A Message from the Mayor

Happy Australia Day!

One of the things I love most about Australia Day is the opportunity to recognise those who do incredible things in our community throughout the year.

A huge congratulations to Narraweena resident Graham Whittaker for taking out this year’s Northern Beaches Citizen of the Year Award. Graham has spent much of his life supporting others and his work with young people will have long and lasting impacts on many lives.

Founder and director of the youth suicide prevention charity, One Eighty Avalon Inc, Paris Jeffcoat, is a well deserving recipient of the Young Citizen of the Year; Maureen Rutlidge has been awarded Senior Citizen of the Year for more than 25 years bringing support and fun to people with disability; and Sportsperson of the Year, Wallaby Reece Hodge, displayed incredible determination to overcome significant injury and get back on top of his game.

The fantastic bi-annual Special Olympics Northern Beaches’ Festival of Sport took out the Community Event of the Year for providing a unique experience for people with disability. And fifteen deserving community members were also recognised with Outstanding Service Awards for their various contributions supporting, among others, veterans, young people and the vulnerable as well as working to enhance our local environment.

Our community is truly enriched by these individuals who make such a significant difference to the lives of so many on the Beaches. We thank you all.

Plenty more community spirit is on display today as over 500 volunteers from almost 40 community groups head out to serve pancakes and bacon and egg rolls, host thong throwing, temporary tattoo and hair spray stalls, sell raffle tickets and much more at our various Australia Day events. I hope you can get out to support them and have some good Aussie fun at Council’s Dee Why, Narrabeen and Newport events or enjoy one of the pool parties at our aquatic centres.

I’m also looking forward to welcoming new citizens today. One hundred and forty four residents from 33 nations will become Australian Citizens, from all across the world including Ecuador, the Czech Republic and Mexico. How lucky are we to welcome them to our amazing Northern Beaches.

Enjoy the day, however you choose to spend it.

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