



**NOMINATION FORM
FOR THE CONFERRING OF THE TITLE
'HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY'**

**THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS STRICTLY
CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby nominate:

Full Name: Elizabeth Franz

for the conferring of the title "Honorary Freeman of the Municipality".

In support of this recommendation I supply the information set out on pages 2 and 3 of this document.

By signing this document, I confirm that I have read and understood the Shire of Denmark Policy P040126 which appears at the end of this document.

Yours faithfully

Signature: 

Full Name: Councillor Roger Edward Seenev

Phone: 08 98409036 Date: 20th October 2020



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'HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY'**

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CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby nominate:

Full Name: ELIZABETH FRANZ

for the conferring of the title "Honorary Freeman of the Municipality".

In support of this recommendation I supply the information set out on pages 2 and 3 of this document.

By signing this document, I confirm that I have read and understood the Shire of Denmark Policy P040126 which appears at the end of this document.

Yours faithfully

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Full Name: MARK NICOLAS ALLEN

Phone: 043 999 3686 Date: 25/10/2020

TO: The Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Denmark
PO Box 183
Denmark WA 6333

DETAILS OF PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION

The following information about the person submitting this recommendation is needed to enable officers of the Shire of Denmark to seek further details, if required. In addition to completing the full details below, please indicate, in the box provided, your preferred address for further contact.

Full Name: Councillor Roger Edward Seenev

Address: 2224 Scotsdale Road, Kordabup, WA 6333

Phone: 08 98409036 Occupation: Marine Engineer

DETAILS OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED FOR THE TITLE

Please provide a biographical profile of the person you are nominating by completing the section below and by providing the details requested on the next page. If insufficient space is available on page 3 of the form, please attach a separate statement.

Full Name: Elizabeth Franz

Address:  Denmark, WA 6333

Phone:  Occupation: _____

Date of Birth:  Place of Birth: _____

Has nominee received any:

- Awards Order of Australia Medal (OAM)
- Degrees Unknown
- Etc

Please set out below details of the activities undertaken by the person you are nominating and the reasons why you consider he or she should receive recognition from the Council of the Shire of Denmark by the conferring of the title 'Honorary Freeman of the Municipality'.

The names and addresses of individuals and/or organisations able to support your recommendation should also be provided.

- Continuous community service with Denmark Scouts since 1968 (see attached information)
- Continuous community service with Country Women's Association (CWA) (see attached information)
- Active service with Denmark Bushfire Brigade
- Member of Denmark Tidy Towns Committee
- Awarded Order of Australia Medal.

Due to insufficient space, please refer to attached information and thumb drive.

SHIRE OF DENMARK
POLICY P040126
HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Background

Section 619A of the Local Government Act 1960 prescribed that, Council may, by absolute majority, pass a resolution which confers the title of 'Honorary Freeman of the Municipality' on any person. This does not confer any right or privilege on that person other than the right to use the title so conferred.

Although the Local Government Act 1995 does not provide for conferring this title, Council has resolved to introduce the award.

Statement of Intent

This Policy stipulates the procedures for the nomination, selection and induction of persons designated as 'Freeman of the Municipality'.

Policy

Subject to the eligibility and selection criteria of this policy being met, Council may, by an absolute majority decision, confer the title of 'Honorary Freeman of the Municipality' on any person. The title shall be reserved for persons who have rendered exceptional service to the community. The process for nomination and selection of persons for the title are as follows:

1. Eligibility Criteria

Nominees for the conferring of the title 'Honorary Freeman of the Municipality' should be residents of the Shire of Denmark who have given distinguished service to the Shire, preferably in more than one capacity.

2. Selection Criteria

Nominees will be judged on their record of service to the community. The selection criteria are to include:

- a) Length of service in a field (or fields) of activity.
- b) Level of commitment to the field (or fields) of activity.
- c) Personal leadership qualities.
- d) Benefits to the community of the Shire of Denmark and/or State of Western Australia resulting from the nominee's work.
- e) Special achievements of the nominee.

3. Nomination Procedure

- a) Nominations for the Award may be made by individuals or organizations and are to be sponsored by a Councillor of the Shire of Denmark. They are to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer on the Official Nomination Form (as appended to this policy) for consideration by the Council.
- b) Nominations are to be made in the strictest confidence without the knowledge of the nominee.
- c) On receipt of a nomination the Chief Executive Officer shall circulate a copy of the nomination and any supporting information to all Councillors.
- d) On receipt of the information, Councillors shall have at least two weeks to consider the proposal. If a Councillor is not in favour of the proposal then he/she should either submit his/her views;
 - (i) In writing to the CEO, who will provide a copy to all Councillors; or

- (ii) Verbally at the relevant Council meeting.

Councillors who do not formally respond will be presumed not to object to the nomination.

- e) If it is considered by Council that it would not be appropriate to pursue such nomination, then no record is to be made in the Minutes and if the Councillor sponsoring the nomination is not in attendance, the Shire President shall verbally advise that Councillor that the nomination has not been supported.

4. Awarding the Title

Once a nomination has been accepted by Council, the nominee and any person(s) or organization(s) involved in the nomination are to be informed of the decision and a suitable press statement is to be released.

The formal conferring of the title is to be carried out at a reception held by Council. This may be a special reception for this purpose, or the ceremony may form the focal point of any other suitable reception hosted by Council. The decision on the occasion and format of the ceremony shall rest with the President, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

The successful nominee shall receive a framed certificate and lapel pin which confirms his or her status and shall be invited to attend all civic functions.

Photographs of the Honorary Freeman of the Municipality will be displayed in the Council Chambers which will show pertinent information identifying the recipient and their service to the community.



Name	Mrs Elizabeth (Beth) Beryl FRANZ
Award	Medal of the Order of Australia
Post-Nominal	OAM
Date Granted	11th of June, 2001
State	WA
Suburb	Denmark
Postcode	6333
Citation	For service to youth through the Scouting movement, and to the community of Denmark.
Media Note	n/a
Announcement Event	The Queen's Birthday 2001 Honours List
Award ID	878111

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Name	Mrs Elizabeth Beryl FRANZ
Award	Centenary Medal
Post-Nominal	n/a
Date Granted	1st of January, 2001
State	WA
Suburb	DENMARK
Postcode	6333
Citation	For service to youth and the community of Denmark, Western Australia
Media Note	n/a
Announcement Event	n/a
Award ID	1123423

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.DENMARK Scouts and Cubs welcomed all-comers to an open day on Saturday aimed at raising community interest in the organisation, particularly the need for parent helpers.

Scout leader Beth (Skip) Franz said she and her helpers were rushed in the morning on Saturday with a swap meet and football game being held near the Scout Hall at McLean Park.

Children called in at the hall to shoot basketballs, have a go on a hill trolley, see the handmade raft plus enjoy the spread of food which included decorated cup cakes.

There was even a giant snakes and ladders game set up and a display of scarves, some of which had been made into a blanket and others into a coat.

Beth said Scout and Cub leaders were needed, both men and women but particularly parent helpers to ensure that things ran smoothly.

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Flo Chambost, Oceanne Chambost, Mia Agers, Jade Britza, Lilly Goode, Kirsten Zuks, Jülien Chambost, Cordehlia Stevens, Harry Stevens, Lousia Stevens and Nais Chambost.

4

Open day organiser Cordhelia Stevens, daughter Louisa and son Harry.

3

Beth Franz and Chris Usman inspect the cupcakes.

2

Rupert Morrell and Graham Batten show a coat made from troop and jamboree scarves.

1

Harry Stevens pushes Julien Chambost in the hill trolley.

6

Lilly Goode, Jade Britza, Louisa Stevens and Kirsten Zuks try for goals.

Jade Britza, Louisa Stevens, Lilly Goode and Kirsten Zuks.

THE Denmark community will acknowledge its volunteers at a Thank a Volunteer Day function at the Denmark Boating Angling Club on December 5.

Denmark has a big and proud population of volunteers, from the emergency services to sporting, community and arts groups.

The 2016 census showed that 29.8 per cent of Denmark residents were volunteering for an organisation or group compared to the 23.3 per cent regional average.

This year's event includes a presentation by renowned guest speaker, Bank of IDEAS (Initiatives for the Development of Enterprising Action and Strategies) founder and director Peter Kenyon.

Through his organisation, Mr Kenyon has worked with more than 2500 communities across Australia and the world helping them spark their own ideas and invest themselves in building sustainable futures.

The function will be held at Denmark Boating and Angling Club from 5-7pm where beer, wine and light canapes will be provided.

RSVPs are essential by phoning 9848 0300 or email cdo@denmark.wa.gov.au St John Community Transport volunteer coordinator Yvonne Hortin sets out for a busy day. Shire president Ceinwen Gearon, Scouts veteran Beth Franz and young volunteer Chai Robertson.

St John community transport volunteer coordinator Yvonne Hortin sets out for a busy day.

Shire president Ceinwen Gearon, Scouts veteran Beth Franz and young volunteer Chai Robertson.

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DENMARK celebrated Seniors Week with locals stepping out to show they need little encouragement to keep active, healthy and engaged.

The week kicked off with a two-day expo at the Denmark Community Resource Centre with stalls and information.

This included what happens at a death cafŽ, energy boosting exercises, nutrition, and advice on ageing and retirement.

Capping off the expo, a group sing-along got the endorphins flowing.

The Library ran a workshop on researching family histories, poetry readings, a family recipe share-a-thon, and a Be-Connected workshop teaching seniors about e- resources and staying safe online.

A dementia friendly community session presented by dementia specialist Di Van Clarke attracted about 30 participants.

They talked about how to make Denmark more dementia-friendly, and learnt how they could support family and friends living with dementia.

At the intergenerational tabletop games at the recreation centre, 116 Denmark Primary School students challenged 14 seniors to classic board games.

Acting manager community services Damian Schwarzbach said the tournament allowed young people and seniors to interact in a fun setting.

“It is fantastic to see the students so excited to participate in the games and to engage with the seniors,” he said.

A fully-booked Summer of 69 seniors’ luncheon wrapped up the week with the Denmark Senior High School Choir welcoming guests in song and Denmark Scouts providing table service with the help of Skipper Beth Franz.

Nicky Crosby’s catering received glowing compliments from attendees.

Mike Travers and Christine Hill won prizes for best ‘60s-era costumes.

Clinical psychiatrist and Great Southern Mental Health clinical director Noel Collins talked about ageing and adjustment, and the importance people of staying socially-connected as they got older.

Deputy shire president Mark Allen said Seniors Week provided an opportunity to thank Denmark seniors.

“Their contributions have made Denmark the amazing town we now all get to enjoy,” he said.

DENMARK won the energy innovation category at the South Coast and Great Southern Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities regional awards held in Ongerup last week.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA judges commended Denmark for its dedication to reducing power usage and providing renewable power.

The town had made history last year opening the community windfarm, a 10-year undertaking.

Local businesses had been employed in all phases and direct financial benefits had included dividends paid to the not-for-profit group that had initiated the project.

The dividends would be distributed via a dedicated fund for future community enterprise projects.

Indirect benefits of the wind farm project included local employment opportunities, increased public awareness of energy saving practices, tourism opportunities, increased reliability and strengthening of the local electricity supply.

The Shire of Denmark had also implemented energy efficiency measures, expanding the existing solar panel array from 6 to 32.5 kilowatts and had added a battery energy storage system.

This had effectively removed the administration building's dependence on the regional electricity grid.

KABC WA representative Dave Tapley presents Denmark's Tidy Towns Committee member Beth Franz with the energy innovation award.

ATTENDEES at the Melbourne Cup-themed Shire annual seniors' lunch on November 1 showed off their fashions and punted 'Denmark-style'.

About 100 attendees at the Civic Centre wore their best trackside outfits, tested their knowledge in a themed table quiz and took a chance in the Denmark-style Melbourne Cup Sweep.

MC, Councillor Mark Allen, entertained the guests while local musician, Will Taylor, played background music throughout the three-course meal catered and served by the 1st Denmark Scout Group.

The Scouts have catered for the event for nearly 30 years as a fundraiser and learning opportunity.

Beth Franz OAM, a veteran of nearly 50 years with Denmark Scouts, said the luncheon was provided for a donation though the youngsters mostly used the experience towards their community service badge.

'The Scouts motto is 'helping other people' and the kids also learn to communicate with the older generation,' Beth said.

'We've even had kids that have put the seniors' function on their CVs as hospitality experience.'

Shire president Ceinwen Gearon said the event was collaborative effort between the Shire and the Scouts.

'It is great to see the younger generation mingling with the older generations and you could really see some positive interactions,' Ceinwen said.

'The event is provided each year to acknowledge the contributions that seniors make, and have made, to our community and way of life in Denmark.'

Pictures By KAREN BRITZA

Councillors Jan Lewis, Janine Phillips and Ceinwen Gearon with Freeman of Denmark Eileen Lunan.

Sharman Syme.

Beth Franz and Graham Batten.

DENMARK Scouts are calling for children to join the group where happy memories of fun and adventure will be a life-long legacy.

Membership numbers are currently low for the group and this limits opportunities for certain activities to be planned.

1st Denmark Scouts gives kids of all ages a place to come together in a family-friendly club environment, participating in their community and having good old-fashioned fun, without the competitive nature of a sporting club.

The group is keen to get new members in each age group, particularly the scouts who, if they join now, will attend Campwest later this year and work towards attending national and international Jamboree events in the near future.

The group is also ready to welcome new volunteers for committee roles or leadership roles

Full training is provided for leaders, and is a rewarding way to give time back to the community.

The Denmark Scout Group has been making memories with local children since 1960.

Long-standing leader Beth Franz has seen the scouting movement grow and change in her 52 years of involvement.

Denmark scouts are lucky to have a purpose built hall big enough to accommodate plenty of games and fun in all weather, and is already used weekly by two other community groups, the Blue Wren Line dancers and qigong.

Newly refurbished, the Denmark Scout Hall is the largest hall available for hire in town.

A full range of catering equipment, tables and chairs are also available to hire year round.

This is an important avenue of fundraising for the scouts, along with a regular food van at the Denmark Arts Markets.

Interested people from the community and families are invited to a family evening and AGM, from 5pm on Monday, April 6 at the Denmark Scout Hall on Brazier Street.

There will be an Easter egg hunt, traditional campfire and barbecue dinner.

Everyone is welcome so come along and help keep the scouting spirit alive in Denmark.

For more information check out the ad in this Bulletin or call Graham Batten

Sierra Jones, Zahra Gersbach and Maya Capelli scramble up the ropes at the scout hall.

Maya Capelli adjusts the strap on Zahra Gersbach's helmet in preparation for her cycling badge test.

THE Denmark CWA's must-loved fundraiser soup day, held at lunch time over winter on the last Friday of the month, will start in June instead of the usual May.

The low-cost meal of homemade soup and cakes followed by hot cups of tea is an important social gathering for local residents but the start date has been up back due to lack of available helpers.

CWA members, who are mostly seniors, will be absent or are too elderly to run the soup day.

However they will be back for the June with CWA member Beth Franz saying: "We'll be doing it come hell or high water."

"If we can't do it, I'll find people who can."

CWA president Monica Boyes said younger members were needed to help with the soup day and would be welcome at meetings.

"Right now we're down to three or four able-bodied members," she said.

The soup days are held in the CWA clubrooms in Mitchell Street.

For more information contact Monica on [REDACTED]

BETH Franz took a few minutes to recover from the shock at the attendance of dignitaries to a surprise afternoon tea celebrating her 50 years with the movement recently.

The octogenarian scout leader who received an Order of Australia medal in 2001 for her contribution to scouting was surprised to find the many top scouters and old friends present.

That included the State chief commissioner Barbara de la Hunty, the country and districts commissioner Kevin Pestell and the Stirling district commissioner Greg Henderson.

Beth once taught Sunday School to Kevin Pestell.

On June 25, 1968 Beth joined the Scout Association of Australia as a leader in Denmark.

Since then she has continued to serve scouting and the youth of Denmark, not only locally, but promoting scouting in the district, throughout WA and interstate.

Greg Henderson presented Beth with a gift recognising her service to the Stirling District.

Country south commissioner Neil Macpherson presented Beth with her 50 years of service to scouting certificate and badge.

Barbara de la Hunty presented the Black Swan award, which is the highest award to scouters in WA.

Beth Franz with former Sunday School student Kevin Pestle.

Beth Franz and district commissioner Greg Henderson.

Kevin Treeby, Greg Henderson , Jane James, Jenny Treeby, Peter Osborne, John Lewer, Rupert Morrell, front, Graham Batten, Peter Wilson, Beth, David Christophers and David Morrell.

TEENAGER Dayna Cassidy-Smith told hundreds of people gathered for the 100th Anzac Day celebration at Denmark there was no intention to glorify war.

The Denmark High School student said neither was there any intention to praise the victors.

The purpose was to honour, commemorate and remember not only the soldiers who landed at Gallipoli 100 years ago but everyone who had been affected by wars.

Dayna's fellow high school student Jayde Kelly said war was something to be implemented as a final resort when all diplomacy had failed.

Blackwood Stirling MLA Terry Redman said if any good news came from war, no matter how fierce and bloody the battle, humankind had the power to mend relationships.

For the people of Turkey, Gallipoli was a nation-defining event, with the military leader Kemal Ataturk becoming the founder of the Turkish republic.

One hundred years on Australians go to Gallipoli in ever increasing numbers to be welcomed as firm friends by those with whom they were once at war.

In Oslo in 1952, only seven years after the end of World War II, Germany and Japan were again competing at the Olympic Games, against countries with whom that had fought the most bitter of combats.

Likewise for West Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands joining to form the common market, the precursor to the European Union.

It would once have been unthinkable that Australian would forge strong relationships with Germany and Japan or that Australian Vietnam veterans would travel to that country and forge friendships with their former foes.

When we look to the conflicts related to the Middle East we can only hope that such unlikely relationships will one day be possible there too, Mr Redman said.

In addition, Anzacs were not as maybe commonly thought Australian born and bred.

Rather, of the 1023 West Australian soldiers who died as a result of their service at Gallipoli, more than 30 per cent were born overseas.

Denmark's own diversity connects closely with that of the first Anzacs with about 30 per cent of our community's residents indicating in the 2011 census that they had been born overseas.

No matter what our country of origin, religious, political or cultural differences, we come together as Australians, valuing our hard-won freedoms and way of life, Mr Redman said.

Lay preacher and former serviceman Terry Quinn called on the gathering to remember all Australians who have served in almost every land, sea and in the air.

There are many stories of men and women sacrificing their lives to keep our country free, he said.

These are the things we remember on Anzac Day.

Beth Franz, right, and Denmark Scouts.

Former servicemen pause in remembrance at the Denmark War Memorial.

Buglers Olive Anderson and Jacob Andersson.

Terry Redman addresses the gathering.

Jayde Kelly on the podium.

THAT sinking feeling is commonplace in the annual Stirling Districts rafting competition as rope and pole craft give way to pressure for scouts and guides.

Earlier this month scouts from Denmark joined their fellow scouts and guides on the Albany foreshore and lashed together their craft according to the knots they had learned.

As scout leader Beth Franz (Skip) says nine out of 10 times "half the rafts fall apart".

"It's all to do with using poles and ropes and no hammers and nails," she said.

The crews sail their crafts about 200m into Princess Royal Harbour from the shore and back.

"They are all winners because they entered," Beth said.

She said curious marketgoers at the Albany Boatshed Markets were drawn to the competition, sipping coffee and asking questions.

"It's great PR for the scouts and guides," Beth said.

Sinking raft crew members Haylee Dodson, Jade Britza, Lilly Goode, Louisa Stevens, Ashton Terpkos, Sienna Geraghty, Liam Queay and Justin Ottway.

4060

Ashton Terpkos and Justin Ottway make their raft.

I AM 95-years-old and for over 60 years I have lived in the Albany to Walpole area, but most of it in Denmark.

I remember when we first got our own paper, the Denmark Post, edited by Johnny Toombs, then later Mrs Bullen, Mrs (Barbara) Ridley and her daughter Beth Franz.

I left Denmark 20 years ago and have been lucky, as my friends have always sent me the Bulletin.

The reason for this letter is to alert you to the terrible mess the paper is in now.

For the several weeks the papers, which I know come out fortnightly, have been identical except for the one with the lady and the guide dog.

I am sending you the last two copies and I rely that the awful mess is being sorted out.

Thanks you and wishing you all the best for the future.

Rita Bolton

which she has been involved:

I moved to Denmark about 1960, with my husband and our first two sons. We built a house near my parents, Geoff and Barbara Ridley, at Little River where they had bought a 30 acre block about 10 years earlier.

Although I always said I wouldn't get involved in outside things like Mum did, that soon seemed to go by the board and even before the boys went to school, I joined the CWA with Mum. There was quite a large CWA group then, with only about two of us younger women, but it was quite an active group. CWA really led me into scouting, as part of its aims are to assist scouting and guiding, and the Scout Group was just being reformed after being in recess for some time due to a shortage of leaders. I took my cub-aged son along to the Cub Group, and as I liked working with children and had had experience in the private kindergarten that Mum and Dad had run in Perth, I happened to say 'If you need any help, let me know'.

Well, three weeks later I was getting into uniform and I've been involved ever since, as Cub Leader for 22 years, then with Scouts and I'm now Group Leader after 27 years service.

When I first joined, we had no hall. The original Scout Group had been given a small block in Scotsdale Rd by a private donor, so a Committee was formed of a wonderful group of people, including Marge and Andy Nash, Les and Muriel Brenton, Arthur and June Passmore, my Mum, and a few others. They decided we would build a hall, and after lots of negotiations, we sold that first block and with Shire assistance, started looking round for another. We nearly settled on the spot where the Uniting Church now stands, but at that time, the Agricultural and Horticultural Society was just folding up after having run shows since 1912, and their old hall was standing idle. We thought we could incorporate that as part of a new building. The Committee had big, brave ideas and Bob Woods, the Shire Building and Health Inspector was a great help in the Group. We'd decided on the design and were all ready to go, when the Basket Ball Club, who were then playing on the old tennis courts down near Ocean Beach, asked us if we could make the hall big enough for indoor basket ball. So we extended the plan and they paid for the extra cost involved. So right from the beginning, the hall was used for indoor sport as well as for the scouts.

The old lean-to Agricultural Hall was used as the kitchen and storeroom, and we'd bought three of the old buildings from the Forts in Albany to use for the walls and the floors and soon the building was up.

The big thing then was to find the \$600 a year that had to be paid to the Shire for the loan they'd given us. That was quite a big sum in those days and the usual thing then in Denmark for money-raising was to hold street stalls or other similar small events, but I suddenly felt that we needed one big effort to raise that amount of money. I'd always been interested in theatricals and my mother had too as she had worked with the Repertory Club in Perth. I also liked to puddle round with food and I had heard of the 'Old -time Music Hall' theme, so I decided that might be the way to go. I put it to the Committee and they bravely said 'Yes, go ahead', so I organised a producer, the theme for the show and I did the catering with 230 people sitting down that first year. It was called Dinner and Diversity and from there we did 20 wonderful years from 1973 to '93. The first year takings were about \$1200 and although it's been a bit up and down from that, it has

Oral History.

Beth Franz.

THE SCOUT HALL

If you drive through the impressive entrance to McLean Park, you will see two greatly contrasting buildings: the imposing, modern Recreation Centre to the right and the long low wooden structure to your left, the Scout Hall. This hall served Denmark well for many years and like many old buildings, it has an interesting history. Beth Franz tells of this and of other Denmark institutions in

always earned enough to pay the loan and that was paid off in 1993.

I took part in all the shows except one year when my husband was ill. I compiled the first three or four myself, some of the themes were 'Showboat Mississippi', then came up through different distinctive periods, the 1890s, the 1920s, etc. Mum produced two or three of those.

When the Bicentenary came round in 1988, we didn't get geared up in time but we had '200+1' the year after, which was very successful.

As well as paying off the loan for the hall, the profits from the Dinner and Diversity Shows have gone a long way to sending local scouts to the Australian Jamboree, and of course now we have girls going as well. Australian-Pacific Jamborees are held every three years, the first one in Perth in 1977 coinciding with the State's 150th celebrations.

In those days Denmark kids often didn't travel away much at all, a lot had never even been to Perth. So to go away and be camped with 12000 others from all over Australia and overseas is a wonderful experience for them, and it seemed to me to be a way of whetting a kid's appetite to get out and see how the rest of the world lives.

Money is always needed for projects, and I was still in the CWA when I got the idea of a Debutante Ball - both as a money raiser, and also something that would get the young girls involved, and the boys, in a social aspect that they hadn't previously experienced. So I ran the first Deb Ball for CWA funds, but later on, I did two more for Scout funds. I enjoyed working with this different age group, and I've always loved ballroom dancing so the 12 weeks training period for each ball was hard work but enjoyable. The last one was in the late 80s.

Mainly following my children's interests, I got involved in other things as well. My middle son was a good athlete and loved football, so I started helping with the Nippers Football team, who were aged from about 8 to 14.

About 1967 we lost our house by fire. That's another story! But, from that experience we found how fantastic Denmark people were. The Seventh Day Adventists and the Red Cross were wonderful. Whittakers Mill donated the timber for rebuilding, and with my husband being a builder, within 17 weeks we were back in a new house.

That led me to another involvement in Denmark organisations. I felt we owed Denmark something back for the wonderful support we were given, so I've always been willing to help in any way I could for the town.

After the fire, my eldest son joined the Fire Brigade and he's just had his 15 year service medal. The other two joined later and gave service until they left the town. I joined the Women's Auxiliary and later when the Ocean Beach Brigade was short of members, I joined up there in the actual Brigade. I went to a four day seminar in Albany and got to learn the inside story of fire fighting. I used to have the Brigade's little 4WD vehicle parked at my place. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to continue my involvement with them since I broke my leg badly.

I'm on the Cemetery Committee and the Tidy Town group. With Tidy Towns, Denmark has won quite a few accolades but I feel that's not really the main point. It's just good to keep the town looking its best all the year.

Veteran consultant of more than 2500 communities Peter Kenyon turned up at Denmark Agricultural College in 1973 to begin a big lesson.

The posting was a punishment for the history and economics honours graduate who had antagonised the director general of education of the day.

Peter's first teaching job was as the college sports master.

My year was so rich and, boy, I learned about community, he told the Shire of Denmark's Thank A Volunteer Day function last month.

To me, after my personal faith and family, nothing matters more than community.

What Peter learned was also the foundation of his work in Australia and more than 60 other countries for the 1989-established Bank of Ideas, which focuses on community and local economic revival.

I vividly remember that amazing swimming carnival we organised at Greens Pool, that year, the way people connected to each other, connected to their environment, and the way people cared about their community, Peter said.

The greatest asset in a community is people who care.

What you do makes a difference.

You are the fabric which holds a community together and without you society would begin to fray badly.

But Peter says the community of today ain't what quite it used to be.

Statistics of volunteering show that people are no longer getting involved in their communities, and the challenge is how to reverse that trend.

The ABC survey Australia Talks, which involved responses from more than 50,000 people, showed that loneliness was overwhelmingly the issue that keeps people awake at night.

And the Citizens Advice Bureau in Perth says only one in three people know the names of the neighbours living either side of them and 35 per cent don't trust their neighbours.

On top of this, compared with the 1980s, Australians now have four fewer close friends than then.

Peter's local MHR Ken Wyatt, while Minister for Aged Care, told him that 60 per cent of people in nursing homes don't have a visitor.

My daughter and her border collie, who visit people in a dementia unit in Midland, says 90 per cent of the people she meets don't get a visitor, he said.

We've outsourced citizenship to agencies and others, for programs and services which are supposed to do this kind of stuff.

While watching the Fremantle Dockers, Peter was reminded of how we do community.

The simple reality is that 30,000 people who need the exercise turn up and watch 36 players, he says.

While we run community that way we will never have strong community.

The challenge is how to get more people wanting to stick up their hand and wanting to get involved.

Red Cross last year had a Christmas list of five ways to stop loneliness.

Number one recommendation was volunteering, two, meet your neighbours, three, say hello to someone in your neighbourhood, four, check on someone who may be in trouble and five, be kind on social media.

Peter's suggestion is to foster communities where everyone feels they matter, belong and can contribute.

Volunteering is not about saying this is our agenda and how can you fit in but saying to people what is you care about and what can we do about that? he says.

Every single person has capacities, abilities, gifts and ideas, and living a good life depends on whether those capacities are used, those abilities are expressed, those gifts are given and ideas are shared.

In a national study where people were asked why they had given up volunteering the answer was invariably it had stopped being fun.

“We need to make sure when we engage people it is a fun and meaningful experience,” Peter said.

“We need to find a place around what they care about.”

Peter Kenyon and veteran volunteer Beth Franz.

I ALWAYS understood that democracy is a wonderful word which describes the way in which we in Australia and the majority of the world's population are lucky enough to live by.

But, as lucky as we are, why have so many people, world-wide, forgotten the real meaning of the word?

Over the past few months I have looked at and studied my old-fashioned dictionaries and encyclopedias and I even Goggled the word on my computer; the meaning seemed to be the same.

By a democracy vote in any situation, be it a local organisation like CWA, sporting club, local government, State or Federal Government, our votes elect a group of people to represent us to run that organisation for the time stipulated until another election is scheduled.

If for any reason we have been unhappy with the delegates elected on our behalf during their term in office, then at the next scheduled election we can then vote for another team.

That, I believe, is the explanation of democracy and how it should work.

Why then in so many walks of life, locally and worldwide, is there so much unrest and questioning of decisions made on our behalf by elected groups, committees and governments?

It seems so anti-democratic when people get 'up in arms', disagree and try to put as many obstacles as possible to stop projects and decisions our shire council has made on our behalf.

Beth Franz OAM

WE are very disappointed that Council has decided that it no longer needs a cemetery advisory committee as decided at the last council meeting.

This committee was formed in the mid 1980s as nothing was being done to enhance the area.

Over the years firstly with the fantastic support of the CEO's assistants, Val Leary and Claire Thompson, the whole area has undergone a total overhaul and more recently an expansion, new niche wall and eco toilet.

We had been advised in the 2018-2019 budget money had been included for further development linking the old section with the new but when the budget was passed that money had disappeared.

The excuse for disbanding is because we hadn't met in just over a year.

This was because there was no money for planning.

The 'cemetery fairies' (who cleaned and re-inscribed old headstones) came out of this group and got some great publicity all over Australia.

It is obvious to us that Council does not value over 30 years of history, heritage and volunteer time as we were told the staff can deal with everything.

Two of our group were born here so have a family connection going back to the 1920s, as were Val and Claire whose family connections go back even further.

Most of the staff involved has been here for a very short time so does not have the connection.

Once again this Council who promoted the idea of community consultation has shown that these are just words and nothing more.

The paths and trails committee has gone, the municipal inventory committee has gone and now the cemetery committee has gone, to say nothing of heritage buildings, but that is a different story.

One of our group has been on this committee since it was formed and others for over 20 years so bring a great deal of passion, knowledge and history to the group.

Sadly this is no longer seen as important.

Beth Franz OAM

Bev McGuinness

Judy Ross

Ivan Swallow

DENMARK CWA is calling for new, particularly younger, members of the local branch which has met regularly since 1936.

The branch wants to revitalise the ageing membership of about 12 regulars but concedes that younger women with the commitment of children cannot make it to day meetings.

As president Jean Payne says young women often join the branch's craft meetings on the third Wednesday of the month but find attending the formal meetings on the first Wednesday of the month difficult.

Of course, once their children are at school they become involved in P and C, Jean said.

She suggests if enough young women were interested an affiliated group could be established to meet on an evening or at weekends.

Meanwhile the members have been busy with their popular monthly soup days to raise funds for CWA on the last Friday of the month until August.

On June 30 the women prepared hot soup and crusty bread followed by homemade cakes and slices to about 50 people in the Mitchell Street clubrooms.

In recent years the clubrooms had been upgraded.

This has included replacing the building's stumps for which the branch had secured a \$10,000 interest free loan from CWA.

Through a \$4000 Shire of Denmark loan with matching CWA funding the kitchen had been upgraded.

With a new sink, stoves and benches the kitchen was up to commercial standard and the upgrade would be completed with the painting of the ceiling.

The soup days included a trading table of craft goods and a raffle.

Maggie Clayton, Margaret Francis, Jennie Partington and Pam Read.

Penny Leech.

Maeve Davidson, 4, finds the cupcakes tempting.

Elouise Barker, 15 months, and her mother Sarah Barker.

Maeve Davidson, 4, and her mum Angie Davidson.

Danielle Johnson catches up with Adam Chambost.

Maureen Ellis and Bertha Steike of Mt Barker CWA talk to Monica Boyes.

John Eastland and Anton Dosen.

John Schindler, Ross McGuinness, Tom Atkinson and Dot Atkinson.

Averil Redfern at the trading table.

Phillip Light and Lauryn Rassmussen.

Jean Payne, Beth Franz, Janet Marsh and Barbara McDonald.

LONGEST-serving Denmark CWA members Beth Franz and Monica Boyes cut the celebratory cake on June 20 to mark 85 years since the branch was founded.

At the anniversary luncheon in the CWA Hall Anne Radys, representing the CWA State committee, outlined the numerous contributions the organisation makes to the community.

These included secondary and tertiary scholarships for which, in view of the ageing membership and shortage of school-age children, members' grandchildren are eligible.

Scholarships are also awarded for rural medical (\$10,000), dental (\$5000) and agricultural science students, plus a whopping \$90,000 was donated to motor neurone disease research.

CWA donated has \$70,000 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, has sponsored Diabetes WA and its Sir James Mitchell Fund will assist people seeking medical treatment, education and food.

People may go past other agencies but will come to CWA for help as a last resort, Anne said.

She reported how philanthropist Dick Smith had recently visited the drought-stricken north-western New South Wales town, Tooraweenah, to donate \$5000 to upgrade the CWA branch's new kitchen.

In addition, Dick Smith handed over a \$1 million cheque for CWA's Disaster Relief Fund to assist people hit by drought throughout Australia.

But the CWA WA was not eligible for the fund, having withdrawn from national body in 2001.

Anne did not know why this was the case though someone said: 'They (CWA WA) pulled about some time ago because they were frightened they (CWA Australia) would get our money.'

'It seems a bit disappointing not to be part of the national body; we could miss out,' Anne said.

'There are safeguards now which may prompt them to rejoin.'

Denmark CWA branch's first met in the RSL Hall in 1933.

At the time this building was the Mechanics Institute and Library behind the Town Hall on the site of the Denmark Civic Centre carpark.

The existing building in Mitchel Street did not open until April 1948 as the CWA Rest Room.

It was a composite of a Group Settlement House moved from Silver Road and the hall section was made from material from the first Denmark School built in 1896.

Before the restrooms were built meetings were held in private homes, a shop in the Craig Buildings which are now Dr Jane James's consulting rooms.

The branch had aimed to help people in need particularly following the devastating bushfires in 1937 and in the 1950s in the Denmark area.

Members later lobbied for women Justices of the Peace, a caravan park at the Rivermouth, the sealing of Mt Barker Road, an extra police officer for the town and much more.

The Village Singers led by Jill Smith sang to the anniversary gathering and later Denmark Police officer in charge Matt Hartfield gave a talk about household and driving safety for seniors.

This included warning that no one from the Taxation Office would ask them to buy iTunes vouchers.

Seniors were advised to hand in their driver's licences rather than be a risk to other people on the road.

ASH and Sandy Plater's Harington Break garden which boasts a wide plant diversity and well-designed outdoor structure is the best big garden in Denmark. The Plater's garden heads the list of this year's Tidy Towns Committee garden competition winners that were announced on Australia Day.

The Plater's fence, chook pen, outdoor furniture and fruit tree structure impressed judges.

Phil and Margaret Cox's Minsterly Road garden with numerous rare and exotic plants designed to blend in with the surrounding native bush was named the best garden.

Second best garden winners were J and L Wiles whose 8-10 months of work with more planting and construction underway will, in time, ensure it rivals the best garden.

Annette Ruvidini's Flay Street garden, matching the colours of the house, was placed third.

Celestine Retreat manager Fiona Ricketts upheld the resort's place in the best commercial garden.

The resort garden won the category under the previous manager last year and judges noted an improvement plus an impressive attention to detail in presentation.

John and Kerrie Davies of Kerr Close won the best waterwise garden for their garden which has been landscaped recently to perfection with native plants.

A diversity of edible plants and the whole garden maintained with environmentally safe practices, plus clever use of rainwater, were the factors in Sue Mills winning the best sustainable garden.

Dawn Stephens started from scratch in her Paterson Street garden planting natives, installing raised vegetable beds and implementing minimal mains watering to lay the foundations for an environmentally-sound property.

She won the encouragement award.

Dot Atkinson, left, and Beth Franz, present Ash and Sandy Plate with the best big garden award.

Best garden winners Phil Cox, left, and Margaret Cox, second right, with Dot Atkinson and Beth Franz.

Third-placed for best garden Annette Ruvidini with Dot Atkinson and Beth Franz.

Best commercial garden winner Fiona Ricketts of Celestine Retreat.


Best waterwise garden winner John and Kerrie Davies.

Best sustainable garden winner Sue Mills.

Dot Atkinson and Beth Franz present the encouragement award to Dawn Stephens.

Fiery start to community service

Seniors
with
Alex Levack



Phone: 9841 3145
Fax: 9842 2313

BETH Franz traces her contribution to the community life of Denmark directly back to the day when a fire destroyed her family home in 1967.

"There's nothing like having your house burn down to give you a lesson in community spirit," she said.

Beth, her husband and three young sons were not in the house at the time but they lost everything they owned.

"I was amazed how everyone rallied round to help us," she said.

"The Seventh Day Adventists had a welfare room set up for emergencies like ours that I never knew existed.

"They took me and the kids in and fitted us all out with new clothes."

"Whittaker's donated timber to rebuild the house, the co-op gave us blankets and the Red Cross provided sheets and bedding.

"Everyone in town seemed to give us things to replace the ones we'd lost. It was a real eye-opener for me."

Since then Beth has repaid Denmark as much as she received, plus interest.

For more than 30 years she has involved herself in all kinds of voluntary service and is currently group leader of the Denmark Scouts,

vice-president of the Country Women's Association, and president of the Denmark Tidy Town committee.

"My involvement with scouting started when I took one of my boys along to join the cubs," she said.

"The next week I found myself in uniform too, and I've been in the movement ever since."

Beth is quick to point out that her motivation to become a cub leader was not only as a parent but also as a member of the CWA, one of whose aims is to help youth movements as well as advancing the interests of country women.

"Nowadays, with most mothers going out to work, it's getting harder to find parents with time to get involved with the scouts, and we badly need more younger women in the CWA too," she said.

Beth has been an active member of the Denmark Tidy Town committee since its inception in 1987.

During this time, the town has won awards in its category almost every year, and was declared overall State winner three times.

This culminated in being awarded the National winner in 1998.

With characteristic modesty, Beth claims that as the current president, she is only a figurehead and gives most credit for Denmark's national recognition to the work done by many residents who have never been on the committee.

"Denmark people have always been community minded," she said.

"Not many join committees but they always respond when help is needed.

"We get plenty of volunteers to help paint benches and smarten up



GOOD SCOUT: Scout group leader Beth Franz is also president of the Denmark Tidy Towns committee and vice-president of the CWA.

the town before the Tidy Town judges are due, for example.

"But all year round even the school children are picking up litter without being told.

"And there are several private individuals whose names I don't even know that regularly go for long walks every morning to pick up any roadside rubbish they find."

Volunteer and scout leader Elizabeth Franz believes people get back what they put in 'Endless energy' at core of service

ALBANY STORY

■ Lisa Morrison

Elizabeth Beryl Franz lives her life to the scout pledge to help others and be an active community member.

Better known to Denmark locals as Beth, Mrs Franz has been a leader of the 1st Denmark Scout Group for the past 45 years.

She never expected the WA Scout Associa-

tion to make her an honorary life member for her services to youth, almost 40 years after the day she took her eight-year-old son Geoff along in 1968.

"All I did was ask the question most would, do you need a hand," she said.

"Within a fortnight I was training to be a group leader and I've been one ever since."

Mrs Franz said she enjoyed the sense of respect scouts fosters in participants.

"Scouts is based on leadership right from when the children are young ... it's about teaching the youth of today to have respect for themselves and respect for others,"

she said. "Over my time I've seen lots of generations of scout kids grow up and come back with their children ... that is rewarding."

Mrs Franz has also contributed an impressive amount of volunteer work to the Denmark community since moving there in 1959.

A Denmark Tidy Towns committee member since its inauguration in 1989, Mrs Franz is the current president, as well as vice-president of the Denmark Country Women's Association, of which she has been a member since 1961.

She was also a member of the Denmark Volunteer Fire Brigade for almost 20 years, a member of the Ocean Beach Bush Fire Brigade, and a member of the Returned and Services League Auxiliary due to her late husband Allan's service in the Australian Army. Not too shabby for a woman who turns 78 this month.

Mrs Franz said her passions were working with the young and the elderly.

"With the young people, you feel as though you're putting something into them to help them mature and make them do the right thing," she said.

"With the elderly, it's about making life as easier as you can for them and being there for them if they don't have anyone."

Mrs Franz's charity work was inspired by her mother, Barbara Ridley, who "was on every organisation you could think of".

"I got involved with volunteer work from a young age, like she did," Mrs Franz said.

"We were both widowed at 46 years old, so we filled that spare time up doing things for other people ... I used to say I would never grow up to be like her but that's just what I did, I might even be worse."

Mrs Franz said when she was widowed in 1982, she was staunchly opposed to receiving dole payments and instead took on cleaning jobs. "I started cleaning a couple's house when I was a widow to make some money," she said.

"The lovely

gentleman's wife has since passed on and he's now nearly 94 but I'm a carer for him too."

In recognition for her contribution to the Denmark community, Mrs Franz has received a swag of awards, including Denmark's 1989 Citizen of the Year, the WA Community Achievement Senior Award, WA Seniors Award and Great Southern Seniors Award all in 2006, and an Order of Australia Centenary Medal in 2001.

"The Order of Australia medal was a pretty wonderful honour; it was very special for me as my mother also got it in 1983 for her volunteer work."

Despite her accolades, Mrs Franz said her greatest achievement was her family.

"Family is pretty special, I have three sons, Peter, 56, Geoff, 54 and David, 51, who all live in Denmark at the moment," she said.

"I also have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and all but one of them are in Denmark too."

Mrs Franz has no plans to slow down any time soon.

"I am very lucky to have endless energy and a very active adrenaline gland," she said laughingly.

"I think if you stop you might die, so I'll keep going."

Scouts is based on leadership right from when the children are young ... it's about teaching the youth of today to have respect for themselves and respect for others.

Beth Franz.
Picture: Laurie Benson





Elizabeth Franz with her awards at the Albany Scout Hall Museum. Ms Franz has been involved in the scout movement for 37 years.

Elizabeth honoured

SPENDING two nights camping with a group of under-12s might not exactly be the most relaxing of weekends but Great Southern Senior of The Year and Community Achievement Award recipient Elizabeth Franz – like all good scouts – is prepared for anything.

Ms Franz from Denmark has spent the past 37 years heavily involved in the scout movement.

She started when her own son joined the group and it wasn't too long before she herself was also in uniform.

She now spends an average of 25 hours a week working for scouts, managing the groups hall, and running an innovative fundraising scheme which sees the scouts act as a catering company.

"Scouts matures a small child and helps it along it's way to becoming a good citizen and person," Ms Franz says of her passion for the organisation.

Ms Franz is also president of the Tidy Towns committee in Denmark and has been an active member of the Country Women's Association since 1961.

"If the community didn't have volunteers for everything they wouldn't exist.

"The amount of service volunteers put in to make the community work is extraordinary, and the thing you get out of it personally is self-satisfaction," Ms Franz said.

"I am very proud and very honoured to have won these awards."

Ms Franz added she hopes her award for Great Southern Senior of the Year will inspire other mature citizens to take up volunteering.

"I hope it will inspire people because volunteering is wonderful, it fill people's interest and gives them something to achieve," Ms Franz said. Seniors Minister David Templeman said the awards reflect the outstanding contributions made by older people in WA.



Beth Franz leads Eli Taylor, Delice Crane, Kate Duffall, Isla Crane and Sarah Cussons in scout activities. Picture: PATRICIA GILL

Scouts honour Beth with life membership

BETH Franz has been awarded life membership of Scouts Australia after 32 years of service to the First Denmark Scout Group. She took a small boy along to cubs one day in 1968 and asked if she could help.

"One week later I was in uniform," she said. There has been a scout movement in Denmark intermittently for the past 100 years. The current group was formed in 1967 and Beth has played a key role in its history ever since, leading the cubs for 22 years before becoming group leader. Beth said the option of belonging to the guides hadn't been available to her as a girl but all three of her son's Peter, Geoff and David had gone through the Denmark scouts.

Life membership is awarded for going above and beyond assigned duties and Beth has poured her energies into the Denmark Scouts

in fun and enterprising ways. Drawing on a background in theatre - as a 12 year old she played Wendy to Judy Nunn's Peter Pan at what is now The Playhouse - Beth started the Dinner and Diversity music hall nights to raise funds.

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