

Kingaroy District P&P wins child protection award

Child Safety Week (2-8 September) promotes the belief that it's everyone's responsibility to make their community child friendly.

Coordinated nationally by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and in Queensland by the Child Protection Week Committee under the auspices of ACT for Kids, the Queensland Child Protection Week Awards form an important part of Child Protection Week.

The annual Queensland Child Protection Awards provide an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the efforts, commitment and unreserved energy of many people who make a significant contribution to our community to prevent child harm and neglect.

This year the South Burnett Child Protection Awards were held at the Wondai RSL. The night included entertainment from 'The Muddy Flats' an Aboriginal band formed in the 1980s and named after a place at Cherbourg where the five male members remember playing as children whilst their mother washed their clothes in the creek.

Guest speaker Stephen Page, a family lawyer and Queensland Law Society representative during the consultation of the domestic violence draft bill, presented a speech on domestic violence.

Senior Practitioner at the South Burnett Child Safety Service Centre Matthew J Armstrong said the annual Queensland Child Protection Week Awards have become an important way to celebrate and acknowledge the quality of practice undertaken in our community.

'There are so very many examples of client-centred, creative and effective work in our community,' Matthew said.

'We are overwhelmed every year by the amaz-

ing stories and examples which brought forward in this process. We are all so privileged to work in a region which is full of committed and talented individuals.

'Most of us know that the South Burnett is a special place with a special way of working with our community, with a uniquely high-functioning human services sector,' he said.

Lauren Mangan and Nicole Trousdell attended the awards night and were honoured to receive a recognition award



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Debra Toseni, Melita Bindon, Bernadette Francis.
FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Libby Bateman, Lauren Mangan, Nicole Trousdell

on behalf of the Kingaroy probation and parole team for its willingness to work with the sector to:

- deliver integrated, client focused services
- act collaboratively to make the community a better place for children and families
- go above and beyond the core duties to achieve the best outcomes for the children, families and young people.

District Manager of Kingaroy Probation and Parole Office Nicole Trousdell said it was an honour to be recognised for work done in protecting the community and making a difference.

'I am proud of each of the members in the team who all received an individual award for their excellence. They include Bernadette Francis, Melita Bindon, Debra Toseni, Libby Bateman and Lauren Mangan,' Nicole said.



FROM LEFT: Lauren Mangan (Probation and Parole Officer), Matthew Armstrong (Senior Practitioner, Child Safety) and Nicole Trousdell (District Manager, Kingaroy Probation and Parole).