

SENIORS — GOLDEN LENS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [9.14 am]: I am delighted to inform the house of the success of the Department of Communities' 2023 Golden Lens photography competition for Western Australian Seniors Card members. Now in its second year, more than 230 entries were received. The competition gives Western Australian Seniors Card members the chance to demonstrate their photographic talent and to share the stories of their lives and interests through the power of image across Western Australia. Importantly, the competition aims to promote the importance of ageing well by celebrating the skills of WA seniors through the art of photography and demonstrating that people can create at any age.

The panel of judges included representatives from that great publication *Have a Go News*, the Council on the Ageing Western Australia, Camera Electronic, the Seniors Recreation Council of WA and the Department of Communities. Thank you to those WA Seniors Card business partners who provided key prizes. I am proud to announce the winners from each category for 2023. In the active ageing category, Maxwell Wannell for *Paddling Waves*; in the artistic photography category, Dita Hagedorn for *Starflower*; in the diverse cultures category, Donna Halliday for *Brumby Mustering on the Gibb River road*; in the flora and fauna category, Geoffrey Vardy for *Pelicans at Wonnerup*; and in the senior influencer category, Donna Legge for *Channelling Iris Apfel*—this was a new category that challenges the stigma that social media is only for young people. Lastly, the winner of the people's choice category was Donna Legge, again, but this time for *73 year old log leaper*. Photos from the winners and runners-up have been featured in this year's *WA Seniors Card Discount Directory 2023–2024*.

Our seniors lead diverse and interesting lives and love to share their stories. What better way is there to speak a thousand words than through a photograph. Eliminating ageism in WA is at the heart of the 10-year state seniors strategy, *An age-friendly WA: State seniors strategy 2023–2033*, which will be significant in the way we move forward and enable seniors to be happy and prosper. This competition is yet another initiative that demonstrates our government's commitment and action to build a community in which seniors are supported and thriving.