

MEDIA RELEASE

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Changing lives one camp at a time

By Gen Whisson

A relentless passion for seeing kids succeed against all odds has seen Camp Kulin Manager Tanya Dupagne, take out the most prestigious honour at the 2014 Constable Care Child Safety Awards.

An initiative of the Shire of Kulin, the internationally recognised Camp Kulin program empowers and protects the state's most vulnerable by teaching trust, respect and confidence with the ultimate goal of breaking the generational domestic violence cycle. It also runs programs and camps which are open to any child in Western Australia (WA) seeking to develop essential life skills and leadership.

On Saturday evening, Camp Kulin and Tanya stole the stage, winning both the Local Government and Employee Award categories. But the real surprise came when Tanya was announced as the winner of the esteemed Constable Care Child Safety Award of the Year 2014 presented by His Excellency Hon Wayne Martin, AC and Editor for The West Australian, Brett McCarthy.

"I am so incredibly honoured to receive this award but I am really accepting in on behalf of all our team which includes 64 volunteers, shire staff and the community. Without them Camp Kulin would just not be possible," Tanya said.

Since moving to Kulin in 2013, Tanya, a Churchill Fellow, has seen over 500 kids from across WA experience her innovative program with many returning again and again. Tanya said the response to Camp Kulin had been overwhelming with families driving for up to six hours to bring kids to camp and a waiting list of over 400 eager to come.

"We have a high demand for kids seeking to come on the program and those who do, provide us with an incredible response.

"The program proudly receives 100% positive feedback from parents and caseworkers and we also have a 100% volunteer retention rate," Tanya said.

Camp Kulin also takes referrals from agencies including DCP, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, WA Police and ASeTTS (Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors).

Shire of Kulin CEO Greg Hadlow said he was extremely pleased and proud of what Camp Kulin had achieved within 15 months.

"To see a small local government taking on what effectively is a state responsibility and one which traditionally lies with large organisations is an absolute credit to Tanya, her team and the Shire of Kulin.

"We are filling a child safety gap in regional WA which is not only supporting kids from across the state but also our own local youth," Mr Hadlow said.

The next 12 months is an exciting time for Camp Kulin with programs being developed specifically for schools, corporates, teenagers and parents.

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For further information contact Tanya Dupagne - Phone: 0457 801 008

Attached Photos - Courtesy of The Scene Team

1. Brett McCarthy, Editor of the West Australian; Camp Kulin Manager Tanya Dupagne; His Excellency Hon Wayne Martin AC, Administrator of the State of Western Australia
2. Camp Kulin team: Brittany Smeed, Pat Egan, Tanya Dupagne, Chloe Cleverley