

Ryde's Youth Council Conference To Make IT Happen

Published on 31 January 2017

The Ryde Youth Council will host a 'technology inspired' NSW Youth Council Conference at Macquarie University from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 September 2017.

The conference is being held with the support of City of Ryde Council and Macquarie University and will feature workshops and presentations designed to inspire attendees. It is hoped that attendees from across the State will use the information gained about engagement and technology to make a difference in their communities.

The conference program will feature:

- Exciting and high profile speakers
- A panel of politicians discussing relevant issues
- Engaging workshops and activities
- Visits to the campuses of top tech company
- Evening entertainment, including a disco boat night cruise
- The chance to share the accomplishments of other Youth Committees
- Networking and social opportunities.

Make IT Happen/YCC 2017 will be the largest youth-run conference in the State. Youth Council and youth organisation representatives from as far away as Albury, Byron Bay and the Snowy Mountains will attend.

The Ryde Young Citizen of The Year, Krystle-Jane Ng, who is a member of the Ryde Youth Council said: "Along with all the serious talk, there will be plenty of opportunity for fun and ice breaking activities which will establish an environment to help the ideas flow."

To be part of a group which will generate new ideas and build a better future, enrol now. For details go to <http://bit.do/NSWYCC17> or visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/makeithappen

Winners Announced for Ryde's Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year 2017

Published on 26 January 2017

At an Australia Day ceremony today, the Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering announced the 2017 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, in recognition of service to the local community.

The recipients are:

Citizen of the Year - Mr Warren Smith

Young Citizen of the Year - Ms Krystle-Jayne Ng

Acknowledging their outstanding contributions, the Mayor said the winners exemplified the character and fine qualities of the people who make up the City of Ryde. "Both Mr Smith and Ms Ng deserve the admiration of the community and the acknowledgement of role models.

"Through their deeds and actions, both have added enormous value to our city and to the lives of so many in our local community. They lead by example and show that community spirit is thriving in the City of Ryde," the Mayor said.

Two Special Commendations were also awarded to nominees Angelina Bonifacio and Zahira Noor for their contribution to community life.

Citizen of the Year 2017 - Warren Smith



A long time serving member of the SES and current Community Engagement Officer, Warren Smith believes in raising the profile of the SES via face to face conversations about the important messages of the SES, rather than handing out leaflets.

He is a strong believer in multi-lingual communications and has created and presented several innovative diverse-lingual presentations in Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Indonesian, Turkish and Farsi to get the message across to as many people as possible.

Producers at SBS Cantonese Radio recognised the value of Warren's work and have twice presented his work on national radio.

His original interactive speaking style has developed through extensive research and practice and he is now a sought after key-note speaker, presenter and internal SES trainer.

In any given week, Warren's SES community commitments take him to all types and sizes of events, from the likes of the Granny Smith Festival, Harmony Day and the upcoming Lunar New Year, to smaller gatherings like scout and cub groups, over 55's, deaf community, volunteer organisations and a range of cultural and language groups. He even stepped up to the mark to address a crowd of more than 80,000 at the NRL State of Origin kick off at Sydney Olympic Park.

Internally, for the SES, Warren is a valued contributor to all aspects of the service thanks to his extensive field work and operations experience and his can-do philosophy.

Contributing at least 30 hours a week to the SES, his dedication led to him giving up much of his 'free-time' to projects such as the building of the Ryde Training Facility when he supplied his tools, donated materials and sourced thousands of dollars' worth of cladding. This training facility is now used by not only Ryde SES but also by visiting Unit volunteers.

A member of the SES for the past seven years, Warren is on call 24/7 but still devotes hours to community work with organisations like Riding for the Disabled, the Salvation Army Red, Red Cross and Neighbourhood Watch.

He has received numerous awards and certificates of appreciation including from Rotary and Probus.

Ryde SES will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year and Warren is a member of the working group to promote this landmark event.

His dedication to the community he serves, his incredible knowledge and giving nature make him a most worthy recipient of the City of Ryde Citizen of the Year Award.

Young Citizen of the Year 2017 - Ms Krystle-Jayne Ng



As an active member of the Ryde Youth Council since 2012, Krystle-Jayne has brought her passions for the community, environment and technology to the benefit of all.

Krystle had a lead role in securing Ryde Youth Council's successful application to host the 2017 NSW Youth Conference at Macquarie University in September. The

conference theme of *Make IT Happen* will demonstrate to the expected 400 audience, how technology can create long lasting and meaningful connections within the community.

She invigorates every event the Ryde Youth Council puts on, encouraging input and collaboration. Her managerial skills ensure events run smoothly and led the change to paperless meetings, encouraging sustainable promotional material and promotion of collaborative technologies.

Named the Most Employable IT Graduate in Australia in 2014, after graduating from UTS with a Bachelor of Information Technology (Co-Op Scholarship) with a Distinction, Krystle was snapped up by Microsoft as a Technical Account Manager, which led to the Managing Director of Microsoft Australia accepting an invitation to speak at the Youth Conference.

Her style is sometimes described as 'subtle' but her contribution is substantial and her impact on young people's role in the Ryde community is significant.

Special Commendation 2017 - Angelina Bonifacio

Angelina is a mother, wife and grandmother who gives 100% to whatever she is committed to. The daughter of an Italian immigrant family, she is a passionate about the Ryde area and is committed to life in the local community and to keeping the Italian heritage alive with the younger generation.

It was Angelina's hard work and passion that saw the launch of the hugely successful Light Up East Ryde Christmas event, first in 2015 and again last year. She applied for a Council grant, sourced all the 50 plus stalls, secured sponsors and raised funds through fashion parades, a bus trip and a trivia night. More than 3,000 locals attended each event and monies raised went to local charities.

Angelina is also the organiser of a bi-monthly women's networking group, runs children's cooking classes in the holidays and organises outings for local seniors.

Special Commendation 2017 - Zahira Noor

From refugee to women's advocate, charity worker and author Zahira Noor is a role model in the community.

Arriving in Australia in 1987 from Afghanistan, Zahira had little English but set to learning and to increasing her general knowledge of her new country. Her desire to 'give back' led her to voluntary work with Eastwood Community Centre and then a part time job in St Anne's nursing home in Hunters Hill and later at St. Joseph's College. Zahira has also given her time to the Heart Foundation, Australian Red Cross and the Hunters Hill Ryde Community Service where she provided stimulating conversation and activities to the elderly.

As her passion for bringing communities together and giving Afghan women a voice grew, through stories and poetry, her experiences resulted in the publishing of a book titled *Dobaiti*, as well as official recognition from the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW.

She continues as an active volunteer for the Afghan Women's Association supporting women in times of need and providing community education classes in computers.

For full details go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/citizen

Your City - Summer 2017

Published on 25 January 2017

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View the full newsletter: [Your City - Summer 2017](#)

Budding Bushcare Group Breaks New Ground

Published on 23 January 2017



A skilled, all-abilities bushcare group of four young people aged 22-28 will break new ground when they start work on the restoration of the natural environment along the creek line in Jim Walsh Park.

The project is the result of a new social inclusion partnership between Ryde Council and Bushlink, an environmental social enterprise that provides all-abilities training to equipment people for meaningful work in the community.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, who joined the group on their first dig, said: "The engagement of the Bushlink group is a great example of Ryde's social inclusion approach to providing equal opportunity for all.

"For the skilled group this project is their first experience of work in the Ryde area. It's a really great outcome because it's a win for them, a win for the environment and a win for the entire community who enjoy all the amenities of Jim Walsh Park."

Bushlink's Coordinator, Cathy Hockey, said direct contact with nature has a hugely positive physiological impact on everyone in the team. "We are dedicated to creating real and valued employment for people with disability, through a network of working environmental project teams.

"Jobs with Bushlink develop self-respect, a high degree of pride and a sense of self-worth. As a result, our employees are well trained, have a fantastic work ethic and a high attendance rate."

Commencing next week, the supervised team will meet monthly to continue a project completed by Council in 2016 to improve the water quality of Terrys Creek. They will remove weeds along the creekline and encourage the growth of the native plants to enhance the natural creekline. Additional planting of native acacia, grevillea and creekline species will improve the natural habitat for native birds and wildlife.

Bushlink is a social enterprise operated by Northside Enterprise Incorporated, a not-for-profit community organisation, highly regarded for its long standing services and support to people with disability. Bushlink is available for environmental project work and for their Schools Inclusion Program. For details www.bushlink.org.au

City of Ryde has a strong commitment to building just and inclusive communities with a focus on equality, human rights and freedoms. City of Ryde embraces diversity to ensure that our City is dynamic and innovative and a leader in environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Total Fire Ban for NSW

Published on 18 January 2017

Please note that the NSW State Emergency Operations Centre has issued a total fire ban for today, Wednesday 18 January 2017, for Greater Sydney and other areas.

A prohibition of the lighting of fires in the open is enforced until 23:59 pm tonight.

[For more details please download the declaration here.](#)

Helpful Information

In the case of an emergency call **Triple Zero (000)**.

Bushfire Information: Call the NSW Fire Service on **1800 679 737** or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Floods and Storms: Call the SES on **132 500** or visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au

Ryde Welcomes New Citizens on Australia Day

Published on 11 January 2017

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

Ryde's Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, will welcome 50 new Australian citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony on Thursday 26 January at the new time of 3.00pm as part of this year's Australia Day celebrations.

The new citizens hail from diverse backgrounds in 21 countries, and include four family units of three people from the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Iran.

"Our country is enriched by people from all corners of the globe," the Mayor said. "It's fitting we welcome these new Australians on the day we celebrate our community and our rich and diverse culture."

"There are people from many different nations living in our city, and their languages, customs and backgrounds are part of what makes Ryde such a vibrant place to live."

The Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony will take place at the North Ryde School of Arts Hall, 201 Coxs Road, from 3.00pm and will see the new citizens sing the national anthem for the first time as Australians. They will then be invited to enjoy a traditional morning tea with lamingtons and sausage rolls.

2017 Citizen & Young Citizen of the Year Awards

Published on 09 January 2017

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 www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/australiaday

City of Ryde Welcomes Australia Day Ambassador Ricardo Goncalves

Published on 09 January 2017



SBS TV news and finance presenter, Ricardo Goncalves, is this year's City of Ryde Australia Day Ambassador.

Mr Goncalves will be the guest of honour at Ryde's Australia Day celebrations in the North Ryde School of Arts Hall on Thursday 26 January commencing at 3.00pm.

"Ryde reminds me a lot of my home town of Wollongong in that they're both multicultural melting pots," said Mr Goncalves. "Both have significant migrant communities which add to the overall culture of the area.

"I'm really passionate about not forgetting your ethnic roots because diversity is what makes life interesting.

"While I am first and foremost Australian, my Portuguese background gives me a bit of colour. I love being able to look back to my family's traditions and cultural heritage, enjoy the food, speak the language and reflect on its history. For me, this is what it means to be Australian."

Mr Goncalves has carved out a successful career as a journalist, interviewing some of the world's most prominent business and political leaders, including the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, Sir Richard Branson and former Portuguese President, Anibal Cavaco Silva. He also presents Small Business Secrets on SBS.

Mayor of Ryde, Bill Pickering, said Ryde is delighted to have someone of Mr Goncalves' background at this year's Australia Day celebrations.

“Mr Goncalves has covered major stories throughout the world, and continues to excel as the presenter for SBS World News and Finance Editor. We look forward to sharing his unique experiences on the day,” Mayor Pickering said.

Ryde’s Australia Day celebration will also acknowledge the City’s local unsung heroes with the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year Awards.

Biography Ricardo Goncalves - SBS World News Presenter | SBS Finance Editor | Small Business Secrets Presenter

Ricardo is passionate about the world of business and finance, covering economics, marketing, housing, corporate, sharemarket and small business issues. He also has a heavy interest in social media and diversity.

He has covered news globally, filing stories from the Middle-East, LA and New York's Ground Zero.

He’s interviewed most of Australia's top CEOs, financial analysts and economists, building up a solid contact list in the process. Highlights include interviews with Richard Branson, Malcolm Turnbull, Alan Joyce and former Portuguese President Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Ricardo also fronts television programme Small Business Secrets.

He started his TV career as a regional news reporter (as Richard Goncalves) for WIN News Wollongong in 1998 and appeared on consumer affairs program Today Tonight.

His first formal metro role was as a video business journalist and producer for finance journalist, David Koch in 2001, where he provided content for Sky News, Seven News, Sunrise and 2GB.

In 2004 he moved to Melbourne to work as a video business journalist for Sky News and weekend reporter for National Nine News where he covered the G20 demonstrations, 2006 Commonwealth Games and T3 float.

He returned to Sydney in 2007 to produce and anchor live rolling and breaking news on Sky News Business.

He joined SBS in 2010.

Ricardo is also an accomplished MC, corporate speaker and conference moderator fronting the Western Sydney Awards for Business Excellence, Walkelys Talk events, VIVID Sydney discussions, Australian Securitisation Forum Conference, City of Sydney Chinese New Year Celebrations, NSW Premier's Multicultural events, Import Export Industry Awards and SBS Food Journey Festival among others.

He has been an Australia Day Ambassador since 2015.

He holds a B Commerce (Economics/Marketing) from Wollongong University, has a Portuguese background, is a loyal Sydneysider and enjoys a cycle!