



Liz stitches up fashion accolade

IT all started with a needle and thread at Geraldton Primary School for Liz Davenport.

The internationally-renowned fashion designer will be able to add another feather to her cap when she is today presented with an Order of Australia Medal for services to the fashion industry and the community.

Mrs Davenport said she was proud and excited to receive such an honour.

"You read about these things happening to other people but you never think it will happen to you," she said. "It is a very exciting surprise."

"I have used the brand name as a platform to raise funds," she said.

"There are so many valuable causes and we enjoy helping in any way we can."

Mrs Davenport said she had fond memories of growing up in Geraldton.

"We had a small farming property in Woorree Lane and another property in Dongara," she said.

"I first learnt to sew when I was six years old at Geraldton Primary School."

Her talent came in handy and she confesses to making garments to wear at primary school.

"In high school I became a very accomplished dressmaker and used to make clothes for all of the girls," she said.

"When I was in upper

secondary school and was asked out on a date one afternoon, I raced home from school and made a dress that was ready to wear that evening."

After a few years working as a teacher in Geraldton she had the opportunity for a career change and decided to get into the fashion industry.

Since then she has gone from strength to strength, with her own retail chain and more than 15 stores around the world.

"My brand name is famous for its bright colours," she said.

"Colours are important in life. They make you feel happy."

"Receiving this honour means a great deal

to me and I hope I will inspire young people to follow their dreams."

— **Samantha Robin**



Liz Davenport

never think it will happen to you," she said.

"It is a very exciting surprise."

Mrs Davenport has spent more than 36 years in the clothing industry.