



Pittwater **Volunteer Awards** 2009

Everyday people, extraordinary contribution

Program of Events

Tuesday 12 May 2009



PITTWATER COUNCIL

Program of Events

Dinner

Acknowledgement of Country

“Pittwater Council honours and respects the spirits of the Guringai people. Council acknowledges their traditional custodianship of the Pittwater area.”

Official Welcome

Cr David James, Mayor

Mark Ferguson, General Manager

Master of Ceremonies (MC)

Sally Bacon

Presentation of Certificates

Announcement of the winners of the 2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Refreshments

National Volunteer Week

11 - 17 May 2009

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer.

Australian volunteers are essential to society, and many charities would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers.

Australian volunteers contribute more than 700 million hours of community service to so many areas of society, including community health care, heritage and arts, environment conservation, emergency services, education, social justice and sports. NVW provides a platform to pay tribute to these volunteers who donate their time and energy to help others.



Presentation of 2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

The Mayor and Councillors congratulate all those individuals who have been nominated for their outstanding dedication and service to the community.

This year Council will present awards in the following categories:

- Emergency Services
- Aged & Disability Support
- Art & Culture
- Bushcare
- Community Service & Support
- Environmental
- Rural Fire Service
- Sporting Groups
- Surf Lifesaving
- Youth

The Mayor will present all nominees with a certificate of appreciation. The winners in each category will be announced following the presentation of certificates.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Emergency Services

Trisha Bidmead

Trisha is a valued member of the Warringah / Pittwater Unit of the State Emergency Service. She responds to call-outs for assistance at all hours of the day and night, assists in delivering the unit's training programs and has learned to drive a truck since becoming a member.

Mark Colwell

Mark has provided tireless and dedicated service to his community through the SES for over 10 years, with 6 served as deputy local controller. As well as serving in a leadership role with the SES Mark is a senior trainer, attends call-outs, provides technical support and is the SES representative for the Australia Day festivities in the area. As well as playing a major role in local and regional SES leadership, Mark is a volunteer for the Rural Fire Service.

Elizabeth Watts

Elizabeth is Squadron Commodore for the Cottage Point Flotilla of the Volunteer Coast Guard. She has been part of this unit for over 13 years. She is also presently serving as Commodore of the entire Sydney Coast Guard Squadron. Elizabeth provides invaluable leadership and supports all aspects of the Flotilla's roles in providing for the safety of recreational mariners in the Pittwater and Broken Bay areas. As well as assisting with training and education, Elizabeth has participated in many rescues – and many of those have been undertaken in challenging and dangerous conditions.

Peter Woods

Peter has been involved with the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol for some 32 years. He is a highly regarded marine rescue skipper with the Broken Bay Division. Aside from having participated in many rescues, Peter is also a trainer in boat licensing, marine radio and seamanship.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Ron Woosey

Ron is the Commander of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol's Terrey Hills division and is in charge of the radio base at Terrey Hills which serves the entire Sydney metropolitan area. Under Ron's leadership Terrey Hills has become the only 24 hour radio base in Sydney. This has had a dramatic impact in improving marine safety both in Pittwater and in waterways throughout the Sydney region.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Aged & Disability Support

Patricia Cranney

Patricia has been a volunteer and member of the management committee for Northern Beaches Creative Leisure and Learning for 9 years. She has efficiently managed the finances of the organisation as honorary treasurer for the last 8 years. She is also a willing helper when required in the Sunday Program for adults with disabilities and the History Walks. Elsewhere, Patricia has assisted in various programs in the Lakes Catholic Parish at Narrabeen.

Peter De Gioia

Peter has been a volunteer driver with Manly Warringah Pittwater Community Transport for only about 7 months and in this short time he has quickly established a reputation amongst clients for his generosity and contribution. Peter is responsible for driving older people and people with disabilities to various medical appointments and continues to receive positive feedback for his assistance.

Barry & Sherrell Everett

Barry and Sherrell are a couple that have been volunteering with Sailability NSW Pittwater Inc for 4 years, Sherrell as the secretary, sailor and 'meet and greet' person and Barry as the coordinator of social functions, boat repairer and provider of weekly assistance setting up for the sailing. Sailability gives older people and people with a disability a chance to achieve freedom on the water and this couple have done a wonderful job as volunteers.

Alison Fielding-Smith

Alison has been a volunteer for 6 years with the Northern Beaches Interchange Peer Support Program. Alison provides support to young people with disabilities in a recreational setting. She brings with her a "super-positive, reliable and fun attitude" and the clients are very grateful for her ongoing assistance.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Sharon Malcolm

Sharon has been a volunteer gardener for Northside Community Connect for the past 3 years. She is a bright and cheerful person and a keen pruner! Sharon provides gardening assistance to older people and people with a disability to ensure that continue to live independently in the community.

Phillipa (Pippy) Robbins

Pippy has been a volunteer for Centacare for the last 4 ½ years. Pippy travels on public transport to visit elderly residents in local nursing homes and is often accompanied by her dog Angus. Pippy and Angus bring a lot of joy to not only her clients, but also other residents. Pippy has a positive and caring attitude and on her own initiative has applied for a special pass to enable Angus to accompany her on public transport.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Marianne van de Voorde

Marianne has been a volunteer with Manly Warringah Pittwater Community Aid in their Neighbour Aid program for 7 years. Marianne works in the phone room and is responsible for taking requests for assistance, matching volunteers and clients, daily call checks and a variety of other duties. Prior to that Marianne volunteered with the Australian Red Cross and Lifeline as a telephone counsellor. Marianne constantly volunteers for local safety needs, including the Community Safety Committee and Neighbourhood Watch. She is a member of the Elanora Players and the Special Olympics tenpin bowling. Marianne's credo is 'if something needs to be done just do it' and her volunteer history is testament to this.

Rosina Watson

Rosina has been a volunteer with Northern Beaches Creative Leisure and Learning for over 30 years. She has assisted with various programs for children with disabilities and their siblings. She has been a member of the Creative Leisure Management Committee as president since 1998. She was also the founding president of Northern Beaches Learning Difficulties Support Group. This group provides counselling and advice to parents of children with disabilities, as well as a resources library and regular meetings and workshops. Rosina's enthusiasm and dedication have provided inspiration and guidance to many children and their families.

Douglas Warsley

Douglas has provided 4 years service as a volunteer driver with Manly Warringah Pittwater Community Transport. Despite living a considerable distance from the Northern Beaches, Douglas continues to show dedication and commitment to the organisation by driving older people and people with disabilities to various medical appointments. Recently he provided transport assistance during Seniors Week activities and received overwhelming positive feedback for his service.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Art & Culture

Michelle Cruickshank

Michelle was the coordinator for the Art in the Park section of the 2008 Pittwater Artfest event. Michelle has fantastic energy, is a great organiser and a team player. She has become a welcome addition and a 'breath of fresh air' to the Artfest committee.

Elaine Dewey

Elaine is an enthusiastic member of Pittwater Community Arts Inc. since its inception 6 years ago. Elaine has held the position of membership secretary and is currently treasurer of this community group. Elaine not only contributes to PCA, but is also a convenor for the craft section at the St Ives Show and an ice skating judge. Elaine works full time and still finds time to hold another position on the Knitters Guild Committee.

Liz Dunn

Liz has been a volunteer for the biennial children's art festival, Artfest since its inception 10 years ago. Liz is a reliable, hardworking and humble person who continually implements fantastic ideas. Liz designed the exhibition space at Artfest 2008 and continues to do other jobs with minimal fuss and recognition. She is also a fantastic art teacher to scores of local children and adults.

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2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Marilyn Guion

Marilyn is the art show assistant for Pittwater Community Arts Inc. Marilyn assists PCA with many functions that are held for the Pittwater community. Marilyn is a cheerful person who is keen to assist with any tasks required. Marilyn has a disability and provides mentoring and support to other people with a disability through speaking at public meetings and other networking opportunities. She is the publicity officer for the Disabled Association Magazine and is also trained to do therapy work in hospitals.

Anne Latter

Anne is currently the treasurer for the biennial Artfest and has been a volunteer for this large community event for the past 6 years. She has coordinated the sponsorship and ensured the donation of prizes for the winning young artists. Anne is an organised, easy going team player whose contribution has been valued throughout the years.

Karen Orr

Karen was the volunteer team leader for the 2008 biennial Artfest. For the past year she has invigorated the community with her new energy and fantastic skills. Her organisation of the volunteers was impeccable and she is a valuable asset to the Artfest event.

Katherine Roberts

Katherine has volunteered with Pittwater Community Arts Inc for 5 years. She holds the position of secretary and her knowledge of cultural initiatives in the arts has been invaluable. Katherine is extremely organised and has helped with the emerging artists show at Avalon Recreation Centre for the last 2 years. She has also provided assistance at other PCA functions and is curator at Manly Art Gallery and Museum.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Debby Waters

Debby has volunteered with Pittwater Community Arts Inc for 6 years and has been running art shows each year. Debby was also on the children's Artfest Committee for 10 years and has helped produce a successful show each year. Debby is very highly regarded in the local arts and culture network and also contributes to the community as an art teacher.

Kate Wilkie

Kate has volunteered with Pittwater Community Arts Inc for 5 years and has taken on the position of webmaster for the organisation's website. Kate is responsible for this skilled position and has developed the PCA website to ensure that it is running well and kept up to date. Kate is also an art teacher and is willing to help with whatever function the PCA is putting on.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Bushcare

Sue Anderson

Sue has been involved in many of Council's Bushcare programs over several years. Sue is a dedicated and committed volunteer and brings a thoughtful and cheerful approach to all her environmental work.

Lisa Atkins

Lisa demonstrates her community commitment not only as a highly valued Bushcare volunteer but in other roles too. For example Lisa is treasurer of the Pittwater High School P & C, and is also a member of the West Pittwater Rural Fire Service.

Sherrell Everett

Sherrell has been a dedicated Bushcare volunteer in the Newport area over several years. She is always willing to 'go the extra mile' and spread community awareness through initiatives such as letterbox drops.

Gwen Hackett

Gwen is a stalwart of Bushcare in Pittwater having been a volunteer for more than 13 years. She has also been involved in other community initiatives, including becoming a computing skills volunteer at Avalon and as a National Parks volunteer.

John Illingsworth

John is an active member of a number of Bushcare groups. Together with his wife Lyn, their Bushcare commitments include the Winnererremy Bay, North Newport and Mona Vale dune care groups.

Gwen MacDonald

Gwen is another Bushcare volunteer to have given many years of dedicated service. As well as being a highly valued member of several Bushcare groups, Gwen was the driving force for a successful wildlife corridor Coastcare grant for Barrenjoey High School. Gwen is a hands-on mum who's very involved in the school's environmental programs.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

David Mason

David is a diligent and dedicated volunteer with around 7 years of service to the Pittwater community through his Bushcare work. He has consistently given up his time to care for three reserves in his area.

Peter Meggitt

Peter is a valued and consistent volunteer bushcarer. As well as being a founding member of the Bilgola Beach Bushcare group, Peter has earned himself a reputation as a bit of a mountain goat through his willingness to scale the heights and take on some very steep grades in his quest to preserve our precious local environment!!

David Palmer

David has been a mainstay for over 10 years of the Ingleside Residents Landcare group. Apart from bush regeneration this group has been very active in areas such as bird and roadkill surveys and water quality monitoring. David has had a long and valued connection with Council and his group is represented on Pittwater Council's Planning and Built Environment Reference Group.

Karen & Bryan Penny

Karen and Bryan Penny are 'the quiet achievers' in the Bushcare area, having contributed above and beyond the call of duty over many years. As well as carrying out many roles in many Bushcare groups, they have been regular attenders at community field days. Aside from their significant contribution to Pittwater through Bushcare, Karen and Brian live out their concern for the environment in many other practical ways – for example, they undertake considerable additional independent work to control weeds in local road reserves.

Sonja Siegenthaler

Sonja is another extremely dedicated and loyal volunteer with upwards of 12 years service to Bushcare in Pittwater. Sonja has also given to her community through many years of service as a volunteer librarian.

Summary of Nominees

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Helen Warren

Helen is another consistent and reliable Bushcare volunteer who gives of her time and energy year in, year out in all weather conditions. Helen is a much valued member of the Barrenjoey High Bushcare group, an ideas person who acts on her ideas through participation at working bees and other events. She also supports her school and her community as a volunteer for her school canteen.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Community Service & Support

Judith Andrews

Judith has given over 13 years in voluntary service with Mona Vale Library. Her flexibility, dedication, reliability and thoroughness, not to mention her continuing availability at difficult times such as in school holidays, has made her a highly valued member of the library 'family' of volunteers.

Barry Glasgow

Barry is an active member of Narrabeen Lakes Rotary Club. Barry has given a great deal to his local community in the 12 years he has been a Rotarian – these include raising a considerable amount of money for Mona Vale Hospital and, since 2002, organising the annual charity golf day. Barry has been honoured by his club with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship award.

Ken Hatcher

Ken has given 12 years service to his community through his involvement with the not-for-profit Northern Beaches and North Shore Dog Training Club. Ken has played a number of roles in the club including trainer, treasure and secretary. His tenacity and perseverance have seen the club through some tough times and his contribution is highly valued.

David Hoskins

David has been a member of the Manly Warringah Pittwater Animal Welfare League for 17 years. David is another quiet achiever who makes an invaluable contribution, undertaking a wide range of voluntary duties to support the operation of the League's cattery in particular.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Ken Hughes

Ken has a distinguished record of 30 years of voluntary service to the Pittwater community. This includes volunteering with Northern Beaches Food Services for 9 years, delivering food through their Meals on Wheels program to older people in the community. Ken has fought fires with the Rural Fire Service both in the local area and throughout NSW. He is a crew leader and is also actively involved with the running of the local RFS. In addition to his invaluable work with the RFS Ken is involved with many other organisations in the Pittwater area.

Liz Kelly

Liz has been a volunteer for the learn-to-swim programs at Narrabeen for 15 years plus. Liz is passionate about water safety for children and has put her passion into practice by teaching hundreds of children to swim over the years.

Michael Mannington

Michael contributes to Pittwater's community life as a member of the Friends of Currawong. Michael manages the group's website and IT. Michael also tutors for Avalon Computer Pals and is involved with the Mona Vale Probus Club as activities officer.

Genny Nelson

Genny is an invaluable volunteer for the Mona Vale Library and in her 5 years there has made herself indispensable. Genny assists with author talks and other events, provides seniors' internet training, public access to IT facilities as well as providing support to the home library program.

Savitri Newman

Savitri is also a volunteer at Mona Vale Library and brings both a strong sense of commitment and great skills to the library. Her many and varied roles include keeping the collections and associated databases up-to-date, and applying her extensive literary knowledge to maintain the classics collection. Savitri also assists the technology librarian to deliver seniors' computer training.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Maree Nutt

Maree has been a tireless advocate on social justice issues for over 20 years. Working for Results Australia – part of an international network of volunteers whose purpose is to generate the public and political will to end poverty - Maree has been a passionate lobbyist, advocate and anti-poverty campaigner. In 2008 Maree coordinated the hugely successful display 'The Shack' at Parliament House, Canberra to raise awareness about tuberculosis, still a major killer in third world countries.

Stephanie Rothpletz

Stephanie has given over 35 years of loyal service to her community in a number of areas. Her contribution to early childhood education has been particularly significant through her ongoing role with the Elanora Heights Community Kindergarten. From the 1960s Stephanie was a member of the local progress association and was instrumental in the establishment of the community centre and kindergarten. Stephanie is a committee member for the Elanora community centre and is also on the Elanora Heights School Council.

Reiner & Juliann Seubert

Husband and wife team Reiner & Julieann have provided voluntary veterinary support to the Animal Welfare League for over 17 years. Reiner & Julieann have been especially supportive in looking after the health of kittens in the League's cattery, nursing under-age kittens back to health to enable the League to then take over their management.

Diane Splayford

Diane has played an invaluable support role in the Mona Vale Library for some 8 years. She has been an integral part of the home library service, delivering books to frail and older people. She also provides a range of practical support at the library which includes assisting older people in choosing books, plus a range of other general support roles.

Summary of Nominees

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Vanessa Walsh

Vanessa is an active member of the Manly Warringah Pittwater Aboriginal Support Group. She is the group's publicist and, together with her husband Mark, established the group's website – which she continues to manage. She provides a range of support for the group's reconciliation activities. In recognition of her ongoing service Vanessa has received a Reconciliation Award from Warringah Council.

Raymond Watmough

Ray is an unsung hero of our community. As a stalwart of the Peninsula Senior Citizens Toy Repair Group, he has given 23 years of devoted service to repairing donated toys which are then given to disadvantaged children. At the age of 87 he recently passed his drivers licence test with a 100% score! As well as being the longest serving member of the Peninsula Toy Repair Group, Ray's work has brought joy to countless children over the last 23 years. His repair work is of a very high standard and his meticulous work in making and repairing toys in the style of traditional lead soldiers is highly regarded. Ray is also active in supporting many other community organisations including Centacare, Chesalon Aged Services, the Warringah Mall Community Club and the Manly Model Train Club.

Summary of Nominees

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Category: Environmental

Brynnie Goodwill

Brynnie is a committed environmentalist who takes her role as Ambassador for the Al Gore Climate Project seriously. In this role Brynnie has worked hard to both create community awareness and to galvanise community action in response to the onerous challenge of climate change. She has been an active partner in helping Pittwater Council develop a series of climate change actions. Brynnie is also a volunteer director of the Earth Trust.

Linda Haefeli

Linda has been an active voice for the environment in her role as leader of Climate Action Pittwater, which she formed in 2007. Linda is tireless in promoting the causes of sustainable living, responding to the challenges of climate change and promoting community awareness and action.

Bill Holland

Bill is a member of the Pittwater Sustainability Working Party. Noted for his tenacity, one of Bill's significant achievements has been the securing of funding for the installation of solar panels in public buildings, thereby significantly lowering their mains electricity consumption and therefore their greenhouse gas emissions. Bill was instrumental in getting 100 solar panels installed at Pittwater High School and 5 TAFE colleges have also now come on board. In recognition of his efforts Bill was awarded a 2008 Green Hero Award by the NEWS.com.au organisation.

Paul Maddock

Paul is secretary of the Surfrider Foundation's Northern Beaches chapter. He has been for more than 10 years a very dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer, involved in many campaigns to protect our precious beaches, coastal waterways and environs. His meticulous planning of The Surfrider Foundation's highly successful 2007 National Conference has been recognised with his appointment to the Foundation's national board.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Sue Martin

Sue is passionate in her commitment to protecting Pittwater's natural environment and has put her passion into practice through long-term involvement with many organisations. These include the Avalon Preservation Trust, Friends of Currawong, Careel Bay Pittwater Protection Association, Avalon Beach Historical Society, Pittwater Natural Heritage Association and the Pittwater Ramblers. Sue's outstanding knowledge of her local area, extensive network of contacts, skills in running community organisations and ability to work with government at all levels are legendary.

Herminie Swainston

Herminie has been a long-term environmental worker for the Pittwater community. Among various projects that have benefited from her time and commitment, the Palm Beach Bible Garden has been a particular passion of Herminie's. As president she is the chief motivator and facilitator of the Garden's many volunteers. She is also actively involved with the Garden's various sub-committees, is research officer and the main public face for this precious local environmental asset.

Shane Withington

Shane has been a passionate advocate for the protection of Currawong from development over many years. He has been a driving force in the community's battle to save the site following the Labour Council's decision to sell this precious part of our community heritage over 10 years ago. His efforts and those of the many groups and individuals he has been able to mobilise to join the fight to save Currawong have finally come to fruition with the recent announcement by the NSW Minister for Planning that the site would be protected – a lasting legacy for the people of Pittwater and for the national heritage. Shane's unwavering commitment to his community and his local environmental heritage have made him a local environmental leader.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Rural Fire Service

Roy Atkins

Roy is the captain of the West Pittwater RFS. With over 10 years of service, Roy is highly regarded in his local community not just for his effective leadership of his local RFS brigade, but also for his willingness to provide information and advice on fire safety for community members along Pittwater's western foreshores.

Rick Bouwmans

Rick is a member of the Tumbledown Dick RFS Brigade with upwards of 15 years service under his belt. Rick is one of the Brigade's behind-the-scenes heroes. In his role as treasurer Rick manages the Brigade's finances to a very high standard. His exceptional financial management skills have seen many new systems and processes introduced, as well as capital planning and recurrent expenditure planning. He also manages fundraising finances for brigades throughout the district.

Jeff Cree

In his 36-plus years of service with the Warringah Pittwater RFS, Jeff has played a number of roles including deputy group captain for 10 years. Jeff has been involved in numerous training roles that have brought enormous benefit to brigades throughout the district. He is a life member of the Davidson RFS Brigade.

Scott Crowweller

Scott has a record of distinguished service with the RFS going back some 24 years. He is the current group captain of the Warringah Pittwater District and has been part of the senior management team for 12 years. Scott has held many roles in his time with the service. He is an inspirational leader and is highly respected by the district's 1500 volunteers. Scott has managed many major fire emergencies throughout the district and NSW.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Desmond Ferris

Desmond has given over 20 years of active service to the Rural Fire Service's Tumbledown Dick Brigade. He is the longest serving president in the brigade's history, and a significant fundraiser for the Brigade. Des remains an active firefighter despite being involved in so many other aspects of the Brigade's work. Des is listed on the Brigade's honour board for his enduring leadership and distinguished service. As well as serving the Pittwater and Warringah communities as a volunteer firefighter, attending a great many local emergencies, Des has travelled extensively throughout the state serving other communities.

Denis Joiner

In terms of years of service there are few Pittwater volunteers who can match Denis' contribution. Denis has served his community for no less than 47 years as a volunteer for the Warringah Pittwater RFS. In recognition of Denis' outstanding achievements, last year he was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal by the Governor General. The award recognises distinguished service by members of Australian fire services.

Christine Mitchell

Christine has served as a Rural Fire Service volunteer for the Mackeral Beach Brigade for an impressive 37 years. She is the first woman to have served as field officer, and has held most positions with the Brigade. She currently holds the position of safety officer and is highly regarded for her vigilance and dedication in keeping her local community safe from the ever-present threat of bushfire.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Surf Life Saving Club

Louise Edgley

For many years Louise has been a tireless worker for the Bilgola Surf Club, undertaking a wide range of duties from data entry, organising trophies, training and assisting with carnivals. She is one of the invaluable behind-the-scenes people without whom our surf clubs simply could not function.

Charles Lindop

Charles is an integral part of the lifesaving community in Avalon. He has been an Avalon Surf Club member for 8 years plus and is a patrol captain. He has held the position of club treasurer and has competed at the Masters level representing the club over many years. He has won numerous awards both for bravery in performing rescues and in competition, and recently attained his Gold Medallion – a volunteer life saver's highest award. This year has been especially eventful for Charles in that he helped save the life of his son Andrew. Father and son were surfing together one morning at Avalon when Andrew was attacked by what is thought to have been a Great White shark. Charles' years of lifesaving quickly came to the fore and he acted decisively with composure and bravery in responding to what was clearly a life-threatening situation.

Roland Luke

Roland has been an active member of the Avalon Beach Surf Club for close to 30 years. He has trained the under-14 cadets for many years, is an active patrol member, attends all club events such as carnivals and other competitions, and assists the club both in front of and behind the scenes in countless ways. Apart from his three decades of service to surf lifesaving, Roland is an integral part of the Avalon Soccer Club. He works from 5am to mark fields and puts up nets for all home games, then takes them down again at the end of the day, as well as assisting with barbeque and other duties as needed.

Summary of Nominees

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Neil Olsen

Neil is another of our community's unsung heroes. For over 10 years Neil has managed the canteen for the North Palm Beach SLSC. The considerable revenue this has generated for the club has had many flow-on benefits freeing up other club members from the constant challenge of fundraising. Neil, a man in his 80s, drives from Bankstown to North Palm Beach and runs the canteen in a voluntary capacity for 8 hours a day, 6 days a week throughout the year! He also assists with Home and Away when it is filmed at Palm Beach – again an invaluable revenue raiser for the club.

Col Rae

Col is a one-man institution at Bungan Surf Lifesaving Club. In his decade of involvement Col has been president, club captain, radio officer, gear steward and competition manager, to name just a few of his roles. Col has been an active patrol member and has also been involved in branch management and administration. Despite some health challenges Col remains an active and committed member.

Matt Sheridan

Matt has given more than 20 years of service to surf lifesaving. Currently Matt is president of the Warriewood Surf Club – a demanding role in itself – but quite apart from that Matt is also an age manager for the nippers, coach and sweep for 4 boat crews, intra and interstate tour manager / chaperone, a Masters level competitor and is involved in everything from managing the club to manning the tools at working bees.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Category: Sporting Groups

Paul Collins

Paul - or PC as he's affectionately known - has been described as 'the rock' of the Avalon Junior Rugby League Football Club. In his 37 years of service Paul has done just about everything for the club – he is the present director and registrar, past president (5 years), there for every game and involved with the set-up and pack-up. Paul oversees ground management, puts countless hours into managing registrations, maintaining the clubhouse, keeping the committee running and the list goes on. Put simply, the club could not do without him.

Glenn Farrell

Glenn is president of the Avalon Bulldogs Rugby League Club and is another example of outstanding community service above and beyond the call of duty. Glen has been part of the club for many years and is involved in all aspects of the club's operation. He organises teams from juniors to A grade, chairs the committee, provides leadership at all levels and deals with peak sporting bodies. As stated in his nomination "Glenn is the first to arrive to set up on a Saturday morning and the last to leave and lock up on a Sunday night".

Brian Friend

Brian or 'Friendly' as he is popularly known, has given no less than 43 years of service to the Avalon Bulldogs and to Rugby League. He is a one man institution in Avalon and has coached the under-6 team for 34 years, with the motto "above all, have fun". Brian has been a player, coach and administrator and is a current board member. He attends every game, undertakes ground maintenance, and is also involved in the local touch football competition, referee associations, Rugby League Masters (he was recently picked to play for Australia in the International Masters competition) and Police Legacy.

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Denis Hole

Denis is president of the Narrabeen Youth Club and also coordinates the Narrabeen Soccer Club where he is the past president. In his many years of involvement, Denis has been instrumental in increasing registrations for soccer and netball, and he still attends all meetings of the Manly Warringah Football Association. Denis has made a major contribution to improving coordination between his club's committees and teams and streamlining administration at the local and regional levels.

Justin Hollis

Justin is president of the Warringah Junior Rugby Union. In this role he supports all 6 local clubs in keeping boys involved, enthused and safe playing rugby at the appropriate level. He is involved in all aspects of the game from refereeing to administration. Justin initiated a highly successful schools gala day competition on the Peninsula that is now in its third year.

Steve Monty

For over 15 years Steve has been a lynchpin of local sport. His service in support of the Pittwater Baseball Club exemplifies Steve's commitment to his community. He has coached club teams for 15 years. He has held a number of committee positions, assisted with fundraising, done ground marking and maintenance. He continues to coach, even though his own son is no longer playing with the club. Aside from his ongoing commitment to his local club, Steve has coached district representative baseball teams, the under 12s, under 14s, under 16s and has taken teams around the state. Aside from all that he still finds time to help out with the barbeque and canteen.

John Rousell

John, or 'Bluey' as he's affectionately known, is vice president and a life member of the Narrabeen Sharks Junior Rugby League Football Club. In his 30 plus years of involvement he has worked tirelessly to support young people in playing rugby league. His behind the scenes work is highly valued – for example the work he put in assisting with the construction of the clubhouse at Narrabeen – and he continues to put in many hours as a humble 'unsung hero' supporting the club and the game he loves.

Summary of Nominees

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Category: Youth

Dustin Gold & Ben Davis

Dustin and Ben have over the last three years made a major contribution to junior surf lifesaving at the Bungan club. As Barker College students Dustin and Ben have been involved in training 50-60 younger boys and girls from the college to attain their bronze medallions and this has been of enormous benefit in bringing new volunteers for Bungan patrols. Both Dustin and Ben are patrol captains with the club, and are also school surf club captain and vice captain respectively.

Cassidy Forbes

Cassidy holds a Surf Rescue Certificate with Mona Vale Club. She has been a volunteer for the past 7 years and is an active patrol member. Her special achievement was initiating and designing a surf awareness poster in various languages displayed on public transport to increase surf awareness for foreign tourists. She has been a recipient of a number of surf life saving awards.

Callum & Darcy Gray

Twins Callum and Darcy are active junior life savers of Bilgola SLSC. Callum and Darcy have been patrolling members for 2 years and participated in the nipper program prior to this. They are continually keen to assist the club by undertaking their own training, training others, patrolling the beach and coordinating the first aid section at the many major events held at Bilgola such as the Big Swim and boat carnivals. Callum and Darcy are also volunteers for the St John Ambulance First Aid Service – Hornsby Division. Many tireless hours are given up on weekends to provide first aid at events such as the City to Surf, Northern Beaches market days, the Easter Show, and Oxfam Trail Walks. The boys are great role models within the surf club and have a passion to help others.

Summary of Nominees

2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards

Alex Hjorth

Alex has been a junior member of Mona Vale Surf Club for the past 7 years. Alex is an active junior patrol member and for the past 2 years has assisted other young nipper members of the club to improve their board skills. He is a keen club member and has volunteered to be the junior activities barbeque coordinator for the upcoming season. Alex assists with water safety for surf club events and is an enthusiastic competitor himself. His contribution has been recognised at a branch and club level.

Christie Maurer

Christie has been a volunteer for the Manly Warringah Pittwater Branch, Animal Welfare League for the past 2 years, caring for the many cats in the cattery. Christie has completed the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards and as part of this completed community service at the cattery. Christie has a great attitude and a caring nature toward the animals.

Alana Smithies

Alana is the patrol vice captain and an active member of Newport SLSC. Alana has been a member of the club for the past 12 years and is currently an assistant age manager with Newport nippers program. She also provides assistance with the special needs nipper program. Alana is a great mentor for the club's junior members and in the 2007/2008 season was ranked in the top ten highest patrolling hours of any member. Alana is part of the Newport first aid team, is a team leader for SLSC Youth and Junior Development Camps and is also a keen and successful competitor.

Volunteering in Pittwater

Pittwater Council covers 125 square kilometres, including nine surfing beaches and two National Parks, plus many areas of bushland. With this vast area to maintain, we welcome any spare time that residents can give in their busy lives to assist in any way – whether it's at our libraries, in community services, or helping to preserve our unique environment. Please call 9970 1111 to register your interest in helping us.

Thank you for attending the 2009 Pittwater Volunteer Awards. The whole community thanks you and acknowledges the great work you do in connecting and supporting us all!

Special thanks to the members of Pittwater Camera Club for their contribution to the award winners' gifts



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