

AUTUMN APPLAUDS YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD



The Zonta Club of Mackay is now taking local applications from women aged 16 to 19, for the Young Women in Public Affairs Award, an initiative of Zonta International created to recognise and encourage women for their participation in public service and civic duty.

Zonta International acknowledges while women account for nearly 50 percent of the workforce, they hold less than 20 percent of seats in the world's national parliaments. The organisation believes young women are the key to women's advancement in the field of public service.

The Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Awards program recognises young women for their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life.

Autumn Skuthorpe, the 2007 and 2008 award recipient, said she thought it was very important young women took part in civic and public affairs and it was fantastic Zonta acknowledged these contributions.

"There are so many young women with dynamic and innovative ideas that have the potential to shape our community for the better. The opportunities within Mackay to get your voice heard are vast; organisations such as ZONTA prove this," Ms Skuthorpe said.

Ms Skuthorpe, who received a \$500 bursary from the Zonta Club of Mackay in both 2007 and 2008, said she believed she won the YWPA award based on her volunteer work with Crossroad Arts and the leadership positions she held at school.

Women of any nationality who are students aged 16 to 19 on April 1 each year, studying and living, or working in the Mackay District are eligible to enter.

Eligibility criteria include an active commitment to volunteering, experience in local or student government, volunteer leadership achievements and knowledge of Zonta International and its programs.

Local award winners can participate in the subsequent district, state, national and international levels of the award.

Since the program's inception in 1990, Zonta has given 637 awards to 565 young women from 50 countries.

Applications from young women in the Mackay area close on February 22. For applications and enquiries contact Leanne Shepherd on 0408 709 647 or email leanne@jsis.com.au