

In putting Isabelle Hepworth's name forward to receive the Exemplary Service Award the Dongara Denison Lions Club wish to have this remarkable lady recognized for her years of involvement with the community and for her work with children in the area.

Isabelle was born in Gingin and went to the school local Primary School, Bullsbrook High School and Hollywood Senior High School.

She trained as a Registered Nurse and then became a Registered Midwife.

While a Midwife in Narrogin she met her husband Kevin who was a Veterinary Surgeon there. They settled in Dongara and had 4 children.

Two are registered Midwives, one a qualified Speech Pathologist and one doing 5th year Medicine. All were educated at Dongara District High School. This is a good advert for the Dongara District High School to have educated such a medical family.

Isabelle's community involvement has involved coaching netball and basketball completing short coaching courses to do so. She was able to fill in as a swimming instructor when the holiday swimming programme where short of instructors.

She has been a Blue Light Disco committee member and an inaugural Mentor on the Irwin Youth Advisory from 1999 to 2001. Holding office in the P & C and being on the School Council have also been part of her life. Isabelle instigated the reintroduction of Religious Education into the school in 1993, which she taught until taking up her present role as Chaplain of Dongara District High School.

In her role she has gained Certificate 3 Children's Services 5-15, an Associate Diploma of Arts, Religious Studies, Teaching and Learning Studies as well as Bronze Medallion and Resuscitation Royal Life Saving and St John's Senior First Aid.

This lady is currently the Youth CARE Chaplain at Dongara District High School and has been for 8 and a half years, officially working 3 days a week, unofficially most days-plus sometimes on the weekends.

She is always available for a chat when needed –be it student, parent or teacher- even during school holidays.

Isabelle's work at the school includes Community Representative, attending school camps, like Country Week and Rock eisteddfod and day excursions.

Each year Isabelle spends two weeks with the Year 1 children helping them through the e transition period.

She is involved with Challenge Week, three days of team building activities and leadership skills with the Year7 to Year 12 students. Every year she has co-organised the Youth For Christ Interactive Media seminar. Isabelle is involved in the Year 7's transition into Year 8 and the Resourceful Adolescent Programme in conjunction with the Year 8 Parents Resilience Programme.

Because of various problems, the school Psychologist is not always available when needed so Isabelle, who is trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid and Gatekeepers Suicide Prevention is called upon frequently in this area as well.

Her interests are golf, tennis, swimming and walking. I don't know how she finds time for such things.

There are also many more involvements that have not been mentioned here. Isabelle is a truly remarkable woman and deserves to have been given this award.