

Northern Beaches Australia Day Awards Ceremony

25 January 2022
Glen Street Theatre



northern
beaches
council



Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands and shows its respect to the Elders past and present.

Karen Smith from the Aboriginal Heritage Office will begin the ceremony with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Welcome by the Mayor



The Northern Beaches is an extraordinary place to live, but what makes it so special is the people that call it home. We're so fortunate to have so many in our community committed to making a difference and helping others.

Our 2022 Australia Day Award recipients are incredible people who make the Northern Beaches a better place. They are humble in their achievements and never seek recognition or praise for their good work. I'm honoured today to formally acknowledge them and to say thank you.

I encourage you to read through the program and get a sense of the amazing achievements each and every award recipient has made in areas such as youth, sport and wellbeing, community services, emergency aid, and other social initiatives.

On behalf of our entire community, I would like to thank our award recipients for their amazing contribution. I feel privileged to be a part of today's awards.

I want to also thank the other nominees who have made significant contributions however missed out on recognition this year. Your contribution along with so many very deserving people who serve our community each and every day, is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to all our award winners and thank you to those who took the time to nominate and recognise our great achiever

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Michael Regan

Mayor

Northern Beaches Council

Citizen of the Year 2022

Bobby Lehane of Freshwater



Bobby started the Rock the Pool 2021 Swimathon initiative to raise mental health awareness and much needed funds for Lifeline Northern Beaches. Bobby completed 100 swims in 100 days between January and June 2021 swimming every ocean rock pool in NSW. Stretching from Yamba to Eden including those on the Northern Beaches plus several event swims along the way. Bobby covered a total of 250 kilometres of swimming or the equivalent of swimming the Bass Strait.

Rock the Pool far exceeded the original fundraising target and raised over \$100,000 for Lifeline Northern Beaches. All proceeds are being used to fund the ever-increasing demand for Lifeline services on the Northern Beaches such as the 13 11 14 crisis telephone and text lines, plus local clinical and financial counselling services. Funds from Rock the Pool have enabled Lifeline to answer 3,576 crisis calls and provide services that would otherwise not be possible.

Bobby is an advocate on the benefits of swimming for physical and mental health, encouraging as many people as possible to join him and challenge themselves. Bobby wrote a blog about his campaign and has created connection and inspired many others to join in or support the cause.

Senior Citizen of the Year 2022

Terry le Roux of Balgowlah



Terry plays a significant role in several resident/community groups on the Northern Beaches. He uses his professional experience, passion for environmental protection and dedication to his community, to represent and support residents on many issues that affect them. Terry demonstrates strong leadership by listening to individual concerns, showing compassion, professionalism, and consulting with relevant parties to become well informed and take a collaborative approach on key issues.

Some of the recent key issues Terry has addressed include the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel, Forty Baskets tidal pool remediation and rebuild, installation of a gross pollutant trap and landscaping in Jackson Street Balgowlah, remediation of North Harbour Reserve, BMX damage to the Baringa Bush Community Garden, preservation of the Clarence Street Bridge, and the Save Manly Oval Alliance.

On the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel project, Terry helped residents review the large and complex EIS by arranging a webinar to explain the impact on residents, communities and the environment of the construction and operation of the tunnel project. He worked with community groups to make submissions to the EIS, arranged resident meetings with the DPIE and undertook a Benefit Cost Assessment of the project

Young Citizen of the Year 2022

Molly Parker of Balgowlah



Molly has dedicated over 500 hours of free time towards community service in Surf Lifesaving on the Northern Beaches, giving over 100 hours each Surf Life Saving season. The past 12 months has seen Molly perform roles such as Vice Captain on Patrol at North Steyne Surf Lifesaving Club (SLSC) and become one of five female jet ski operators on the Northern Beaches. Molly was also one of the only female UAV/drone operators on the Northern Beaches and was the first female IRB/Rescue Boat Captain at North Steyne SLSC.

In addition, Molly volunteers many unrecorded hours on the after-hours call out team and working as State Duty Officer at the Surf Life Saving Support Operations Centre, where she is in charge of critical incidents and corresponds with the Westpac helicopter, liaises with NSW Police, Ambulance and Fire and Rescue, demonstrating her strong leadership and communication skills.

Molly mentors young club members and has run training courses to help build skills and pathways for young members. She is a role model for young people on the Northern Beaches and has helped to build on the volunteer community and spirit within North Steyne SLSC. Molly additionally demonstrates strong leadership and community ethics through her paid work as a Paramedic, and her leadership roles held in local sporting teams and at school in the past

Sportsperson of the Year 2022

Patrick Wood of Collaroy Plateau



Patrick was selected to play for the Sydney FC Academy at the age of 14, in its inaugural year, which is the highest level to play at in NSW. In 2020, Patrick received a scholarship to play with Sydney FC in the A-League Men in 2020, at the age of 18. Patrick now plays as a Striker for Sydney FC A-League Men. He received the Under 20's Player of the Year award in 2021, with the team being Grand Finalists. He is a proud and honoured member of the 2021 Olyroos Under 23's Australian team, that competed in the Asian Federation Cup (AFC) Qualifiers in Tajikistan. Patrick scored the goal that secured the Olyroos a spot in the AFC.

Beyond his achievements, Patrick demonstrates good sportsmanship and is a role model to young soccer players on the Northern Beaches through coaching and mentoring. In 2020 he was Assistant Coach for the U/16 1'S Collaroy Cromer Strikers Team who won the Grand Final. He also assists with grade selections for the Collaroy Cromer Strikers before the commencement of each season. He is currently registered as Assistant Coach for the U/18's Collaroy Cromer Strikers Team. Pat has also offered assistance to other teams within the Collaroy Cromer Strikers club with advice on training drills and set plays, and often addresses young players to offer inspiration and motivation..

Community Event of the Year 2022

'Northern Beaches Secret Rocks' presented by Sarah Downes



Northern Beaches Secret Rocks encourages people to paint, drop and hide rocks for other people to find during their walks. The rocks can be painted by anyone with any design, and the finder can keep them or re-hide them for others to find. The activity has minimal environmental impact, is accessible to people of all ages and abilities, and is particularly popular with children. It provides a new opportunity for people to be creative, practice mindfulness and stay physically active. The activity creates connection, a sense of community, and a reason to keep physically active, at a time when these things have been particularly important.

Sarah Downes created the Facebook group and event after finding that painting the rocks was therapeutic during lockdown and being inspired by a similar movement in North America. Sarah's story and Secret Rocks was featured on Channel Nine News and in multiple local magazines and publications. Sarah is an active administrator on the Facebook group page, finding time every day to give words of encouragement to members and thanking them for filling the group with positive messages. The positive impact on the community and the joy it brings is very clear by browsing the group posts

Outstanding Community Service Awards

Ruth Austin of Freshwater



Ruth has been volunteering in a diverse capacity for various Northern Beaches community groups for over 37 years, including Harbord Community library (formerly Harbord Literary Institute) one day per week for the past 20 years, Dee Why Lifeline Op Shop once per week for the past 27 years, and Meals on Wheels once per month for 37 years.

As a member of the Freshwater Uniting Church she is involved in the Church Mission Team and is a role model to so many, finding ways to constantly reach out to benefit the community and leading others into being of service. Since 2003 Ruth arranges the running of the local Wraps With Love organisation and the annual knit in. Knitted squares are sewn into rugs and distributed through aid agencies and charities in Australia and worldwide. Since 2006 Ruth organises, through Samaritans Purse, Operational Christmas Child, shoeboxes filled with gifts to be given to children in need, mostly overseas

Paul Cannings of Frenchs Forest



Paul volunteers for the Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW as a local swarm catcher where he has been responsible for rehoming honey bees to avoid fumigation. He also volunteered as coordinator for Permaculture Northern Beaches between 2018 and 2020 where he was responsible for setting strategic direction and coordinating the volunteer committee. In the role Paul led monthly workshops for children and adults on sustainable living including growing edible gardens, composting and beekeeping. In addition, Paul has volunteered for over four years as an animal carer for Sydney Wildlife Rescue.

Paul has also taken his passion and knowledge of the environment into his paid work, creating his own businesses where he establishes new hives, coaches beekeepers in the Northern Beaches, and builds edible gardens and native animal habitats. As a high school teacher, he also develops sustainability based educational programs on topics such as urban agriculture, bee keeping and waste management

Sandra Gillett of Dee Why



Sandra has worked for Cubby House Toy library for the past 30 years, making play and learning opportunities accessible for children with additional needs, and continuing to demonstrate an enthusiastic passion and dedication to the cause. Sandra has always donated many voluntary hours beyond her paid role, as she sources new resources and promotes the library.

When Cubby House faced closure in 2014, Sandra led the drive for it to be brought under the umbrella of EarlyEd, thus ensuring its ongoing viability. Sandra seeks funding to support the growth of the service without increasing fees, and ensures the library is operating in an environmentally sustainable way by recycling and reusing where possible

Adam Hennessey of Manly



Adam founded the North Steyne Boardriders Club in 1998 and has volunteered as President for the past 25 years. Through this role he has mentored numerous young people, with many attesting to the life altering benefits his guidance and unwavering support has given them. Adam was also a mentor, board-member and coach at Manly Cove Junior Rugby League Club for 20 years. He recognises the importance of providing a safe and confidential support network for young people experiencing emotional distress, finding ways to keep them involved and connected.

Adam was President of Northern Beaches surfing from 2000-2012 and was on the board of Surfing NSW for 10 years. Adam started an elite surfing training program through the academy of sport Narrabeen more recently and started a Covid safe surfing competition to provide an opportunity for young surfers from over 20 junior NSW clubs to continue competitions despite restrictions

David Hickey of Allambie Heights

David has generously given his time volunteering within the Northern Beaches community, having recently volunteered in customer service with Lifeline for over five years, assisting people in need through Manly Warringah Pittwater Community Aid for over six years, as well as volunteering as a Justice of the Peace for over 50 years.

David is also founder of Manly Dam War Memorial Park Remembrance Trust since 2003, and has volunteered in planning Remembrance Day and Anzac Day events and the completion of the memorial. David has long involvement in community work beyond these roles, and continuously inspires and encourages others to see the benefit of volunteering, leading the way in taking action and being hands on..

Stephen Jennison of Narrabeena



Steve is highly regarded and respected for his voluntary involvement with Warringah Archers for more than 40 years, as well as his involvement with Archery NSW and Archery Australia. He is a passionate and engaging person and he uses this to help and enable people to be the best that they can be in both the sport of archery and within themselves. Steve has used his strong leadership and communication to lead and mentor both junior and adult archers, and to run archery tournaments.

Steve has led and participated in many sporting boards and committees as well as trained archers of all skill levels, from beginners to Olympians, using tailored coaching and training sessions. Steve also officiates at club and state tournaments and helps to maintain the club grounds. Most recently, Steve gave his time over many months to youth members of the Warringah Archery Club as they trained for the Youth National archery event.

Andrew Little of Belrose



Andy has been volunteering as President of Belrose Men's Bowling Club for the past 10+ years, as well as being involved in Northern Beaches and NSW governing bodies for bowls. Andy has played an integral role in the promotion and growth of bowls across the Northern Beaches community.

Andy is a role model who encourages others to be active and involved for their wellbeing, and has played a significant role in the support and development of junior bowls. He has also contributed to the Bowls NSW Unification Program, which led to the implementation of an 'Open Gender Policy' for the sport and resulted in women being able to play championship events previously only attended by men.

Andy has played an active role on the Management Committee of Belrose Country Club. He has also been involved with Scouting Australia for the past 60 years, including in leadership roles, and has had great input into the development of many junior scouting members in the Sydney North region.

Judith Malcolm of Newport



Judith has been a long term player, official and coach for school, zone, regional and state teams in both touch football and netball. She has volunteered for 12 years coaching touch football for the NSW and Australian Touch / Targeted Sports Narrabeen Sports High and was inducted into the NSW Touch Football Association's Hall of Fame in 2008.

As a PDHPE teacher, Judith was awarded Life Membership of the Pittwater Public School Sports Association in 2021. She has led school, zone and regional teams to phenomenal success, and provided the best sporting opportunities and pathways to the children. Judith was also head coach/trainer for Bilgola Surf Life Saving Club for over 10 years, training over 400 children in the Nippers program from 1988 to 1998. Judith builds belief in children through team sport, to achieve their dreams through hard work and ethical standards. The life skills she has taught has built many leaders within the Northern Beaches community.

Mike Pawley of North Narrabeen



Mike has been founder and owner of Mike Pawley Sports since 1980, after retiring from professional cricket in the 1970s. He has since dedicated his spare time to helping others through cricket coaching clinics for kids. He has donated considerable amounts of sporting goods and provided financial assistance to local grassroots sporting associations and local schools over the past 45 years. Mike has also contributed sponsorship to representative sporting teams, clubs and associations across multiple sporting codes during this time.

In addition, Mike started the 'Happy Days Cambodian Village School' charity in 2012. He donates a proportion of his retail and special event profits to this charity that provides free education and support to hundreds of children and families who would otherwise not receive schooling, including 16 fully funded university scholarships

Frank Pikardt of Frenchs Forest



Frank has been an innovative and visionary teacher and Principal to high school students on the Northern Beaches for over 45 years. At Mackellar Girls High, as the Head of the Science Department, Frank strongly promoted chemistry and physics as subjects which were not previously taken up, adopting the school's vision that 'girls could do anything'. As Principal at Balgowlah Boys Campus and later at Freshwater Senior Campus of Northern Beaches Secondary College, Frank's ability to listen to the needs of these school communities and articulate a shared vision, led to significant enrolment growth and transformation into two of the highest performing comprehensive schools in NSW.

Frank was an early adopter of Indigenous Awareness, ensuring all staff and students had an appreciation of the Aboriginal experience in their curriculum. He developed a support program which ensured that all Aboriginal students in his schools achieved their HSC. He has also consistently involved the cultural leaders of large ethnic communities in his work with students

Katryna Robinson of Forestville



Katryna founded Every Little Bit Helps (ELBH) in 2013, a registered charity that began on the Northern Beaches and has now collected and redistributed over 70,000 personal hygiene care packs to the homeless, victims of domestic violence, asylum seekers, community centres and at risk youth across Australia. Every Little Bit Helps is a 100% volunteer-run organisation and helps thousands of people in every corner of the country.

Over the past year, Katryna has gone above and beyond to provide support to elderly neighbours and emergency workers and continues her work with ELBH by providing care packs to the hospital COVID Ward, Manly Women's Shelter and countless other local organisations and individuals. Through ELBH she has actively promoted other volunteer organisations in the area and inspires others to give their time and possessions

Jessica Twells of Elanora Heights



Jessica has volunteered as a Junior Leader with Elanora Girl Guides since she was 14 (four years), assisting with the 5-7 year old age group and mentoring other girls by passing on her knowledge, skills, and inspiring others to grasp opportunities and help others in need. Her help provides immense support for the leaders through her honest, punctual, reliable and dependable nature.

Jessica recently completed 90 hours of extra volunteering and numerous personal challenges outside of Guiding to receive her Queens Guide Award, a peak achievement in Girl Guides which has not been earned by any member of Elanora Girl Guides in over 25 years.

In 2020, Jessica undertook a course of Auslan and then shared her learnings for a whole term of Junior Guides (7-10 year olds). This culminated in a recorded performance of 'Sing a Rainbow' in Auslan and shared with the community on Youtube.

Sonam Wangmo



Sonam's commitment to the Tibetan community has never wavered over the past 24 years. She has volunteered as a community support person on the Northern Beaches since 1997. Sonam assists newly arrived Tibetans settle on the Northern Beaches, offering support and advice to help them find employment and provides guidance and encouragement to Tibetans who have survived trauma and suffering. She helps them build trust in their new country and refers them to access service providers.

Some of Sonam's most recent contributions include starting a program on healthy lifestyle and forming a soccer program for young Tibetans since 2017. She encourages the Tibetan young children's cultural dance group to take part in the World Mental Health Awareness day at Auburn Centre, showcasing cultural dance and learning from other communities who have experienced trauma. During the pandemic, Sonam assisted many Tibetans with vaccine bookings and applying for Government assistance for those who lost their jobs.

Elliot Williams of Belrose



Elliot has volunteered for St John Ambulance NSW since 1999 (over 22 years), when he joined as a junior. In a variety of roles, he has dedicated in excess of 10,000 hours of service, on top of working as a Nurse Practitioner in the Intensive Care Unit at Royal North Shore Hospital. Elliot now holds the role of Deputy Commissioner, responsible for Emergency Management, Clinical Governance, Enterprise Training, Protocol and Government Relations. Elliot is also a Clinical Fellow at UTS and a lecturer at the University of Sydney.

Over the past few years Elliot has led the State Clinical Advisory Group and provided particularly outstanding leadership during the recent bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. Elliot led his St John team to support COVID-19 testing and vaccinations on the Northern Beaches by developing policies and procedures, managing the clinical governance aspects of the deployment, and chairing an expert panel of epidemiologists and health care professionals

Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Composed by Peter Dodds McCormick



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