

2023 Ranger of the Year

Hamish James - Shire of Ashburton



The WA Rangers Association has proudly awarded the prestigious 2023 Ranger of the Year title to Hamish James from the Shire of Ashburton. This award acknowledges an outstanding ranger within the industry who exemplifies exceptional teamwork and dedication over the past year. The selection criteria for this esteemed award include improved public perception, service to the community, involvement in community educational programs, and the ability to perform ranger duties to a consistently high standard.

Career and Community Impact

Hamish James commenced his role with the Shire of Ashburton in September 2020, bringing with him valuable experience from his previous position as a Ranger and Emergency Management Officer with the Shire of Dardanup. Known for his engaging personality, sense of humour, and unwavering willingness to assist, Hamish has significantly impacted the communities of Pannawonica, Onslow, Tom Price, and Paraburdoo.

Changing Public Perception and Community Service

Hamish is passionately dedicated to changing the public perception of rangers. He views his role as an opportunity to promote positive change and make a meaningful difference in the community. His approachability, empathy, and dependability ensure that all his interactions are positive experiences for community members.

Key Achievements

Cultural Engagement and Compliance:

Hamish has been instrumental in his involvement with the Bindi-Bindi community in Onslow. His cultural awareness has fostered strong, trusting relationships, and he has assisted the



community in complying with the Dog and Cat Acts, including rehoming animals through SAFE Karratha.

Community Cleanup Initiative:

Recognizing the need for a community cleanup in Bindi-Bindi, Hamish initiated a project that resulted in the removal of six truckloads of waste. This cleanup, supported by traditional owners and elders, has rejuvenated the community, allowing them to reclaim spaces for cultural storytelling and tourism.

Animal Desexing Campaign:

Hamish implemented a successful animal desexing campaign in Onslow by securing corporate sponsorships. This campaign offered free desexing, microchipping, registrations, flea and tick control, and welfare checks, promoting animal welfare and reducing the need for residents to leave town for these services.

Additional Initiatives

- Western Australia Rangers Association North-West Zone Committee:
Established to strengthen the rangers' network and support in the region.
- Beach Emergency Numbers System:
Driven by Hamish to enhance emergency response capabilities across the Shire of Ashburton.
- Turtle Nesting Site Awareness:
Collaboration with traditional owners and The Chevron Sea Rangers to protect turtle nesting sites.

Tourist Engagement and Education:

- Actively engaging tourists at the ANZAC memorial and promoting the Shire of Ashburton.
- "Be Croc Wise" Signage: Initiated following numerous crocodile encounters to educate and protect the community.

Hamish James's dedication, hard work, and innovative initiatives have made him a deserving recipient of the 2023 Ranger of the Year award. His commitment to improving public perception, serving the community, and maintaining high standards of ranger duties exemplifies the values and spirit of the WA Rangers Association. Congratulations to Hamish James on this well-deserved recognition!

