

Friday 24 May 2019

## **UNSUNG HEROES RECOGNISED AT CITY OF RYDE VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

Renowned singer and performer Joey Chan has received the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award at a special ceremony at Civic Hall last night.

Ms Chan has been a volunteer at the Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club for eight years. During this time, Ms Chan has organised and staged a large number of performances for the club while also undertaking other activities that have reduced social isolation among club members.

In addition to her work for the Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club, Ms Chan has also contributed to a number of other major local community events each year including the City of Ryde Lunar New Year Festival, the Chinese Citizens Club Australia Day celebrations and the Mid-Autumn Festival concert.

Ms Chan undertakes all her volunteer work while working as a sole trader. Her volunteer work has brought a lot of joy to senior citizens living in Eastwood and the other areas that make up the City of Ryde, while also fostering stronger community harmony and engagement.

Philip Brown was awarded the Highly Commended award for his work with Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Brown contributes a large amount of his time, management skills and local community knowledge to further the Neighbourhood Watch program within the City of Ryde and has helped the program grow to become one of the biggest voluntary safety and security operations in NSW.

Isabella Wilks received the 2019 Young Volunteer of the Year award for her work with Sydney Community Services, a not-for-profit organisation that helps residents to live an independent life in their own home and in their community.

Through her volunteer work, Ms Wilks works closely with those living with a disability, assisting them with their care and helping them overcome social isolation. Ms Wilks also researches special projects for clients to take part in while also writing an annual newsletter that includes pictures and descriptions of each client's achievements.

The North Ryde Community Aid Linen Group was awarded the 2019 Group Volunteer of the Year award.

The group is made up of 12 volunteers who give up their time each week to provide a linen service for those in need within the Ryde community. While this service is invaluable in providing clean linen for all of its recipients, it also delivers a range of other benefits such as assisting clients address other issues around their home.

Stryder's community transport volunteer drivers, meanwhile, received a Highly Commended award for their work in providing connection services to those most in need. The Stryder service allows people in need to live independently in their own homes.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, who was a member of the judging panel for the awards, congratulated all award recipients.

"Our local volunteers are the unsung heroes of our community and I am delighted that we can recognise the achievements of those who give up a great deal of their own time to help those in need or who are experiencing hardship," Cllr Laxale said.

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