

Wednesday 13 January 2016

2016 CITIZEN & YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Australia Day Ceremony, Tuesday 26 January, North Ryde School of Arts Hall, 201 Coxs Road, North Ryde, from 10.00am (*Note – new location*)

A group of local heroes, who have earned the admiration of the community, will be honoured on Australia Day when the 2016 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year are announced.

Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Citizen of the Year Awards recognise special individuals whose commitment to help others has strengthened our community. “These are the highest Awards the City of Ryde can bestow on an individual.

“They recognise outstanding service and acknowledge the positive and lasting difference their actions have made to the community.

“Choosing one individual over another is always a difficult task as all the nominees are great community members who work tirelessly to make Ryde a better place.”

The six nominees, whose ages range from teens to seniors, represent the high values and diversity of our community. They include community leaders, volunteers, academics and students.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Rebecca Ho

Rebecca Ho is the Executive Office of Touched by Olivia Foundation, a national charity and that has been instrumental in the construction of inclusive play spaces throughout Australia including the Livvi’s place in Yamble Reserve, Ryde.

Greg McClure

For more than 10 years, Greg McClure has been an active member of the Ryde Access Committee. He is an avid advocate for issues impacting people with a disability and was instrumental in securing signage for the accessible taxi ramp at Pope Street.

Joy Piotrowski

Joy is immediately recognisable as an iconic community figurehead in the North Ryde area. She is an advocate for seniors in the area and takes an active and personal interest in elderly individuals to ensure their health and wellbeing is being cared for.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Tennyson Brazier

Tennyson is a willing mentor for new students at Ryde Secondary College and works closely with

staff, students and parents and to expand peoples' knowledge of what the college has to offer in terms of creative and performing arts.

Alexander Mangano

Alexander had helped make positive changes to the lives of many young people who attend the Our Space the Youth Integrated Hub where he volunteers dedicating his time to providing homework support for disadvantaged students.

Nicholas Purcell

Nicholas is a school prefect at Epping Boys High School and a member of their Student Representative Council as well as a keen athlete. He has helped initiate various community service projects through Max Potential, Salvation Army and after-school voluntary care.

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). For full details go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/australiaday

Media Contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer p●99528083 m●0434306444 e●lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au