

Friday 23 May 2025

City of Ryde Celebrates 2025 Volunteer Recognition Award winners

City of Ryde proudly celebrated the selfless contributions of some of its most outstanding citizens at the 2025 Volunteer Recognition Awards, held on 22 May at the stunning Curzon Hall in Marsfield.

The event took place during National Volunteers Week and honoured 38 nominees across three categories: Individual, Youth, and Group Volunteer Recognition Awards.

City of Ryde Mayor Trenton Brown joined the judging panel alongside City of Ryde Executive Officer City Economy Dan Hughes and 2024 Individual Volunteer of the Year Simon McNamara.

“This year’s awards celebrate individuals who selflessly give their time to support others and expect nothing in return,” said Mayor Brown. “Their efforts contribute immensely to the vibrancy, connection, and wellbeing of our City. Every nominee has made their family, organisation, and community proud.

“I would particularly like to make special mention of the State Emergency Services, who are celebrating their 70th year of providing a valued volunteer service to the City of Ryde community”

Nominees represented a wide range of backgrounds and causes, from education and the environment to cultural, community, and charitable initiatives.

City of Ryde CEO Wayne Rylands praised the spirit of generosity shown by the local community.

“Volunteerism is built on selflessness, empathy, and a strong sense of community - and these nominees embody those values,” Mr Rylands said. “They remind us that positive change often begins with individuals who are willing to give their time, skills, and energy to help others.

“Our role at City of Ryde is to serve this community, but we know that real impact happens when we work together. We’re incredibly grateful for the volunteers who play such a vital role in building a stronger, more connected City.”

Our winners for 2025 are:

Group Volunteer of the Year **4GreaterGood**

Led by young changemakers Téa and Isla Costin, 4GreaterGood delivers practical support to individuals and families experiencing hardship. Their outreach includes food relief through their signature program 100 Meals in 100 Minutes, hygiene packs, and advocacy for those doing it tough.

Individual Volunteer of the Year**George Ganiatsas**

With over 35 years in local football, George has shaped generations through his volunteer service with Gladesville Ryde Magic Football Club, promoting sport, unity and youth development.

Young Volunteer of the Year**Emma Richard**

Emma has volunteered with numerous local organisations including Eastwood Junior Guides, Christ Church Gladesville and Ryde Hunters Hill Hockey Club. In her volunteering capacity, she offers mentorship and access to outdoor experiences, helping young girls grow in confidence and community spirit.

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