

Welcome

Community Awards Celebration 2025



Tim Stackpool

Master of Ceremonies



Aunty Jenny Thomsen

Welcome to Country



Clr Darcy Byrne

Mayor Inner West Council



Citizen of the Year Awards 2025



Adult Citizen of the Year 2025



Adult Citizen of the Year 2025 Nominees

Alejandro Revilla

Grow Mental Health organiser supporting those in crisis with mental health resources.

Alycia Robertson

Co-creator of free program for young people to take control of wellbeing and build resilience.

Alys McLennan

Specialist counsellor and advocate for vulnerable people journeying through recovery and healing.

Coby Smith-Carr

Onboarding and recruitment of Indigenous students from regional and remote communities for USYD.

Dyan Tai

Worship Queer Collective founder raising the profile and visibility of Queer Asian and QTBIPOC Communities.

Emily Cascarino

Goolay'Yari organiser bringing together community and raising awareness of Cooks River conservation.



Adult Citizen of the Year 2025 Nominees

Georgina Bellas

Community champion bringing neighbours together through local initiatives and street gatherings.

Hakan Manav

Martial arts leader and mentor impacting thousands of children, families and individuals locally.

Hayden Walsh

First Nations creative collaborating and producing cultural events, programs and intergenerational experiences.

Herlinda Kalitsi

Legendary postie who goes above and beyond caring for neighbours and supporting those in need.

Kerry Chin

Disability and Queer advocate committed to connecting and supporting community members from marginalised groups.



Adult Citizen of the Year 2025 Nominees

Melinda 'Lindy' Alwis

Program extraordinaire connecting young families to accessible and safe initiatives across health, literacy and wellbeing.

Dr Richard Scoyler AO

Breakthrough medical researcher changing the lives of many Australians through treatment of melanoma at RPA hospital.

Rowan Yeomans

Public artist facilitating practice and career development of artists with disability within Perfect Match project.

Shay Evans

Inclusive performer creating safe spaces within the queer community of Inner West and wider LGBTQIA+ community.

Steve Clarke

FutureProof Music Festival mentor empowering young musicians with creative expression and valuable life skills.

Tara Canin

Co-creator of free program for young people to take control of wellbeing and build resilience.



Adult Citizen of the Year 2025 Recipient

Dr Richard Scolyer AO

Dr Scolyer's work has made on the lives of Inner West people and the hope and inspiration he has given to our whole community while facing adversity himself. There are many Inner Westies alive today because of the breakthroughs that Dr Scolyer and his colleague Dr Georgina Long have made in the treatment of melanoma. His life's work has been based at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital where he has dedicated himself to the health and welfare of our citizens. Richard's determination to continue experimenting in treating his own cancer, and to keep sharing his story, has demonstrated a profound bravery. Richard has been a proud member and volunteer for the mighty Newtown Swans AFL club over many years and a regular at Greenway Parkrun along Hawthorne Canal.



Adult Citizen of the Year 2025



Young Citizen of the Year 2025



Young Citizen of the Year 2025 Nominees

Christian Kotevski

Safety and inclusivity champion for LGBTQIA+ students & allies and a local entrepreneur.

Gem Kre-Nealand

Youth mentor and multi-instrumentalist raising awareness and funds for youth homelessness.

Marla Glasdam

Amplifying the rights of young people, people with disability, animals and environment.

Sunny Morris

Social justice advocate across mental health, equity and climate change.



Young Citizen of the Year 2025 Recipients

Gem Kre-Nealand

Youth mentor and multi-instrumentalist raising awareness and funds for youth homelessness.

Sunny Morris

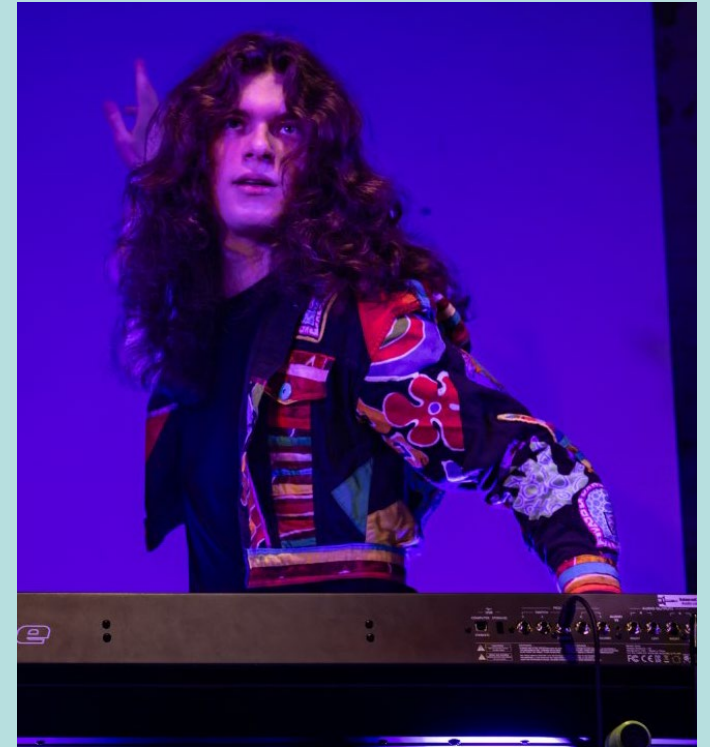
Social justice advocate across mental health, equity, and climate change.



Young Citizen of the Year 2025 Recipient

Gem Kret-Nealand

Gem is a talented songwriter, composer, and multi-instrumentalist who combines his music with meaningful advocacy. He performs at charity events for organisations like The Salvation Army, YMCA, Weave, Saints Care, and Uniting, using music to raise awareness and funds for youth and homelessness. His efforts helped Youth Off The Street double a corporate fundraiser, raising over \$20,000. Beyond performances, he mentors young people, speaks at fundraisers to inspire action, and amplifies youth voices through Youth Off The Streets' Youth Advisory Group with his own lived experience.



Young Citizen of the Year 2025 Recipient

Sunny Morris

Sunny is a proactive and empathetic leader who has made a significant impact through her involvement in numerous initiatives. From advocating for mental health and equity in the NSW Youth Parliament to organising a Gender Affirming Clothes Swap at the MCA WorldPride x Genext Festival, Sunny has dedicated herself to creating positive change. Her work with the Trans Justice Project, climate awareness efforts, and active role in youth leadership at school Dulwich Hill School of Visual Arts and Design and in the creative field through Shopfront Youth, reflect her deep commitment to supporting young people and promoting social justice for all.



Young Citizen of the Year 2025



Senior Citizen of the Year 2025



Senior Citizen of the Year 2025 Nominees

Jan McLelland

Director of Stanmore Music Festival, driving its success through strong connections with community.

Phil Goldstein

Programming Director of Stanmore Music Festival providing local and emerging artists with performance opportunities.

Jo Blackman

Community and environmental leader across local bushcare and citizen science groups for more than 20 years.

Graeme McKay

Researcher uncovering additional Haberfield enlistees and record-keeper for fallen service men & women of WWI.

Phil Nanlohy

Founding volunteer and member of board of directors of Reverse Garbage who has inspired educators and conducted workshops for over 50 years.



Senior Citizen of the Year 2025 Recipients

Phil Nanlohy

Founding volunteer and member of board of directors of Reverse Garbage who has inspired educators and conducted workshops for over 50 years.

Jo Blackman

Community and environmental leader across local bushcare and citizen science groups for more than 20 years.



Senior Citizen of the Year 2025 Recipient

Phil Nanlohy

Phil was one of the founding volunteers of Reverse Garbage and 50 years later still volunteering on Board of Directors as well as donating his time to conduct leather working and wood working workshops. As a teacher for many years Phil can look at the materials here at RG in a different light and inspires upcoming educators to use reuse resources in their classrooms. He dedicates his time for leather working and wood working workshops, sharing his extensive knowledge of creative reuse in the teaching space. Phil dedicates his own time to connect with other reuse institutions around the world when he's travelling, bringing his learnings back to RG to share. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary his extensive record collecting and archiving over the years has meant we are able to document our unique place within the world of creative reuse.



Senior Citizen of the Year 2025 Recipient

Jo Blackman

Jo is a community leader, environmental advocate, volunteer and volunteer coordinator. Jo founded the Greenway Birdos Citizen Science group, one of the leaders of the Inner West Environment Group and has been volunteering at the Waratah Mills, Davis St and Pigott St bushcare sites for more than 20 years! Jo is a volunteer coordinator for two bushcare groups in the Inner West, contributor to the Greenway community forum, member of Marrickville peace group, has raised over \$100 000 in grant funding for environmental projects in the Inner West and works closely with Council on projects like BD36 Biodiversity Strategy and Hoskins Park upgrade. Jo regularly helps the community in less public ways such as helping families with respite care and providing mental health first aid to those in need – she is always there when needed contributing in many ways!



Senior Citizen of the Year 2025



Buuja Buuja Dancers

INNER WEST

Amy Large Volunteer Awards 2025



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.



Presley Large

Granddaughter of Amy Large



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2025



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2025

Abbey O'Neill

Abbey has been involved with the Balmain Water Polo Club's junior and Flippa Ball programs for the last 3 years in addition to coaching junior water polo teams through out the season and at the various Championships. Her role as a coach has contributed to the growth of our Junior program. Abbey also has been a pivotal person in game day admin for our Australian Water Polo League home games taking on the pressure role as table official. Abbey's selfless and generous nature sees her volunteer for jobs without hesitation. She shows maturity and skills beyond her years, being able to handle pressure situations, connect with juniors and work with adults.



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2025

Finley Hook

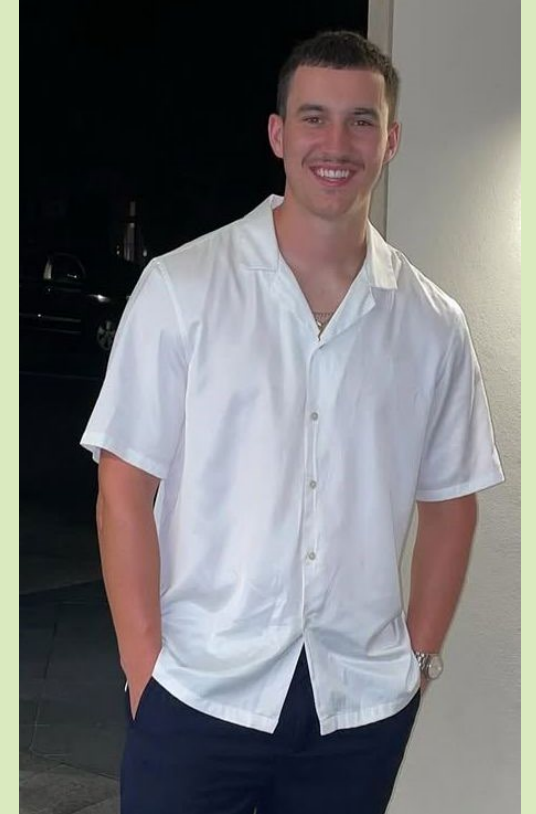
Fin began with Addison Road Community Organisation as a volunteer helping in our busy food pantry. He expanded his involvement by joining our group of gardening volunteers, who are working hard to turn compacted soils and weedy areas into fertile beds with native biodiversity. As a dedicated member of both these teams he has played a vital role in connecting the dots between operations, planning and designing new activities and implementing a Zero Waste strategy to ensure that valuable resources like vegetable scraps, cardboard and reclaimed items are put to use for the benefit of the historical site. Fin always shows initiative and completes tasks even before anyone else realises that it needs to be done.



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2025

Lachlan Bortolussi

Lachlan is a volunteer physio for the Harold Mathews Cup (17s) Team at Balmain Tigers and assists with the 16s and 18s teams as well. This year he has managing close to 100 kids over the summer program from which all the players absolutely love him. He is in his last year of Physio but on top of that helps to mentor these young men by providing guidance around their preparation with getting their bodies back to its peak performance. Lachlan has built both his level of confidence, knowledge, experience and diagnosis through dealing with the sheer number of squads he is required to manage. Lachlan has also developed professionally through the extension of the club doctors and medical team.



Amy Large Young Volunteer 2025

Samuel Hughes

Samuel ensured the Balmain Water Polo Club's tradition of hospitality at Dawn Fraser Baths continues and contributes to the Club financially. He implemented initiatives keeping processes streamline and effective. Much of his own personal time was given to ensuring hospitality is running efficiently - ordering stock, stock taking, managing preparation and budgets, rosters, maintenance of equipment and areas. Samuel is also a very talented coach. He has taken many teams to finals - turning a group of juniors into champion teams. He is very generous of his time, often stepping in to cover coaching duties.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Alejandro 'Alex' Revilla

Alex is an organiser for Grow Mental Health in Camperdown, facilitating conversation around suicide, organising group activities and outings on Monday evenings (through songs, readings, poems and more). He has been instrumental in supporting those with mental health struggles, increasing the support services for those in crisis and going through tough times by offering a line of listening and support. He will always extend a hand of support, whether that be assisting with groceries, accompanying someone to a place they need - anything where someone is in need - he is the first person to put his hand up and an 'allrounder'!



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Amy Feng Ming Zhang-Huo

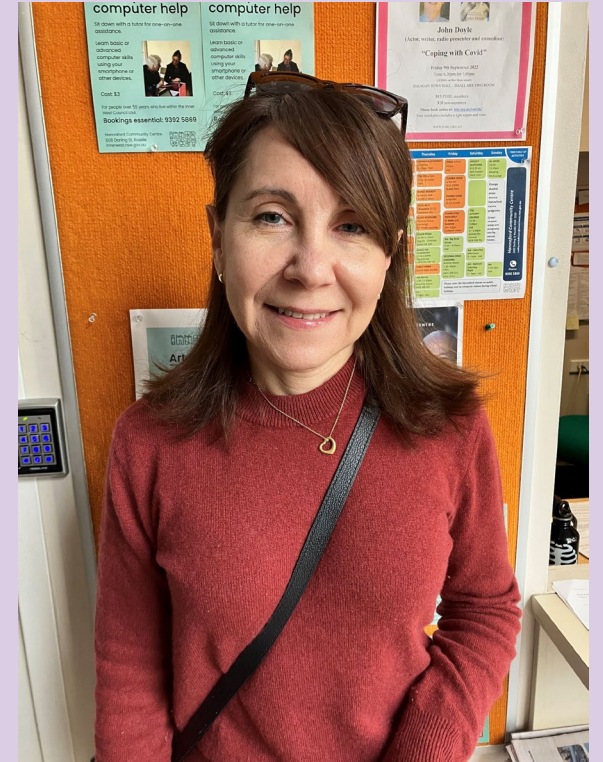
Amy has been a volunteer since 2022, at CASS Ashfield Social Dancing Group (Monday) and Ashfield Activity Group (Tuesday, as vice group leader) at Ashfield Civic Centre. Amy joined CASS with the intension of bringing joy to seniors and fostering a strong sense of security which contributes to feelings of belongings and community building. These are important elements helping and caring the seniors' well-being, reduce their social isolation, sharing community news and encourage them to participate in the community, doing exercises, keeping the elderly active, helping to improve seniors' live with joy.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Anastasia Perry

As a volunteer with the Tech Support program at Hannaford Community Centre, Anastasia has made an outstanding contribution to her community by providing weekly, free, one-on-one tech help assistance to people over the age of 55. These sessions are essential to those members of our community that are seeking assistance with their personal devices and want to learn how to safely navigate online services. She has displayed patience, kindness and compassion in her sessions, and it is because of these qualities, that she is able to break down some of the barriers that people can experience when they try to access services online.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Andrew Host

Andrew has volunteered with the Rev. Bill Crews Foundation for two years and has 197:50 hours of service. Andrew has helped us out across Food Services, Guest Relations and is currently helping in our Fundraising Department every Friday. Aside from his normal volunteering with Andrew has a background in Sound Engineering and his help was valuable while we were recording our combined staff and volunteer Christmas song, Andrew edited and created a great sounding song that went out on all our social media pages.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Annette Dwyer

Annette is a truly outstanding volunteer for Stepping Stone House, a youth homelessness charity based in Sydney's Inner West. She is a Driving Mentor for young people who need to log the 120 hours required whilst on their L plates. Without Driving Mentors like Annette, many of the young people at Stepping Stone House would not be able to overcome the barriers to access and achieve this important rite of passage and tangible representation of independence, for which they are all striving. Annette has also completed Sleep Under the Stars and has raised thousands of dollars for Stepping Stone House. Annette's work in the houses and their gardens allow for a wonderful home environment for the children and young people at Stepping Stone House to be supported as they work towards their ultimate goal of independence.



INNER WEST

Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Cate Sims

Cate has been volunteering with Sydney Multicultural Community Services since August 2022, dedicated to helping older adults who have limited family and social support, addressing their risk of isolation. The goal is to meet their social and emotional needs to enhance their quality of life. Cate has been visiting an elderly resident living with dementia in the Inner West and despite the challenges, she knows she provides some joy, company and quality one-on-one time to the resident who would not have that otherwise. Cate is one of the selfless volunteers in our community that provides social support to elderly members of our community who are at risk of being isolated and alone – and does that with compassion and generosity.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Corinne Smith

Through her unwavering dedication to volunteering, Corinne has had a profound impact on the lives of individuals and families in the Inner West, fostering a sense of belonging, enhancing mental health and reducing isolation for marginalised communities. One of Corinne's most remarkable accomplishments is the creation of KinHub, a safe and neuro-affirming space where young people and their families feel truly seen, supported and valued. As a mother raising a young family living with disability, Corinne's deep understanding of the challenges faced by families in similar situations has fueled her passion for supporting others. Her dedication to fostering an inclusive community has transformed lives, demonstrating the profound impact of one person's commitment to social change.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Deb Heggaton Klenner

For over seven years, Deb has been the driving force behind the Australian Martial Arts Secondhand Uniform Store, playing a vital role in both academy and the wider community. She selflessly donates her time, sorting and organising generously donated uniforms and clothing, reselling them at a minimal cost to help families while also reducing landfill and waste. Every dollar raised from the store goes directly to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, making a real impact in the fight against breast cancer. Beyond the uniform store, Deb is always the first to step up, volunteering at AMA special events and her local public school, ensuring everything runs smoothly and supporting students/the community. Her warm and supportive presence is felt throughout every event, and she plays a crucial role in fostering a strong sense of community within the academy.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Glenn Thompson

Glenn has been volunteering with Annandale Community Nursery for 1.5 years. Volunteers like Glenn are integral to the successful operations of the nursery! Having previously run his own propagation nursery, Glenn's skills and expertise cannot be understated! His strike rates for soft tip cuttings are impressively high, having great success with *Chrysocephalum* and *Scaevola* species (both of which are very popular amongst customers and verge gardeners). We can always rely on his calming presence and professionalism, skills and horticultural knowledge as we strive for continued success and improvements within our nursery processes.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Margaret Bailey

Marg started volunteering at Addi Road seven years ago, quickly becoming a vital member of the volunteer team. Her commitment was especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, when we transformed our community hall into a Covid Emergency Relief Hub. Her dedication didn't stop there, as she continued to assist on a weekly basis, ensuring hampers were packed and delivered to the community. She consistently made herself available at short notice, always ready to lend a helping hand whenever needed. Demonstrating her passion for greening spaces, Marg eagerly looked ways to beautify the grounds and established a gardening group with a few other community experts. With a huge amount of love and attention to detail, Marg has set about beautifying gardens around the central carpark, making a real difference to the impression for visitors and organisations using the space at Addi Road.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Natalie Bryant

For three years, Nat has been the beating heart of First Nations Response (FNR). She is the backbone of our operations—the silent force that has held everything together, ensuring our survival and growth. Every administrative task, every behind-the-scenes responsibility that others shy away from, Nat has taken on without hesitation. She has worked late nights, sacrificed weekends, and carried an unthinkable workload, all while juggling a full-time job and raising a family. She is not just a volunteer—she is the foundation upon which this organisation stands. While others may be visible in the public eye, Nat's tireless efforts operate in the background, making it all possible. Every achievement FNR has made is, in part, because of her unwavering commitment and determination. Beyond FNR, Nat is an exceptional leader and advocate!



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Sam Freeman

Sam is a key volunteer at the Little BIG Foundation and has played an essential role in building social connection through the Little BIG House in Summer Hill. Over the past two years, Sam has helped embed community leadership by establishing and chairing the Little BIG House Management Committee (local voices central to decision-making), co-founded the Little BIG Supper Club (group supporting men to connect through meaningful conversation) and founded the Flour Mill Business Collective (supporting collaboration between small businesses and community). Beyond strategy and leadership, Sam is always willing to step in—fixing things, hosting events, or recruiting volunteers. His work ensures programs run smoothly and no one is left out. Sam's volunteering demonstrates how committed individuals can drive real change—creating kinder, healthier, more connected communities through simple, consistent acts of service.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Steve Clark

Steve has run youth music events in the Inner West for over five years, providing opportunities for young people to perform, develop their skills in music and event production. Steve has been at the helm of Futureproof Music Festival, working with a group of mostly young volunteers to create, produce and deliver an annual festival for young people. Alongside this, Steve has worked with local businesses to organise regular performances by Futureproof musicians in the Summer Hill Piazza, and curated the Youth Stage at Summer Hill Social 2025. He demonstrates extraordinary commitment – delivered with patience and enthusiasm – to supporting young artists and producers, and to nurturing the next generation of musical talent in Australia.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Sylvia Lin

Sylvia begun volunteering with Paint Inner West REaD 3 years ago and she continues to offer consistent ongoing weekly support. Paint Inner West REaD is a local community group that aims to support families with building early literacy skills before children start school. Sylvia has been an active advocate for reading, talking, singing, rhyming, playing, and drawing with children from birth because it builds babies' brains! Sylvia also dons painters overalls to attend children's events to escort the pelican mascot, read to children, explain brain growth to parents and spread the fun work of play. In addition to Sylvia's many hours of dedication to PIWR, she also volunteers with OzHarvest weekly.

INNER WEST



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Szilvia Jokay Von Arnim

Sylvia has been volunteering on Asylum Seekers Centre Support for the past year, quickly becoming one of our most trusted and valued volunteers. She is highly competent and is often the person we ask to deal with the more complicated requests, as she always gives her all in trying to tackle them. She often stays past her scheduled finish time so that she can make sure the task she is working on is fully completed. She has now trained many new volunteers and students and is always happy to introduce new people to the role. Sylvia is an ardent advocate for our clients, she has supported many people in receiving ID documents, topping up their opal cards and recharging their phones, apply for families to get Medicare so they can access health service, and advocates for clients who are struggling paying their bills.



Amy Large Adult Volunteer 2025

Tony Azzam

Tony has set up Western Suburbs Lawn Tennis through Tennis NSW Club spark (registering more than 110 members details). This has allowed the club to become more viable, sustainable and accountable into the future, as fees, bookings and memberships have all been streamlined into this system. Tony does maintenance on our courts and works closely to support our Treasurer and Secretary assisting them with tasks and projects.



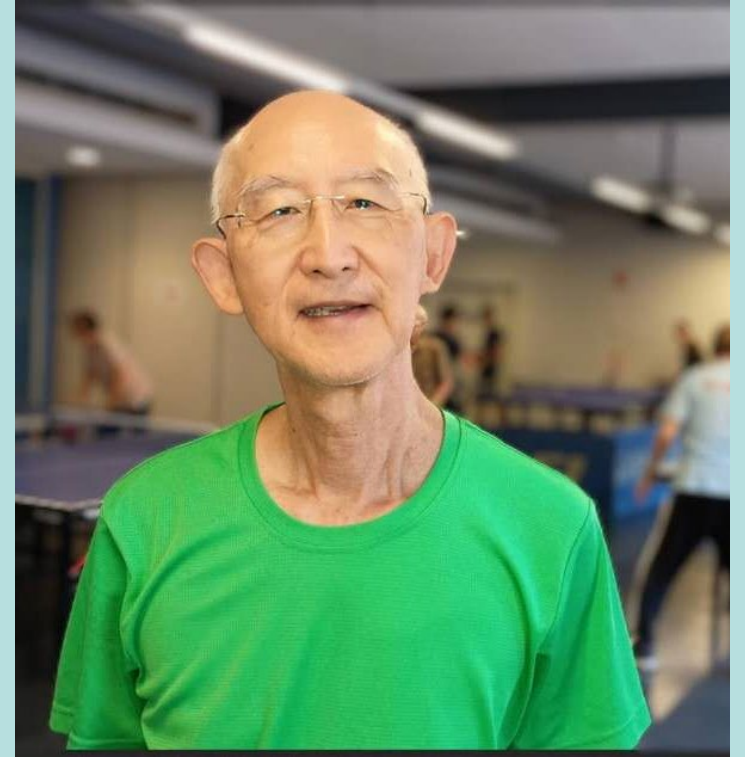
Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Chu Fong Yuen

Mr Yuen has been a volunteer of Ashfield Table Tennis Group which gathers twice a week (Monday & Wednesday) at Ashfield Civic Centre by CASS. At the age of 75, Mr Yuen is still an active volunteer serving more than 100 participants. One of his main duties is to control the timing and smooth turn-taking for the participants playing the game. They also run other programs like sharing news, singing while participants waiting for their turn to play table tennis. They created a group song during these activities, called "Ping-Pong Meetup Destiny". Mr Yuen's effort has made our community more inclusive and diverse; his selfless dedication and contribution makes our community a better place and with great spirit.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

David Roper

David has been volunteering with Annandale Community Nursery for 6 months, and within that short time has made a significant positive impact. David is always keen to get his hands dirty, never shying away from the difficult jobs and always embracing a challenge! He has been instrumental in our weed management processes, hand weeding and laying weed matt – which is no easy feat! This eliminates any need for chemical weed control methods such as harmful herbicides which can run-off and damage nearby waterways. His dedication, innovation and hard work has been instrumental in establishing an environmentally friendly long-term solution to weed management. Rain, hail or sunshine, David arrives at the nursery with a can-do attitude and a desire to work hard and make a positive impact on the nursery, his team and the wider community.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Geoffrey Denman

Geoff has been a long-term dedicated volunteer for Stepping Stone House. Geoff helps maintain all six of Stepping Stone House's accommodation properties, going above and beyond to make these spaces homes for the young residents. This includes internal and external maintenance tasks; if he can fix it, he will. Geoff also in an Impact Day facilitator – devising a schedule of tasks that need doing and help support the corporate volunteer group in their activities. Geoff is a determined person who is truly driven to achieve goals, which means whatever project he is working on he will ensure it is finished and done properly. Geoff's work allows the beneficiaries of Stepping Stone House to live in an environment that feels like a home, where they can heal and grow in their journeys toward independence.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Jan McClelland

Jan has been the director of the Stanmore Music Festival Committee from 2023–2024 and volunteer since 2019. The Festival has emerged as one of the most iconic community driven and music festivals in the Inner West. This Festival was brought to fruition by the Stanmore Community as envisioned by the late Richard Gill, a renowned Australian musician, conductor and educator. Jan's passion and enthusiasm for music and the Stanmore community has been the key driver for the Festival's ongoing success. Jan has worked hard for the past two years maintaining strong connections with community to gain their support for the festival as a musician, local business, sponsor or volunteer. She engaged local schools and businesses to activate their spaces and get musicians to perform on their doorsteps!



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Jane Skinner

Jane's unwavering dedication and boundless compassion have profoundly impacted our community. She embodies the very spirit of volunteerism – whether she is leading initiatives, supporting individuals in need, or working behind the scenes to ensure the success of our programs, Jane brings a level of energy and devotion that inspires everyone around her. She approaches every challenge with a kind heart and a steadfast determination, always striving to make a meaningful difference. Her work in the Addi Road's food pantry has provided countless community members with nourishment and relief, and her engaging cooking demonstrations have equipped individuals with the skills and confidence to prepare healthy meals for themselves and their loved ones.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Jo Blackman

Jo is a community leader, environmental advocate, volunteer and volunteer coordinator. Jo founded the Greenway Birdos Citizen Science group, one of the leaders of the Inner West Environment Group and has been volunteering at the Waratah Mills, Davis St and Pigott St bushcare sites for more than 20 years! Jo is a volunteer coordinator for two bushcare groups in the Inner West, contributor to the Greenway community forum, member of Marrickville peace group, has raised over \$100 000 in grant funding for environmental projects in the Inner West and works closely with Council on projects like BD36 Biodiversity Strategy and Hoskins Park upgrade. Jo regularly helps the community in less public ways such as helping families with respite care and providing mental health first aid to those in need – she is always there when needed contributing in many ways!



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Kerry Bush

Kerry has been an active volunteer with the Little BIG Foundation since its inception. Kerry is a key leader of the Seniors Group at the Little BIG House in Summer Hill, which has welcomed 7–15 participants every fortnight since 2022. She understands the isolation that can come with ageing and works with others to create a warm, inclusive space where local seniors can connect, share, and build friendships. Kerry represents seniors in the Inner West community, giving this age group a voice. She has made a difference to many people. During a conversation she had with a regular attendee at the Senior's Group, the lady said to Kerry, “you have saved my life”.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Mario Belizzi

Mario Volunteers every Wednesday for Rev. Bill Crews Foundation breakfast roster for over two years and has 216:37 hours of volunteering. Mario is incredible with our guests' fellow volunteers and all who meet him, having a great sense of humor which is a great asset while dealing with some of our vulnerable guests. He is kind, caring and thoughtful with very strong leadership qualities.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Ming Chen

Ming has been a volunteer at CASS since 2007. She is a vice group leader of CASS Ashfield Social Dancing Group and assists in managing the group since 2016, which has over 110 participants attending every week. Ming devotes her time to managing many tasks and programs serving the participants from the community. These include equipment sound control, searching for new dances and dancing music, teaching dance movements to moving chairs and tables, buying snacks and drinks, doing registrations, planning of activity programs, organise events and outings etc – she does all tasks with great care and dedication! Ming also has organised many performances for the groups to visit and perform at various aged care facilities, bringing love and entertainment for the elderly in aged care facilities.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Paul Dwyer

Paul's commitment to ensuring the upkeep of Stepping Stone House accommodation has meant the children and young people in these houses have an environment suitable for their journeys towards independence and plays a significant role in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Paul identified a cost-saving project to benefit Stepping Stone House: solar panels, which redirects funds to provided holistic care to Stepping Stone Houses' service. Paul is an enthusiastic and dedicated individual who is willing to give so much of his time and energy to ensuring the children and young people at Stepping Stone House feel supported by the staff team AND volunteer community that is vital to the ongoing success of the organisation. He is truly an inspiration; his commitment to making houses become homes for young people who have often been through traumatic experiences in previous living spaces.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Peter Roberts

Peter has been a dedicated volunteer with the IT team at Asylum Seekers Centre since 2021, generously contributing his time and expertise one day each week. His work has systematically enhanced our database interfaces, improving efficiency and usability for over 200 staff and volunteers. His initiative, keen eye for detail, and ability to learn and adapt quickly have been invaluable—helping the IT team deliver smarter, more user-friendly solutions. Beyond his technical contributions, Peter is a true team player. His collaborative approach, willingness to share knowledge, and positive presence make him a valued member of the team. He brings enthusiasm, problem-solving skills, and a can-do attitude to every challenge, strengthening both the IT team and the Centre as a whole.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Phil Goldstein

Phil was the Programming Director for Stanmore Music Festival in 2024. Last year there was a record of 77 acts performing for approximately 5,000 community members. There were 807 individual performers in total across 11 stages. Phil's passion for music and his dedication to supporting and giving opportunities to local and emerging artists is the driving force for this dramatic increase in numbers last year. Phil worked closely with the AV team at the Salisbury Hotel and each of the performers to ensure all their tech specs were correct in order for their sets to run as smooth as possible. Most importantly, Phil is committed to being inclusive and has ensured that performers from a diverse range of backgrounds were presented with the opportunity to perform at the Festival.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Phil Nanlohy

Phil was one of the founding volunteers of Reverse Garbage and 50 years later still volunteering on Board of Directors as well as donating his time to conduct leather working and wood working workshops. As a teacher for many years Phil can look at the materials here at RG in a different light and inspires upcoming educators to use reuse resources in their classrooms. He dedicates his time for leather working and wood working workshops, sharing his extensive knowledge of creative reuse in the teaching space. Phil dedicates his own time to connect with other reuse institutions around the world when he's travelling, bringing his learnings back to RG to share. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary his extensive record collecting and archiving over the years has meant we are able to document our unique place within the world of creative reuse.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Shiri Jaheruddin

Shiri has been a dedicated volunteer at CCCi for the past seven years. She works directly with senior clients in the Inner West, supporting a variety of programs, including the Social Outing Program and Social Support Group. Every week, Shiri plays an active role in social support group activities in Marrickville and accompanies clients on outings to various venues. She frequently assists with organising trips for elderly clients from the local Arabic and Vietnamese communities. In addition to facilitating social engagement, Shiri is actively involved in risk assessment, ensuring that all outing locations are safe and appropriate for clients. These programs provide elderly clients with valuable opportunities to socialise, stimulate their minds, stay active, and maintain their overall health and well-being. Shiri's dedication and support play a vital role in ensuring that these programs and activities run smoothly, safely, and enjoyably, enhancing the quality of life for the seniors she serves.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Thieu-Thanh Tran

Thanh has been a dedicated volunteer at CCC for the past 14 years. She works directly with senior clients in the Inner West, supporting a variety of programs, including centre-based social support and Social Outing Programs. Every week, Thanh plays an active role in social support group activities in Marrickville. She also occasionally assists with organising day trips and outings for elderly clients from Vietnamese and Arabic communities. Her efforts bridge generational gaps, fostering understanding and stronger connections between seniors and younger community members. Her commitment to nutritional care has had a direct impact on seniors' health, ensuring they receive wholesome, high-quality meals tailored to their cultural and dietary needs. This has played a crucial role in enhancing their physical well-being and quality of life.



Amy Large Senior Volunteer 2025

Wayne Richardson

Wayne has been a dedicated Volunteer in Policing at Ashfield Police Station since 2018, committing two days a week to supporting the NSW Police Force and the Inner West community. His volunteer work includes assisting with community engagement initiatives, preparing educational materials, assembling showbags for crime prevention programs, and supporting victims of crime. He plays a key role in educating both children and adults on personal safety and crime prevention, helping to build a more informed and resilient community. Wayne's commitment ensures police officers receive vital support, allowing them to focus on frontline duties. His reliability, compassion, and ability to connect with diverse groups make him a valued and respected figure. His selfless service has strengthened police-community relations and made a lasting impact.



Amy Large Sport Volunteer 2025



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Alex Watson

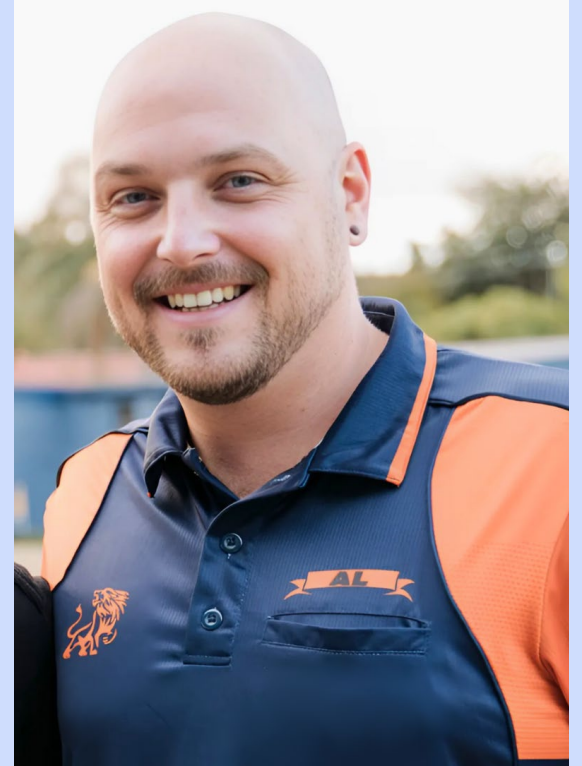
Alex has been on the Flying Bats Football Club committee since November 2024, and taken on so much in that short time. As Outreach Coordinator, they collaborated with local Inner West brewery on a limited edition 'Fruit Bat' and organised a launch event for the beer and turned it into a fundraising opportunity for our club, which was so fun, positive and helpful. Alex has been a part of everything our committee has been doing for our 40th anniversary as a club, which was founded by LGBTQIA+ women and people in 1985. They really want the club to be a safe space for queer and trans people, and all LGBTQIA+ women and gender diverse people, to be able to play football and thrive -- and they work tirelessly towards that goal.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Alistair Scott

Al has volunteered as a Director of Leichhardt Bowling and Recreation Club for seven years and three as Chair. Beyond the formal fiduciary, compliance, and corporate governance duties, Al's work covers just about everything—organising and facilitating bowls events, recruiting bowlers, pitching in on renovations and maintenance, manning the BBQ on charity days, marketing and communication. What makes Al's contribution special is that we're a small team with finite resources, and he stretches his role as wide as it needs to go. Al has been a champion for inclusivity, helping the club build a reputation as a welcoming space. Thanks to Al's vision, energy, and dedication, our once-struggling community club now has a bright future.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Christian Layland

Christian serves as the Club President of Australian Catholic University Football Club. In this leadership role, he uses his background in sports management to revitalise and manage the club, ensuring its growth and success. He is actively involved in various aspects of the club, including coaching the Over 35 men's team, refereeing in the club's referee program, and mentoring other coaches on a weekly basis. Additionally, Christian is responsible for engaging and strengthening relationships with the local university to recruit players, volunteers, and referees.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Cooper Silk

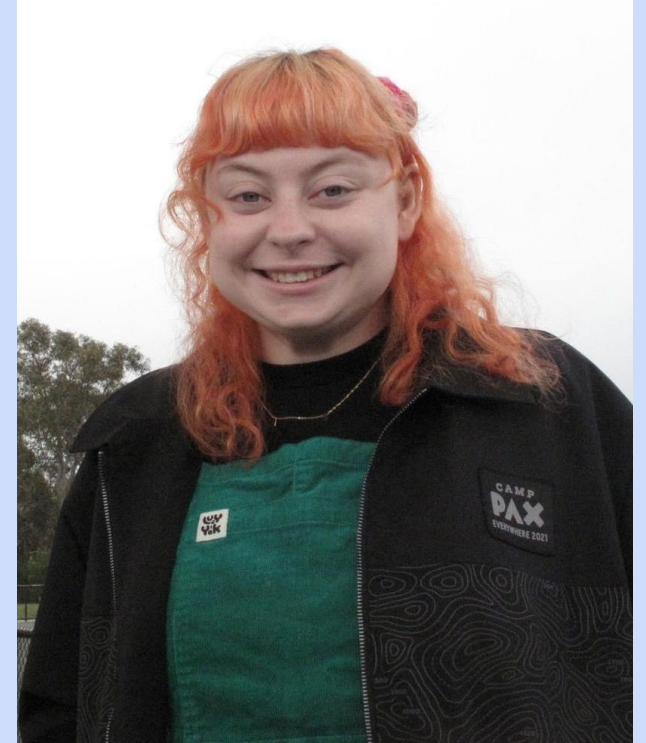
Over the last 18 months Cooper has taken on the role of communication and sponsorship officer for the Balmain Water Polo Club. He is responsible for social media presence, seeking and securing sponsorship, then coordinating servicing our sponsors, advertising and live streaming. Through his work, he has secured financial and in kind sponsorship from local businesses injecting much needed finances into the Club with the aim to continue to build our junior program. Cooper is a passionate person, whose enthusiasm and drive is always to make things better. His big picture approach is an “If not, why not?” approach. Cooper is generous of time and resources, always accommodating and a hand to assist. He has much time for young people from coaching to mentoring to work experience.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Gabrielle Costanzo

Gabby has been on the Flying Bats Football Club committee for two years now as our Communications Director and has been so absolutely dedicated to our work. She is the voice of the club to our members, reaching out with emails and messages our members need to know and answers their questions with patience and kindness. Gabby has pushed through online homophobic and transphobic harassment, found ways to keep our members safe, and continued to produce incredible content for us. She is dedicated to this club, both keeping it safe and ensuring that it is running smoothly. She doesn't let anything get in her way, and she's willing to put her hand up to help with almost any task, even those outside her role.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Heather Smallbone

Heather is an organiser who can handle complicated and large scale events held by Croquet Australia and Croquet NSW, and contributor to croquet in Australia over a few decades. She is a dedicated and excellent coach and has refereed at the highest level during her croquet career. Heather is very sociable and is an able facilitator in Cooks River Croquet Club. Her long background in croquet at all levels allows her to answer questions on the history of croquet personalities, specific clubs and State and National events. Apart from managing significant tournaments and competitions, her achievements include attending Come and Try sessions inducting local residents into the gentle sport of croquet and coaching new players. Heather is a good communicator which has been necessary in all the coordinating, coaching and refereeing roles she has encountered.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

John Murtagh

John (Irish) as he's known in the AFL world, joined the founding Newtown Breakaways Football Club men's team in 2020, and won a premiership. The following season he joined the committee to help with the integration process of a men's team to the 20+ year old women's team and has remained on the board since. He has fulfilled numerous roles from board member, First Aid Officer, Sponsorship lead, Secretary and now FAO & recruitment. Throughout this time, he has been the club's handyman creating storage when we had none, assisting with the capital works program & upgrades, hired muscle for transporting equipment to and from club's events, turning his car into a float and driving in Mardi Gras and running BBQs at the AFLW in the off season.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Kiah Muschinski

Kiah's role in the Inner West Roller Derby League goes beyond her technical skills in coaching, officiating, and competing. She has demonstrated extraordinary initiative and dedication to building an inclusive and supportive environment for all participants. The community-centered programs and events Kiah leads have promoted a sense of belonging for many marginalised individuals, fostering physical well-being and personal growth, and helping create an environment where everyone is celebrated for who they are. Through her leadership, Kiah has not only empowered athletes to reach their full potential but has helped establish a model for how sports organisations can actively support the LGBTQIA+ community and create a more inclusive, diverse, and welcoming environment for all.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Maisie Tanner

Maisie has been involved with Balmain & District Football Club for over 20 years. Initially joining the club as a player, Maisie has gone on to dedicate her spare time to organising, running and assisting various programs throughout the club. Maisie has helped grow the Balmain & District Football Club All Abilities Program to be one of the largest in NSW, attracting special needs players from across the Inner West. Her work with aspiring young referees through our Game Leader program, along with her support for Women's football in general, has seen year-on-year growth for our club in the Girls and Women's space. Maisie is a genuine champion of diversity and inclusion in community sport, endlessly positive and ready to help anywhere at any time.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Peter Brown

Peter's junior Fundamental Water Polo Skills program has brought back the fundamental skills of water polo to the developing players at Balmain Water Polo Club, creating good habits and proper foundation. There has been improvement in the skill level of our junior players progressing through the divisions. His sessions see juniors delight in the execution of skills and encouraged to further improve. Peter has passion for ensuring our young players learn the basics of the game he loves. He connects with children and encourages them to achieve their best. Peter also coaches junior water polo teams both male and female and assists other coaches where needed.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Samantha Lewis

As the President of The Flying Bats Football Club, Sam has led us into our 40th anniversary year with strength, resilience, kindness, and incredible communication. As the president of the only LGBTQIA+ football club for women and gender diverse people, Sam has ensured that queer women and gender diverse people have a safe place to play football in a tumultuous time for the LGBTQIA+ community. She has spearheaded a number of large-scale changes, including brand-new jerseys, an 'eras tour'-themed Mardi Gras float, and fun new merch for our Bats community. She works so hard to connect with other organisations and has kept our club running smoothly.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Samara Fitzpatrick

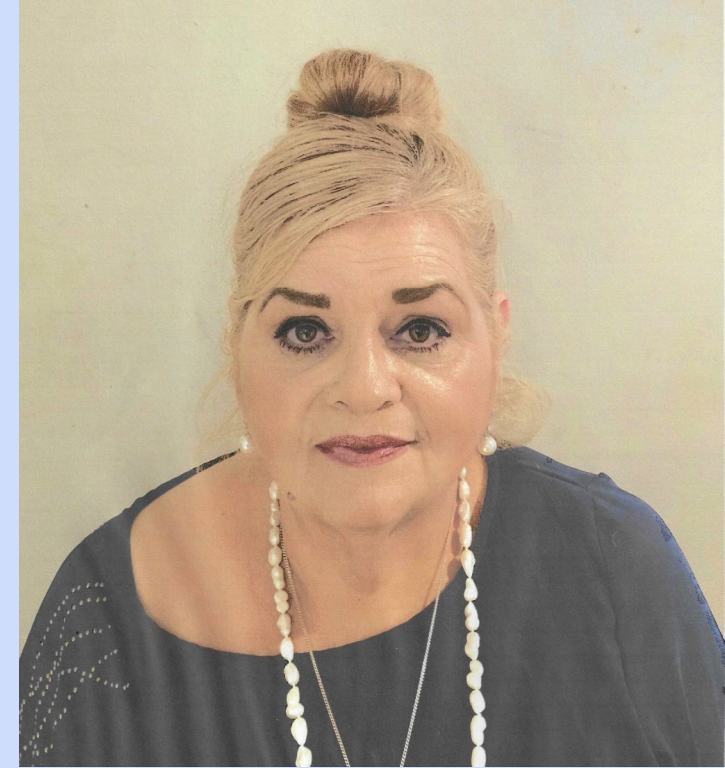
Sammy has been a player for The Flying Bats Football Club for well over a decade and has held several volunteer positions over the years. She has had multiple positions within the committee and is currently a general member. But her work is so valuable and important because she is always involved and putting her hand up for any task that needs doing. She is phenomenal with people and is always happy to help figure out logistics or lead people through training. She has helped shape our guiding documents and principles, and she is overall the most reliable person!



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Sue Lazarou

In 16 years Sue has provided sports training and competition to numerous athletes with intellectual disabilities at club Special Olympics Sydney Inner West. They have benefited greatly from her support; their fitness has improved, they have learned the need to take turns and to be a good team member, their social skills have improved and they have made crucial and often lasting friendships. The families of the athletes have also benefited, joy at seeing their children competing, demonstrating their skills and forming bonds of friendship is palpable. The potential for our Club to provide the level of support the athletes deserve depends on the quality of the management of the Club and Sue has been an integral to that. She is a calming presence who provides an unbiased balance to our decisions and a fairness and openness to a diversity of personalities that invariably make up the community that a Club like ours consists of.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Tanya Ryan

Tanya manages a range of teams within the Balmain Tigers. The teams Tanya is a part of have received the benefits of picking up another mother like figure and treating them like they are apart of the family. Tanya is happy when the teams come together and build culture. For her efforts with the Balmain Harold Matthews Team manager, the most difficult part of the role is building relationships and then having coaches' selections remove people from the squad. Tanya regularly works over and above the role by getting player posters made up for game day and taking the calls of parents and applying her perspective of a mother to the coaching staff to help with understanding how the families feel.



Amy Large Sports Volunteer 2025

Van Allen

Van is the canteen manager for Balmain Junior Rugby Club and she has been the driving force behind coordinating the new kitchen set up between the Senior and Junior Rugby Clubs, organising shared equipment, storage and logistics. Van is the type of volunteer who works tirelessly in the shadows, using her knowledge to the benefit of the broader community without expectation of any reward. Using her initiative to drive projects forward, Van has had tangible results, whether securing grants for Balmain Public School playground upgrades, providing design advice for new club house, or providing nourishment for hungry rugby players on Sunday mornings! Van is also involved in local sailing clubs being a Class Captain for Laser and Optimist class boats. Van combines all of this whilst working full time, bringing up three teenagers and rebuilding her house!



Amy Large Volunteer Team or Group 2025



Ashfield Boys High School Prefect Team

This group of students has dedicated their time and effort over the past year and this year to raise awareness and donations within the inner-west community for several vital causes. Their initiatives include organising a charity drive for the Women and Girls Refuge Centre in Sydney, raising funds for Movember, supporting leukemia research through the World's Greatest Shave, and raising awareness of mental health issues during R U OK? Day. These nine prefects have rallied the wider school community to support these important charities and societal issues in Australia, including mental health and violence against women.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Ashfield Public School P&C – Community Market Team

Sarah Newman and Kathryn Courtney Prior have been dedicated members of the Ashfield Public School P&C since 2019, spending most of this time as executive members of the team and have organised several markets. Their management of the market—including bookings, event coordination, volunteer organisation, and promotions—ensures its continued success. Beyond the market, their involvement in coordinating fundraisers, writing grants, and running events has significantly benefited the school. Their hands-on approach, from volunteering at BBQs and bake sales to leading major initiatives, has helped build a stronger, more engaged school community. Through their dedication, problem-solving, and leadership, Sarah and Kathryn have not only raised funds and improved school resources but have also strengthened community ties, empowered young entrepreneurs, and fostered a welcoming, connected environment for all.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Asylum Seekers Centre – Lunch Team

The Lunch Team showed exceptional generosity donating, procuring & catering for 70 people every month for eight years. Their thoughtfulness is admirable doing their best to plan a menu that meets the dietary requirements of our wide diverse community who come from over 98 countries around the world. When our organisation expanded our service to Auburn, the team put their hands up and doubled their donations. Above all, the spirit of welcome they show to our clients with a warm welcome they give to each one who come to them to have food.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Asylum Seekers Centre – Welcome & Registration Team

Welcome & Registration Volunteers work as part of Asylum Seekers Volunteer team are the first contact for clients, supporters and members of the community. Their role involves ensuring a smooth flow of front-of-house, managing the front desk, assisting clients and staff with administrative tasks and responding to a range of enquiries and referrals. They have helped Clients from over 98 country around the world to access services at the ASC and supported asylum seekers to receive material aid (clothes, laptops, phones, and food vouchers). They reflect the welcoming spirit of our community to people who flee danger & seek safety in Australia.



INNER WEST

Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia

Esther Pokorny and the St Vincent's Social Justice Group have participated in the Group Mentorship Program an initiative led by Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia that empowered everyday Australians to take an active role in refugee resettlement through a community sponsorship model. The group have welcomed 3 newcomer households and provided them essential assistance with accommodation, local orientation, and access to services as well as providing a connection to the local community ensuring that the newcomer households were able to thrive in an unfamiliar environment. The group have also provided mentorship support to newer groups in the local area, namely, to support with navigating disability support and services. Esther and the group have also actively promoted the CRISP as an opportunity for Inner West community members to play a direct role in welcoming and supporting refugees in their local community.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Guardians of the Greenway

For the last 3 years the Guardians of the Greenway volunteers have given up their time Sunday mornings rain or shine to volunteer with Council's Greenway bushcare group to revegetate and reinstate the indigenous vegetation communities of the Inner West. This includes weeding, landscaping and planting as well as all aspects of natural area rehabilitation. Over the years of volunteering, the Guardians have honed their on-ground skills in plant identification and habitat creation. The guardians have been a breath of fresh air for the group with their fresh ideas and approaches. The areas they have worked on serve as an example what volunteers achieve realising the community's goal of establishing a biodiversity corridor from the Iron cove to the Cooks River.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Inner West Tool Library Volunteer Group

For the past five years, the Inner West Tool Library (IWTL) Volunteer Group has been an invaluable collective dedicated to fostering sustainability, community engagement, and resource-sharing. Entirely operated by volunteers, IWTL provides the Inner West community with access to a wide range of tools and equipment, reducing waste, promoting a circular economy, and empowering individuals to complete DIY projects, home repairs, and creative initiatives without the financial burden of purchasing new tools. Volunteers dedicate their time to maintaining an extensive inventory of tools, assisting members in selecting the right equipment for their needs, providing basic tool training, and coordinating borrowing and returns. Additionally, they actively engage in outreach programs, educating the public on sustainable practices, and advocating for community-based resource sharing.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Inner West Roller Derby League

Inner West Roller Derby League has made a lasting impact on the local community, particularly for Trans and Gender Diverse individuals. Through participation in the Trans and Gender Diverse Swim Night and Queer Skate – Learn to Skate Program, the league has provided safe spaces for individuals to engage in physical activities, develop new skills, and build meaningful connections within the LGBTQIA+ community. These programs have not only promoted physical well-being but have also helped participants feel a sense of belonging and acceptance. With a focus on inclusivity, the league has successfully created a space where individuals of all identities can feel comfortable and supported.



INNER WEST

Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Little BIG House Volunteer Team “The Tribe”

The Little BIG House at the Flour Mill in Summer Hill, is brought to life by its volunteer team—known as “the tribe.” This unique group of 54 local Inner West residents, collectively giving over 5,000 hours a year to build a stronger, more connected community. Together, they run more than 90 events each month—ranging from yoga and life drawing to book clubs, board games, and markets—bringing countless community members together every day. Events are free or low-cost, ensuring accessibility and volunteers share their own interests and skills, designing events that reflect the diversity of the Inner West. Each event is a chance to reduce loneliness, foster connection, and celebrate local culture.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Mort Bay Park Bushcare

The Mort Bay Bushcare group meet twice a month for over half a decade to care for one of the few remaining pockets of native urban bushland in Birchgrove. The work through the heat, rain and wind to get out into nature and give back to their local community. Volunteers plant trees, monitor for invasive weeds and help protect the parcel of bushland. Recently, in response to the Bushcare site being vandalised, the group has doubled down and have been busy getting to work. The Mort Bay Bushcare site provides a rare glimpse into Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest Native Plant communities, and its stunning pockets of coastal rainforest and sandstone heath can be seen nowhere else. They approach their work with curiosity and a strong willingness to learn, continuously improving their plant ID skills and understanding of the local ecological systems within their bushland.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

The Flying Bats Football Club

Through the dedicated and tireless work of its committee who are all volunteers, the Flying Bats Football Club provides community and a sense of belonging for over 150 queer women and non-binary football players in the Inner West. They have created a safe space for LGTBQIA+ women and gender diverse people to enjoy the social, psychological and physical benefits of community football. They have done all this despite transphobic and homophobic outside pressures trying to shut them down and have managed to keep spirits high while under attack by anti-LGBTQIA+ forces.



INNER WEST

Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

The Mudcrabs

The Mudcrabs Cooks River Eco Volunteers is a unique community that carries out litter reduction and bush care activities along one of Australia's most polluted and degraded urban waterways. Every week, dozens of Mudcrabs work along the river between Croydon Park and Tempe across 14 operating bush sites, pulling rubbish from the mangroves, revegetating the riverbanks and monitoring the return of local wildlife. During the last 20 years The Mudcrabs has attracted: 627 registered volunteers; held 1,244 working bees; volunteers have worked 37,274 hours; 3,866 cubic metres of rubbish and litter has been removed from the river; 23,120 square metres of bushland has been planted and maintained, and 125 bird surveys have been conducted.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Viet Lotus Music and Dance

Viet Lotus Music and Dance is a dedicated volunteer group operating under the Inner West Vietnamese Language School. The group consists of passionate volunteers who teach traditional Vietnamese music and dance to children and young people, fostering cultural pride and community connection. The volunteers contribute their time every week to rehearsals, mentoring students, performing at community events and providing free cultural performance/music education to local Vietnamese community. They organise cultural showcases at festivals, aged care facilities, and schools, ensuring that Vietnamese heritage remains vibrant and accessible to future generations. Their volunteering strengthens intergenerational connections, provides a sense of belonging for Vietnamese-Australian youth, and enriches the multicultural fabric of the Inner West community.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Qlife Team

QLife provides anonymous and free LGBTIQ+ peer support and referrals for people in Australia wanting to talk about sexuality, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships. Volunteers make up the majority of QLife workers and assist callers in distress. The QLife volunteers provide micro-counselling sessions to people who call in and on web chat. The QLife volunteer team are dedicated in their work, showing care and compassion for callers. They make a real difference in the lives of our countless callers and in the lives of LGBTIQ+ people. They are kind and smart people who are committed to being of service to our communities.



Amy Large Volunteer Team 2025

Addison Road Community Organisation

Addison Road Community Organisation offers wide ranging services for the local community with teams of volunteers working across food pantries, deliveries, transport, gardening, cooking, facility management and partnerships. Addi Road volunteers are approximately over 500 volunteers. In the last 12 months alone, their hard work and selfless efforts have rescued 565,693kgs of food from landfill, have fed 425,000 people, prepared more than 40,000 free ready to eat meals, provided 12,500 meals to local schools in school breakfast program and packed over 5000 free hampers for community.



Thank you

Community Awards Celebration 2025

