

Community Awards 2026



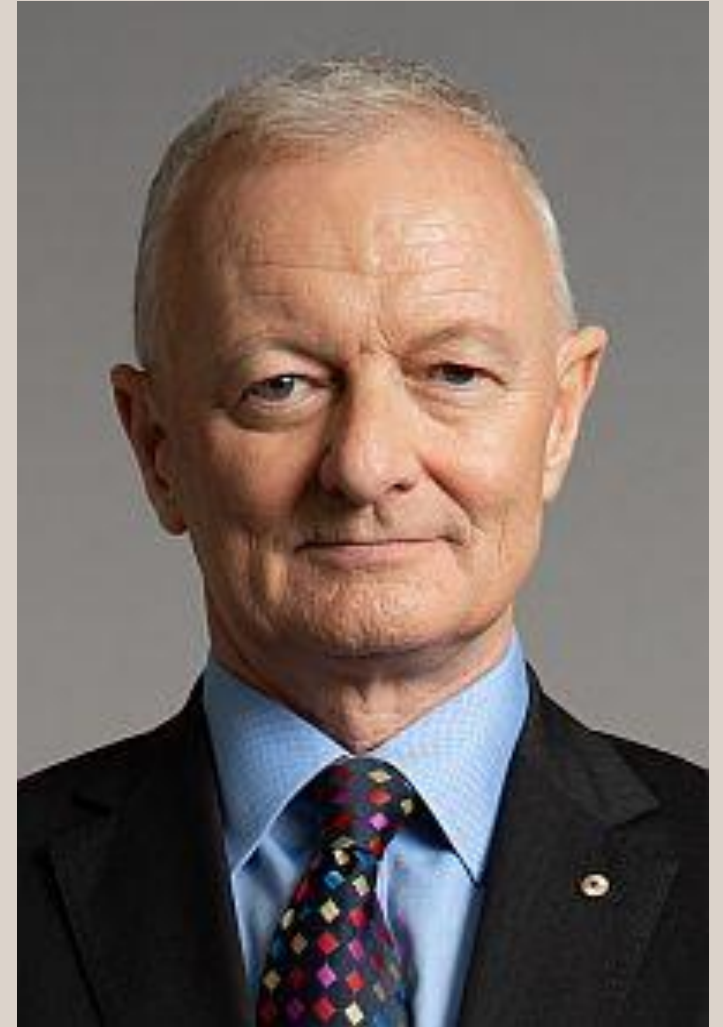
Citizen of the Year 2026

INNER WEST

Citizen of the Year 2026 Recipient

Antony Green AO

Antony John Green AO FASSA is an Australian psephologist, data scientist, journalist, and commentator. He was chief election analyst for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) until his retirement from the role after the federal election in May 2025. He continues to work part-time for the ABC in an off-air capacity. Antony worked on around 90 federal, state and territory elections between 1989 and 2025 including 13 Federal elections. In the 2017 Queen's birthday honours list he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia. The citation was "for distinguished service to the broadcast media as an analyst and commentator for state and federal elections, and to the community as a key interpreter of Australian democracy".



Senior Citizen of the Year 2026

INNER WEST

Senior Citizen of the Year 2026 Recipient

David Haynes

David Haynes has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the Inner West Community through his 12 year leadership as President of The Pollys Club. Run by volunteers since 1964, the Pollys Club provides an inclusive, safe, fun and friendly community dance space that supports self-expression and connectedness thus helping to address social isolation in the LGBTIQ+ community.

What sets David apart is his genuine care and respect for every individual involved in The Pollys - he embodies the values of inclusion, dignity and community spirit, and has created an environment where people of all abilities are celebrated.



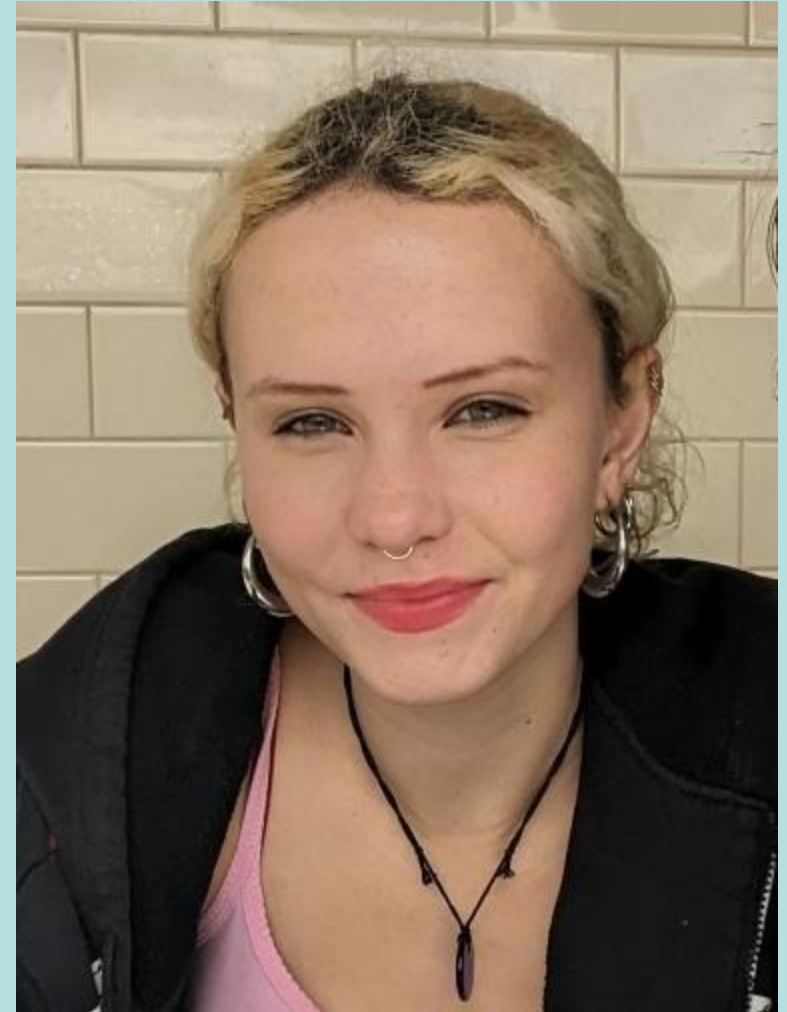
Young Citizen of the Year 2026

INNER WEST

Young Citizen of the Year 2026 Recipient

Elise Martin

Elise has been volunteering for Futureproof and Generate Music Fests since 2022, is a volunteer radio presenter, and a passionate and regular volunteer for human rights causes. Volunteering for Futureproof, Elise began taking photos and making banners, and soon progressed to coordinating, staging and directing large scale youth music events.



Citizen of the Year nominees

INNER WEST

Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Glenn Marsden

Beginning with grassroots community conversations in Balmain, Glenn has grown his impact globally — speaking on international stages and partnering with organisations to elevate corporate wellbeing, shift culture, and create spaces where real, honest conversations change lives. Glenn has brought together more than 500 of the world’s most recognised and respected voices spanning leaders, athletes, actors, change-makers and advocates all uniting behind one core mission: normalising conversations around mental health.



INNER WEST

Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Kane Wheatley

Kane Wheatley is Vice-President of Inner West Theatre Company, a volunteer-run not-for-profit producing affordable musical theatre in the Inner West. Kane has championed Auslan-interpreted performances, helping make live theatre accessible to Deaf audiences while bringing hundreds of performers, volunteers and thousands of community members together through inclusive theatre. He supports young artists in their journeys, provides a safe space for diversity, works tirelessly with the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir as well as being a phenomenal teacher



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Dr Philip Benjabutr

Dr Philip Benjabutr is a dedicated volunteer committed to giving back through school health initiatives, youth mentorship, and community leadership. His impact spans education, small business support, and professional mentoring, earning national recognition as Australian Community Engagement Chiropractor of the Year 2025. At Ashfield Public School, he takes a hands-on approach through the Healthy Living Program and is the Head Debating Coach at Christian Brothers High School Lewisham.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Tay Blunt

Tay Blunt is a trans non-binary songwriter, producer and a tireless advocate for their trans and queer communities. They are a co-founder of TRANSGENRE - an initiative celebrating trans and non-binary voices in Australian music, which holds its flagship festival in the Inner West. Tay is also frontperson of Inner West indie rock royalty, FVNERAL and has toured relentlessly throughout Australia and New Zealand, sharing stages with international heavyweights and local heroes alike.



INNER WEST

Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Gavin Andrews

Gavin Andrews, owner of Miss Wolf in Marrickville, has created a safe, inclusive space for LGBTQ+ people in Sydney's inner west. Through community-building, events, and support for local artists, he fosters connection and belonging. His leadership, advocacy, and genuine care have made a lasting, positive impact on the local community. Miss Wolf has become a hub for connection, celebration, and expression. It supports local artists, hosts inclusive events, and actively contributes to the cultural and social fabric of Marrickville

INNER WEST



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Michelle St Anne

Michelle is a fearless champion of independent artists and the Inner West's creative community. As Artistic Director of The Living Room Theatre, past Chair of Inner West Creative Network, and founder of a new performance venue and artist residency program, she is building cultural infrastructure that sustains and transforms lives. She mentors emerging artists, brokers collaborations between disciplines, and builds the kind of creative community that makes the Inner West culturally distinctive.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Kirsten Junor

Kirsten is a deeply deserving nominee for Inner West Citizen of the Year, recognised for the breadth of her impact across education, sustainability, the arts and community leadership. While widely known for her work with Reverse Garbage, Kirsten has led multiple Inner West charities and community organisations, demonstrating strong, values driven leadership across the not for profit sector. Her contribution extends well beyond any single role and reflects a sustained commitment to strengthening the Inner West.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Natalie Tsirimokos

As the founder of Comfy Koalas eco-friendly nappies, Natalie Tsirimokos is a champion for mothers, children and families in the Inner West. Over 5 years, Natalie has donated 400,000 nappies, stocked Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with custom nappies for vulnerable babies, and supported Inner West families through donations to Addison Road Food Bank, all from her Marrickville headquarters!



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Heleana Genaus

Heleana is an architect and co-founder of Rising Sun Workshop, a social enterprise. Alongside her professional commitments, she volunteers significant time to support and advocate for local businesses through her contribution to the Newtown Enmore Business Community (NEBC). Heleana was instrumental in bringing Inner West Council and the City of Sydney together to align their Special Entertainment Precincts, supporting a more coordinated approach across the precinct boundaries.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Patricia Thorne

Pat Thorne—a dedicated Little Big House volunteer, supporting the Seniors Club and co-working community with warmth and reliability. She also volunteers at the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown and serves as treasurer of her local bowls club. Pat Thorne embodies the quiet, consistent service that strengthens neighbourhoods and changes lives.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Eugenia Viegas

Eugenia is a dedicated community leader and volunteer who tirelessly supports Sydney's Portuguese-speaking seniors, organising weekly gatherings, outings and cultural events that combat isolation and foster belonging. Her compassion, leadership and unwavering commitment have enriched countless lives, strengthening multicultural connections and ensuring older community members feel valued and connected.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

David Abello

David Abello deserves recognition for a lifetime of community and social action and for his governance contributions to member-based organisations providing disability advocacy, disability employment and youth and community housing services. He has had an impact on the Inner West community, and the struggle for rights and freedoms, diversity and inclusion.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Glenda Gartell

Glenda Gartrell is a tireless advocate for older people, combining lifelong community activism, creative leadership, and lived experience to inspire others. Through writing, policy advocacy, and active civic participation, she champions dignity, independence, and social connection—proving that ageing with purpose, insight, and generosity truly makes a lasting community impact.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominee

Dean Bentick

Dean Bentick, is a lifelong Inner West resident who has built strong connections with neighbours and local businesses. He ran a Leichhardt business for 14 years, volunteered through the Chamber of Commerce, supports community groups with photography, and improves the area through active reporting on local issues.



Citizen of the Year 2026 Nominees



Amy Large Volunteer Awards 2026

INNER WEST

Amy Large



Amy Large, a long-term Balmain resident, was widely known for her long years of service supporting the community through her volunteer work.

Amy passed away in 2015 leaving a legacy to be proud of.

Thank you to all the volunteers with us this evening, for your contribution to our community.

Amy Large Volunteer Awards 2026

- Young Volunteer
- Adult Volunteer
- Senior Volunteer
- Sports Volunteer
- Volunteer Team



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2026

INNER WEST

Amy Large Young Volunteer 2026

Mark Campbell

Mark is a young community-minded student who volunteers in the kitchen at Addi Road one morning a week, but he constantly finds ways to help across different programs. Mark's can-do spirit and ability to see what needs to be done makes him a treasured member of our volunteer team.



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2026

Isabel Smith-Lester

Isabel embodies the values of generosity, kindness, and compassion in everything she does. Despite her busy schedule, she never hesitates to lend a hand whenever help is needed. Her dedication has been instrumental in helping our organisation, the Asylum Seeker Centre, extend its service availability and provide vital support to those in our community.



INNER WEST

Amy Large Young Volunteer 2026

Alexandra Giorgianni

Ally is an exceptionally positive and influential member of the Young Leaders Local Democracy Group. She actively brings the group together, fostering collaboration while contributing thoughtful insights, innovative ideas, and practical recommendations that support cross-council initiatives. Her ability to sustain both her own commitment and the energy of the wider leadership group is particularly noteworthy. While balancing the demands of work and study, Ally consistently demonstrates initiative, reliability, and a strong sense of responsibility. She not only participates—she motivates others to remain engaged, ensuring the group maintains focus and momentum in achieving meaningful outcomes.



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2026

Teresa Wilbers

Teresa is both a tireless volunteer and a champion for those seeking safety. Beyond her own exceptional and selfless contributions, she acts as a vital bridge between the Asylum Seeker Centre and the wider community. Through her advocacy, she has increased our reach, inspiring new volunteers to support our mission.



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2026

Ashleigh Ewin

An invaluable volunteer, Ashleigh welcomed ASC clients with warmth and comprehensive support. Beyond her front-of-house excellence, she tirelessly assisted asylum-seeker families with school enrolments. By navigating complex applications and securing fee waivers, she ensured children accessed education without barriers. Her dedication has been life-changing for our clients.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

INNER WEST

Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Rosa Carrington-Hogg

Rosa radiates joy, positivity, and genuine care at every Sew for Joy session. Her classes are in high demand, not just for sewing, but for the connection she creates. Rosa gives so much of herself, and the impact she's having on reducing loneliness in the community is profound.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Christian White

Christian has been an integral member of the All Abilities coaching staff. His dedication and commitment to the program has allowed players to flourish and grow.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Will Hawes

Will has help the homeless community of Sydney for 15 years, by providing hot meals, clothing and basic necessities 5 nights a week. He now also provides this service to a housing commission block in Lilyfield Monday to Friday.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Helen Rogers

Helen is an invaluable volunteer at Addi Road who tirelessly shares her skills, experience and passion across a range of programs. Helen's contribution extends from leading hamper packing teams during COVID-19 to roles in our pantries at Marrickville and Camperdown, providing cooking demonstrations and assisting with our Corporate Volunteering program.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Jessica Le

Jessica created a free monthly calligraphy club that has quickly become a much-loved part of the community. Her sessions are booked out months in advance showing how much her generosity and thoughtful approach means to the community.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Fiona Howe

Fiona Howe brings people together through the power of song. Through her Singing Circles, she creates warm, welcoming spaces where every voice belongs. With no pressure to perform, Fiona helps people connect, build confidence, and feel part of something bigger, turning simple moments of music into meaningful community connection.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Kate Anderson

Since 2021, Kate has been empowering her community through free Wellness Workshops at the Little BIG House. She helps people reconnect with their values, manage stress, and create meaningful life direction. Kate volunteers her time and her expertise to support nearly 100 people each year create a purposeful life.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Debjani Sarkar

Debjani Sarkar is a remarkable Dulwich Hill local whose work exemplifies community leadership and social justice. Deb Chairs Biyani House - Revesby Women's Community Shelter, as well as volunteering for Parlour, and the Australian Institute of Architects. Her work with Parlour progresses gender equity in Australian architecture and the built environment.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Shoshana Malev

Shoshana is an invaluable volunteer at the Asylum Seekers Centre who consistently goes above and beyond. She supports our volunteer program management with her professional expertise, from recruiting new volunteers to auditing grant spending. Shoshana maintains meticulous records and ensures that all volunteers meet strict compliance requirements.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Necla Ipek Madentzoglou

Necla Ipek Madentzoglou has devoted over 10 years to supporting older Turkish-speaking community members. Through regular calls, help with appointments, social activities, and guidance on My Aged Care, she reduces isolation, empowers seniors from CALD backgrounds, and ensures they feel valued, connected, and confident in accessing the services they need



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Marta Tambasco

Marta has become a key part of the Flour Mill community, working quietly behind the scenes to strengthen connection, support local businesses, and bring people together. Through initiatives like the Wishing Tree, she brings creativity and care to the precinct, helping transform everyday spaces into places where people truly belong.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Michelle Stankiewicz

Michelle has been helping Asylum Seekers navigate the Australian Job Market for almost 6 years. She provides excellent coaching when a client applies for a job, to prepare for job interviews. She instills confidence in each clients she meets with and many are successful and move onto paid employment.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Renee Wilson

I am nominating Renee for her sustained volunteer impact across Birchgrove Public School, Campbell Street Church, and the local community. Through long-term leadership, practical support for families, and initiatives such as school playgroups and the online uniform stall, she consistently strengthens connection, inclusion, and wellbeing with quiet dedication.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Dyan Barriga

Dyan provides vital support to ASC's most vulnerable members. Utilising her social work expertise, she assists victims of domestic violence and clients facing homelessness. By listening patiently and developing tailored support plans, Dyan ensures every individual receives the expert care they deserve. She is an indispensable asset to our community.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2026

Richard Veitch

Richard Veitch has made an enormous contribution to community rugby. Since arriving in the Inner West, he has dedicated countless hours coaching from U6S through to Colts and Seniors, giving his time three nights a week and on weekends to support and develop players of all ages.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

INNER WEST

Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

James Worner

James Worner is a dedicated volunteer for Inner West Theatre Company. Over the past three years he has coordinated more than 1,000 costume and wig pieces supporting over 200 performers and productions enjoyed by more than 6,500 audience members, helping deliver affordable and community-spirited theatre in the Inner West.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

Dianne Hodge

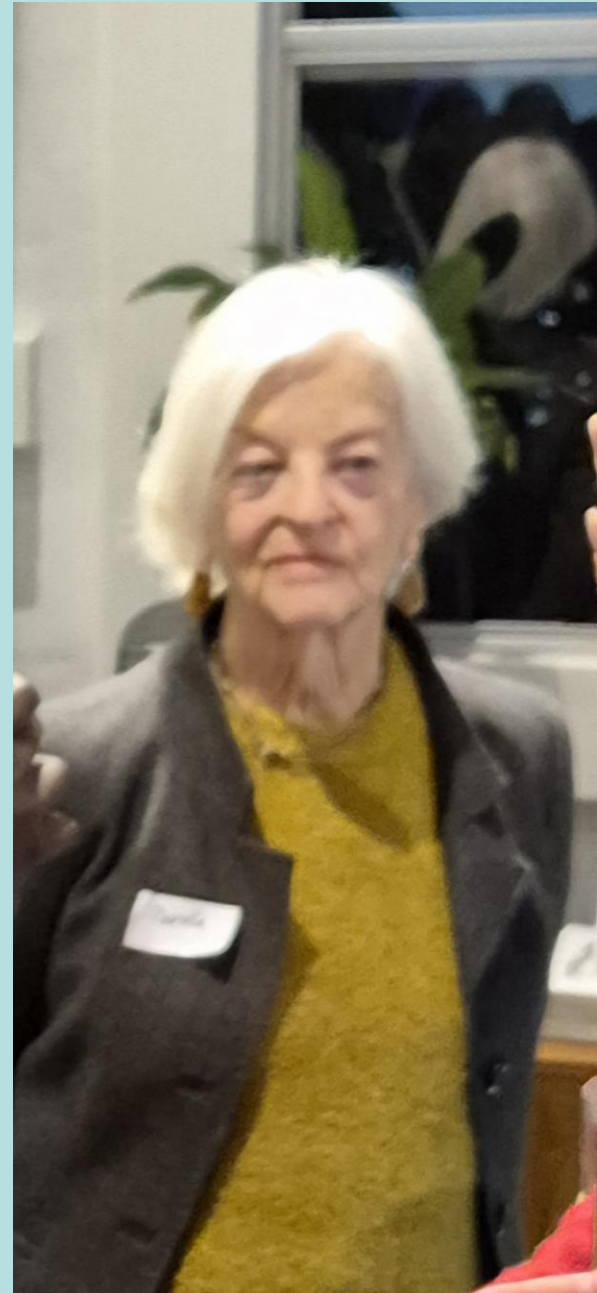
Dianne Hodge is a cherished community leader whose generosity and care bring people together. From founding the Little BIG Seniors Coffee Morning to leading major fundraising and advocacy efforts for numerous charities, she creates connection, supports important causes, and strengthens her community.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

Mariella Totaro-Genevois

Mariella led the VDSA volunteer team and generously supported the Asylum Seekers Centre for almost 15 years. She extends a spirit of welcome to everyone who comes to the ASC by providing generous meals prepared with love and care.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

Colin Williams

We are delighted to nominate Colin to recognise his dedication as our annual Easter Bunny— a role he has filled for an incredible 36 consecutive years. His efforts have created memories for students, staff, and families alike. His willingness to volunteer year after year demonstrates outstanding dedication, positivity, and spirit.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

Glenda Gartell

Glenda Gartrell is a tireless advocate for older people, combining lifelong community activism, creative leadership, and lived experience to inspire others. Through writing, policy advocacy, and active civic participation, she champions dignity, independence, and social connection—proving that ageing with purpose, insight, and generosity truly makes a lasting community impact.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

Stephen Harman

Stephen has been a dedicated IT volunteer at the Asylum Seekers Centre for over seven years. By applying his expert technical skills to refurbish donated laptops, into vital tools for education and employment. Stephen's selfless commitment preparing these devices have empowered hundreds of clients to pursue their goals & thrive.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2026

Deborah Black

Deborah volunteers at the Hannaford Community Centre, providing one-on-one Tech Help sessions to older people. Deborah's computer knowledge and skills are excellent, but what makes her an outstanding volunteer is the warmth and compassion that she shows to her clients.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer Award 2026

INNER WEST

Sports Volunteer Award 2026

Frank Curcio

Frank Curcio has been a dedicated volunteer at Ashfield Pirates FC since 2015, coaching, mentoring and supporting players and families with incredible commitment. Beyond results on the field, Frank embodies the Pirates culture of respect, fun & community, and has played a key role in developing players and strengthening the club.



Sports Volunteer Award 2026

Heath Clark

Heath Clark is a life member of Petersham Rugby whose dedication to our club is truly exceptional. He goes above and beyond for every player, treating each with care, fairness, and respect. His commitment to the club and local community is unmatched and deeply inspiring.



Sports Volunteer Award 2026

Terry Reynolds

For over 10 years of dedicated service, including five as President, Terry has been the backbone of Balmain South Sydney Cricket Club. His selfless commitment drives sustainable membership, inclusive programs for all ages, and equitable facility access. As a dual-sport volunteer with the Inner West Hawks, he truly embodies building community through sport.



Sports Volunteer Award 2026

Shauna Ross

Shauna joined the Leichhardt Saints Committee in 2022, taking on many roles over the past few seasons. She organises our very youngest age groups - U6, U7 and U8 - and also our Charity Sock Round which raises money for children with cancer. She is also our Club representative to Football Canterbury.



Amy Large Volunteer Team or Group 2026

INNER WEST

Amy Large Volunteer Team 2026

Little BIG Volunteer Leadership Group

Every strong community relies on people behind the scenes making things happen. At Little BIG, that's our Volunteer Leadership Group. They support hosts, build local partnerships, and help tackle loneliness at a grassroots level, playing a vital role in keeping our community connected, inclusive, and vibrant.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2026

Balmain Public School P&C

The Balmain Public School P&C and volunteers have gone above and beyond as a community force – raising over \$250,000 to install air conditioning, launching extracurricular and performing arts programs, organising major community events, and creating ‘Kindness Week’ to support student wellbeing. Their tireless commitment transformed opportunities for every child.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2026

The Good Vibrations Show

The Good Vibrations crew works together, empowering a team of 13 seniors, and equipping them with the tools to create a radio show that is broadcast from Newcastle through Greater Sydney to the Illawarra. With 18 weekly shows already broadcast, the show is growing and gathering momentum. It gives an authentic voice to seniors, aiming to inform, entertain and connect with our community.



INNER WEST

Amy Large Volunteer Team 2026

Betty Spears Child Care "Save Betty's" Campaign Team

Led by Heather Byrne, Anne Thomas, Sourina Ghafouri, and Xian Lim, and over a period of almost three years, the Betty Spear's Childcare team successfully organised the community to "Save Betty's". The nominees' work on the campaign included countless hours of research, lobbying, communications management and negotiation. During this time, they uncovered the Centre's history and legal standing, obtained 1720 signatures on a community petition to the Minister for Transport and TfNSW and carried out persistent and effective lobbying of TfNSW, local councillors, State MPs and the Minister for Transport.

INNER WEST



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2026

Summer Hill Safe Space

Safe Space Summer Hill is a compassionate, peer-led drop-in space for those experiencing loneliness, distress, or crisis. It offers a place to land, connect, and be supported and is a powerful example of what community can create when people come together with empathy, purpose, and heart.



INNER WEST

Carla Stacey Leadership in Sports Volunteer Award 2026

INNER WEST

Carla Stacey AO

Carla possessed remarkable leadership qualities, which she consistently applied to inspire, advance, and achieve meaningful outcomes in community sports.

Her unwavering work ethic reflected a deep understanding of both the sporting and cultural needs of the community, empowering individuals to succeed while simultaneously fostering a spirit of cohesion and inclusion. Through her dedication, Carla not only elevated sporting achievements but also helped build a stronger, more united community.



Carla Stacey Leadership in Sports Volunteer Award 2026 – Winner

Nicole Eyles

Nicole “Ziggy Wheeldust” Eyles volunteers tirelessly as Inner West Roller Derby League Vice President, Lead of Wellbeing, and A-Team Manager. Ziggy Wheeldust has also contributed by leading bout production and commentating games. She has worked with coaching to drive the A-Team to 14th in Oceania. She has contributed greatly to the Inner West community.



Carla Stacey Leadership in Sports Volunteer Award 2026 – Winner

Arvind Sampath

Arv has been the president of Marrickville Cricket Club for 7 years, and a volunteer with the club for more than 12 years. His contribution goes far beyond the typical expectations of a volunteer who has juggled his MCC commitments around his family and work. Arv has embedded himself in the fabric of the club, consistently putting its people, values, and future at the forefront of everything he does.



Pauline McLeod Awards for Reconciliation 2026

INNER WEST

Pauline McLeod

Pauline McLeod, an icon in Australian media and entertainment who worked across many platforms to teach and celebrate her First Nation heritage with Australian audiences of all ages. In recent years, the Awards have fallen on National Sorry Day, a time to remember those from the Stolen Generations, including Pauline McLeod and her siblings.



Pauline McLeod Awards For Reconciliation 2026

Gunawirra

Gunawirra is based in Rozelle and run Yarning Aboriginal mothers program at this location, with Dragonfly at Westmead Hospital and at West Ryde in collaboration with the Northern Centre.

Gunawirra support preschools across remote and rural NSW, providing Allied Health workers to support in the highest priority preschools with predominantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait little ones.



Pauline McLeod Awards For Reconciliation 2026

Wirringa Baiya

Aboriginal Womens Legal Centre

Wirringa Baiya provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children in NSW with a gender-specific service sensitive to their culturally diverse needs; and provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women victims-survivors of violence with access to appropriate legal representation, advocacy, advice, and referral.

The Centre's values are that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women manage the service, be non-profit-making, and pay special attention to the needs of economically and socially disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.



Pauline McLeod Awards For Reconciliation 2026

Sonia White

Sonia's deep respect for Aboriginal people guides every action she takes. Through love, joy and genuine allyship, she listens to community voices, responds to their needs, and works tirelessly toward better outcomes and true reconciliation. Her heartfelt dedication brings strength, hope, and meaningful change to Aboriginal children, families and community.

