

10.14.North Sydney Community Awards 2025 Recipients

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ATTACHMENTS	1. CONFIDENTIAL - Community Awards 2025 Recipients [10.14.1 - 6 pages]
CSP LINK	4. Our Social Vitality 4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe 5. Our Civic Leadership 5.3 Community is engaged in what Council does

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the recommended winners of the North Sydney Community Awards 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- North Sydney Council administers an annual Community Awards program to formally recognise individuals and organisations that have demonstrated exceptional contributions to the wellbeing of the community and the enhancement of the local environment within the North Sydney Local Government Area.
- The awards program is a small but important way in which Council acknowledges and celebrates the enormous contribution that grassroots volunteers make to build and enhance community capacity, resilience and spirit in North Sydney.
- The nomination period for the 2025 awards commenced on 3 February and concluded on 7 March 2025.
- The Community Awards Selection Panel, comprising the Mayor and representatives from key Council departments, convened on 18 March 2025 to determine the recipients of the 2025 awards.
- This report seeks Council's endorsement of the panel's recommended award winners.
- Should the Council wish to discuss this report it is noted that the attached confidential documents include personal matters that relate to specific individuals and as such should be considered in closed session.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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

2. THAT Council endorse the winners as recommended by the North Sydney Community Awards 2025 Panel.

Background

North Sydney Council delivers an annual Community Awards program to acknowledge individuals and groups who have made exceptional contributions throughout the year to community wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and civic spirit within the North Sydney area.

The program is a small but important way in which Council acknowledges and celebrates the enormous and rich contribution that local volunteers make to build and enhance community capacity, resilience and spirit in the North Sydney community.

In 2020, Council introduced a refreshed format for the Community Awards to better reflect the distinctive character of the North Sydney community, celebrate the significance of all nominations received, and emphasise the vital role of grassroots volunteerism. The updated program also includes the introduction of new award categories.

Report

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

Community Builder

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

Eco Warrior

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

Living Legend

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

Next Generation

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

Trailblazer

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

The awards nomination process was widely publicised throughout the community via multiple channels to raise awareness and encourage community participation:

- Council's website
- Council's social media channels including Arts & Culture

- Customer Service, with posters on noticeboards and the TV screen
- Community Noticeboards at Civic Park
- Direct email distribution to:
 - community organisation databases
 - primary and secondary schools across the North Sydney LGA; and
 - Council's precinct committees
- Community Development teams network including:
 - Arts & Culture
 - Access and Inclusion
 - Youth Services
 - Multicultural network
 - Domestic Violence
 - Family and Children
- Council eNewsletters:
 - The Coal Loader for Sustainability
 - NewSCene (internal)
 - Precincts
 - eBusiness
 - Stanton Library
 - Green Events
- Paid social media: Mosman Daily, Instagram, Facebook: the spike in link clicks towards the end of the campaign coincides with the Next Generation video.
- Organic (unpaid) social media

Nominations

28 nominations were received and assessed, with winners selected at a Community Awards Panel meeting on 18 March 2025.

The Panel included:

- Mayor Zoe Baker
- Manager Community Resilience and Sustainability
- Team Leader Sustainability
- Manager Library Services
- Community Capacity Building Officer

The confidential attachment to this report identifies the winners identified for the various categories and provides an excerpt of the nomination received to highlight the contribution and value promoted by the nominee.

North Sydney Community Awards 2025 Ceremony

The Mayor will present certificates to all nominees and winners at a special awards ceremony at the Sub Base Platypus in North Sydney on 19 September 2025.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

The awards process is within an existing budget line of \$11,000. The event will be delivered consistent with this budget and will be largely implemented by Council staff.