City of Ryde MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 9 January 2017

2017 CITIZEN & YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Australia Day Ceremony, Thursday 26 January, North Ryde School of Arts Hall, 201 Coxs Road, North Ryde, 3.00pm (*new start time*)

A group of local heroes, who have earned the admiration of the community, will be honoured on Australia Day when the 2017 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are announced.

Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said the Citizen of the Year Awards recognise special individuals for their commitment to the community and its citizens.

"These are the highest Awards the City of Ryde can bestow on an individual.

"They recognise outstanding service over an extended period of time and acknowledge the positive and lasting impact their actions have made to the community.

"All the nominees are great community members who make Ryde a better place to live, work and play."

The seven nominees represent the high values and diversity of our community. They include community and business leaders and volunteers.

CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Angelina Bonifacio

Angelina is a driving force in any project she puts her mind to and has played an integral part in the planning of Light Up East Ryde, an event which promotes her neighbourhood and raises funds for local charities.

Andrea Lee

Andrea has helped make positive changes to the lives of parents of children with autism through the Autism Community Network. Her monthly support groups help parents break from the isolation that many carers experience.

Krystle-Jayne Ng

Krystle-Jayne is a member of the Ryde Youth Council where she led the change to paperless meetings encouraging sustainable materials and promotion of collaborative technologies. She also volunteers by speaking to local students about women's achievements and place in the technology industry.

Zahira Noor

For the past four years Zahira has been an active volunteer in the Afghan Women's Association supporting women in times of need and providing community education classes in computers.

Lydia Scuglia

Lydia is an advocate for Business2Community, working closely with small businesses within the local community. Through her company, Helloworld, she has supported community projects including the Fusion Foundation, Rotary Carols and Touched by Olivia Foundation.

Warren Smith

Warren has been an active, conscientious and enthusiastic SES volunteer for seven years, volunteering an average 30 hours per week. He plays a vital role in ensuring that community engagement is an integral component of the day to day operation of SES.

Pamela Ward

Pamela is an advocate for environmental care in the Ryde area and takes an active and personal interest in preserving endangered species at the Habitat Community Gardens where she volunteers two days a week.

Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony

Fifty new Australian citizens, all local residents hailing from 21 countries around the globe, will also be welcomed as part of the Australia Day ceremony.

The day will climax with the annual Australia Day Family Concert and Fireworks Spectacular at North Ryde Common (5.00 – 9.30pm). For full details go to <u>www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/australiaday</u>

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