

Monday 12 December 2016

## **RYDE COMMUNITY AWARDS WINNERS**

City of Ryde Mayor Clr Bill Pickering announced the Community Awards winners at a special event on Saturday December 10.

The Mayor acknowledged the work of local not-for-profit groups and organisations whose commitment has made a positive contribution to the City of Ryde. “It is very difficult to single out one group’s contribution for special recognition. We believe that all the nominees deserve our gratitude and appreciation for the outstanding work they do.

“Whether in times of trouble or by bringing people together all of these groups provide essential community services through their hard work and generosity of spirit.”

Twenty-two groups were nominated by members of the community in the Senior, Youth and Open categories. For full details go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au)

### **Open Category Winner – NSW State Emergency Service SES (Ryde Unit)**

The Ryde SES consists of local unpaid volunteers who are highly trained to support the local community in times of floods, storms and other natural disasters. In a typical year the SES Ryde Unit amass in excess of 7,000 volunteer hours and are on call 24/7. The nature of their work involves rigorous training, experience in adverse conditions and time away from their family.

The SES Ryde also takes part in many local events and works to educate vulnerable sections of the community to be more resilient in emergencies and has conducted informative presentations to over 40 groups.

***Special Commendation – The Northern Centre***

***Special Commendation – Little Heroes Swim Academy***

### **Youth Category Winner – Ryde Youth Theatre**

The Ryde Youth Theatre (RYT) is a place of inclusion, acceptance and support. Participants range in age, ability and interests – every voice is valued and every individual feels included. In 2016, RYT staged 25 performances of five unique works. Every work was written by young people, for young people. The social outcomes of the project have been amazing. One young man cited his involvement with RYT as being his major suicide prevention intervention and has helped him with debilitating depression.

***Special Commendation – Ryde Youth Advisory Council***

### **Senior Category Winner – Indonesian Welfare Association**

This group has been providing services in the City of Ryde since 2007. Their existence has been very important in terms of strengthening social support, community connectedness and social inclusion. They established a Seniors Group in 2009, as a place for regular social gatherings and as an educational hub in the dissemination of information of other services available from the City of Ryde. In addition, they have used Council Grant Funding to support several events organised throughout the year.

***Special Commendation – Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizen’s Club***

---

**Media Contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer p●99528083 m●0434306444  
e●lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au**