

Information and Nomination Form

Victorian Senior of the Year Awards

2010



Foreword

We all know of at least one senior Victorian who makes an exceptional contribution to our community.

Each year, through the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards, we recognise the many men and women, aged 60 and over, whose passion, drive and commitment support and inspire us.


These remarkable seniors aren't afraid to learn new things, take on new challenges or engage with the people around them. They are volunteer fire fighters, environmental advocates, teachers and mentors or champions of the disadvantaged. They are people with energy, vision and commitment who play a vital role in making Victoria a great place to live.

These senior Victorians are exceptional role models for remaining active, healthy and engaged in the community. Their achievements and contributions inspire Victorians of all ages.

The Victorian Government is proud of the wisdom, skills and leadership of senior Victorians. If you know a senior Victorian who is an outstanding role model and contributor to your community we encourage you to nominate him or her for the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

Help us celebrate seniors who are making a difference.




Hon John Brumby MP
Premier of Victoria




Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Senior Victorians

Office of Senior Victorians (OSV)

The Victorian Senior of the Year Awards are managed by the Office of Senior Victorians, Department of Planning and Community Development and presented in partnership with the Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria. OSV works to enhance the quality of life of seniors by promoting positive ageing and encouraging planning for an ageing population. For further information visit www.seniors.vic.gov.au or call (03) 9208 3170.

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria

Council on the Ageing Victoria (COTA) is the peak body in Victoria representing the interests and voice of older people in this State. COTA Victoria and the Government are partners in a number of projects.

These include Seniors Information Victoria, an information and advisory service for seniors, their friends and families and Seniors Rights Victoria, a free-state wide legal referral and support service addressing abuse of older people. For further information on COTA Victoria visit www.cotavic.org.au or call 1300 135 090 or 1800 136 381 (regional toll free number).

Department of Planning and Community Development,
1 Spring Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000, (03) 9208 3170
May 2010

Cover photo: 2009 Premier's Award Senior of the Year Winner, Elizabeth Walpole. Top photo: Graham Gibson; 2009 Go for your life Winner & his wife Moira. Middle photo: Yin Toe at the Golden Point Learning and Cultural Centre. Bottom Photo: Russ Lamb and Kent Harris. Photo taken by Gerald McNamara.



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About the Awards

The annual Victorian Senior of the Year Awards acknowledge and celebrate inspirational Victorian Seniors.

Established over 20 years ago, the Awards are presented annually at Government House as part of Victoria's celebrations for the United Nations International Day of Older Persons on 1 October and the annual Victorian Seniors Festival (3-10 October in 2010).

Award Categories

Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year

Presented to a senior who has made an outstanding contribution to their local community and Victoria.

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria Senior Achiever Awards

Presented to seniors who have made a significant contribution to their local community and Victoria.

'Go for your life' Award

Presented to a senior who is helping to create active and healthy communities through their community involvement and as a role model.

Veteran Community Award

Presented to a senior who has made an exceptional contribution to the veteran community.

2009 Award winners

Premier's Award Senior of the Year – Elizabeth Walpole

Elizabeth has made an exceptional contribution to her local and regional communities in a range of areas including health, education, wellbeing, the environment



and community inclusion. She is also a passionate supporter of 'Friends of Lacluta' which raises funds for a village in East Timor.

Her many volunteer roles have included President of the Ovens Valley branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation, Director of the Ovens and King Community Health Service Board, membership of the local Land Care group and member of Rural Australians for Refugees.

'Go for your life' Award – Graham Gibson

Graham is an exemplary role model for healthy living and actively encourages people in his local community to follow his lead. He formed the Portarlington Pedal Club to provide a social forum for people who have retired or are recently widowed, and to encourage them to get fit through cycling.

He is a front rider for the visually impaired, assists with repairing and donating bikes to local schools and in 2009 helped raise money for the Victorian bushfire appeal.

'Veteran Community' Award – John Filmer

John has made an outstanding contribution to the veteran community as a full-time volunteer for the Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL. His many achievements include broadening the scope of the RSL in the community, facilitating the involvement of Vietnamese, Turkish and Islamic veterans' participation in the RSL community, and coordinating parcels to troops in Afghanistan, Timor and Iraq.

John regularly visits veterans in hospitals and aged care facilities and serves on the advisory committee of two veterans' hospitals.

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria Senior Achiever Awards

Presented to: Malcolm Calder, Ken Carr, Merle Hall, Winifred Hamlyn, Fred Kent, Alan Kneebone, Dr Bill McPherson, Thelma Mansfield and Phyllis Vaughan.

Read more about the 2009 winners at www.seniors.vic.gov.au.

Closing date for nominations is Friday, 23 July 2010.

Elizabeth Walpole presenting a light to the chief of the Ahic village in Lacluta, Timor Leste