

WITH MEGAN DOHERTY

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Stephanie leads the way

The Tuggeranong local is the ACT Pharmacy Assistant of the Year

STEPHANIE Crowe, who started working in a local chemist as a 15-year-old, has been named the ACT's Pharmacy Assistant of the Year.

She will represent the ACT at the national finals in September.

"It's a huge honour," she said. "I also think it sheds light on the team here as well. I think it's nice that it recognises the role of the pharmacy assistant, who is often the first point of contact in a pharmacy."

Now aged 19, Stephanie will be representing the Erindale Pharmacy, where she has worked for the past 18 months.

She started as a part-time worker at a Chemist Warehouse while still at school but soon realised she would like to pursue a career as a pharmacist.

"I found I had a passion for the community side of things and actually being able to help customers in a real sense, so I decided to move to a more community-based pharmacy here," she said. "I found I've grown a lot more in my role and we get to see our



Erindale Pharmacy assistant Stephanie Crowe (top) and above with boss Nick Trevethan. Pictures by Keegan Carroll

impact on customers every day."

Erindale Pharmacy owner Nick Trevethan said the award was great recognition for Stephanie and her hard work.

"She's really compassionate with people around their health and is really quick to learn new things about medicines," Mr Trevethan said. "And she's really quite engaged with people and helping them with their problems."

The Pharmacy Assistant of the Year acknowledges the "exceptional dedication to patient care and proactive commitment to professional development shown by pharmacy assistants". It is awarded by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The judging process took place over a full-day virtual workshop, where state and territory finalists demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge and leadership skills.

The Pharmacy Guild's ACT branch senior vice-president, Elise Apolloni, congratulated Stephanie for her "fantastic contribution to community pharmacy in Canberra's south".

Stephanie, who lives in Monash, graduated from St Mary MacKillop College. She is looking to continue her pharmacy career by enrolling in a local Bachelor of Pharmacy course. Stephanie will be vying for the national award with other pharmacy assistants from around Australia, this year's finalists hailing from Alice Springs to Devonport.

CAN YOU DONATE WOOL FOR THE NEXT BEANIE KNIT?

Well done to the Brindabella Trefoil Guild, part of Girl Guides, on its super-successful Annual Beanie Big Good Turn, held earlier this month.

Thirty knitters turned up for the event, and snug in the Wanniasa Guide Hall, helped to contribute to 979 beanies, 46 fingerless gloves, two pairs of slippers and 40 scarves, with other knitters beavering away at home.



Brindabella Labor MLA Taimus Werner-Gibbings with representatives from Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, St John's Care and Vinnies Night Patrol Van receiving their big bags of beanies. Picture supplied

Bags of beanies and other items were delivered to the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, St John's Care and the Vinnies Night Patrol Van for distribution to people in need.

Brindabella Trefoil Guild president Christine Brill said the knitters wanted to keep knitting - and needed some help with wool donations from the community.

"As a result of this fabulous result, our wool and yarn stash is seriously depleted," Christine said.

"We are now asking for 8 ply wool and good 8 ply acrylic yarn donations so that we can continue knitting until August 31 when we will hand over the extra beanies we have received."

The group will also start stockpiling for its 2026 knitting.

"Our grateful thanks to all the community for their fabulous support of this event," Christine said.

"We are grateful to the Chief Minister for a lovely donation which will ensure that this and our other community activities can continue. All our beanies are gifted to those in need, not sold."

To donate wool, contact Christine on 0407 123 670. It can also be dropped off at the electorate offices of Senator Katy Gallagher (Unit 3, 40 Corinna Street, Phillip) and Senator David Pocock (Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin).

Sunday afternoon piano concert

HERE'S a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon - just remember it's next weekend.

Local organist and pianist Linus Lee will be performing at the beautiful St Ninian's Uniting Church in Brigalow Street, Lyneham.

It's on Sunday, July 6 from 2pm. The *Impromptu* concert will feature a range of music, beginning in the church, "followed by a variety of lively numbers on piano in the church hall". Refreshments will be provided. Tickets are \$25 by donation.

Hurrah! The circus is coming to town!

SOME school holiday fun is sorted - the circus is coming to town. The Harrington Circus Show will be in Canberra from July 10 to 20.

The big top will be set

up at the Monash Impact Church, with matinee, afternoon and night-time shows.

The circus is a small family affair, with tickets starting at \$15 to make the experience

affordable. Children under three have free entry if they are seated on an adult's lap.

Tickets can be booked at www.theharringtoncircus-how.com.au/