

ITEM 5.3	MAYORAL MINUTE NO 13/2014 - VALE - MS PATRICIA 'PAT' BOYDELL
TRIM FILE REF	2014/136849
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

BACKGROUND

It was with a great sense of shock and sadness that I learnt last Wednesday of the sudden passing of Patricia (Pat) Boydell. Pat was a truly an outstanding individual and it is fitting that tonight, we as her Council, recognise her incredible contribution to our community.

Pat will be remembered for her boundless energy, her passion and her genuine commitment to help others in need. She was an active member of the community working with a wide range of groups including the Harbord Diggers Memorial Club, the Manly Community Centre, the Lone Parents Association, the Steering Committee Carers NSW (Northern Beaches Branch) and the Curl Curl Lagoon Committee, just to name but a few. But it was her incredible dedication and tireless efforts advocating for better mental health services, particularly here on the Northern Beaches, that she will be remembered most fondly for.

She was the President and Secretary of the Northern Beaches Mental Health Support Group for well over 20 years, arranging monthly meetings, writing newsletters and running education stalls to ensure people had access to information and support to assist them in dealing with the traumatic impact of mental health issues.

Her commitment to better mental health services saw her serve on the Board of the Schizophrenia Fellowship NSW and she played an important role in the establishment and running of the wonderful Pioneer Clubhouse in Balgowlah. She raised much needed funding for local services and provided personal support to individuals in need. Pat never held back from lobbying politicians on mental health reform, taking any opportunity she could to promote this worthy cause.

I distinctly recall a moment on Australia Day 2011 when along with a number of other dedicated members of the Warringah community, Pat was named as a Outstanding Community Service Award. Recipients quietly came up to the stage one by one, collected their certificate, posed for the camera then exited stage left. But not Pat. Her name was called, she came up to the stage, asked if it was ok to say a few words, promptly took the microphone and spent 5 minutes advocating passionately for better mental health services for our community. That was Pat through and through. Never one to miss an opportunity and done so with respect to her whole audience.

I will miss seeing her at community events when she would offer her feedback and her views. I can honestly say I have learnt a great deal from her over the years, both about the important issues of mental health but also about our wonderful community here in Warringah.

Her work in mental health will not be forgotten and I hope it brings some comfort to her family to see the many wonderful letters and words of support offered up by everyone from the Premier to the individuals she spent so much time helping every day.

Pat was truly a remarkable and generous human being; she will always be remembered as an incredible advocate for the forgotten, and a greatly respected member of our community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the sad passing of Ms Patricia Boydell and that the Mayor write to Ms Boydell's family expressing the Council's condolences and gratitude for her tireless service and dedication to the community in particular in the area of Mental Health


**Michael Regan
MAYOR**