

Friday 11 January 2019

## **2019 RYDE CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN NOMINEES ANNOUNCED**

The nominees have been announced for the 2019 Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards.

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are open to all Australian citizens living in the City of Ryde and recognise outstanding accomplishments by individuals who have excelled in their chosen field.

The 2019 nominees are:

### **Citizen of the Year Award**

#### **Sue Curry**

Sue is a dedicated volunteer for a number of organisations that aim to help local residents in need of assistance. This includes more than 1200 hours of volunteer work for Easy Care Gardening, an organisation that helps maintain the gardens for those in need.

#### **Hassib Elias**

A resident of Ryde for more than 50 years, Hassib has been involved in a number of community organisations. He is predominantly involved in assisting refugees and new migrants settle into the area, in finding housing, employment and access to support services.

#### **Lily Jing Han**

Lily has been an active member of the Ryde community, assisting in local charity drives and helping organise events for the Australian Chinese community. Lily is also involved in promoting local businesses in the City of Ryde and strengthening academic institutions.

#### **Carmen Platt**

Three years ago, Carmen established The Generous and the Grateful, which aims to provide essential household items to people in need. The Generous and the Grateful has now helped hundreds of victims of domestic violence, refugees and youth at risk.

#### **Alison Small**

A cub scout leader for 30 years, Alison has been a mentor for a large number of young residents in the City of Ryde. Alison has also been involved in a large number of community events such as Clean Up Australia, citizenship ceremonies and the Granny Smith Festival.

### **Young Citizen of the Year Award**

#### **Tasnia Ahmad**

Tasnia, 17, has been a leading advocate for local youths, undertaking a number of initiatives that aim to give young people a voice in their community. She is currently Deputy Chair of the Ryde Youth Council.

#### **Liam Gye**

Liam, 21, is involved in early childhood education and care. A strong proponent of early childhood health, he has been instrumental in implementing health campaigns in the local community and is also the coach of an under 8s soccer team.

**Gabriel Van Duinen**

Gabriel, 18, is a Youth Councillor on the Ryde Youth Council who has actively campaigned on issues impacting local young people. He has recently called for changes to student transport concessions and been involved in the development of a number of local community projects.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the nominees for both awards embodied the high values and diversity of the Ryde community.

“The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards allow us to recognise the tremendous achievements of those citizens that go above and beyond to make a difference. Each of the nominees for the 2019 awards are thoroughly deserving of this recognition,” Cllr Laxale said.

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are held under the auspices of the Australia Day Council of NSW. Winners will be announced at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony on 26 January at the North Ryde School of Arts Hall.

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