

10.3. North Sydney Community Awards 2024 Recipients

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ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2024 Community Awards panel nominations [10.3.1 - 53 pages] 2. CONFIDENTIAL - 2024 Nominations - supporting images and docs [10.3.2 - 17 pages] 3. CONFIDENTIAL - North Sydney Community Awards 2024 Recipients [10.3.3 - 7 pages]
CSP LINK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Our Social Vitality <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe 5. Our Civic Leadership <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.3 Community is engaged in what Council does

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s endorsement of the recommended winners of the North Sydney Community Awards 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- North Sydney Council conducts an annual community awards event to recognise individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions during the year to the quality of life and health of the environment in the North Sydney Local Government Area. Nominations for these awards opened 9 October 2023 and closed 12 February 2024.
- The Community Awards Selection Panel (comprising the Mayor and representatives of key departments across Council) met 20 February 2024 to select category winners. This report seeks Council endorsement of the recommended winners for 2024.
- Should the Council wish to discuss this report it is noted that the attached confidential documents include personal matters that relate to specific individuals and as such should be considered in closed session.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council resolves that the identified attachments to this report are to be treated as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the *Local Government Act* for the following reason under section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act*:

(a) *personnel matters concerning individuals (other than Councillors).*

2. THAT Council endorses the winners as recommended by the North Sydney Community Awards 2024 Panel.

Background

North Sydney Council conducts an annual community awards event to recognise individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions during the year to the quality of life, health of the environment, and spirit in the North Sydney community.

In 2020, Council launched a revitalised North Sydney Community Awards program to signify the unique character of North Sydney, acknowledge the value of all nominations submitted, and highlight the bedrock of grassroots volunteering in the North Sydney community. New categories for the awards were also introduced.

Report

Five award categories formed part of the nomination process for a contribution by an individual or community group within the last 12 months (or for more than 20 years in the Living Legend Award category). The five award categories are:

Community Builder

This person or group is the glue that makes the North Sydney community stronger, together.

Eco Warrior

This person or group has made an outstanding contribution to making North Sydney cleaner and greener.

Living Legend

This person has served the North Sydney community for more than 20 years and is an inspiration to others.

Next Generation

This young person or group of young people have made an outstanding contribution to the North Sydney community and are an inspiration to others. Nominees must be 24 years and under.

Trailblazer

This person or group of people are bold innovators, driving positive impact within the North Sydney community.

The awards nomination process was promoted extensively within the community through the following avenues to create awareness and encourage participation:

- Council's website;
- Council's social media channels including Arts & Culture;
- article in the North Sydney News with a brochure delivered to all North Sydney LGA-residents;
- Customer Service, with posters on noticeboards and flyers on the front desk;
- Community Noticeboards at Civic Park;

- Stanton Library, with posters on the noticeboard and flyers on the community notices wall;
- Community Centres with posters and flyers;
- Direct email distribution to:
 - o community organisation databases;
 - o primary and secondary schools across the North Sydney LGA; and
 - o precincts
- Community Development team's network including:
 - o Arts & Culture
 - o Access and Inclusion
 - o Youth Services
 - o Multicultural network
 - o Domestic Violence
 - o Family and Children
- Council eNewsletters:
 - o Coal Loader for Sustainability
 - o Precincts
 - o eBusiness
 - o Stanton Library
- Paid: North Shore Living: Facebook advertorials for three groups, with a link to an article.
- Paid: North Shore Mums: Featured in eNews, Facebook post, and 'What's On' listing.

Nominations

34 nominations were received and assessed, with winners selected at a Community Awards Panel meeting on 20 February 2024.

The Panel included:

- Mayor, Zoe Baker;
- Manager Community Development;
- Executive Manager Organisational Performance;
- Service Unit Manager Corporate Governance;
- Bushland Management Co-Ordinator;
- Corporate Planning and Engagement Officer; and
- Acting Arts Officer / Community Information Officer

North Sydney Community Awards 2024 Ceremony

The Mayor will present certificates to all nominees and winners at a special awards ceremony at the Independent Theatre on 19 April 2024.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

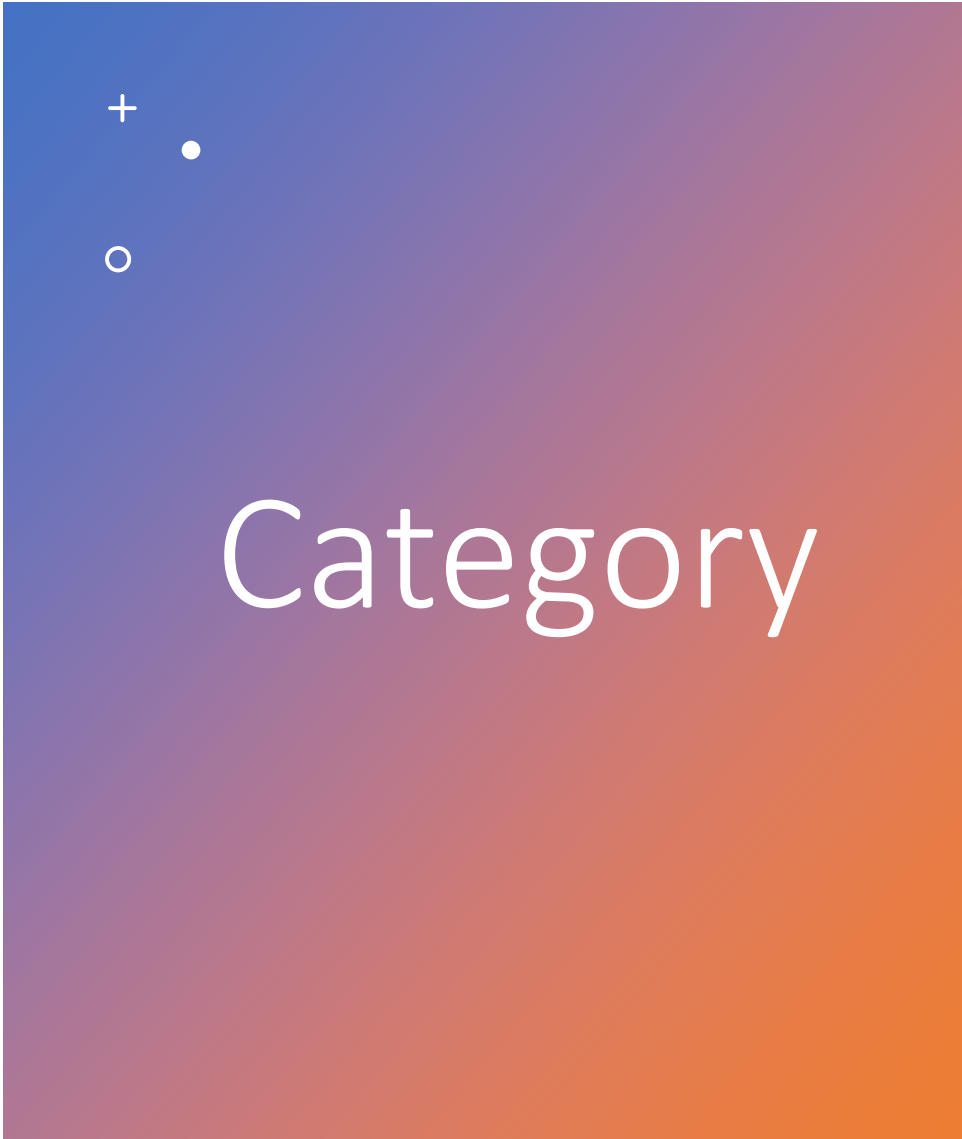
Financial/Resource Implications

This year's budget of \$10,000 for the North Sydney Community Awards includes improvement costs. The event will be delivered consistent with this budget.

2024 Community Awards

Panel





Community Builder



Category	Community Builder
Nominee	1. Jim Bradfield
Nominator	North Sydney Community Centre

Jim's impact on the North Sydney community is immeasurable. His dedication and skills as a volunteer handyman at the North Sydney Community Centre have significantly improved the lives of our residents.

Notably, his work aligns perfectly with our sustainability ethos. Jim's ingenious repairs keep items out of the landfill, making a vital contribution to environmental sustainability. Additionally, his ability to find innovative, cost-effective solutions helps us keep our expenses down while enhancing the overall functionality of the Centre. Jim's contributions have primarily been through his voluntary service.

He consistently goes above and beyond, generously dedicating his time and using his specialized skills and creative, MacGyver-like problem-solving abilities to address a wide range of maintenance and repair needs at the Centre. He thinks outside of the box to come up with repair solutions, making him not only an outstanding handyman but also a problem solving wizard.

Jim's unwavering generosity with his time has made the North Sydney Community Centre a hub for seamless community engagement. Jim Bradfield is more than just a handyman; he's a community builder who exemplifies the qualities of selflessness, dedication, and expertise.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	2. Lisa MacDonald, North Sydney Community Centre
Nominator	Max White, North Sydney Council

Lisa coordinates the Northside Produce Markets that operates on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. The Northside Produce Markets is an iconic market for North Sydney that brings together people from all walks of life, from all over Sydney.

The markets bring together a huge range of stalls that encourage sustainability, healthy eating/living and vibrancy. The Markets are an asset to North Sydney and are only possible through the passionate work from Lisa.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	3. Mary's House Volunteer Team
Nominator	Mary's House Volunteer Coordinator

Mary's House Services Limited is a not-for-profit providing domestic violence services to women and their children through Mary's House refuge, and the Daisy Centre an outreach support service. Mary's House Services is driven and funded by the community to provide best-practice services. Working in partnership and collaboration with businesses, individuals, organization's, foundations, families and communities. through in-kind donations, financial contributions, and pro-bono services. We aim to create mutually beneficial relationships and help them see the direct impact of their support when working with Mary's House. Like many non-profits, the success of Mary's House in fulfilling its mission relies significantly on the invaluable contributions of volunteers.

The Volunteer Team at Mary's House stands out as the unsung heroes of our organization, playing a pivotal role in enabling us to achieve our goals. Comprising of a dedicated, loyal, and hardworking team of women and men, the Volunteer Team generously dedicates their time to enhance the well-being of the community. Their efforts go beyond the ordinary, making a substantial impact on the lives of those we support. We simply could not accomplish what we do without the unwavering support of these remarkable individuals.1 in 4 Australian women has experienced violence, emotional abuse, or economic abuse by an intimate partner.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	3. Mary's House Volunteer Team
Nominator	Mary's House Volunteer Coordinator

The Mary's House refuge has accommodated 40+ women since established, 51% were families. Over the last 2 financial years MHS has provided 90+ women with casework management and over 200 women have been accepted into our evidence based therapeutic and wellbeing programs. Currently there are 30 active volunteers with over 1000 hours of support having been contributed through our community events & community programs and support in the office.

Events, like the annual Mary's House walk, highlights the community coming together to raise awareness and fundraising. The key to the walk's success is that it's a community event and the Volunteers came from local schools, local community and our regular dedicated volunteer team. Our goal is to enable our supporters to witness the direct impact of their generosity when collaborating with Mary's House.

By fostering these connections, we not only enhance the reach and effectiveness of our services but also create a sense of shared accomplishment and positive change within our community. Through this collaborative approach, we work towards a common vision of empowering and uplifting those in need, ensuring that every contribution translates into meaningful support for our mission.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	3. Mary's House Volunteer Team
Nominator	Mary's House Volunteer Coordinator

Our ability to deliver essential services to our clients is made possible by the unwavering support of the local community and the remarkable dedication of our Volunteer Team.

The generosity of these individuals is truly invaluable. We are grateful that the North Sydney Council acknowledges and appreciates the significance of the volunteer community. Their recognition underscores the crucial role volunteers play in strengthening our community fabric. By embracing the spirit of collaboration and volunteerism, we collectively contribute to the well-being and resilience of our community. Through their commitment, the Volunteer Team ensures that the individuals we assist not only receive practical help but also experience a sense of value and care. Their dedication is a testament to the positive change they bring to our community, making it a better place for all. This is highlighted with comments from our clients and volunteers.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	3. Mary's House Volunteer Team
Nominator	Mary's House Volunteer Coordinator

"I just wanted to pass along a big thank you to everyone in your team and all the contributors of the Christmas gifting this year - it was so amazingly generous!"

"Thanks again for all the work you do and the whole team at MH. "

"I just want to say thank you so much to the amazing staff that looked after my daughter Lara today. She had such a lovely time She didn't want to leave."

"I enjoyed the opportunity to get some winter clothes some make up and a lovely handbag really appreciated."

"What a beautiful morning we had it was so relaxed and staff were so kind and caring Thanks once again "

"I just want to say thank you for today and I feel incredibly blessed to have gotten a new wardrobe for my daughters and I. What a wonderful way to help women and girls. Thank you so much!"

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	3. Mary's House Volunteer Team
Nominator	Mary's House Volunteer Coordinator

“Please pass on my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do on our behalf. Attending The Clothes Rack this morning was such a beautiful experience, which I'd liken to receiving a great big community hug. Truly, a gesture of love.”

“Thank you so much for all the women did this for us. I really appreciate that. God bless you all the women doing the wonderful job ”

“The one thing we do all have in common is the passion to help make these women and their families feel loved and that they belong to a much wider family and community. They all have their own stories but yesterday was a morning for them to have a ‘them’ day and come away smiling and thankful for others’ generosity and positive thoughts. Some even having a morning off from the kids, which is possibly a very rare occurrence. There were so many happy and thankful faces.”

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	4. Ian Grey
Nominator	Waverton Precinct (via Chair)

Ian has been the Chair of the Precinct for 4 years and before that the Deputy Chair for 2 years. He has also been the Co Chair of the Combined Precincts Committee for the last 3 years. In these roles he has been excellent at getting the meetings to come up with agreed ideas and suggested priorities which everyone can support, while ensuring everyone feels they have been heard and their views taken into account. He has led committees and developed or facilitated strategies and initiatives which are either led by the Precinct(s) or which are led by others with strong, clear support from the Precinct (s).

He is a model of a strong community builder and good strategist who ensures there is a broad base of support and that individuals feel they have had input and that it is considered and used to prioritize and achieve good community outcomes.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	5. Brian Emmanuel, Bay Precinct,
Nominator	Peter McNair

I am nominating Brian Emmanuel who is currently the Co-Chair of the Bay Precinct. He has served on Bay Precinct for 10 years from being Treasurer, Secretary and now Co-Chair. He has given outstanding service to the community and the Bay Precinct in particular

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	6. Jackie Wong
Nominator	Hugh Goodman, North Sydney Council

I would like to nominate Jackie Wong for the 'Community Builder' Category. Jackie is the Co-ordinator for the Coal Loader Cottage Community Gardens in Waverton and does an exceptional job in providing a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for volunteers.

Over the years, Jackie has shown excellent leadership and organizational skills, creating an inclusive space for the public at large. The Coal Loader is a unique site with a range of stakeholders and regular events, making navigating and accommodating for such things quite challenging.

Jackie shows unwavering commitment, is always professional and has proven to be an integral part in creating a welcoming space for both visitors and regular volunteers.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	7. Fiona Gracie, Cremorne Conservation Group
Nominator	5 x Nominations 1. Brightmore Precinct 2. Barbara Dutton 3. Lesley Sommerville. 4. Harrison Precinct 5. Jane Allen

At Brightmore Precinct's meeting on 13 December 2023, the following Motion was passed unanimously by the 23 attendees:

That Brightmore Precinct nominate Fiona Gracie in the Category "Community Builder" for her work establishing the Cremorne Conservation Group and her pivotal and ceaseless role in attempting to preserve the houses and character of Parraween Street, and to gain State Heritage listing for the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace.

As founder of the Cremorne Conservation Group, Fiona has engaged with the local community, which has enthusiastically come on board and taken up causes such as local heritage listings for 15 Allister Street, Cremorne, and the Holt Avenue Group of Federation houses. Fiona identified that the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace was only on the North Sydney local heritage register, and instigated the long process to gain State Heritage listing. T

Through the establishment and work of the Cremorne Conservation Group, Fiona has inspired the community to not only recognise the historical, architectural and cultural significance of our local area, but join her in trying to protect and preserve it for future generations to appreciate.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	8. Greenway Tenants Group Inc
Nominator	Bryce Gunn

The volunteers at Greenway many of them have worked as Volunteers for the last 12- 15 years. These are an exceptional group of residents who give up so much of their time to help the less fortunate residents of Greenway.

We have approximately 350 residents at Greenway, The activities that are worked by this special group of people includes, working on OzHarvest, providing close to 200 bags a week of food. This food is supplied by OzHarvest, working in the gardens, providing full office facilities in our Community Centre, providing transport in our 2 vehicles to the Hospitals Medical Centre's.

We also have Shopping and Day trips to the country. We also have a fully equipped Men's Shed staffed with volunteers. The Volunteers are great at multi tasking and appear in more than one capacity. This merry band of workers worked throughout the covid Pandemic so that the Elderly residents of Greenway felt that things were going on as usual. Without this incredible input of 1,000ss of hours they would have had a much harder time to contend with.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	9. Bobby Babin, St John's Community Garden Yeo St, Neutral Bay
Nominator	Audrey Bradshaw

Part 1: A brief history The Neutral Bay Uniting Community Garden was founded in 2012, when a group of volunteers led by Bobby Babin decided to turn the vacant land around the church into a lush, sustainable garden for the neighborhood to enjoy. Since then, over 350 people have participated in our working bees and workshops, and we've also benefited from the support of local groups, such as the Mosman's Men's Shed, the North Shore Bombers and North Sydney Council. At night the garden is illuminated with eco-friendly LED lights, by day the community can wander through and enjoy its ever-changing landscape of greenery, colour and fragrance. The garden hosts a street library which Bobby had painted by a talented friend of his, and free wi-fi allows visitors to sit in the garden and connect with friends elsewhere.

The garden has won several awards, such as the Best Children's Garden, the Sustainability Champion Award, and the Runner Up as North Sydney's Edible Garden Award. These awards acknowledged the garden's excellence in design, innovation, education, and community engagement. The many volunteers, both past and present, feel it is now time for Bobby to be recognized for his outstanding contribution to the community in establishing this community garden.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	9. Bobby Babin, St John's Community Garden Yeo St, Neutral Bay
Nominator	Audrey Bradshaw

Part 2: In 2023, the garden celebrated its 11th anniversary and continued to thrive. Like many organization's, COVID had an impact on volunteers however during the year the number of people committing to the monthly working bee has grown thanks to Bobby's unwavering determination and enthusiasm.

Everyone who participates is made to feel welcome by Bobby – he promotes and celebrates diversity and inclusion. Under Bobby's leadership, the working group made safe the bird bath, which has been repurposed as a succulent garden, thanks to a donation of concrete from some friendly local builders; we dug up the uneven paved pathway to St John's Child Care Centre and replaced it with an even, softer route in and out; we laid paving stones to enable easy access to the worm farm; we spread compost from the community bin around the garden and distributed mulch to protect the garden from weeds and retain moisture; we tended the citrus grove and planted new herbs in the circular garden.

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A typical working bee involves trimming back the garden, weeding and watering and catching up with each other’s news; we share the cuttings of fragrant rosemary and lemon verbena with happy passers-by then we head to a local café and enjoy a well earned coffee and bite to eat, and this gives the group the opportunity to chat further and get to know each other better. One of the highlights of the year was the “Flowers with Love” campaign in November 2023, where Bobby invited the community to donate plants and cuttings to the garden, especially unusual ones, to celebrate the diversity and inclusiveness of the community. The campaign attracted over 35 donations from the public and resulted in a colourful and vibrant display of flowers and foliage in the garden.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	9. Bobby Babin, St John's Community Garden Yeo St, Neutral Bay
Nominator	Audrey Bradshaw

Part 3: Why Bobby should be nominated for a community award As founder and leader of the Neutral Bay Uniting Community Garden, Bobby has shown dedication, passion, and innovation in creating and maintaining the garden. He has inspired and engaged hundreds of people to join the garden and to adopt sustainable practices in their own lives. He has also collaborated with various partners and stakeholders to ensure the success and longevity of the garden. He has made a positive impact on the environment, benefitting the community and the well-being of the many people who enjoy the peace and tranquility of the garden. He is a role model and a champion for community gardening as well as being a gentle soul who radiates joy and warmth to everyone he meets.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	10. Davie Macdonald
Nominator	2 x nominations received 1. Amanda Smith 2. Peter Nuttall

Davie is a stalwart of the community. He runs our precinct group and works tirelessly for our precinct and the wider community. He's caring and always available to discuss issues impacting our community. The world is a better place with people like Davie who give selflessly.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	11. Walker St Doctors
Nominator	2 x nominations received 1. Nerida McDonald 2. Trailblazer, Jean Shaw

Walker Street Doctors North Sydney has made an outstanding contribution to the North Sydney Community in the Specialised field of Primary Health Care. This contribution and excellence was recently celebrated in October 2023 by awarding Walker Street Doctors RACGP NSW&ACT Practice of the Year 2023. Walker Street Doctors has recently moved to new premises at Shop 4, 60-80 Walker St, North Sydney into larger State of the Art premises with the aims of patient empowerment and self efficacy in their health Management.

They have reduced their environmental footprint by drastically cutting down on paper and toner and as a consequence has also reduced indoor air pollutants from ink. Print to PDF is the default. They have invested heavily in a brand new Panasonic air conditioning and filtration system and monitor the air quality in the practice with CO2 Monitors. They also have vornado circulation fans and portable air purifiers in order to protect staff and vulnerable patients from circulating viruses. They invested early and heavily in infrastructure to optimize telehealth consultations which remain a large part of core business, but also in improved data capacity, a cloud based server and dedicated laptops for doctors to use at home.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	11. Walker St Doctors
Nominator	2 x nominations received 1. Nerida McDonald 2. Trailblazer, Jean Shaw

WSD is committed to taking care of vulnerable doctors and staff, has inclusive hiring practices and has the commitment to modify equipment and conditions for staff as required. The owner, practice manager and clinical operations manager undertake regular coaching through Project X to ensure the continued financial sustainability of the practice. They have invested in equipment such as biometric scales to optimize the health and well being of their patients. They use MailChimp, their website and social media in order to update patients.

There is now pathology onsite in the form of 4Cyte Pathology. There are sit stand desks, height adjustable beds and jabra head sets for occupational health and safety. Additionally, there is a green wall/ room for staff to decompress. They are the only medium sized practice still standing who have not been taken over and absorbed by Corporate Medicine. The large beautifully designed waiting area was not designed to wait, but for evening lectures/ group consultations starting in March on a rotating roster. WSD doctors are committed to lifelong learning with one doctor achieving her Fellowship in Lifestyle medicine recently and another, her Masters in Reproductive Medicine in addition to the plethora of other qualifications being achieved by other doctors to stay at the cutting edge. The treatment room is future focused with the opportunity for nurse led care and the practice will be taking on allied health in the form of psychologist and dietician in the near future in order to broaden care for the North Sydney Community. Walker Street Doctors is a shining example of giving back to the community by providing the highest quality of primary health care in NSW &ACT.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	12. Samir Somaiya
Nominator	Communications Team, North Sydney Council

Samir helps bring the community together by posting to all the local community groups on Facebook to the share updates, initiatives and upcoming events from Council. Samir makes the messaging go that little bit further in the community to residents and locals.

These groups include Crows Nest St Leonard's Community, Milsons Point Community, McMahons Point Community Group, Cremorne Neutral Bay Community, Kirribilli Connections. He is the admin for Crows Nest St Leonard's Facebook group.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	13. Coal Loader Heritage Tour Guides
Nominator	Leonie Netting, North Sydney Council

The Coal Loader Heritage Tour Guide team is made up of five amazing volunteers who give up their time to lead tours of the Coal Loader: Jill Howes, Susan Barisic, Sunil Loadhia, Linda Foulsham and Jill Charters. They are on a roster to guide bi-monthly tours on a Saturday for people to come down and enjoy a free guided tour of the site, immersing themselves in the history, culture and amazing adaptive re-use journey of this stunning harborside location.

The tour guide team also run free private tours during the week for every kind of group imaginable: history lovers, active seniors, gardening groups, probus clubs, nursing home citizens, 'old time' miner groups. They are fully accessible tours and the all-ability; the guides do a superb job in adapting their tour to cater for groups of every ability, interest and age.

During the course of the year, the guides take an approximately 600 plus people through the Coal Loader site, averaging almost hundred volunteer hours. The tours provide a place and purpose for people to come together and enjoy a great day out at one of Sydney's most spectacular harbourside locations.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	13. Coal Loader Heritage Tour Guides
Nominator	Leonie Netting, North Sydney Council

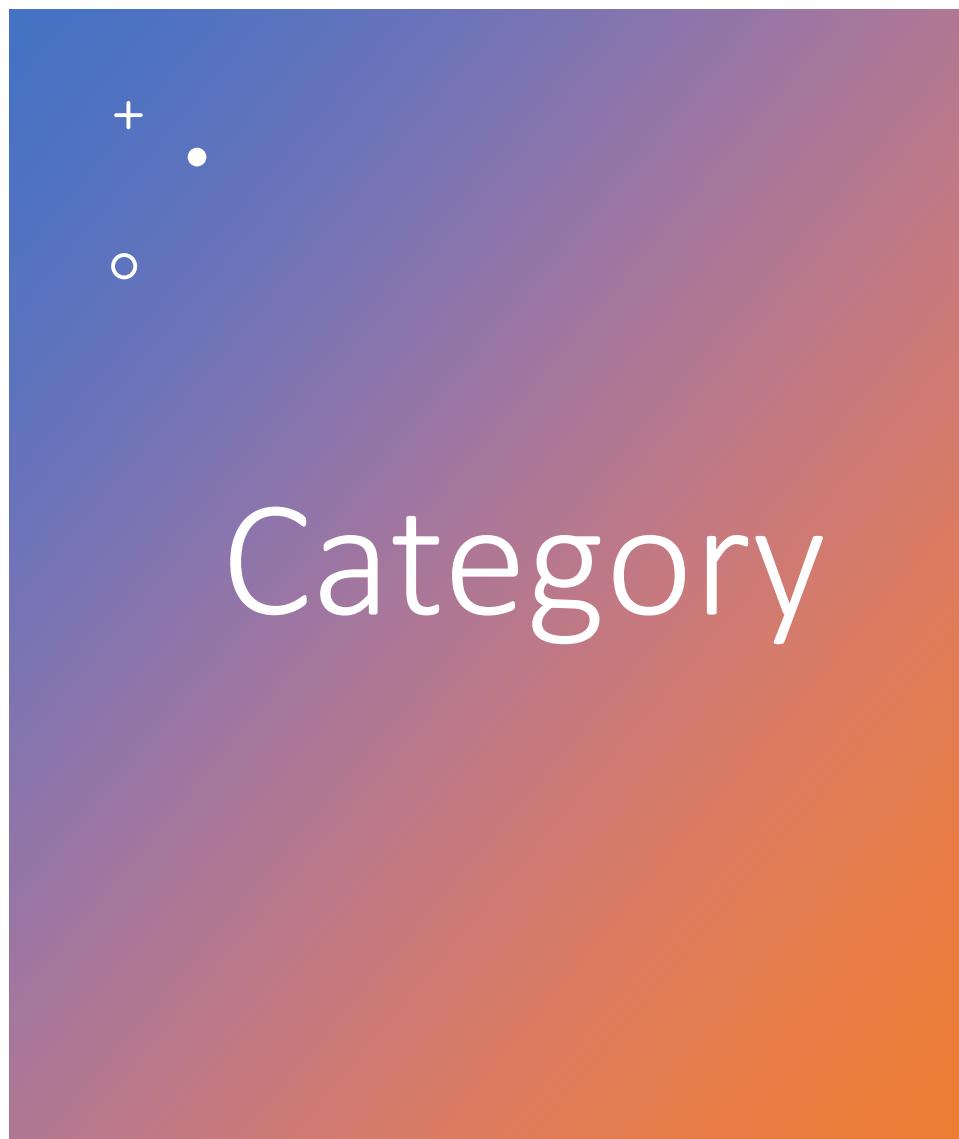
They almost always tee it up with a lunch or morning tea and enjoy a historical video presentation in the Genia McCaffery Centre for Sustainability as well. For many groups this outing is a real highlight, reminiscing about days gone by and enjoying the grace and good humour of our lovely guides, telling the story of the Coal Loader with passion and fun.

The group have been undertaking these tours since shortly after the site opened, around ten years now. They also participate in Coal Loader events, sometimes guiding tours or even speaking - Susan for example gave a warm and funny first hand account of her days as a child growing up at the Coal Loader (her father worked her during operational times) at heritage event last year.

They are warm and engaging individuals who give up their time to create amazing experiences for people, providing education, entertainment and most of all - social connectiveness. Staff could not possibly run these tours; we are simply not resourced to do so. But this incredible volunteer team mean we can offer this tour program. Feedback via our customer survey is always excellent and indeed it's not uncommon for groups to rebook the following year requesting the same tour guide. Coal Loader staff are exceptionally grateful for their service to North Sydney Council and our community.

Category	Community Builder
Nominee	14. Crows Nest Mainstreet
Nominator	Ian Devlin

Each year I see the directors of Crows Nest Mainstreet working tirelessly to pull off the best festival of the lower north shore and I believe their work should be acknowledged and applauded..



Eco Warrior



Category	Eco Warrior
Nominee	1. Michael Stevens
Nominator	Mary Curran

Michael is the founder of harbourcare and is passionate about keeping our harbour waters clean and clear of rubbish and pollution. He regularly cleans the small tidal beach at Waverton Park and promotes his ideas to members of harbourcare. His diligence in reporting unnecessary pollution and ideas to prevent pollution are exemplary.

Category	Eco Warrior
Nominee	2. Sasha Titchkosky
Nominator	Daniella Mac Dowell de Bastos Martins

Sasha Titchkosky is the co-founder and CEO of Koskela, a North Sydney local business which is part of Council's Better Business Partnership Program and won a BBP Award this year.

Koskela is one of Australia's most innovative and well-respected furniture and homewares designer. Sasha has been invited to be a guest speaker at the Purpose Conference. Sasha just launched Koskela's Circularity Action Plan, committing to become a fully circular business by 2027.

She also runs free workshops to teach small business on how to use the SME Climate Hub Carbon Calculator, to reduce their environmental impact and carbon emission. I think of her as a local environmental champion.

Category	Eco Warrior
Nominee	3. Vera Yee
Nominator	2 x Nominations 1. Ian Grey, Waverton Precint 2. Hugh Goodman, North Sydney Council

Vera Yee has led the Gardens Alive group in Waverton for the last decade. As well as leading the physical work each week, Vera has been the key link to Council on what to plant, how to ensure the 'look' is made more native and integrated, how to properly maintain the plants with minimal watering and trimming required. She is always looking for new opportunities to further 'green' the suburb in a sustainable manner. She is a proven 'Eco Warrior'.

Category	Eco Warrior
Nominee	4. CandleXchange
Nominator	Eleni Pappas

The Candlexchange UpCandle Program has undeniably had a profound positive impact on the local community. By collecting over 1500 used candle containers (many from visitors to the Coal Loader Sustainability Centre markets), the program has successfully diverted a significant amount of waste from landfills, contributing to the reduction of environmental impact in the region.

The cleaned and refilled containers, which would have otherwise become waste, have been repurposed and donated to various charities. This thoughtful approach not only minimises the community's ecological footprint but also serves a dual purpose by supporting those in need.

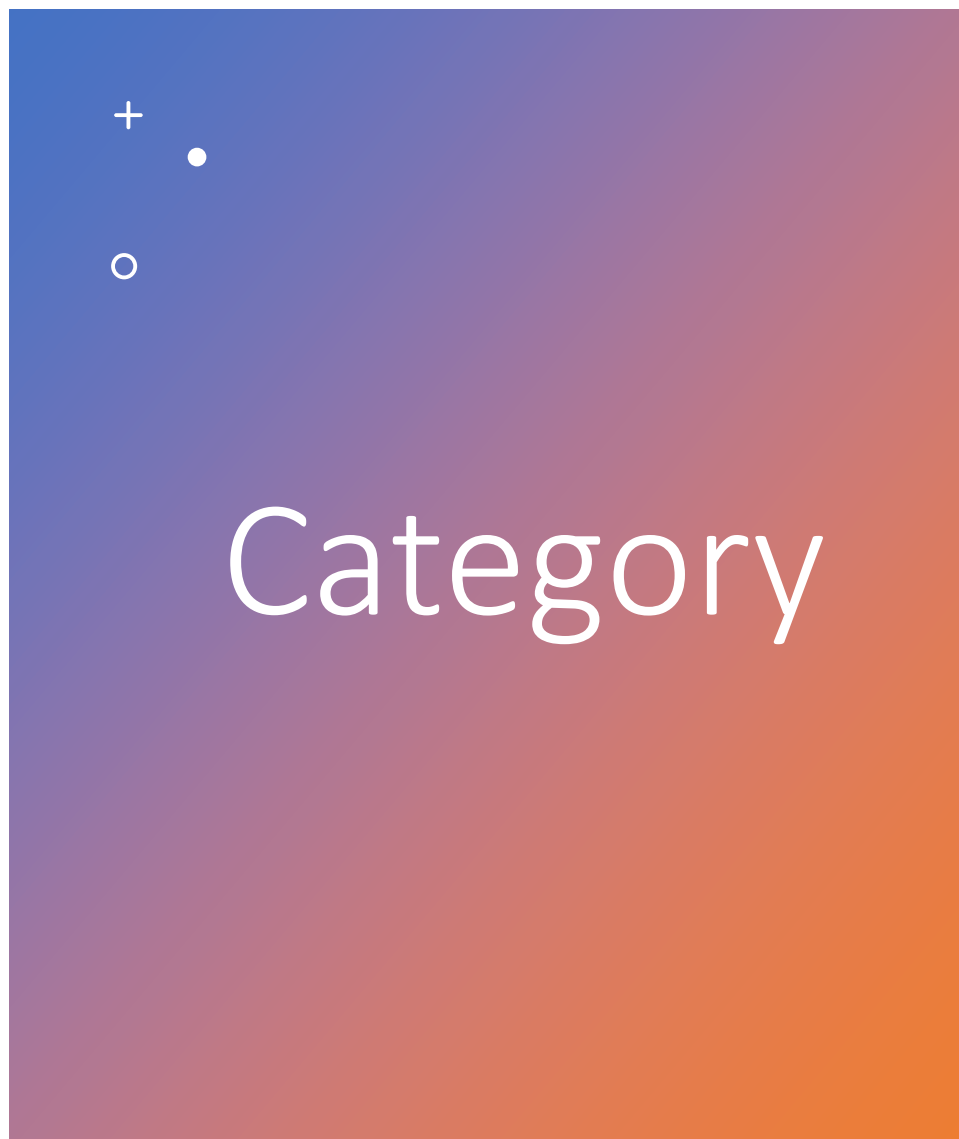
The repurposed candle containers, donated to charities assisting survivors of domestic violence and individuals transitioning into social housing, have brought both environmental and social benefits to the local area. The program's impact extends beyond waste reduction, fostering a sense of community and compassion. To read more about their program - https://candlexchange.com.au/pages/about__upcycle-for-good

Category	Eco Warrior
Nominee	5. Christopher Niall
Nominator	Ben Niall

Chris always gives whole heartedly to Wendy's Secret Garden. From hosting tours to doing the hard yards, he is always happy to help even at the ripe old age of 75! Nothing is to big or to small for him to tackle when it comes to Wendy's Garden and he should be recognised for all his hard work volunteering.

Category	Eco Warrior
Nominee	6. Restore Project
Nominator	Claire Riley

By starting a milk delivery service, Restore is tackling the issue of plastic in our community and restoring a vital service for our neighborhood which brings people together and helps us all feel a little bit nostalgic. Not only that but the milk is delicious, sourced from a NSW farm so you know you're supporting farmers too! They're launching yoghurt and I think the sky is limit for Restore in our community.



Next Generation



Category	Next Generation
Nominee	1. Redlands Senior Students
Nominator	Bougainvillea Retirement Village

These young people - THE NEXT GENERATION - visit Bougainvillea (with a teacher) every Thursday (rain or shine) to meet and assist residents with any of the following (and more): Help out with Technology. Help with Writing Memoirs. Have a chat and be friendly company. Play board games or cards. Help with any organisation the resident might need. Read to a resident. More importantly they bring with them a genuine sense of caring and friendship.

Category	Next Generation
Nominee	2. Ishnika Lokuge
Nominator	Andrew Scott, North Sydney Council

Ishnika Lokuge has contributed to the North Sydney community by helping to maintain our bushland reserves, refuges for endemic fauna and fauna, through her participation with Council's Bushcare program.

Our records show, Ishnika Lokuge has attended nine Bushcare sessions with three groups, Badangi Reserve, Smoothery Park and Forsyth Park where she has contributed 16 hours of voluntary service.

Although a recent volunteer, her monthly attendance has been consistent to date. Dhanusha Perera, Ishanika's mother said.

"She has always had a passionate interest in the environment and the nature around her. During Covid lockdown she explored the surrounding bushland with our family and found such pleasure in nature. Thereafter when her school Wenona North Sydney resumed, the Duke of Edinburg Bronze Award was on offer, and she decided to take up Bushcare as part of her community service experience also encouraged by her grandfather, Tissa De Silva, who was for a short time, a Bushcare volunteer for Harry Howard and Badangi Reserve Bushcare Groups'

Category	Next Generation
Nominee	2. Ishnika Lokuge
Nominator	Andrew Scott, North Sydney Council

Ishnika also came to know that bush regeneration was developed on the Lower North Shore of Sydney by the Bradley Sisters, Joan Bradley happened to be a fellow Wenonian. She began to enjoy it very much and was so inspired by the commitment and knowledge of the senior members of her Bushcare groups. Although she is no longer participating in the Duke of Ed Award, she wishes to continue with Bushcare and has encouraged her younger sister to join her.

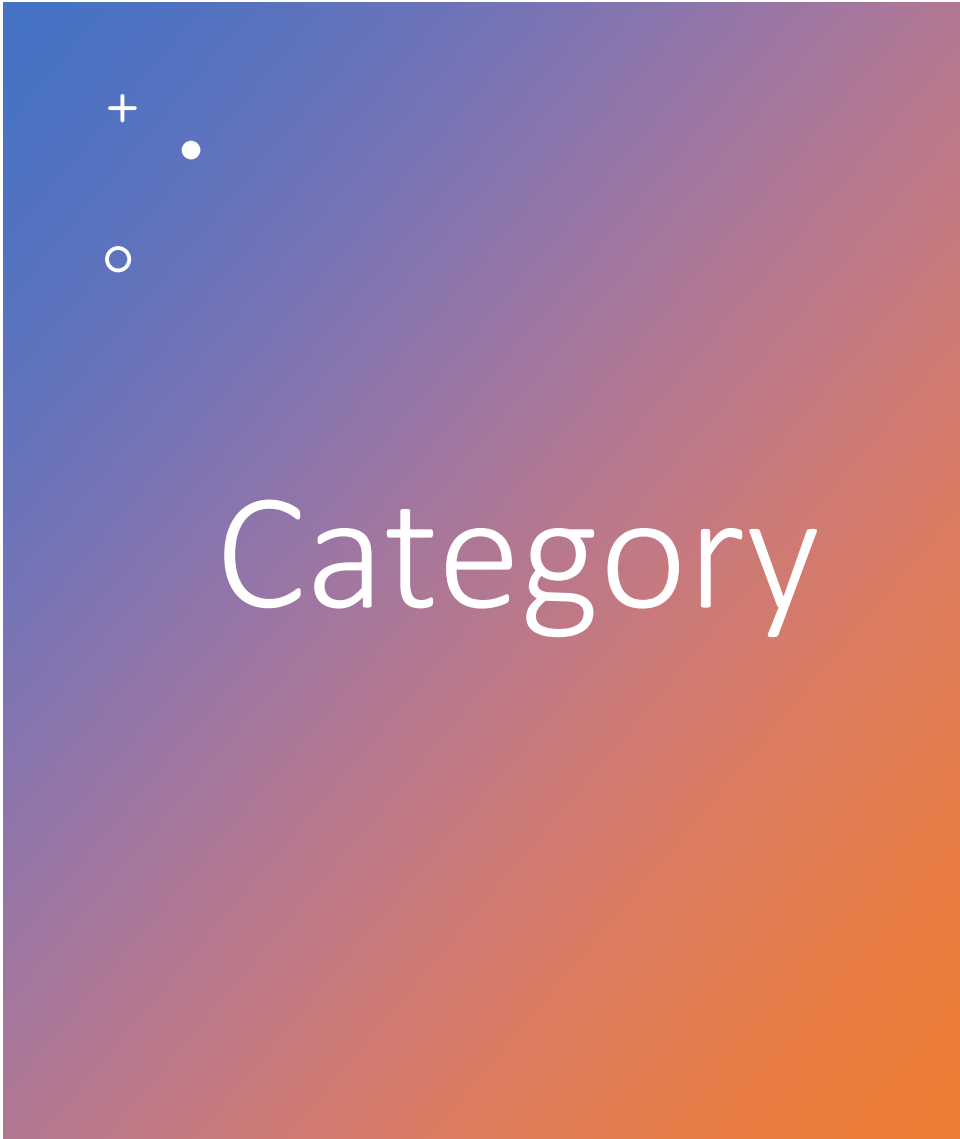
One other thing that may be relevant in this regard is that Ishnika has carried through her passion for the environment to the school as she is the Co-Captain of the Wenona Environment Club." The Bushland Team is very happy to have Ishnika's support, she is the only young person volunteering with Bushcare at present to the best of my knowledge.

Category	Next Generation
Nominee	3. Ted Greenway
Nominator	Communications Team, North Sydney Council

Ted is an 11-year-old boy living in Cammeray who is extremely passionate about his local environment. When the Western Harbour Tunnel began development, Ted was particularly concerned about where wildlife would live as many trees were cleared, Ted even spoke about his concern at one of the community rallies opposing the project.

Ted approached Council about what else could be done to help home local wildlife, which led to him being involved with our Bushcare and Streets Alive team. Due to Ted's initiative, six nest boxes were installed in the trees along Warringa Road near Cammeray Park. Since positioned, the boxes are regularly inhabited. Additionally, with the aid of Council's Streets Alive program Ted has created a street garden on the public land outside his home. Street gardens create corridors that allow native wildlife to cross through.

Ted works hard in his own garden and has built a frog pond that has created a thriving habitat for local frogs and purchased a beehive for native stingless bees. He also consulted with Council's Native Havens program to recommend the best native plants to encourage wildlife to return to the area. We would love to see Ted considered for this award as he really brings joy for the next generation. We think he is so fantastic that we have made him the cover story for the Autumn addition of North Sydney News. For more information on Ted's work, contact the Communications team.



Trailblazer



Category	Trailblazer
Nominee	1. Walker St Doctors
Nominator	2 x Nominations Community Builder, Nerida McDonald 2. Trailblaze Jean Shaw

I strongly believe that effective medical care commences with skilled General Practitioners. As a retired nurse with 50 years experience working in many areas of health care I believe that the practice I now attend as a patient rates in the diamond category . All Female doctors , all members of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners which means up to date quality care. Care starts from arrival-- a smile from reception staff.

They even answer the phone with a smile. Patients are never hurried- Appointments are 20 minutes but patients can make a longer time if required. Walker Street .Doctors is not an Express service - There is a genuine warmth extended to the patient -everyone is treated with care ,compassion, sensitivity. and dignity.

Category	Trailblazer
Nominee	2. Aiden Barclay
Nominator	Michelle Vanzella

Aden has spent an inordinate amount of time over the past two years to rectify & revive the alley ways, carparks, walkways and environment around Cheal Ln & Yeo St, between Watson St & Wycombe Rd. These areas were full of graffiti, trash and collapsed structures and were inhabited by dangerous youths & drug users. Utilising all his building skills and knowledge Aden worked with local residents to offer his services (paid & a lot volunteered) to fix, paint, build, secure, light and clean this large area.

He connected with council workers & cleaners to assist where possible. I live alone with two young teenagers and have gone from feeling frightened to secure and the area has gone from 'run down trashy' to 'fresh & revitalised'. Aden is admired by all our neighbours & deserves recognition - as well as being able to be a 'role model' for others that might want to do the same in their areas.

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Nominee	2. Aiden Barclay
Nominator	Michelle Vanzella

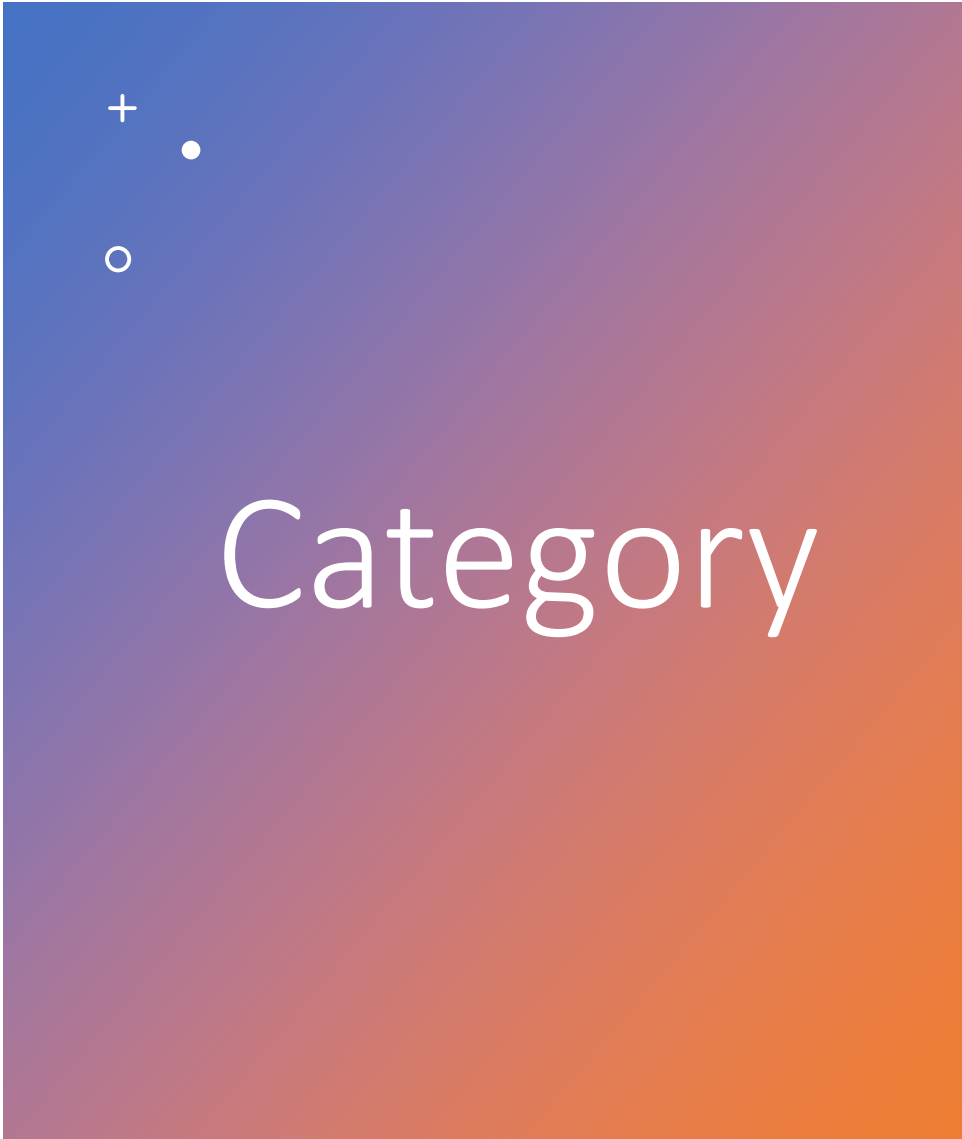
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Category	Trailblazer
Nominee	3. Bruce Macdonald
Nominator	Ian Grey, Waverton Precinct

Bruce has a decades long close and strong involvement in virtually every major campaign that has affected the Waverton area. He is a passionate and vigorous advocate for change and improvement - and where he has the knowledge or skillset, he is happy to 'run from the front' on an issue. He does not expect others to do all the work.

Most recently, Bruce (as head of the registered Community Action group) personally researched, finessed and then articulated the legal case against Noakes' attempt to locate a working floating dry dock in Berrys Bay ... but Bruce has decades of community activist work (and successful results) behind him on all sorts of community issues and campaigns in the Waverton area. Waverton Precinct has formally moved that he be nominated for this Award.



Living Legend



Category	Living Legend
Nominee	1. Alex Wilson, President North Sydney RSL Sub Branch
Nominator	Chris Greatrex

Alex Wilson has served the North Sydney community for more than 20 years and is an inspiration to others through his Presidency of the North Sydney RSL Sub Branch. Every year, he has ensured there's an ANZAC Day Dawn Service for the 3000-4000 members of the North Sydney community to gather and remember the fallen, and Remembrance Day for 300-600 North Sydney locals, school students and community groups to attend.

In addition to this, there's the fundraising each year to fund the variety of Veterans activities and advocacy, and smaller, lesser known activities such as calling on home bound Veterans, and attending the Funeral Services for those in North Sydney who have served their nation. Each time taking a wreath and speaking of their Service.

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Category	Living Legend
Nominee	2. Elizabeth Fountain
Nominator	Kelly Mitchell, Stanton Library

Elizabeth Fountain has served the North Sydney community for more than 20 years as a volunteer at Sexton's Cottage Museum. Stanton Library would like to acknowledge and celebrate her outstanding contribution as an inspirational role model for others. Elizabeth migrated from England 50 years ago, in 1974, and has lived in McMahons Point ever since. She commuted - by bicycle! - to Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick where she worked as a medical social worker.

In 2003, following her retirement, she began volunteering at Don Bank Museum, North Sydney's oldest wooden house and first local history museum. She soon took up duties as a guide at Sexton's Cottage and has since developed a real love for that special place. As a long-term resident, Elizabeth has a genuine passion for North Sydney's history and has witnessed many changes first hand.

Category	Living Legend
Nominee	2. Elizabeth Fountain
Nominator	Kelly Mitchell, Stanton Library

She developed her historical knowledge by studying a History course with the U3A and joining the North Shore Historical Society, of which she is still an active member. Elizabeth is particularly interested in oral history and her experience as a social worker has been ideal preparation for sharing stories with older people in the community. She strives to provide museum visitors with the best possible experience by thoroughly researching the biographical histories of those buried at St Thomas', the oldest European burial ground on the north shore, and her guided tours are always informative and entertaining. Elizabeth has also regularly shared her knowledge and expertise with new volunteers, who appreciate her friendly and helpful manner.

For Stanton Library's Historical Services staff, she is a highly valued member of the team, always willing to fill in an extra shift when she can and brightening the day with her thoughtful, and often whimsical, daily logbook reports. It is obvious that Sexton's Cottage has become Elizabeth's second home and we hope that it may be so for many more years to come.

Category	Living Legend
Nominee	3. Sissi Stewart
Nominator	Bushland team, North Sydney Council

Sissi has been a participant in Council’s Building Bridges to Boorowa environmental partnership program from 2001 up to the present day, alongside her late husband Ken Stewart until 2018 when he passed away. Building Bridges to Boorowa (BBB) is an annual planting program held in the rural township of Boorowa, 5hrs southwest of Sydney, a partnership between North Sydney Council Bushcare, Boorowa Community Landcare Group (BCLG) and Hill Tops Council.

BB2B will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, it was the recipient of the Government Partnerships Award for the NSW Landcare Awards in 2015 and winner of the Biodiversity Conservation Award for the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainability Cities Award in 2023.

Category	Living Legend
Nominee	3. Sissi Stewart
Nominator	Bushland team, North Sydney Council

Sissi Stewart, along with many other BB2B volunteers have planted more than 65,000 native trees, shrubs, and grasses on Boorowa Community Landcare Group properties since the project began in 2000 to help address nationally significant land degradation issues including salinity and soil erosion and to help create wildlife corridors and habit for biodiversity conservation, including for the regionally iconic and NSW-listed threatened species, the Superb Parrot. Over the past 20+ years, Sissi has contributed several hundred hours of voluntary service towards this endeavor, as well as being an ambassador for the project and guiding hand for new participants.

Sissi Stewart is one of a small core group of volunteers that have enabled this unique urban/rural Landcare partnership to persist over time, with the success of each year's planting building on the next and providing a lasting benefit for our environment and communities.

Sissi has always been a keen promoter of the BB2B project and has formed enduring relationships with Boorowa farmers and other Bushcare volunteers, as was recorded in an interview for the Special Anniversary Edition of the North Sydney Council Bushcare Newsletter in 2014 (page 4). Whilst some other volunteers have also been involved in BB2B for a lengthy period, Sissi has (by some margin) had the longest association with the project and has participated in more than twenty tree planting weekends over the past 25 years.

Category	Living Legend
Nominee	4. Mark Shalovsky
Nominator	Alison O'Neil, Link Housing

Previously, practised law as a solicitor in general practice for many years and, for the last 14 years since 2010, has freely dedicated his legal skills to the community in the North Sydney LGA . Initially, this was for Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre and, more recently, it has been for Link Wentworth Housing.

Work with Kirribilli: The main projects were

- Providing legal advice on tenancy issues to those facing eviction or rental insecurity.
- Giving advice on legal, administrative and insurance issues relating to the operation of the Carers' Program at Bradfield Park under a grant from the federal government.
- Drafting detailed Regulations for the operation of the Kirribilli Markets. These were drafted to resolve many legal, commercial, dispute resolution, administrative, safety and insurance issues.
- Giving advice on the type of incorporation of Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre and applying for registration as a charity. NSC Assisting with tenancy advice to boarders impacted by the closure of Boarding house closures.
- Advice on rent assistance from the state housing department, in public housing or private market
- Mark was able to help a boarder, who was suffering from severe illness and needed an organ transplant, with employment law advice when he was able to return to doing some casual work.

Category	Living Legend
Nominee	4. Mark Shalovsky
Nominator	Alison O'Neil, Link Housing

Work with North Sydney Council: The main projects were

- NSC Assisting with tenancy advice to boarders impacted by the closure of Boarding house closures.
- Advice on rent assistance from the state housing department, in public housing or private market
- Mark was able to help a boarder, who was suffering from severe illness and needed an organ transplant, with employment law advice when he was able to return to doing some casual work.

Category	Living Legend
Nominee	4. Mark Shalovsky
Nominator	Alison O'Neil, Link Housing

Work with Link Wentworth: The main projects where;

- For over 5 years since 2018, Mark has sought to help others through being very active in volunteer work with Link Wentworth.
- Mark has written several articles for Community Connect , the quarterly tenant newsletter,
- Writing articles in Community Connect advising tenants about the scholarship program that Link Wentworth offers to its tenants each year. to encourage tenants to plan for their futures with some assistance from one of these scholarships.
- Writing a continuing series of articles in Community Connect to provide tenants with much useful financial information.

Category	Living Legend
Nominee	4. Mark Shalovsky
Nominator	Alison O'Neil, Link Housing

Work with Link Wentworth: The main projects where;

- Information on small microfinance loans that can be obtained from Good Shepherd Microfinance. These loans are available without application fees, interest or penalties and no security is required. Good Shepherd is often also able to use its purchasing power to obtain significant discounts on purchases like televisions, computers, furniture, whitegoods, bedding, cookware and other household items. These loans can also be obtained for education and medical expenses.
- Simplifying the complex system of rebates and concessions that are available from the NSW state government and the federal government to assist very low to low income earners with their electricity, gas and water accounts.
- Simplifying the confusing system of online information that is available to help people track down whether they are entitled to payments from 'lost money' accounts.
- A guide to the range of small loans that tenants, who are entitled to some form of social security, can apply to Centrelink for.