Knox Vincentian Scholarship Fund for disadvantaged families in Ferntree Gully to help provide financial assistance for their educational needs.



*Nick with Elsie Johnson*

Each year Anita leads a team of one hundred students, staff and parents as Fairhills High School's Rock Eisteddfod Director. Anita has achieved four state first places and three runners up during her fourteen year involvement. When the Rock Eisteddfod organisation faltered, she stepped into the breach and inspired other Victorian schools to band together, get support and funding and create an organisational alternative, now entitled 'VICMOVES'.



*Nick with Anita Chipman*

## FERNTREE GULLY ELECTORATE 2010 VICTORIA DAY AWARD



**Nick with Manjit Singh**

Last year Cathy climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for both the Australian charity *Heart Kids* and the Sri Lankan *Foundation of Goodness*. This was a huge challenge for the working mother of four children aged eight to eighteen. The major sources of fundraising came from sponsorships, online donations and a dance function involving 400 people held at the Hungarian Club. Cathy raised a total of \$38,000 dollars which was split between the two charities.

Manjit is a volunteer with the Sant Nirankari Mission in Rowville. Manjit works consistently with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to organise a Blood Donation Drive every 6 months. More than 100 volunteers donated Blood and Plasma in May 2010 this year at a session arranged by Manjit at the local Donor Centre. Manjit also helped organise a Clean Up Australia Day 2010 site which was listed among the top three sites nationally for participation.



**Nick with Cathy Cruse**



**Nick with Phil Matthews**

Patrick has been involved with the Ferntree Gully Eagles Junior Football Club for over six years. He has held several official positions including that of Football Operations Manager. He is meticulous in all that he does - from marking boundary lines (which included pink paint for Breast Cancer Awareness), providing assistance to the Sudanese community or cooking BBQ's for players either after training or at various functions. Patrick thrives on giving to his local community.

Phil is President of the Wantirna Little Athletics Club, which competes at the Knox Little Athletics Centre. Phil serves on the Executive Committee at the Knox Centre where he has pursued grants for a major track upgrade through Knox City Council. Phil is also the chief photographer for the Mountain District Netball Association and Little Aths - he produces the end of season DVDs of young athletes, parents and officials in action.



**Nick with Patrick Hines**

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THE FERNTREE  
GULLY  
ELECTORATE  
VICTORIA DAY  
AWARDS ARE AN  
INITIATIVE OF



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The 2010 Victoria Day Awards would not have been possible without the support of the Fern Tree Gully and Rowville Community Bank branches of the Bendigo Bank, Jazzmatazz - The Party Shop, Minuteman Press Knox and The Knox Italian Community Club.



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