



MEDIA RELEASE

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Subject: Rita and Doris tribute in Coles Bay
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Rita and Doris tribute in Coles Bay.

Rita Blazley at 98 years old was the guest of honour at the Clean Up Australia Day event in Coles Bay on Sunday. Rita made the trip down from Longford to unveil a new interpretation sign at the Rita and Doris Reserve.

The Reserve is named after Rita and her friend Doris who lived in Coles Bay for many years. They were very community minded and worked towards saving this Reserve from development so that the whole of the community could enjoy and benefit from it into the future.

Rita and Doris recognised that the Reserve contains flora and fauna that is representative of the rich and unique biodiversity found around Coles Bay and the Freycinet peninsula. As a tribute to Rita and Doris the local residents dedicated this reserve to them in recognition of their hard work for the community.

Rita expressed her great appreciation of the new sign. "It is such an honour, it's quite overwhelming," she said. "I am so proud to see the community continuing to take care of the Reserve and keeping Coles Bay clean and bright."

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council with funding assistance from NRM South created the new interpretation sign to preserve the story of Rita and Doris' achievement as well as inform the public about some of the plant species found in the reserve.

The unveiling was preceded by a barbecue and Clean Up Australia Day working bee in the Reserve during which 30 volunteers collected a trailer load of rubbish including a lot of broken glass.

The Rita and Doris Reserve is managed by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council as per the Council's *Coles Bay Reserves Native Flora and Fauna Management Plan*.

Ends

For more information please contact Terry Higgs at Glamorgan Spring Bay Council on 6256 4777 or 0400 715 722