

MEDIA RELEASE**MILDURA WOMAN WINS NEWSBOYS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD****EMBARGOED TO 7.30pm 26 NOVEMBER 2014**

A YOUNG woman from Mildura has won the 2014 Newsboys Foundation Community Leadership Award.

The Newsboys Foundation Awards – presented at the Coopers Malthouse Theatre by the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC this evening, are designed to recognise people who work or volunteer in community organisations and who have inspired young Victorians to do great things.

The Newsboys Community Leadership Award was presented to Ms Shantelle Thompson, a mother to three young children, a graduate teacher, athlete and role model with remarkable energy and commitment.

Ms Thompson serves with several community organisations and trains for several hours a day, six-days-a-week with the aim of achieving her ambition to become a world champion in Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

In her busy life, Ms Thompson is a program coordinator with Kiilalaana – a youth leadership, life development and women’s empowerment program that is being piloted in Mildura.

Ms Thompson plans to use half the Newsboys Foundation Community Leadership Award prize money of \$10,000 to run and further develop the Kiilalaana program. The other half will go on professional development.

Ms Sandy Shaw, the CEO of the Newsboys Foundation, said: “It was an extremely competitive field of nominations and we congratulate Shantelle on winning the Newsboys Foundation Community Leadership Award.”

The Newsboys Foundation Youth Leadership Award, with a prize of \$5,000 went to Ms Margaret Tran, 16, a student at Mac.Robertson Girls' High School.

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