Awards Program

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE SYDNEY
DARLING HARBOUR

8 MARCH 2017
Order of proceedings

Welcome
Gretel Killeen, Master of Ceremonies

Welcome to Country
Ann Weldon

Opening remarks
The Hon. Tanya Davies, Minister for Women

Platinum sponsor’s address
Mary Murphy, Chief Digital Officer, First State Super

Award presentations
Community Hero Award
Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year Award
Harvey Norman Young Woman of the Year Award
NSW Business Woman of the Year Award
Local Women acknowledged and celebrated
NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year
Presented by the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

NSW Premier’s Award for Woman of the Year
Presented by the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, NSW Premier

Official Proceedings Close
Hot breakfast will be served during the Award Presentations
Opportunity for official photographs and networking
The 2017 NSW Women of the Year Awards provide an opportunity for us to recognise and thank the many remarkable women of NSW who make outstanding contributions in every area of society.

There were a record number of nominations this year for the Local Woman of the Year category, and the state-wide award categories. Without exception, all of the nominees’ achievements are truly inspiring. Their contributions have helped change lives in communities and across the State. Their inspirational stories of dedication and extraordinary achievement are formally recognised and celebrated through these Awards.

The NSW Government is proud to recognise and celebrate the accomplishments of so many extraordinary women through the NSW Woman of the Year Awards.

I congratulate all the nominees, finalists and winners of the 2017 NSW Women of the Year Awards. They are wonderful role models for the next generation and their stories can inspire us all to make a positive difference.

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
PREMIER OF NSW
I am proud to host the sixth annual NSW Women of the Year Awards and to celebrate the outstanding contributions made by women across the State.

The Awards recognise women who make significant contributions in their community, those who have demonstrated excellence in their career and the exemplary young women who are changing our social and business landscape.

This year we also celebrate the inaugural NSW Business Woman of the Year Award, acknowledging women whose outstanding leadership inspires other women to succeed.

The diversity of achievements reflected in today’s Awards is remarkable - and yet each and every nominee is helping change lives through her passion and commitment.

I know you will join me in congratulating and thanking all these remarkable women for their dedication and contribution to NSW.

The Hon. Tanya Davies MP
NSW MINISTER FOR WOMEN
Message from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Last year I was fortunate to attend the Women of the Year Awards and was extremely impressed with the nominees.

Today I am very honoured to be presenting the 2017 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Awards, as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The Aboriginal women we are recognising this year are equally outstanding.

The NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award recognises Aboriginal women in the community who are exceptional achievers that have promoted economic, cultural or social opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW.

The remarkable women who have been nominated for this award are role models to us all. They deserve our recognition and sincere thanks for their wonderful achievements in their communities and across NSW.

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
We are very pleased to support the NSW Women of the Year Awards. The majority of First State Super’s members are women who work in education, health and service-based vocations, including law enforcement, emergency services and other organisations that care for the community. These people are the carers in our society and it is our privilege to care for them.

First State Super is responsible for the management of $80 billion in retirement savings. This size gives us the opportunity to make a positive impact through the way we invest: in hospitals, infrastructure, agriculture and other sustainable initiatives. We invest to make a difference in the lives of our members and the society they will retire into.

All of the women who have been nominated for these Awards have sought to make a difference. I applaud them for their resolve, their achievement and the positive impact they have made.

Michael Dwyer AM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FIRST STATE SUPER
Annette’s 15-year-old daughter, Mary took her own life in 2011. Since then Annette has made a significant contribution to the promotion of mental health advocacy and suicide prevention throughout the Albury-Wodonga region. Responses to Annette’s participation in the Border Mail’s, Walkley Award winning campaign, ‘Ending the Suicide Silence’ motivated her next actions. Annette founded Survivors of Suicide and Friends, The Winter Solstice event and The Big Splash.

Annette has been steadfast in her efforts to break down barriers associated with the stigma and shame associated with mental ill health and suicide. The annual Winter Solstice event has attracted world-leading experts Professor Patrick McGorry AO and Professor Ian Hickie. In 2016 prominent journalist and Wiradjuri man, Stan Grant highlighted the overrepresentation of Indigenous deaths by suicide, fostering new discussions within the regional community.

Her dedication and commitment to improving mental health outcomes has generated a new energy rising above traditional barriers, knowing full well that inadequate care can lead to dire outcomes. Annette was recognised as one of seven finalists as part of The UNSW 2016 Inaugural Australian Mental Health Prize, and is an active member of Australians for Mental Health.
Stephanie Cameron

Stephanie is the business operations manager, director and co-owner of East West Enviroag, a Tamworth based soil testing lab. Stephanie’s business started from a desire to provide soil and water testing facilities locally, reducing the need to send samples to the city, creating employment and skill development opportunities locally.

Passionate about her community and the environment, Stephanie is actively involved in several community projects and groups. She is chair of the New England North West Landcare Network and the Sustainable Northwest program, and deputy chair of Landcare NSW. Stephanie is also a founding member of the Tamworth Urban Landcare Group and the treasurer of the Tamworth Regional Landcare Association and Tamworth Club of Zonta.

Under her stewardship, local groups have successfully secured over $2 million in funding for soil health and healthy farms projects. Stephanie is known as a mentor for young women and an empowering force leading on well-being projects and domestic violence support services.
Associate Professor Lyn Fragar AO

Lyn is a Public Health Physician who has been the Director of the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety (ACAHS) and initiated Farmsafe Australia. Her work at ACAHS helped significantly reduce on-farm deaths and serious injury and resulted in her being awarded an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO).

She is currently chair of the Hunter New England Local Health District Board, and is committed to providing access to quality, safe, patient-centred health care services to all. This work sees Lyn on the road, visiting small and larger rural hospitals and health services and representing rural communities’ health interests at district, state and federal levels. Lyn is also a Director on the board of GP Synergy.

Lyn is recognised as an inspiring leader with a genuine commitment to community and patient engagement. Lyn was honoured by the Australian Medical Association in 1999 for the best individual contribution to health care in Australia.
Julia Harpham

School teacher, cattle farmer, refugee advocate and Mingoola community legend, Julia personifies civic leadership. Her work with a vast number of local community groups in northern New South Wales saw her and husband Philip awarded Tenterfield’s 2017 Citizen(s) of the Year.

Most notably, Julia championed a grassroots resettlement plan for African refugees that transformed her community and addressed the problems of an aging and declining rural population. Julia worked with refugee advocacy groups and government organisations to locate refugee families welcome them to Mingoola and provide the support needed to grow into the community.

Welcoming four families (29 members) to Mingoola has allowed the town to reopen its school and provides permanent seasonal workers for local farmers.

Julia and the Mingoola Progress Association’s model successfully connects refugees to regional Australia, breaks migrant misconceptions and shows hope to other deteriorating regional communities.
Pampha Bhujel

Pampha was just three years old when her parents were expelled from Bhutan. She spent the next 18 years in refugee camps in Nepal before resettling in Australia in 2010. Pampha has achieved significant success as a registered nurse and contributed even more to the wider community through her voluntary work as the first woman President of the Bhutanese Association in Albury.

As the first woman and youngest President in Bhutanese communities in Australia the Albury region has been able to host events and deliver programs to empower local communities. These include hosting sporting activities such as soccer and cricket games aiming to teach accountability, dedication, leadership and healthy living among young girls and boys.

In a generally male dominated community, Pampha has demonstrated women can not only lead but help transform a newly settled refugee group to be a model community showcasing its strengths.
Denise Crisp

Denise has been a volunteer foster carer for over 20 years and is recognised for her endeavours as a carer and advocate for society’s most vulnerable children. A strong advocate for child protection, Denise continues to lobby to improve the child protection system. She recently received the Special Carer and Advocate for Children Award from the Westmead Hospital Neonatal Unit in recognition of her care and advocacy for new born babies suffering with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Denise’s belief is that no matter how many children she cares for, the quality of care to all children is paramount.

Denise was a founding member and Vice President of the Foster Parents Support Network and President of the peak funded body Foster Care Association (NSW) Inc. until 2008.
Debbie Higgison

Debbie has been volunteering in a vast range of areas for the past 19 years. She is particularly skilled in community networking and is a highly respected member of the Chain Reaction Foundation team at Learning Ground. Through her paid work at Learning Ground, she mentors teenagers for whom formal education has failed. Debbie is a volunteer advocate for improved local transport, a volunteer basketball coach and umpire. Over the past 19 years, she has built a network of festivals and community events across the 11 suburbs of Mt Druitt, including Reconciliation Walk and Concert.

A qualified social worker/community worker, Debbie is also a proud mother of three daughters and grandmother of one grandson. She has always had particular interest in developing strong values and attitudes within families. She is a well-known and appreciated community leader across Western Sydney.
Jennifer Sammut

Jenny has volunteered with the Kogarah RSL Youth Club for more than 20 years and is involved in all aspects of the club including fundraising, coaching, sewing costumes and organising events. She is the heart and soul of the Youth Club and believes all children should have the opportunity to participate in an activity no matter their circumstances. She is an advocate for community spirit and the Youth Club which provides low cost sporting and cultural activities for families in the St George area. Jenny recently negotiated new premises for the Youth Club, after its premises were sold. This has ensured the club’s survival. Through the Youth Club Jenny established a specialised gymnastics class for children with disabilities, this was the first of its kind. Jenny is still actively involved in coaching this class each week working closely with the children and their families to develop lifelong skills and friendships.

Jenny has been a valued integrations and teacher’s aide in the disability sector for the past 21 years her passion for helping others extends outside the Youth club. She volunteers with the Special Olympics and the local church providing food and clothing for the less fortunate. Inspired by their mother, her four grown children are also committed to their community and volunteer regularly at the Youth Club.
Paige Burton

As Australia’s 2017 youth representative to the United Nations, Paige is presenting young people’s concerns and solutions to world leaders. She previously served as the National Education Director and Chair of the Board for United Nations Youth Australia. Paige helped develop the United Nations Youth’s national curriculum, founded the first national advocacy-oriented public speaking competition (Voice), and facilitated educational tours of Timor L’este, and the Middle East for high school students.

Until 2016, Paige was also the Events & Operations Manager at the Centre for Australian Progress, a non-profit organisation committed to building the advocacy capacity of Australian civil society. In 2015, Paige was the youngest ever recipient of the ‘Impact 25: The 25 Most Influential People in the Social Sector’ award. She was awarded the Impact 25 award again in 2016. Paige is committed to raising the voices of young people, particularly women; by showing them they can achieve anything, irrespective of their gender.
Maysaa Daher

Maysaa has been working in the field of traumatic brain injury research since completion of a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology four years ago. Her particular focus has been on resilience in family members caring for a relative with traumatic brain injury. Maysaa is currently working on the Vocational Intervention Program, a state-wide return-to-work pilot program for people who have had brain injuries. The Vocational Intervention Program is the first program of its kind in NSW. To date, Maysaa has also been the author of six publications and will be presenting findings from her family resilience research at the International Brain Injury Association conference in New Orleans in March 2017.

Her commitment to people with disability extends beyond her work. Maysaa has volunteered with the Police Citizens Youth Clubs as a soccer coach for adults and children with disabilities and with Best Buddies Australia as a mentor/friend for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Sara Gajic

Beginning as a legal assistant, Sara is now the Business Affairs Executive for Fulcrum Media Finance and vice-president of Women in Film and Television NSW, advocating for female filmmakers. Sara established a mentorship program partnering emerging female filmmakers with those already established, resulting in several young women securing employment within the industry. She also recently introduced a new Constitution to the organisation and a Film Club, designed to boost box office numbers for female driven Australian stories.

Passionate about animal protection, Sara volunteered with the Public Interest Clearing House within the Pro Bono Animal Law Service department and with Voiceless, the animal protection institute. Sara continues her work in animal law, volunteering with the Animal Law Institute on their panel of Pro Bono lawyers. In 2014, Sara worked with, and cared for, rescued elephants on a sanctuary in a remote Thai village. Sara graduated from Macquarie University with a Bachelor of Psychology and Bachelor of Laws with Honours and completed a Masters of Laws with Distinction at The University of Sydney.
Dr Nicole Seebacher

Nicole is a medical student at the University of Sydney with a passionate interest in cancer and cardiovascular research. She has continued this research in a voluntary capacity following completion of her PhD in Medicine in 2015. Nicole’s research focuses on the development of novel agents that target drug-resistant cancers, which are the most aggressive and difficult to treat. The success of this research has contributed to current clinical trials, treating patients with advanced tumours in Australia.

Nicole is also an active member of Level Medicine, a not-for-profit group advocating for gender equity in medicine. Recently, she wrote a policy for gender equity in medicine on behalf of Level Medicine and is currently assisting with their senate submission into gender economic equality. In 2017, Nicole has volunteered her time to mentor Indigenous Australians in the AIME (The Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience) program and for Rotaract (Rotary International Youth Program).
Gina Field

After starting a home based security business from scratch, Gina Field now owns one of the most awarded, respected and recognised security companies in NSW, winning over 24 industry awards including an international business award. This level of achievement has only been reached by a handful of Australian companies. Her company, Nepean Regional Security, manages an array of contracts providing security for wet cement drying to major block-buster movie sets, such as Wolverine.

Gina is also the President of the Penrith Valley Chamber of Commerce where she is considered a ‘pocket rocket’ in the business community and is a champion for women chasing their dreams. Gina is committed to ensuring that her knowledge, passion, business success and experience are filtered down to her community. Gina gives back to the community through sponsorship of community events, speaking at schools to encourage women to venture into male dominated employment fields, and presenting security awareness to residents of new housing estates.
Le Ho

In 2009, Le Ho took on Capital City Waste Services. On the brink of receivership, Le turned the business into the largest privately owned waste company in NSW, wholly owned and operated by a woman. In 2016, she successfully sold and exited the business. Le is currently founder and director of Aspiring Promotions, a business that provides opportunities for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to launch and advance their careers. Le is also founder and director of several companies including Zero Waste Management and Sustainable Solutions Group.

Le’s mission is to help raise the profiles of entrepreneurs, giving a voice, recognition and media exposure to those who would otherwise have none. Le was featured in Rare Birds: #ifshecancan and is now a mentor at the Rare Birds Mentorship Program. Le’s biography was included in the 2016 Edition of Who’s Who of Australian Women, which features prominent women around Australia who have helped shape our community. Le is also included in the upcoming 2017 Edition of Who’s Who of Australian Women.

Le’s work provides a platform for promoting successes in the face of adversity, gender inequality, and discrimination.
Lyn Lewis-Smith

Lyn is one of the world’s most respected and influential figures in the business events industry. She is Chief Executive Officer of Business Events Sydney (BESydney), a not-for-profit organisation responsible for securing international conferences of strategic importance that deliver economic and community benefits. In the last five years, BESydney secured events worth $1 billion to NSW.

Lyn pursues events to nurture jobs of the future, such as those in science, technology, engineering and maths. To advance the women’s agenda, she is bidding for the Women Deliver Conference to uplift vulnerable women and girls in developing nations such as our neighbours in the Asia Pacific. Business Events Sydney is also pursuing the Global Summit of Women, the ‘Davos’ of women’s events which aims to promote policies and practices to support more women holding senior executive roles and Board positions. Bringing these conferences to Sydney brings global leaders, shines a media spotlight on important issues, gives NSW the opportunity to highlight our areas of expertise and a chance to give back to the global community.
Madeline Tynan

Madeline is Marketing Director for the Tynan Motor Group. She has been instrumental in positioning the Tynan Motor Group as one of Australia’s top 100 private companies, with an annual turnover in excess of $500 million. Madeline is passionate about strengthening communities through the education of its youth, empowerment of women, encouragement of family business and investment and improvement and availability of medical research. Madeline is currently a board member of the St George & Sutherland Medical Research Foundation and a committee member of the Family Business Association. In 2016, she launched the Michael Tynan Memorial Challenge consisting of three events from Wollongong to St George via the Sutherland Shire. This event raised $520,000 for the medical research foundation.

Business successes aside, Madeline considers her biggest achievement in life is having a strong and loving marriage while raising four independent, wonderful, interesting and compassionate young adults without an instruction book!
Finalists
NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award

Maurita Cavanough

Maurita is a Bundjalung woman and the Director of Jarjum Centre Inc., an Aboriginal Pre-School in Lismore, Northern NSW. She is well known for her passionate approach to community led capacity building, mentoring women, early childhood education and transformative Indigenous education.

Believing change only takes place when it is community-led; Maurita mentors her team through early education studies, advocates for better early childhood facilities in Lismore and was selected for Oxfam’s Straight Talk program in 2016.

On top of her commitment to early childhood, Maurita is supporting Lismore’s youth to remain engaged in school through a voluntary run homework club. She believes the first five years of a child’s life are the most important and provide a safe, culturally appropriate space for Aboriginal children to thrive in.
Aunty Joyce Donovan

Aunty Joyce is a Wodi Wodi Elder and a driving force in the establishment of the Aboriginal Medical Service in Coomaditchi (Warrawong) in 1983. She has worked tirelessly for 35 years on Aboriginal health matters. She created the Narinya Grief and Trauma Healing Program and won the University of Technology Sydney Human Rights Award for establishing this program.

Joyce felt so strongly about removing the taboo of child sexual abuse that she travelled all over NSW to gain support for marches against child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities. She has travelled thousands of miles conducting healing ceremonies for victims of domestic violence and spreading her message that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

Joyce has a double Bachelor of Arts degree in Adult Education and Community Management from the University of Technology Sydney and a Diploma in Aboriginal Studies and Health Science from Cumberland College. She is a registered nurse and has worked as the Aboriginal Health Education Officer for 24 years in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District. In 2008 she was awarded the Australian of the Year Local Hero Award.
Kristal Kinsela

Kristal is a proud Aboriginal woman descended from both the Jawoyn and Wiradjuri nations, and works as an advocate and mentor for Indigenous women and Indigenous business owners. Her career spans education and training, organisational and workforce development, and supplier diversity working across government, corporate and not-for-profit sectors.

Inspired by stories of success through the growth of the supplier diversity movement in Australia, Kristal established her own consultancy to use her passion and skills to help corporate and government clients increase their productivity, performance and Indigenous engagement through coaching, training and facilitation.

She has presented at international conferences, and advised the Australian Government on policies to foster social inclusion. In 2011 she provided mentorship to Aboriginal teenage girls through the Birpai Aboriginal Land Council. She has also run teenage motivational and leadership camps to educate young Aboriginal women about their rights, and the skills required to navigate society, prejudice and stereotypes.

Kristal was recently announced the Sydney Ambassador for Indigenous Women in Business; a not for profit network to connect and support Indigenous women who run their own businesses.
Tanya Orman

Tanya is a Birri and Guugu Yimidhirr woman who has worked for National Indigenous Television (NITV) for 10 years. As the Channel Manager, she led the transition into the SBS network and free to air launch.

In 2004, a series of reports Tanya produced for SBS on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome gained national recognition and she was given the Prime Minister, National Drug and Alcohol award for Excellence in Media Reporting. More recently, Tanya and her team secured funding for the Moment in History series, a series of high quality documentaries on national identity by Australia’s leading Indigenous film makers.

Tanya is one of the youngest television executives in Australia and one of only a handful of Aboriginal women in a leadership role in media. She regularly volunteers her time, including in her role as Chair of the Media Reconciliation Industry Network Group, a group of media organisations committed to the development of reconciliation and employment of Indigenous people in the media industry.
Finalists
NSW Premier’s Award for Woman of the Year

Associate Professor Catherine Birman

Catherine is one of the most experienced cochlear implant surgeons in the world and has performed over 1000 cochlear implant procedures, helping close to 1000 NSW residents. A pioneer in the field of cochlear implants for children with complex medical conditions, Catherine currently practices at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead, Royal Prince Alfred, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, Macquarie University and the Sydney Adventist Hospitals. In addition to conducting life-changing surgeries, Catherine is also the Medical Director of the SCIC Cochlear Implant Program, a charity providing all aspects of care for patients requiring cochlear implants and implantable hearing devices.

Catherine is also Clinical Associate Professor with the University of Sydney, and Conjoint Professor with Macquarie University. As the third female Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon to qualify in New South Wales, Catherine’s career and charitable works have made her a trail-blazer and inspiring role model for all women.
Professor Fran Boyle

Fran is Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Sydney and Director of the Patricia Ritchie Centre for Cancer Care and Research at the Mater Hospital North Sydney. For more than 20 years she has been at the forefront of breast cancer research, from laboratory research to clinical trials and psychosocial care. Fran’s work has helped expedite Australian women’s access to innovative treatments which improve survival for women with high risk breast cancer.

Fran also pioneered the use of the Cold Cap, a scalp cooling innovation to reduce hair loss during chemotherapy treatment a major concern for women. Fran’s remarkable achievements earned her Order of Australia in 2008 and the Tom Reeve Award for outstanding contribution to cancer care in 2016.
Dr Emily Granger

Emily is one of Australia’s pioneering Cardiothoracic and Heart Lung Transplant surgeons, having consulted at St Vincent’s Hospital Darlinghurst since April 2007. She has performed over 1400 general cardiothoracic operations and over 100 heart and lung transplants. In July 2014 Emily played a major role in the world’s first successful ‘donated after death’ heart transplant, giving greater hope to heart patients around the world. The team has since performed eight such ground-breaking procedures and all recipients are now living with their ‘new’ hearts.

Emily is also passionate about inspiring and mentoring the next generation of NSW medical students, which she continues to do as a Conjoint Lecturer with the Clinical Medical School at St Vincent’s Hospital and University of Notre Dame also as an instructor with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.
Professor Jane McAdam

Jane is a leading academic in international refugee law and Scientia Professor of Law and Director of the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of NSW. Jane’s career has been dedicated to improving the protection of refugees, and she has pioneered legal responses to the plight of people displaced by the impacts of climate change and disasters. Jane is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, a Research Associate at Oxford University’s Refugee Studies Centre, an Associated Senior Fellow at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway and a Senior Research Associate of the Refugee Law Initiative in London. She was previously also a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in DC.

Jane has been an expert advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; the International Organization for Migration; and the World Bank’s Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration.

She is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Refugee Law, and her scholarship has been cited by the High Court of Australia and other leading courts around the world.
Local Women of the Year
Honour Roll

Cathy Gairn
Nominated by Mr Greg Aplin MP, Albury
Cathy is prominent in inaugurating, chairing and establishing Tumbafest for 10 years. With the Chamber of Commerce, she founded and helped fundraise for the first trek to Kokoda by students of Tumbarumba High School, a program which continues today. As winemaker and Director of Courabyra Wines, Cathy has crafted some of Australia’s best sparkling wines, taking the Tumbarumba wine industry to international prominence.

Delma Lloyd
Nominated by Mr Luke Foley MP, Auburn
Delma has worked exuberantly for her local community for nearly five decades. As a volunteer at Auburn Meals on Wheels for over 49 years and now the current President, she continues to deliver meals across the local suburbs. Delma is also actively involved in the local Probus Club where she has been a member for 19 years and is founding member of the Auburn Neighbourhood Community Aid.

Sasha Mainsbridge
Nominated by Ms Tamara Smith MP, Ballina
Sasha has been at the forefront for influencing accelerated societal change for a more sustainable way of living in the Mullumbimby area. Sasha has been passionate in her drive to get the Mullumbimby business community to participate in Plastic Free July including IGA, and organising forums for the business community to look at strategies to limit and recycle waste.

Aunty Kath Farrawell
Nominated by Mr Jamie Parker MP, Balmain
Kathryn is a member of the Glebe community and in 2009 was a finalist in the Dobell Art Prize for drawing. Kathryn has been involved in community projects at the Youth Centre which has united to support its youth by providing a variety of programs and a safe haven. As an Aboriginal elder, Kathryn’s been instrumental in organising a range of NAIDOC Week events.
Yasmine Lewis
Nominated by Ms Tania Mihailuk MP, Bankstown
Yasmine is a writer, performer, spoken word artist and youth mentor. Yasmine was asked to join the Bankstown Poetry Slam organising committee in 2014 and began facilitating programs for young people across the region. Yasmine’s become a State finalist in the National Poetry Slam, co-directed youth written spoken-word theatre, youth mentor of Real talk, and served on the Bankstown Youth Development Service board as Chairperson.

Associate Professor Kathleen Atkinson
Nominated by The Hon. Kevin Humphries MP, Barwon
Kathleen has 30 years’ experience in rural and indigenous medicine. Fifteen years as a procedural rural GP obstetrician in rural Aboriginal medical services has led to state, National and cross jurisdictional policy work for Commonwealth and state Governments. Kathleen is a fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and an excellent mentor for young medics seeking to experience professional life in remote areas.

Laurie McMahon
Nominated by The Hon. Paul Toole MP, Bathurst
Laurie has dedicated and committed immeasurable hours for the benefit of others. Representation for many years on the Oberon Hospital Board, involvement with scouting, and over 30 years of developing the Oberon and District Museum are a testament to her belief in helping others. Laurie reflects a citizen who gives to her community with no recognition of self but an incredible caring for others.

Dr Annemarie Christie
Nominated by The Hon. David Elliott MP, Baulkham Hills
Annemarie is a paediatrician passionate about children. As the first female and Category 2 member on the Board of the Castle Hill RSL Group, she advocates for diversity on Boards and recognition of the contribution women can make in the boardroom. Annemarie is an author of ‘Teach your child to sleep’, founder and director of ‘The Children Doctor’, and volunteers for numerous community organisations.

Jacalyn Harding
Nominated by The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, Bega
Jacki is a valuable asset to the Batemans Bay community as the current President of the Batemans Bay Lions and member for the past 15 years, as well as a member of the Batemans Bay Aquatic Centre Committee. Jacki epitomises what volunteering is all about, spending almost 10 years on the Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce and Women in Business Committee.

Joanne Tau
Nominated by Mr John Robertson MP, Blacktown
Joanne has been a great leader in the Blacktown community. She started as the Club Manager at PCYC in 2012 and is a positive voice for change and progress in our community. Joanne is currently the coordinator of a non-for-profit organisation, ‘COM4unity’, which provides services and programs to youth, with the vision of fostering meaningful participation in the community.
Dawn Kershaw  
Nominated by Mr Greg Warren MP, Campbelltown

Dawn unselfishly gives her time and shows compassion for her community and communities overseas. Dawn is a foundation member of Change Makers, an organisation that provides disaster reliefs across the world through the provision of clothing to families for babies up to five years of age. Dawn also volunteers in many community events including the Outloud Christmas Event and the Biggest Morning Tea.

Hala Ramadan  
Nominated by Ms Sophie Cotsis MP, Canterbury

Hala is a great influence, role-model and self-made success story as a migrant to Australia and as a woman in a leadership position. Hala has made a major contribution to students and the community she serves as the current Principal at Belmore Boys High School and in various other teaching roles. Hala has implemented numerous community projects within her schools to assist in making a difference to her students.

Donna Fraser  
Nominated by The Hon. Ray Williams MP, Castle Hill

Donna has worked tirelessly as a volunteer in a diverse range of community organisations for over 30 years including organising the Glenhaven Carols each year to raise money for the local SES, Secretary of the Hills Multicultural Network and a 20 years involvement with The Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network. Donna was recently recognised as the Citizen of the year by the Hills Shire Council as a reflection of her work in the Community.

Kylie Gray  
Nominated by Mr Clayton Barr MP, Cessnock

Kylie is currently the District Manager of Cessnock Girl Guides and has mentored many young ladies in the Cessnock community. Kylie joined Brownies when she was seven. She has been a youth member for 10 years and leader for 28+ years, receiving many Special Achievement Awards for her efforts. Kylie has organised and participated in numerous community events and fundraisers.

Lynda Little  
Nominated by Ms Jodie Harrison MP, Charlestown

Lynda has been responsible for the set up and successful development of The Place, a new community centre for the City of Lake Macquarie. The Place uses an innovative model of combining commercial business use of the centre with subsidised use by community groups. Lynda is a leader in the region for the establishment of successful community centres and mentors other community development workers in this field.
Amanda Stacey
Nominated by Mr Christopher Gulaptis MP, Clarence

Amanda has been a driving force and inspiration of many programs that Camellia Cottage has run for the Aboriginal community of South Grafton. Amanda has revitalised the Cottage and the numbers of kids, families and volunteers participating in after-hours programs has increased significantly. With little public financial support, Amanda has stuck with the Cottage and reversed its fortunes to the benefit of the community.

Lorraine (Laurie) van Loo
Nominated by Mr Andrew Fraser MP, Coffs Harbour

Lorraine has been involved with the Coffs Harbour Basketball Association for many years. Over those years Laurie has coached and mentored hundreds of junior basketball players, many of whom have reached State representative level. Laurie is always available for advice to novice coaches and parents and has a genuine love of the game and a very keen willingness to coach junior and senior teams.

Associate Professor Leanne Zalapa
Nominated by Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP, Coogee

Leanne is an advocate and lobbyist for health, philanthropy and fundraising. The founding CEO of POWHF, she has worked tirelessly to enhance the Foundation’s reputation and gain strong community support for the organisation, its staff and patients. She has recently become an Associate Professor of Industry in the Faculty of Health UTS and is a mentor to many in the not-for-profit health sector.

Jacqui Vincent
Nominated by The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Cootamundra

Jacqui’s contribution and commitment to her local community of Cootamundra is extraordinary. Dedicated to the local Army Cadets for the past 26 years, the Cootamundra Unit has gained significant success under Jacqui’s leadership, guidance and passion. She is also currently secretary for the Cootamundra RSL sub-branch and is involved with the Indoor Soccer and Swimming clubs.

Alison Todd
Nominated by The Hon. Mark Speakman SC MP, Cronulla

Alison is a volunteer with Cancer Council NSW and her unwavering dedication and tireless fundraising efforts over 26 years are inspiring. Helping to coordinate local fundraising activities as part of Daffodil Day, she also worked hard to gain support for the Cancer Council’s Saving Life 2015 campaign, and as part of the Community Speakers Program has given over one hundred presentations to business and community groups.

Namoi Dougall
Nominated by Mr Jonathan O’Dea MP, Davidson

Namoi recently retired as Chairperson and is ongoing Board Director of KYDS, an organisation providing free counselling and early intervention programs for young people. She dedicated eleven years as a tribunal member of the Migration Review Tribunal and the Refugee Review Tribunal. Her previous career highlights also include working as Chief of Staff for a NSW ministerial office and General Manager of Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils.
**Dr Vivien Chen**
Nominated by Mr John Sidoti MP, Drummoyne

Vivien is a specialist haematologist and leader in her field. She recently moved to the ANZAC Research Institute where she leads the Platelet and Thrombosis Research Laboratory. In 2011 she established independent research to study disease affected by dangerous blood clot formation. She has received multiple awards and fellowships for her research, and her achievements and contribution to the community have made her a valuable role model.

**Pat Burn**
Nominated by The Hon. Troy Grant MP, Dubbo

Pat is passionate about her community and has been a volunteer community transport driver for over twenty years. She has also served as a volunteer in the past with the Mid-Western Host Family Respite Service. The Mayor of Mid-Western Regional Council describes Pat as a modest but true local champion.

**Jenny Lau**
Nominated by Mr Damien Tudehope MP, Epping

Jenny is President of the Cherrybrook Chinese Community Association and in this capacity arranged a settlement program in conjunction with Hornsby Council. The Association has a membership of over 2500 families residing in Cherrybrook and surrounds, playing a pivotal role in helping new migrants settle in to their new lives in Australia. Throughout her many years of service, she has also co-ordinated numerous community events.

**Zarina Munguia**
Nominated by Mr Guy Zangari MP, Fairfield

Zarina is nominated for her dedication to the Fairfield community. Demonstrating empathy for elderly people, she assists community members with law enforcement. Zarina encourages young people at risk to be law abiding citizens through early intervention and preventative programs, work done in conjunction with the local PCYC and other referral and support groups. She also works with primary schools to deliver road safety, stranger danger and cyber safety messages.

**Elizabeth Ikin**
Nominated by The Hon. Pru Goward MP, Goulburn

Liz is an extraordinary pillar of her local community. Practising as a nurse for nearly 30 years, she runs a Hereford stud with her husband, providing support to a wide range of community groups and people in Crookwell and surrounds. She is compassionate and committed to her patients, often with chronic illness or in need of palliative care, and is always on call for families who need her.

**Mona Yaghi**
Nominated by Ms Julia Finn MP, Granville

Mona is a tireless advocate for public education. She is President of the Granville Boys High School P&C committee, Vice President of Auburn Girls High School P&C committee and Secretary of the Villawood East Public School. She has worked with the community to conduct a number of successful events and fundraisers, including raising over $20,000 to support Granville Boys High School upgrade their facilities.
Bernadette Spedding
Nominated by Mr Lee Evans MP, Heathcote
Bernadette has had a lifelong association with the Engadine Gymnastics Club and gymnastics. She is Head Coach and responsible for co-ordinating coaches, developing programs, training gymnasts and several groups for State and National qualifying competitions, as well as choreographing routines for competitions and entering competitions herself. Bernie also holds various roles with Gymnastics NSW.

Carolyn McMahon
Nominated by Mr Ron Hoenig MP, Heffron
Carolyn has displayed unwavering commitment to her community through selfless service. She has volunteered for over 17 years with the St Vincent de Paul Society and still volunteers at the local shop on a Sunday. Carolyn volunteers with Mascot Meals on Wheels, St Therese Catholic Church, scripture teaching, RSL Corps of Guards, the Army Reserve, and Mascot RSL Sub-branch where she is currently the Treasurer after 17 years as a member.

Chloe Esposito OAM
Nominated by Ms Melanie Gibbons MP, Holsworthy
Passionate and dedicated, Chloe won Australia’s first ever gold medal in the Modern Pentathlon at the 2016 Olympic Games. In 2007, she made history as the youngest Australian female modern pentathlete to compete at an Olympic qualifier but missed out on a spot for Beijing. Chloe inspires many others to follow their dreams, get involved with sport and never give up on what makes them happy.

Julie Fitzgerald
Nominated by The Hon. Matt Kean MP, Hornsby
Julie led the Sydney Swifts to victory for Netball NSW, became the assistant coach for the Australian Diamonds and is now the Head Coach for Netball NSW’s new team, The Giants. She held many titles with the Kuringai Netball Association, helping them become the successful grassroots club they are today. She also founded the Hornsby Spiders Basketball Club and has been named for numerous awards.

Nyree Saxby
Nominated by Mr Ryan Park MP, Keira
After her daughter Chloe was diagnosed with Vanishing White Matter disease, a rare disease only affecting seven people in Australia with currently no cure or treatment, Nyree founded a new charity, Saving Chloe Saxby. Nyree has achieved what many described as the impossible, developing a strong campaign to raise awareness and the necessary funds to help find a cure, with over half a million dollars currently raised.

Marie Beikmanis
Nominated by Mr Gareth Ward MP, Kiama
Well known and respected, Marie has been involved in the Kiama Chamber of Commerce for a number of years promoting local business growth and tourism opportunities into our region, and particularly within Kiama. Marie was also instrumental in the development and establishment of the Kiama Farmers Markets in town which have grown to become a local tourism hot spot.
Anne Farah-Hill  
Nominated by Mr Chris Minns MP, Kogarah  
Anne's career in the Community Services sector has spanned over 35 years, managing non-government organisations in the Sydney metropolitan areas of the Inner West and St George. She has worked tirelessly to help the most vulnerable people in our community, older people, children, new migrants and young struggling families with a vision for a harmonious community.

Barbara Ward  
Nominated by Mr Alister Henskens SC MP, Kuring-Gai  
Barbara is currently the Managing Director of the SAN Foundation at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. She has worked in the not-for-profit sector for more than 16 years across many industries, including fundraising, welfare services, humanitarian aid, finance, human resources, state and local government and management consulting. In addition to Nutrition Australia, Barbara serves on a number of boards both locally and overseas.

Vivienne Bruce  
Nominated by Mr Greg Piper MP, Lake Macquarie  
Vivienne serves in challenging, voluntary leadership roles in the Lake Macquarie community. She has been actively involved with the Southlakes Carers group for many years and has been instrumental in forming and hosting the ‘Christmas Alone’ Lunch. She has also been actively involved with the Salvation Army at Bonnells Bay for more than 20 years, where she has pioneered programs for those recovering from addictions.

Hasna Ahmad  
Nominated by Mr Jihad Dib MP, Lakemba  
Hasna is dedicated to helping refugees make a smooth transition to life in Australia. She volunteers her time by driving refugee families to medical appointments, shopping trips, assisting with basic educational needs and cooking for those families in need. As a woman, a mother and an exceptional community member, she is a source of pride for the Lakemba electorate.

Jacky Barker  
Nominated by The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, Lane Cove  
Jacky is the founder of a Lane Cove community initiative, In the Cove. In the Cove holds fundraisers for the Cancer Council, reunites owners with lost pets and supports local businesses and sporting groups. In the Cove also works with Delvena Women’s Refuge, Lane Cove and Northside Community Aid, and raises awareness through road safety campaigns and recycling options.

Julia Harpham  
Nominated by The Hon. Thomas George MP, Lismore  
Julia has spearheaded efforts to bring three refugee families to the small township of Mingoola. Working with the Great Lakes Peace Development Association, she has helped relocate almost 30 refugees to the area to help rejuvenate the rural community’s dwindling population. The local primary school has now reopened and farmers have permanent seasonal workers. The social experiment may be replicated in other Australian communities.
Jackie Greenow OAM
Nominated by Ms Prue Car MP, Londonderry
Jackie is recognised for her contribution to the St Marys community over many decades. She served on Penrith Council from 1995 until her retirement in 2016, and has given years of service as the Community Liaison Officer at St Marys North Public School. She was chair of Nova Employment for 10 years, and has mentored countless young women in local government.

Sandra McDonald
Nominated by Mr Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Macquarie Fields
In 2004 Sandra began the Beautiful Minds Community Committee (BMCC), a sub-committee of the Schizophrenia Fellowship NSW. As President of the committee, she works in partnership with other local groups to support people with mental illness and raise community awareness of this issue. One of her major achievements was the opening of Harmony House, a centre providing support to people with mental illness.

Naomi Rees
Nominated by Ms Jenny Aitchison MP, Maitland
Naomi is an advocate for the vulnerable and marginalised in the community. She is the manager of the Maitland Neighbourhood Centre, and for the past 17 years has been the face greeting people in need. Naomi previously worked as a volunteer and a training and counsellor coordinator at Lifeline. She provided emergency relief assistance to the Bolwarra Heights community following the super storm in 2015.

Barbara Lane
Nominated by former Member for Manly, Mr Mike Baird
Barbara spent the past seven years at Dalwood Auxiliary, starting as a volunteer and later becoming the organisation’s president. The Dalwood Auxiliary supports Dalwood Children’s Services, an internationally recognised model of care for children who have experienced disrupted development, trauma or abuse. Barbara has led the Dalwood Auxiliary with grace and compassion, enabling families to access the services of the Dalwood Children’s Home.

Vicki Johnston
Nominated by Mr Michael Daley MP, Maroubra
As Manager of the Deli Women and Children’s Centre, Vicki assists domestic violence survivors and works to educate the community on the issue. Her grasp of domestic and family violence issues and the surrounding institutional and legal framework make her an important and influential community leader. She is a fearless advocate for the most vulnerable women and children in the community during their time of need.

Madeline Tynan
Nominated by Ms Eleni Petinos MP, Miranda
Madeline is a founding board member and patron of the St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation, which raised $520,000 towards medical research for local hospitals last year. Madeline consistently contributes to the Shire community through her local volunteering and fundraising efforts for a number of organisations. She established the Women in Business (Southern Sydney) initiative and is a sponsor and mentor of the University of Wollongong MBA program.
Hanna Darmody
Nominated by The Hon. John Barilaro MP, Monaro
At only 22 years of age, Hanna has made an extensive contribution to the local community, with involvement in the Bungendore Autumn Fair, the B & S Ball, and the Bungendore Agricultural Show, Rodeo and Country Muster. She sits on the board of the Braidwood Community Bank and has raised money for local organisations. In 2013 she was named local citizen of the year for her outstanding community service.

Debbie O'Connor
Nominated by The Hon. Tanya Davies MP, Mulgoa
Debbie O'Connor is the owner and director of graphic design company, White River Design. She has recently developed a programme specifically designed to support creative people in the Penrith community. Debbie is an active member of the local community, using her position to support and assist charity, not-for-profit groups and local business owners. She was involved in the re-branding campaign for Penrith City Council.

Patricia Cox
Nominated by Mr Adrian Piccoli MP, Murray
Pat has been an exceptional contributor to the Griffith community. Following her career as a teacher, she has been involved in charity and community organisations supporting the welfare of children. She served as a Councillor and chaired council committees with Griffith City Council for 12 years. She was also part of the Aboriginal Advisory, International Relations and Migrant Settlement Services committees.

Donna Carrier
Nominated by Mr Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, Myall Lakes
Donna’s business, Bent on Food, has won 65 awards since 2006. Donna has shared her knowledge and the secrets to her business success by becoming a local TAFE teacher in the Hospitality and Tourism department. She teaches a range of tourism, events management and hospitality subjects. Donna recently joined Mid Coast Tourism as an Executive.

Melissa Histon
Nominated by Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP, Newcastle
Melissa is founder of The Sista Code website. She is dedicated to sharing stories and images of inspiring women and organisations working to improve the plight of oppressed, disadvantaged and mistreated people around the world. Melissa is also the founder of the charity #gotyourbacksista, and recently brought together more than 500 people in the Hunter community to take a stand against domestic violence.

Charlotte Dobrovits
Nominated by Ms Jenny Leong MP, Newtown
For the past three years Charlotte has been a tenant representative on the local Neighbourhood Advisory Board (NAB), the resident group representing the Redfern public housing community. Charlotte coordinates programs run at the Poets Corner community Centre, offering assistance to residents affected by mental illness, financial difficulties, addiction or social isolation. She also organises social events, to ensure her community stays strong and connected.
**Colleen Nancarrow**  
Nominated by The Hon. Adam Marshall MP, North Shore  
Colleen is a long-time resident of Inverell and has been a volunteer in a number of community groups, including the Inverell Branch of the Australian Red Cross, Inverell Meals on Wheels, Maclean Care and the Inverell Art Gallery. Colleen is a regular participant in fundraising campaigns, and arranges ‘Trauma Teddies’ through the Red Cross to provide comfort to children in during emergencies.

**Professor Gemma Figtree**  
Nominated by former Member for North Shore, Mrs Jillian Skinner  
Gemma is a Professor in Medicine at the University of Sydney and an interventional cardiologist at Royal North Shore Hospital. She has dedicated her professional career to improving the care for heart attack patients, through her clinical work and her translational cardiovascular research program at the Kolling Institute. Gemma holds Heart Foundation and NHMRC Fellowships and is an Honorary Director of Heart Research Australia.

**Nahed Hanna Moussa Soliman**  
Nominated by Mr Mark Coure MP, Oatley  
Nahed is the Regional Manager and CEO of St George Meals on Wheels, providing support to more than 150 volunteers on roster. Nahed and the St George Meals on Wheels team work to allow people who are frail, aged or disabled remain in their homes. She seeks to assist and support families and other primary care givers.

**Karlene Irwin**  
Nominated by Mr Philip Donato MP, Orange  
With 20 years experience in community services and 15 years as a foster parent, Karlene saw a gap in services to people affected by domestic violence and homelessness. She set up a social welfare and charitable organisation to provide practical and dignified support to anyone in need. The organisation is seeking to reduce homelessness through various initiatives, including the provision of donated furniture and food.

**Tania Powick**  
Nominated by The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Oxley  
Tania is a qualified financial advisor who has made a lasting difference through her active participation in community organisations such as Rotary, the Eric Sussman Foundation Charity, Macleay Valley Business Chamber, Kempsey Riverside Markets Committee and Macleay Valley Business Women’s Network. Tania also speaks to schools, church bodies and other community groups to help develop financial wellbeing and literacy in people of all ages.

**Stella Ersotelos**  
Nominated by Dr Geoff Lee MP, Parramatta  
Stella has dedicated 40 years to serving her community as President to Philoptochos, the Parish Communities Ladies Auxiliary. She has been a tremendous role model, leading the Philoptochos in a wide range of community programs including fundraising for local and international charities, preparing Christmas hampers for families in need and ensuring a dignified funeral and burial for deceased people who were destitute.
Linda Kemp
Nominated by The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, Penrith
As founder of an award-winning recruitment consultancy, Linda is passionate about her work assisting local businesses and job candidates realise their potential. Nominated for the University of Western Sydney’s Women of the West Award, Linda is also a Committee member of the Penrith Valley Chamber of Commerce and has served as Vice President for a number of years.

Deborah Carter
Nominated by The Hon. Rob Stokes MP, Pittwater
Deborah’s dedication to the welfare of Australian veterans has seen her hold various roles in the RSL, including the first female to be elected the President of the Pittwater RSL Sub Branch. Deborah had a successful nursing and air force career, having been the Senior Registered Nurse at Mona Vale Hospital and Flying Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

Katrina Humble
Nominated by Mrs Leslie Williams MP, Port Macquarie
Katrina’s tireless work with the first regional perishable food rescue organisation, Reap By OzHarvest, helps feed hundreds of local people living in poverty. Katrina’s team sources 1,000 kilograms of excess food each week from local supermarkets. The equivalent of 33,000 meals free of charge are delivered by the group each week to over 15 places in Port Macquarie and Wauchope.

Carmel Northwood
Nominated by Ms Kate Washington MP, Port Stephens
Currently President of Port Stephens Koalas, Carmel has been involved with the organisation since 2010 and in recent years has retired from paid employment to manage the organisation’s administrative function. She has been instrumental in planning a koala hospital for Port Stephens. Carmel also works with the NSW Wildlife Council and the local council to improve koala habitats and provide education to the public.

Nicole Winram
Nominated by Mr Kevin Conolly MP, Riverstone
As a Cancer Council community advocate, Nicole was instrumental in raising awareness of the huge financial burden for people receiving chemotherapy treatment. She was influential in the NSW Government’s commitment to abolish the co-payments system. Nicole also supports the Relay For Life, Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea and Daffodil Day fundraising projects in the region. In April 2016 she was recognized as Cancer Council NSW’s Star Volunteer.

Anne Doring
Nominated by The Hon. Victor Dominello MP, Ryde
Anne Doring has worked tirelessly in the Ryde area for 50 years to improve local sport, particularly netball. Anne is a fantastic administrator and leader, having organised team participation in school, state, national and international level netball. She supports the Eastwood Ryde Netball Association’s 5,000 members by applying for government grants and seeking local sponsorship to keep players’ registration fees as low as possible.
Joan van den Burg  
Nominated by Mr Mark Taylor MP, Seven Hills

Joan has been involved in Rotary for more than 40 years, having held numerous office bearer roles in both the Rotary Club of Winston Hills and the Hills-Kellyville Branch. She was instrumental in establishing the annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at Third Settlement Reserve, Winston Hills. This ceremony caters for 60 Citizenship candidates and is celebrated as a major event in the local calendar.

Maralyn Young  
Nominated by Ms Anna Watson MP, Shellharbour

Maralyn identified a need for post mastectomy bra and prostheses fitting service in the Illawarra region. Her lingerie business, Casa Mia was expanded to offer this specialist service, now offering massage and pain relief treatments and free styling workshops for women living with cancer. She uses her business to raise awareness about breast cancer and advocate for breast screening for both women and men.

Velma Walker  
Nominated by The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, South Coast

Velma joined Huskisson Rural Fire Service in 1990, where she was awarded Life Membership for her service as Secretary and Treasurer. Velma is currently Deputy Captain, Treasurer and Logistics officer at the Operational Support Brigade. She has raised over $150,000 for the Shoalhaven Rural Fire District and the Wingello fire victims and has been awarded a Bronze Shoalhaven Medal, National Medal and Commissioners Commendation for Service.

Sumati Advani  
Nominated by Ms Jodi McKay MP, Strathfield

As Chair of the United Indian Association Women’s Steering Committee, Sumati raised awareness about domestic and family violence, breast cancer research, and gender equality. She has held roles in the Federal Multicultural Consultative Committee, Ethnic Communities Council of NSW and Breast Screen NSW. Through her charity work, Sumati raised funds for Westmead Children’s Hospital, National Breast Cancer Foundation, White Ribbon, Pink Ribbon and the Cancer Council.

Dr Marianne Jauncey  
Nominated by Ms Jo Haylen MP, Summer Hill

Dr Jauncey is a medical director, researcher, educator and harm minimisation advocate whose ground-breaking work has furthered a dialogue about sensible and empathetic approaches to medical treatment for drug users. As Medical Director of the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) since 2008, she has worked with injecting drug users, sex workers and youth at risk. Dr Jauncey is an invaluable voice in the debate for harm minimisation approaches to drug treatment.

Sheena Harvey  
Nominated by Ms Yasmin Catley MP, Swansea

Sheena has spent much of her life working in community organisations. As Centre Manager at Belmont Neighbourhood Centre, Sheena established the Men’s Shed Project, with over 100 members and the Habitat in Harmony Community Garden, providing fresh produce to people suffering hardship. This year, Sheena became CEO of Community Activities Lake Macquarie, an organisation working to improve the lives of young people and their families in the community.
Elaine Czulkowski
Nominated by Mr Alex Greenwich MP, Sydney
Elaine was a founding member and director of Out for Australia, a national organisation mentoring young LGBTQI people as they move into careers. As a Board Associate for Queer Screen, Elaine raises funds for one of the world’s top five queer film festivals. She has volunteered with Australian Marriage Equality and is a trained ACON Rover, volunteering at major events to help participants stay safe. Elaine began volunteering with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in 1999, taking on various roles to support this major event.

Janelle Archdale
Nominated by Mr Kevin Anderson MP, Tamworth
Janelle is a local champion. Throughout the Council merger process Janelle led the community with grace, professionalism and a level headed approach. As well as juggling her role as Mayor of Walcha Council, Janelle also runs a local gift shop which often plays second fiddle to her role as a representative of the Walcha community.

Stephanie Foster
Nominated by Mr Adam Crouch MP, Terrigal
Stephanie was the first Breast Care Nurse for the Central Coast and was a founding member of the Breast Cancer Interest Group. Following the opening of the Central Coast Cancer Centre in 2013, she was appointed Surgical and Radiation Oncology Clinical Nurse Consultant. Stephanie has supported thousands of women with breast and gynaecological cancers, guiding them and their families through one of the most difficult times in their lives.

Maggie-anne Leybourne
Nominated by Mr Geoff Provest MP, Tweed
Maggie-anne is the driving force and organiser of many community events and is one of the most recognisable personalities in the Tweed area. She has organised fundraising events for Twin Towns Friends, Tweed Banana Festival, Cancer Council, the RSPCA, Mercy Ships, Fred’s Place and the Rotary Club of Kingscliff. For 14 years Maggie-anne has also served as secretary of the Tweed Chamber of Commerce.

Ruth Rogers
Nominated by Mr Michael Johnsen MP, Upper Hunter
Ruth Rogers has been an active community leader in Singleton and the Upper Hunter for many years, having served as a Singleton Councillor, and now as the President of the Singleton Chamber of Commerce. As a Councillor, Ruth has been a strong advocate for members of the armed forces, veterans and their families. She has also been a spokesperson for Cystic Fibrosis.

Karen Hamilton
Nominated by The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, Vaucluse
Karen is Director of the annual REELise Film Festival that encourages young people to take a stand against bullying and shape a better online environment through ‘pocket filmmaking’. Using the mobile phone as a unique filmmaking tool, young people express the real life impacts of bullying. Karen aims to make bullying socially unacceptable and inspire local students to help one another through sharing difficult situations. The festival began as a small outdoor event in 2014 and now attracts entries from across the nation and internationally.
Annette St. Clair
Nominated by Mr Daryl Maguire MP, Wagga Wagga

Annette created the Amie St Clair Melanoma Trust to honour her daughter who died aged 23 of metastatic melanoma. The Trust provides support and funding for medical research as well as raises awareness of melanoma. The Trust now employs a Melanoma Nurse following three years of targeted fund raising. Annette’s heart and soul is dedicated to this awareness program as she passionately continues to promote this valuable project.

Tomika Riley
Nominated by Ms Sonia Hornery MP, Wallsend

Tomika is passionate about supporting victims of domestic violence and has become a volunteer for the Newcastle branch of Friends With Dignity. Within seven days, Friends With Dignity turn empty houses into homes families can walk straight into and begin living. Tomika helps to stock homes with furniture, bedding, linen, kitchenware, electrical goods, white-goods and toys.

Michelle McLaughlin
Nominated by The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Willoughby

Michelle is a passionate advocate for community child road safety after losing her son to a pedestrian motor vehicle accident in 2014. Michelle established the Little Blue Dinosaur Foundation to promote road safety, with a particular focus on road safety at family holiday hot-spots during school holidays, through community education, government campaigning and implementation of effective local and national road safety initiatives.

Rina Hore
Nominated by Mr Jai Rowell MP, Wollondilly

Former Manager of the Australian Youth Cricket Team, Rina is a keen player herself, as she represented NSW Women’s Cricket for 17 years and was the first woman appointed to the Board of Cricket NSW. Rina is also actively involved with the Destination Southern Highlands working group and is primarily responsible for sustainability and development of attractions that drive the tourism sector and aid economic growth in the region.

Julie Mitchell
Nominated by Mr Paul Scully MP, Wollongong

With 33 years’ experience working in the community sector, Julie has created and opened NSW’s first Homeless Hub in Wollongong to meet the high demand for homelessness support. The Wollongong Homeless Hub is a drop-in service that provides people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, with support, food, clothes and any other needs identified to help them overcome homelessness.

Danielle Habib
Nominated by Mr David Harris MP, Wyong

Danielle has made it her mission in life to help others. She has volunteered her time and skills in many ways, such as representation on Wyong Council’s Multicultural Advisory Committee and the Board of the Central Coast Women’s Health Centre. She has also helped refugees and migrants to settling into the local area, and supported initiatives to reduce violence in the Aboriginal community.
A special thank you to all nominees and finalists, and to those who nominated and voted for these outstanding women.

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