

EMBARGO: Tuesday 26 January 2016

FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY
2016 Citizen of the Year – Joy PIOTROWSKI
2016 Young Citizen of the Year – Nicholas PURCELL

At an Australia Day ceremony today, the Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, announced the 2016 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:

Mrs Joy Piotrowski – Citizen of the Year
Nicholas Purcell – Young Citizen of the Year

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

“Both Joy and Nicholas deserve the admiration of the community and to be acknowledged as role models,” the Mayor said.

“Through their deeds and actions, both winners have added enormous value to our city and to the lives of so many in our local community. They lead by example and show that community spirit is thriving in the City of Ryde.”

2016 CITY OF RYDE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
JOY PIOTROWSKI

Joy Piotrowski epitomises the depiction of a local hero.

Joy is an iconic community figurehead particularly in the North Ryde area.

She has been a local of Ryde area for over 59 years and is a well-known identity always involved in local issues such as environmental with the Peter Board High School site, rezoning issues such as Lachlan’s Line and safe footpath accessibility for seniors.

Always prepared to speak out for the residents of Ryde, Joy is a great networker and champion of the needy.

She is an advocate for seniors in the area, especially in the provision of bus services in the area. She was a member of the Grey Army for a number of years and remains in contact with both Ryde and Willoughby Bus Depots through informal networks and provides advice on bus timetabling, bus stops and requirements for bendy buses.

Joy Piotrowski served on the City of Ryde Committee for the Status of Women from 2010 – 2011 and advocated on a number of issues affecting women in the local area.

Joy takes a committed interest in children's school communities. Her own children went to Holy Cross and Woolwich. She was passionately committed to improvements in education and was closely involved with Marist Sisters College and Holy Cross College but was also strongly supportive of public education.

Joy has always been a deeply involved, committed and vibrant member of the North Ryde community. She is generous of spirit and a deeply compassionate woman.

2016 CITY OF RYDE YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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 is involvement in a wide range of school and community events, and has raised awareness and funds for many organisations and events including Canteen-Bandana Day, Breast Cancer Foundation, Prostate Cancer Foundation and National Daffodil Day, as well as school fetes. He has also supported a number of Rotary Club community events.

His personal leadership skills have helped initiate various community service projects through the Salvation Army and volunteers at Eastwood Primary after-school care.

His wide range of interests and hands-on involvement with various projects have impacted on how the community has supported these charity events. By raising awareness for the organisations he has also highlighted the selfless and mature way that a student can make a difference in the City of Ryde area.

Nicholas led a school drive in raising the awareness of Canteen-Bandana Day and in January 2015 he participated in a program called 'Max Potential' which centred around community and personal leadership and initiated the community service project (CSP). He has also participated in the Red Cross Blood Service, 40 Hour Famine and OptusRock Community Volunteer

In sport he has represented North East Metropolitan Region for High Jump, 110m Hurdles and the 4x 100m relay at the NSW State Championships; Cross-country representative – zone, region and state; School Sports Captain – Athletics.

Contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer P9952 8083 m0434 306 444
lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au