

Monday 9 January 2012

2012 CITIZEN & YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Australia Day Ceremony, Thursday 26 January, Event Cinemas, Top Ryde City shopping centre Level 4, from 10.00am

A unique group of local people who have earned the admiration of the community will be honoured on Australia Day when the 2012 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year are announced.

The 19 nominees, whose ages range from teens to seniors, represent the high values and diversity of our community. They include humanitarians, students volunteers, medical professionals, community and spiritual leaders. Many are quiet achievers, but all have left their mark on an appreciative community.

Citizen of the Year Nominees

Eric Chan
Rolf Clapham
Paula Hanlon
John Lee
Vicki McGuinness
Janelle McMahon
Dianne McKissock
Fr Paul Monkerud
James Moulds-Gardiner
Emma Nair
Katharine O'Sullivan
Suzanne Ward
Professor Richard Widmer

Young Citizen of the Year Nominees

James Jelly
Clodagh O'Doherty
Jacquelyn Osborne
Paul Perrett
Erica Sufani
Geoffrey Ward

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Artin Etmekdjian, said: "These Awards are our City's way of thanking the many generous individuals who enrich our community through their commitment and service to others.

"The diversity of the nominees, the qualities they show and the broad range of their achievements made this year's selection very difficult.

“It is very clear however that a strong commitment to serve and community spirit is thriving in the City of Ryde.”

The Citizen of the Year awards recognise those who have shown outstanding community service and whose dedication in their chosen field has made a positive and lasting difference to our community.

The special Australia Day event, which is by invitation only, will be held for the first time at Event Cinemas in Top Ryde City shopping centre. It includes an address by the City of Ryde’s Australia Day Ambassador - TV presenter/author/collector/traveller Scott McGregor.

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

The day will end with the annual Australia Day Family Concert and Fireworks Spectacular at North Ryde Common (5.00 – 9.30pm). Lead act for the evening is *Killer Queen Show*
For full details go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/australiaday

Attachment: Nominee biographies

Media contacts: Lee Kirkland, City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083