



MEDIA RELEASE

Ken Pittman & Isabelle Gagnon from SecondBite are joint winners of the Volunteer of the Year Award in 27th Belmont & WA Small Business Awards

Ken Pittman & Isabelle Gagnon are two of many Western Australians awarded in the 27th Belmont & WA Small Business Awards on the Thursday the 27th of November 2020. The winners were showcased at the 'Night of Stars Event' in the ballroom of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre with over 320 attending.

The welcome address was delivered by City of Belmont Cr Bernard Ryan. VIP guests included Consul General India, Dantu Charandasi & Comm Consul of India, Dinesh Bhardwaj; Hon Consul of the Republic of Mauritius, Ian Whitaker, Hon Consul Slovakia, Paul Faix; Member for South Perth, Hon John McGrath, MLA; City of Belmont, Deputy Mayor Cr George Sekulla, Cr Jenny Davis, Cr Bernard Ryan; City of Cockburn, Cr Chontelle Stone; EMRC Chair Cr Jai Wilson; The Australian Asian Association of WA, President Marlene Burnaby; Hong Kong Business Association WA President Winnie Lai Hadad; Business & Professional Women WA President Carol Hanlon; Belmont BEC Chair Jules Lewin and TCF WA Chair Irving Lane welcomed many WA State and Club Presidents who attended the presentation awards night.

Entertainment was provided by singers Kaylene Taylor, Charndee Kaur and David Lazaro 'Expedition The Musical Journey' with Ken Haywood presenting the Welcome to Country. The WA Designer Showcase wowed all attendees with design talent from Jonte, Kirrikin, Pretty Fly Accessories, MummActiv, SilverStar and CIZZY Bridal Australia with models supplied from Metro Modelling and Dance Academy. MC's for the 'Night of Stars' evening included Belmont BEC Patron Louise Percy & Past Belmont BEC Board Member Hannah Beazley.

SecondBite is one of Australia's largest food rescue charities. They have taken two big problems, wasted food and hungry families, and created a solution through working with farmers, manufacturers, retailers and thousands of charity partners. In the 19/20 financial year alone, SecondBite rescued over 26 million kilograms of food nationally. They are doing their part to help the more than 5 million Australians who experience food insecurity over a year.

Joint Winners of the Volunteer of the Year Award are Ken Pittman & Isabelle Gagnon. Ken works in a team of around 100 unpaid volunteers each day with the objective to rescue food headed for landfill, sort the food and create nutritional hampers. Sorting in the warehouse is an ever changing, fast paced environment, which is also strenuous at times. Ken is a tremendous mentor for those around him and can be relied upon at all times. Ken also volunteers at the Aviation Heritage Museum in Bullsbrook and has done for a number of years, where he uses his experience and knowledge as an ex-serviceman.

Isabelle coordinates the partnership between SecondBite and shopping centres, which involves a great deal of time making arrangements with the leaseholders and centre management to ascertain how food rescue can operate in the shopping centres. Isabelle also manages the partnership introduction of the charity and the shopping centre. This ensures wastage goes to those in need and not in the bin. This project is able to continue with many thanks to Isabelle.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is supported by Belmont Rotary. Dr Rachel Sheffield, President, from Belmont Rotary said, "We are thrilled to support the Volunteer of the Year Award. Belmont Rotary is a local service club that meets weekly to enjoy friendship and perform volunteer work in the local and international community. Club members enjoy the camaraderie with like-minded professionals, and club projects offer additional opportunities to develop enduring friendships. Belmont Rotary welcomes potential members to join us at our weekly lunch meetings."



Carol Hanlon, Founder of Belmont BEC and the Belmont & WA Small Business Awards said, “The awards provide a fantastic opportunity for small and growing enterprises from Belmont and across Western Australia to be recognised for their achievements.

Ms Hanlon said, “This is the 27th year we have held our Small Business Awards and it is exciting to see the awards grow each year to provide recognition to those in Western Australia striving for business excellence and acknowledging community achievements. We sincerely thank the valuable support from our Category Sponsors which make this amazing small business event possible. In particular to the City of Belmont for their long-term support”.

For further details on all winners of the 27th Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2020 visit www.belmontbec.com/awards

For further information please contact:

Carol Hanlon

CEO

Belmont BEC

P| 08 9479 3777 E| awards@belmontbec.com

Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC)

PO Box 370, Cloverdale WA 6985 Phone 08 9479 3777

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