

**BRENDA AWARDS**

*Statement*

**HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (Agricultural)** [10.03 pm]: I want to draw to the attention of the house an annual award presented in Kalbarri that recognises outstanding community involvement and leadership. Referred to as the Brenda awards, they recognise Brenda Brockwell, daughter of former Victorian member of Parliament Jack Simpson and his wife, Joyce, who sponsor the awards and who live in Kalbarri. Brenda Brockwell, by her unselfish actions and commitments to her local community, ensured the lives of others were enriched. Sadly, she passed away unexpectedly in 2008. Awards in the categories of primary student, secondary student, young adult, adult and senior citizen are presented each year in November at Kalbarri District High School. The first awards were presented in 2009 and will continue for five years to 2013. Lisa Currie, who was a good friend of Brenda, now coordinates the annual presentation. In a 19 June interview broadcast on ABC Mid West and Wheatbelt radio, Lisa Currie said about Brenda —

She noticed the volunteer work people did that often other people overlooked or didn't see. Brenda always saw it and she acknowledged people for the work they did.

Lisa Currie went on —

Brenda was an inspiration to us all with what she did and hopefully the Brenda awards can let people see the work being done by many people across many areas of the community and think 'well hey maybe I can help out too.'

For over 20 years Brenda Brockwell worked hard to make Kalbarri a better place to live in. As a teacher, mother, community leader and friend to so many, her legacy will live long in the hearts and minds of all who came to know and respect such a special person. I am informed that this year's nominations for the Brenda awards are open until Friday, 7 November.

*House adjourned at 10.05 pm*

---