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Double celebration for Liz

On the day Liz Davenport was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) for service to the fashion industry and the community, she celebrated 40 years of marriage to her high school sweetheart.

For 36 years the Nedlands fashion designer has been at the forefront of the fashion industry, and used her business to raise funds and promote community issues.

Ms Davenport said of her award: "It is overwhelming because it carries enormous responsibility to be an even better citizen. It gives you credibility and encourages me to try harder, push further and take on bigger challenges."

Ms Davenport said that a highlight of her business career was opening a store on London's fashionable Bond Street and running it successfully for seven years. It closed in the wake of September 11.

A personal highlight was her work

in drawing media attention to the forest devastation down south.

Such was her horror of the clear-felling of forests that Ms Davenport challenged Richard Court for the seat of Nedlands.

She said it was a spiritually challenging time.

Ms Davenport said the OAM was an award for her loyal staff and the customers she describes as the sisterhood, those women who not only support her business but contribute wholeheartedly to her fundraising projects.

She said her 36 years in the fashion industry was an apprenticeship that would culminate over the next decade.

Ms Davenport is currently working on a joint venture project to open up an international chain of Liz Davenport stores.

See TimeOut (page 71) for details on Ms Davenport's fundraising project to help those affected by floods.