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CARMEN PLATT NAMED RYDE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR ALEX NOBLE RECEIVES YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Local philanthropist Carmen Platt has today been named the 2021 Ryde Citizen of the Year at the City of Ryde Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at Ryde Park.

Ms Platt is the founder of The Generous and The Grateful, a social enterprise created in Macquarie Park in 2017.

Working with frontline agencies such as the Salvation Army and Mission Australia, The Generous and The Grateful provides furniture and other essential household items to those in need.

Leading a team of more than 60 volunteers, Ms Platt's efforts has seen almost 500 homes furnished in the past financial year, assisting some of the most vulnerable people in the community, including those escaping domestic violence, those experiencing financial difficulties as well as refugees and migrants.

A particular focus of Ms Platt's work in 2020 was directed to people who were displaced from their homes due to the devastating bushfires as well as due to the increased prevalence of domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ryde Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Alex Noble for his efforts to inspire others to overcome adversity. As a 16-year-old, Mr Noble's life changed forever when he broke his neck and severely damaged his spinal cord while playing rugby.

Told he may never walk again, Mr Noble completed his lengthy rehab and returned to school to finish his HSC, while working on his strength to enable him to once again brush his teeth, use a computer, feed himself and operate a wheelchair.

Mr Noble recently established the Alex Noble Foundation which aims to motivate others through the motto "I fight, you fight". He also serves as an Ambassador for the University of Sydney's Centre for Neuroscience and Regeneration while raising money to help fund treatment for spinal cord injuries.

Rob Senior and Cameron Last, meanwhile, received City of Ryde Special Commendations. Mr Senior volunteers for a wide range of community organisations throughout the City of Ryde, while Mr Last is an advocate for local young people.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, congratulated the award recipients as well as all of the nominees.

"The past 12 months have been extremely challenging for everyone and each of the award recipients and nominees have helped ensure that we have overcome these challenges together as a community. On behalf of everyone at the City of Ryde, we say thank you for all of your efforts," Cllr Laxale said.

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are held under the auspices of the Australia Day Council of NSW.

In addition to announcing the recipients of the Ryde Citizen of the Year awards, 50 local residents became Australian citizens during the City of Ryde Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony.

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