

Tuesday, 26 January 2010.

**FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY
2010 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - CAROLINE YI XU
2010 YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - CLAIRE MOODY**

At an Australia Day ceremony today, City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Michael Butterworth, announced the 2010 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year in recognition of service to the local community. The recipients are:

Mrs Caroline Yi Xu – Citizen of the Year
Miss Claire Moody – Young Citizen of the Year

In acknowledging their outstanding contributions, Councillor Butterworth said Mrs Yi Xu and Miss Moody were both fine examples of local citizens who had earned the admiration of the community and to be acknowledged as role models.

He continued: “The high calibre of nominees for this year’s Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year made choosing the winners a very difficult task.

“However, all nominees should feel proud that their peers have recognised the contributions they have made.

“They have all added enormous value to our local area showing once again that community spirit and leadership is thriving in the City of Ryde.”

Later in the day Mrs Yi Xu and Miss Moody were introduced on stage to the large audience at the Australia Day Family Concert at North Ryde Common.

Citizen of the Year - Mrs Caroline Yi Xu

Caroline Yi Xu is an active community leader committed to promoting greater understanding and harmony between the Australian, Chinese and other communities in Ryde.

She is the principal of the highly successful Feng Hua Chinese School, dedicated to the teaching of Mandarin.

From small beginning with just 12 students, the School has grown to nearly 400 students with 25 teachers. Its achievements have been recognised by all levels of government, and the School is one of four selected by the NSW Department of Education to participate in research into challenges and opportunities facing community language programs in NSW.

Caroline takes a very hands-on role in fostering interest in Chinese culture, leading not only student culture trips to different cities in China, but also delegations of local school principals and representatives of the NSW Department of Education so that all may widen their understanding and experience of Chinese traditions and way of life.

Seminars for Chinese parents to learn about the Australian education system are also popular innovations of the School.

Caroline Yi Xu emigrated from China and is a long time resident of Marsfield. She is married with 2 teenage children both of whom attend local schools in the City of Ryde.

Young Citizen of the Year - Claire Moody

A Junior Guides Leader at West Ryde, Claire Moody is 17 years old, a seasoned guest speaker, sportswoman and role model.

In 2007 Claire combined her love of Guiding with her exceptional scientific and mathematical skills at The Space Olympics in Russia. Rotary sponsored Claire to attend the 2010 National Youth Science Forum in January.

A Ryde Youth Council member, keen netballer and water polo player, Claire's many achievements include:

- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards
- Rotary Community Services Award
- Guest speaker NSW Girl Guides State Awards
- Youth Rep Ryde Hospital Community Consultative Committee
- High School committee member raising money for orphanage in East Timor.

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