

Sunday 26 January 2014

FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

2014 Citizen of the Year – Russell Emery

2014 Young Citizen of the Year – Carla Kassab

At an Australia Day ceremony today, the Mayor, Cllr Roy Maggio, announced the 2014 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, in recognition of their service to the local community. The recipients are:

Mr Russell Emery – Citizen of the Year

Miss Carla Kassab – Young Citizen of the Year

In acknowledging their outstanding contributions, Cllr Maggio said the two winners exemplified the character and fine qualities of the people who make up the City of Ryde.

“Russell and Carla deserve the admiration of the community and to be acknowledged as role models with these, our highest civic awards,” the Mayor said.

“Both winners have added enormous value to the lives of so many in our local area, showing once again that community spirit and leadership is thriving in the City of Ryde.”

In accepting the award Citizen of the Year Russell Emery said it was a fantastic honour: “It’s great that the Council has recognised the value of volunteering has for the community.”

Youth Citizen of the Year Carla Kassab said she was shocked to receive such an honour. “I’d encourage young people to get more involved in their community. It’s very rewarding both for the City of Ryde and for themselves.”

Biographies

Russell Emery

Russell is a dedicated hands-on volunteer whose tireless work provides adults and children with intellectual disabilities the chance to lead a life ‘more extraordinary’.

He is particularly keen in introducing them to a range of sporting and outdoor activities and enjoys seeing the ten pin bowling and bocce teams that he coaches enjoy the positive benefits of competitive sport. He also drives his teams to sporting competitions, supervising, encouraging and supporting their needs.

Another of his commitments is to go on overnight camping excursions (usually 1-4 days) for the Challenge Foundation's Orphans Trust Fund which provides experiences for people with a disability to enjoy the freedom and adventure that many of us take for granted.

Through his generous giving, Russell touches the lives of people who need support and his work reminds us of the importance of volunteering.

Carla Kassab

An active member of the Ryde Youth Council since 2010, Carla Kassab plays an important role in mentoring, representing and advocating for local young people.

Her dedication to serving the community is coupled with a can-do attitude and an ability to multi-task that takes her from volunteering and fundraising, to event planning and student counselling.

As a member of the Northern Sydney Youth Health Promotion team for NSW Health, Carla helps promote good health and well-being to local young people, with a focus on lifestyle issues related to smoking, alcohol, emotional and social issues, and obesity.

Carla is a positive role model for young women in Ryde who has turned her own experiences into a powerful and driving passion to help others.

Carla has committed hundreds of hours to community organisations including our local Rotary's Gift Wrapping project for the past two Christmases, and has held off going to University to fulfil her community commitments.

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