



City of Parramatta

**Citizen of the Year Awards
&**

Australian Citizenship Ceremony

Official Program

Australia Day, 26 January 2022
Rosehill Gardens



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**

City of Parramatta Council acknowledges the Darug people who are the traditional custodians of the land of Parramatta. Council pays respect to the Elders past and present of the Darug nation.

Lord Mayor's Message

Councillor Donna Davis



As the Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta, it is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's Citizen of the Year Awards and Australian Citizenship Ceremony.

We are here to recognise outstanding achievements in our local community and to thank you for your valuable contributions.

It is a great honour to be nominated. Our City pays tribute to all our nominees for your efforts in making our community a better place.

Today, we also officially welcome new Australian citizens to our city. Parramatta is a great place to live and we are glad you have chosen our city and country to call your home.

One of the strengths of our city is diversity. Today's event provides a great opportunity to celebrate this diversity as we welcome new citizens from 12 countries across the globe.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our finest citizens who are receiving an award today and welcome our newest Australians.



Cr Donna Davis
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta

Australia Day Ambassador

Ben Farinazzo



Ben is a veteran, dual Invictus Games gold medallist and is an Ambassador for Lifeline and Soldier On Australia. He is a passionate advocate for mental health, veterans and the healing power of sport.

Ben is of Aboriginal and Italian heritage. From the age of 16, he served in the Australian Defence Force, including deployment in East Timor.

Ben was diagnosed with chronic and severe post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety in 2015, and also suffered from a mountain biking accident, leaving him with significant neck and back injuries. Ben was required to learn basic motor functions, techniques to manage his mental health and ways to reconnect with the world.

In 2018, he achieved his goal of representing Australia at the Invictus Games Sydney, winning two gold medals in indoor rowing and achieving a personal best in men's heavy weight powerlifting.

Order of Proceedings

Darug Welcome Ceremony

Jannawi Dance Clan with didgeridoo by Jeremy Marika

Master of Ceremonies

M'Leigh Brunetta, City of Parramatta

Welcome to Country

Peta Strachan, Darug Representative

Australian National Anthem

Joseph Gatehau, Australian Idol/XFactor Australia

Welcome Address

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of Parramatta
Councillor Donna Davis

Australia Day Address

Ben Farinazzo, Australia Day Ambassador

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Pledge of Commitment

The Hon Alex Hawke MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship,
Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs

Presentation of Australian Citizenship Certificates

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of Parramatta
Councillor Donna Davis

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY

Awards Address

Major Ian Carter, 2021 Citizen of the Year

Presentation of Citizen of the Year Awards

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of Parramatta
Councillor Donna Davis

*Refreshments will be served after the proceedings with
music provided by Joseph Gatehau.*

Australian Citizenship Ceremony

Australian Citizenship Pledge

Candidates will be asked to repeat the Pledge of Commitment

Pledge 1 (Under God)

*From this time forward, under God,
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect,
and whose laws I will uphold and obey.*

Pledge 2

*From this time forward,
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect,
and whose laws I will uphold and obey.*

Candidates are receiving citizenship today from twelve different countries

Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Philippines,
Singapore, South Korea, Syrian Arab Republic,
United Kingdom and United States of America.

Citizen of the Year Awards Judging Panel



Major Ian Carter – 2021 Citizen of the Year

Major Ian Carter is a Parramatta local, and has been a member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) since 2005. He is a passionate advocate for suicide prevention and making mental health support easily accessible to all. He was a member of the Lived Experience Advisory Group as part of NSW Health's Towards Zero Suicides initiative and has worked with suicide prevention organisation SafeSide. Since 2013, Major Carter has also volunteered to present the ADF Long Tan Youth and Leadership Award at local schools. He is a Commendation for Brave Conduct recipient and was also involved in the successful evacuation of a family from a Box Hill fire in 2021.



Jon Greig

Jon is the Executive Director Community Services at City of Parramatta Council. Jon has extensive experience leading service delivery and organisational transformation across the public and not-for-profit sectors both in Australia and the United Kingdom. At Council he leads the delivery of community and cultural services, including Social and Community Services, Libraries, Community Hubs, Riverside Theatres and Parramatta Artist Studios. He is passionate about delivering high quality, innovative community services that support all of our communities to contribute to and benefit from the City's exciting and prosperous future.



Tamara Hitchcock

Tamara is the Executive Director City Engagement & Experience at City of Parramatta Council. Tamara is responsible for the marketing and engagement areas of Council. She has more than 20 years senior leadership experience in both the public and private sector across marketing, economic development, reputation management, communications, brand strategy and customer experience optimisation. Tamara is passionate about the delivery of exceptional experiences throughout Council's events, festivals, community initiatives and communication channels.

** This position is now occupied by Carly Rogowski, Executive Director City Engagement and Experience*



Chiang Lim

Chiang is the CEO of the peak body representing over 1,600 privately-owned early childhood education and care services across NSW. His professional accomplishments span industry associations, information technology, telecommunications, defence, national and international standards development, human rights, fast moving consumer goods and local government – having served as an elected Councillor and Deputy Lord Mayor. Chiang is a Parramatta local and has volunteered for Camp Quality, performed in the Scouts & Guides' Cumberland Gang Show, and co-founded the City of Parramatta's Catenian Circle.



Tasneem Rangwala

Tasneem works within the Parramatta LGA and is a doctoral researcher at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, with experience in environmental project work within the waste and water sector. Tasneem is skilled in environmental impacts assessments, project management, overseeing strategic regulatory programs, compliance audits and driving efficiency via enhancing quality of processes. Tasneem has been a volunteer judge for Keep NSW Beautiful, and in 2020, she was awarded a National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award for research achievements.

Categories

There are two award categories with a total of four awards. They are:

Citizen of the Year

A person who has made a noteworthy contribution to the City of Parramatta in one of three subcategory age groups that are:

- **Young Citizen of the Year
in honour of David Shakespeare OAM**

A person aged 16-30 years

- **Citizen of the Year**

A person aged 31-64 years

- **Senior Citizen of the Year**

A person aged 65 years and over

Community Group Award

A local group or organisation, which has provided an outstanding contribution to the City of Parramatta community. This includes projects and events.

Citizen of the Year Awards Nominees

Jo Armstrong

Jo has relentlessly worked to raise much-needed funds to operate the Meals Plus service of Parramatta Mission. This service provides meals and supports people across the community. Through Jo's fundraising efforts over the last five years, more than 200,000 meals have been provided to people who may be experiencing homelessness, isolation or hardship. During the pandemic, Jo ran an emergency appeal to raise funds to meet the community's needs and helped to provide 250 COVID-19 vaccinations and 45 flu shots to people in Parramatta.

Andrew Borg

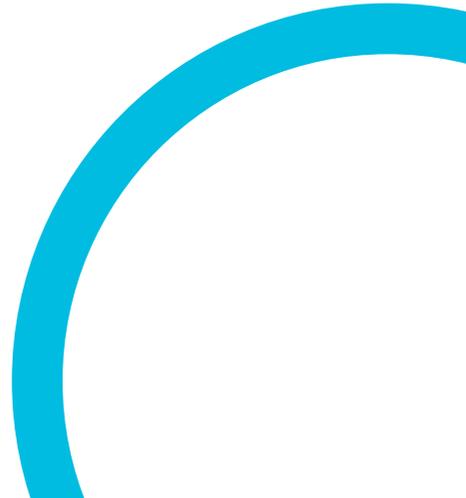
Andrew has been an active member of the Carlingford Baseball Club for over 20 years. He is a current life member and during his time has held many roles in the club including secretary, president, manager, mentor, player, umpire and coach. Andrew has run the junior Aussie Tee Ball program for the last 10 years plus, bringing in the next generation of players through to the local area. Andrew's love and passion for the game knows no bounds and he has volunteered many nights and weekends coaching juniors for several years.

Carmen Drive Community Pharmacy

Carmen Drive Community Pharmacy is situated in Carlingford and throughout the pandemic continued attending to the public, while being a key source of certainty, support and knowledge. Carmen Drive Community Pharmacy set up their practice outdoors, while following COVID-19 guidelines, to meet the communities health needs. The Pharmacy delivered medications and essential goods to customers to ensure the community stayed at home during lockdown. The team also donated masks and hand sanitisers to local businesses on Carmen Drive and to Murray Farm Public School and Karonga School.

Mary Collins

Mary is a volunteer Justice of the Peace at Ermington Library. Rarely missing a day, she always ensures the delivery of high-quality Justice of the Peace services to the local community. Mary has a customer service focus and often goes above and beyond by spending additional time to help all those in need. Mary is always kind and helpful even under stressful situations and always delivers exceptional service with a smile. Due to Mary's commitment to her role, there is a huge demand for her services and Mary is valued greatly by the community.



Jennifer Corsaro

Jennifer is the co-ordinator of Orchid Grange Knitters, a local group of knitters from the Orchid Grange residential complex. During lockdown Jennifer and the Orchid Grange Knitters kept busy by making woollen items for charities including blankets for Wrap with Love, teddy bears and rabbits for Westmead Children's Hospital, pink ribbons for Breast Cancer Research and twiddle muffs for dementia and autism patients. Among other activities and contributions, Jennifer has given her time to organise 'Craft and Cuppa' mornings, water aerobics classes and movie screenings for senior residents and locals, bringing people together to minimise the feeling of isolation.

Charles Croswell

Charles is involved in multiple volunteer bushcare groups within the Parramatta LGA and has been caring for his neighbouring bush for decades. Charles has a wealth of knowledge in bush regeneration methods, weed identification and treatment, and actively provides support to his fellow volunteers. Often working alone, Charles' efforts of preservation, regeneration and weed removal of the bushland can be seen on display in Northmead's bushland of Darling Mills Creek Valley and adjoining reserves. Charles' motto is one person can make a difference.

Cycling Without Age – Parramatta Chapter

Parramatta has been an affiliate of the global movement Cycling Without Age (CWA) since 2020. Built on five key project pillars; without age, relationships, storytelling, slowness and most of all generosity, CWA connects residents who are no longer able to ride for themselves, especially the elderly or people with disabilities. By providing rides on trishaw ebikes piloted by volunteer cyclists, CWA connects passengers with their community and the outdoors, while overcoming mobility barriers some passengers may face. Through fundraising efforts, CWA Parramatta already owns its first trishaw which is available for use by any group and is free of charge. CWA provides inclusiveness, connectedness, health and emotional well-being for both volunteer cycle pilots and passengers.

Frouke de Reuver

For the past 6 years, Frouke has devoted her spare time to volunteer as an English conversation tutor at the City of Parramatta Library. Frouke teaches English to adults where English is their second language in an engaging and educational way. During the lockdown, she transitioned to remote teaching so her students could still learn English and stay engaged and connected during a difficult time. Valued greatly by her students, Frouke's commitment to her role has meant she is an extremely popular tutor with many students re-enrolling into her classes.

Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre

Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre (DANC) is a small not-for-profit organisation that provides support and guidance for the most marginalised of our communities. Throughout the pandemic, DANC provided essential food supplies and fostered social connections with individuals and families. Due to the increased demand for food hampers, staff took on additional duties such as packing and delivery of hampers in the local area, as well as fundraising for donations. DANC engaged with many residents of Telopea through weekly phone calls to understand their needs, provide help, and have a general chat as these conversations were an essential lifeline for many.

Omar Elrayes

As a community engagement coordinator at GIANTS Western Sydney AFL Football team, Omar has been a part of initiatives that positively impact our community. The programs Omar has developed address themes of social cohesion and inclusion, education, the environment, literacy, employment, leadership and health. He has been involved in the GIANT Hand program which provides nutritious meals to vulnerable families in the community impacted by the pandemic and lockdowns. The initiative also provided an avenue to support small businesses that would have otherwise been closed. Omar has formed strong and long-lasting connections with the local communities of Parramatta and Western Sydney.

Ali Faraj

For the past 10 years Ali has been a passionate advocate for the people of Parramatta as the Head of Community at GIANTS Western Sydney AFL Football team. Through this work, Ali has consistently promoted four key community pillars: health, harmony, education and employment. He has been involved in GIANT Hand, a program that supports multicultural communities, small businesses and vulnerable families impacted by the pandemic and lockdowns through the delivery of nutritious meals. He has also been personally involved in raising more than \$250,000 for GIANT Hand.

Beverly Grace

Beverly has volunteered for Meals on Wheels over the last 20 years at the City of Parramatta's Community Care. Working to distribute meals to the elderly and people with disabilities who are isolated and unable to cook for themselves, Beverly has given independence back to these community members. Her focus has always been to make a difference in the lives of the people who need the service by providing meals, comfort and social interactions. As one of the most experienced volunteers, Beverly imparts her skills and knowledge mentoring new volunteers. Her compassion and commitment to her volunteer role has been an inspiration to many.

Andrew James Hill

Andrew is the Director of STARSTv and has been instrumental in creating the STARS Program. This free program is designed to get kids healthy and energised by simply joining in and becoming active. Andrew has a passion for sport and encourages families and local community groups to participate in sporting activities to have fun and improve their physical and mental health. As an Australian Tennis Professional and Sports Coach, he is committed to getting the community healthy and active.

The Homicide Victims' Support Group Aus Inc

The Homicide Victims' Support Group (HVSG) is a not-for-profit organisation located in Parramatta, dedicated to supporting families and friends who have lost a loved one through homicide. Founded in 1993 by a small group of families, HVSG has grown to provide approximately 4,200 family members with support through meetups, counselling, education, advocacy and criminal justice reform. HVSG runs programs for the NSW Police, offering education and coaching in homicide victim support. Through their fundraising efforts HVSG has started construction on 'Grace's Place', a trauma recovery centre established to be a unique place of healing and restoration for grieving children and young people. The HVSG volunteers are always sincere, positive and willing to listen to people from all walks of life.

Hope Connect

Hope Connect is a small not-for-profit organisation that provides support and guidance for the most marginalised of our communities. During the pandemic and lockdowns, Hope Connect ensured the community of Telopea had access to essential food supplies and that locals felt connected and supported. The organisation became a lifeline for many when local supermarkets closed. Hope Connect are active members of the local Telopea Connections group, leading and supporting projects such as the Community Drug Action Team and Local Drug Action Team among other youth activities.

Jasmine Issa

Jasmine has been an active member of the community as the former Lady Mayoress of the City of Parramatta and the Founder of a not-for-profit organisation, Project Generosity, which supports locals experiencing hardship and trauma. For the last six years Jasmine has volunteered her time to collect and distribute donations in the form of comfort boxes, providing necessities and delivering hope to those in need. Jasmine continued to help the elderly, those effected by domestic violence and vulnerable families throughout the pandemic. As a mother with a child with disability, Jasmine's motivation and passion lies with inclusion and social justice and to be kind wherever possible.

Jesuit Refugee Service

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to advocate for the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people in vulnerable situations. In response to the pandemic, JRS shifted away from face-to-face services to remote working while increasing their foodbank program. JRS provided food payments and was able to arrange COVID-19 vaccination clinics in the area, resulting in over 250 people being vaccinated. JRS also sourced the donation of 80 laptops during the lockdown period to ensure that individuals searching for employment could do so from home.

Bipin Johri

Bipin has volunteered at Dundas Library since September 2015, helping the Dundas community and surrounds with bridging gaps in digital skills. Through Bipin's workshops, he has focused on supporting adults and seniors like him to cope with today's technology and lifelong learning needs. Bipin has shown local seniors how to overcome technology hesitancy by teaching them basic computer skills, how to use smart home devices and trained them for online banking and shopping, essential skills during the pandemic. He exhibits great patience and diligence when teaching these skills to those who know very little or nothing at all.

Alicia Judge

Alicia is passionate about helping everyone, especially children with additional needs. Alicia works at Scribbles and Giggles Childcare Centres as an Inclusion and Diversity Manager. Her role involves many out-of-hours work to support and guide families in accessing the right tools customised to their child's needs. Alicia mentors over 80 employees to ensure they are well-educated and informed about each child's needs, and has created a community where families, educators and children collaborate to achieve an inclusive educational and lifestyle plan. Alicia has been involved in many charity and community events, in addition to her voluntary time spent supporting and consulting with local families.

Karabi Community and Development Services Inc

Karabi Community and Development Services Inc has provided support, activities and events for children, young people, families and seniors for almost 34 years through its community centres at Constitution Hill and Wentworthville. During the lockdown Karabi performed almost 5,000 welfare checks on families across Constitution Hill, Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and Seven Hills. Their contributions included the distribution of over 3,000 food packs and the set-up of pop-up vaccination clinics for residents.

Kick Start Group

Kick Start Group (KSG) is a hospitality based social enterprise that provides opportunities to youth facing barriers to training and employment, supported through the PAYCE Foundation. KSG operates a fleet of mobile cafes around Sydney, providing training and employment opportunities to youth from the local area. During the pandemic the organisation provided 30,000 meals to community members through the relaunch of its program Melrose Park Meal Share and packed and delivered care packages to people experiencing homelessness through their service Street Feast. These initiatives helped the vulnerable and kept local trainees in employment.

Dr Kenneth Lau

Dr Lau has been a general practitioner and an essential part of the Carlingford community for over 27 years. With dedication and heart, he goes above and beyond to ensure his patients are cared for, particularly with the increased demand for healthcare during the pandemic. Dr Lau has been at the forefront of the local community, working 12 hours a day, obtaining COVID vaccination accreditations and tirelessly being available for his patients. He will always endeavour to get to the root of patient's problems and leaves no stone unturned.

Leslie Liddell

Leslie has been volunteering his time and performing duties as a Justice of the Peace at Dundas Library since 2015. He is a devoted and caring volunteer, addressing the Justice of the Peace requirements for the local community in a helpful and engaging manner, rarely a missing day of service. Leslie's Justice of the Peace work is greatly appreciated by the community and he has also volunteered as a member of the Neighbourhood Watch initiative and had declared his house as the first 'Safety House' for school children. In November 2021, he had completed 60 years of loyal Justice of the Peace services.

Angus Lockhart

Angus has been volunteering at Parramatta Art Society for the last 12 years and is responsible for successfully running the Hunter Street Gallery located in Parramatta. Powered by his passion for art and the community, Angus has an unwavering commitment and dedication to servicing the Parramatta Art Society, selflessly giving his time freely for many years including supporting charities and working with elderly and several community groups. He puts his heart and soul into promoting and teaching art to the Parramatta community at no cost. Through his drive, enthusiasm and positive approach he has created a sense of connection and belonging in the community.

Bakous Makari

Local community member and former Councillor, Bakous has played a pivotal role in the community by assisting charities with fundraising for several important causes. He raised \$60,000 for the Children's Medical Research Institute at Westmead, which helps fund treatments and cures for childhood cancer. As a survivor of cancer himself, his motivation and passion is to reach out to as many Australians with disabilities and sufferers of cancer so they too can strive to live a fulfilling life. As a partner in CPA accountancy firm, Bakous also undertakes pro-bono work and non-paid services for organisations or families struggling financially.

Bruce Mansell

Bruce has been the leader of the Robin Hood Bushcare Group, and has cared for the local bush area along the Toongabbie Creek for over 30 years. He has been essential in the transformation of Robin Hood Park by planting thousands of native trees, clearing rubbish, removing weeds and watering new plants. As a result of Bruce's efforts, the community has been gifted with a veritable urban forest along the banks of Toongabbie Creek, a legacy to inspire current and future generations. His leadership has not only facilitated the regeneration of bushland along the Old Toongabbie Creek but has also fostered community spirit among people who volunteered.

Bhumika Mayur Mhatre

Bhumika has formed several websites and social groups with the purpose of connecting people from all walks of life including senior citizens, international students, those affected by COVID-19 and those in relationship crises. She is passionate about cyber security and runs online classes that aim to build cyber-safe families worldwide. Bhumika is committed to bringing the Marathi community together for mutual support and growth and to preserve their rich heritage for future generations. She is the co-founder and President of Temple of Humanity Inc where multicultural communities come together to bring communal harmony. Bhumika is also a volunteer for victims of domestic violence for various community services.

Mona Mohamed

Mona has been a volunteer driver for City of Parramatta's Community Care Meals on Wheels service for the last two years. With over 120 people in the community relying on the service each week during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mona went above and beyond in making herself available outside of her usual shifts to ensure the service continued to those most vulnerable in the community. Over the past 12 months she has devoted around 190 hours of her time, driven more than 4,000 kilometres and delivered around 5,360 meals to just over 40% of the Meals on Wheels customers.

Tahera Nassrat

Tahera is the founder and President of Afghan Peace Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to the advocacy for peace and refugees. Established in 2019, the foundation has been involved in a range of campaigns including women's health, domestic violence, advocacy and settlement assistance for refugees, plus fundraising for a variety of causes.

Henry Nimacere

Henry has volunteered his time at the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) Parramatta since 2012. He is a boxing trainer who teaches night classes to locals and is dedicated to empowering young people through physical activity. Through his training, Henry helps them grow as individuals and gives them the tools they need to achieve their goals in life. Henry not only volunteers three nights a week as a trainer, but he also dedicates his time to provide food to people experiencing homelessness and raises funds for PCYC Parramatta.

Shant Ohannessian

Shant is a dedicated Peer Support volunteer for the Community Care Social Inclusion (CCSI) service at City of Parramatta. The Peer Support program offers social activities to younger adults with disability and Shant has been integral to the program, facilitating participants transfers to and from activities and providing support. He has shown remarkable talent and compassion, taking the time to know each participant and his willingness to go above and beyond has been recognised by staff and participants. In addition to offering his time to CCSI, Shant is a member of the NSW State Emergency Service and volunteers as a Justice of the Peace.

Kyra Parikh

Kyra is a school student at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta with a core interest in art. Her paintings are diverse, and an inspiration having won high admiration from teachers and colleagues with her latest painting of an Indigenous Elder on display in the Principal's office. Kyra splits her time between academic education, a part-time job and as an assistant teacher at Creative Art circle in Parramatta. Her talent with arts has motivated numerous students to further their skills and she is also on track to become a veterinarian and to contribute towards the well-being of animals.

Sandra Perry

Sandra volunteers within the Parramatta LGA and actively assists the vulnerable members of our community by reaching out to those who are less fortunate, experiencing homelessness, or in need of support. She treats everyone with care, providing a set of ears for people when no one else can recognise their calls for help, and doing so with a humble and respectful attitude. Sandra's volunteer contributions come with a passion that reflects what she loves to do, which is simply helping people and creating change in their lives.

Anaya Rajaratnam

Anaya is a student at Redeemer Baptist School, North Parramatta. Throughout her schooling she has engaged in various opportunities to do good and make a difference for the lives of others. Anaya assisted with finalising the construction of a community shelter for local Aboriginal families in the Boggabilla region. She has contributed to the culture and community at her school through her writing, her performances in various musicals and drama productions, and continues to serve her local parish. Recently, she was awarded second prize in the national SparkLit Australian Christian Teen Writer Awards for her short story, 'A Lesson in Murder'.

Yalda Sayar

Yalda has been volunteering for seven years with Dignity, cooking nutritious meals for vulnerable members of the community, people experiencing homelessness and those affected by domestic violence. During the pandemic she started volunteering with Parramatta Mission to ensure that packaged food was given to those in need. Yalda is a positive role model within the community and is always going out of her way to help others. She has given the vulnerable community a sense of belonging through providing them with food and comfort.

Najma Siddiqi

For more than 20 years Najma has been giving up her time to the local community as a volunteer for Community Care at City of Parramatta. She first got involved in June 2000 when she migrated to Australia and is still doing this incredible work after more than two decades. Her innate ability to care for others and commitment to volunteering is outstanding. After more than 20 years she is always eager and happy to help the community, donate her time and energy and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Amar Singh

Amar is the founding President of Turbans 4 Australia, a Sikh charity organisation based in the Parramatta LGA. His passion is forming connections with people from all walks of life and breaking down the barriers of fear and misunderstanding while following the core Sikh values of equality, respect and service to humanity. Amar's contributions are entirely voluntary, often providing assistance in areas where there are large gaps in support, especially for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community. Amar has set-up a local community pantry amongst other services, and during the pandemic, he selflessly helped pick up and deliver donated goods and distribute care to individuals and other Western Sydney charities via his trucking company. In addition to his work with Turbans 4 Australia, Amar also volunteers his time to community and charity organisations.

Support Organisation for Homeless and Asylum Seekers

The main objective of Support Organisation for Homeless and Asylum Seekers (SOHAS) is to provide volunteer services to seniors, single mothers, people experiencing homelessness, refugees and international students in need. The non-profit organisation has been contributing to the community since March 2020 by providing food and counselling services to more than 1,500 families. SOHAS continued to deliver food and essential groceries to those people who may be impacted financially or in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. SOHAS also started the Student Support Association, an initiative to provide newcomer students with an opportunity to engage with the local community and provide a helping hand.

Temple of Humanity Inc

Temple of Humanity Inc (TOHI) is a non-profit charity based in Parramatta where multicultural communities come together to bring communal harmony. TOHI welcomes all to worship in their own language and spread their teachings and messages, while providing support to those less fortunate. TOHI has been a source of support to women and children and those especially who are in distress. The charity also provides a number of educational talks and classes including topics on mental health and cyber security to help improve on safety awareness for families.

Leo Thapa

Leo is a kind and compassionate young local citizen who has been a source of support for his elderly neighbours during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite his busy HSC study schedules, he has been supporting his local community in secret by mowing their lawns and completing yard work without acknowledgment or recognition. Leo is a great leader and is known in his community for this passion and care by being a person of assistance and support for people with disabilities and by encouraging others to be environmentally conscious.

Toongabbie Picklers

Driven by locals, the Toongabbie Picklers sporting group started out from humble beginnings, advertising their pickleball sessions on their website. Since the first game played in June 2020 there have been 120 social sessions played. The group led, by Jackie Robinson, have volunteered their time and expertise to deliver several community activities including the weekly Better Ageing program at Binalong Park and West Epping Parks, and a grandparents and grandkids school holiday program. The Toongabbie Picklers are passionate about their sport and promoting healthy and active opportunities for residents, workers, and visitors to improve their health and wellbeing.

Turbans 4 Australia Inc

Turbans 4 Australia (T4A) is a Sikh charity that has provided support to anyone in need regardless of race, religion or ethnicity since 2015. Recently, the charity established a community pantry at Clyde in the Parramatta LGA area during the pandemic. The pantry is run by volunteers and provides support for the culturally and linguistically diverse community including culturally appropriate meals and care packages for asylum seekers, temporary visa holders, migrants, overseas students and those affected by COVID-19 and poverty. The facility also supports youth and seniors' programs that provides ongoing community care and support socialisation for people often isolated or without local support networks.

Moses Vedomuthu

Moses is the Founder of the Support Organisation for Homeless and Asylum Seekers (SOHAS) and has relentlessly provided support to vulnerable and disadvantaged local community members. During the pandemic and lockdown, Moses was very active in the community and spent almost 50 hours a week volunteering his time to collect, distribute and deliver food and essential groceries to around 30 families in need. He has a holistic approach to helping others, ensuring that he is always available to help those in need. He also volunteers as a destination ambassador and is widely known for his passion in helping others in the community.

Western Sydney Football Club Limited - GWS Giants Football Club

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the GWS GIANTS Football Club developed the GIANT Hand Program to support vulnerable families impacted by the pandemic and lockdown. Through the delivery of nutritious meals cooked by the club's own café staff, the GIANT Hand Program provided support to vulnerable families and small businesses in need. Across 13 weeks the GIANTS cooked and delivered more than 15,000 meals to 4,500 families across 12 LGAs in Sydney. In Western Sydney, 40 volunteers drove thousands of kilometres to support the initiative, with the club's staff and players part of those who volunteered their time.

Jenny Young

For 20 years Jenny has volunteered with the Social Inclusion Service, starting when she was a high school student. She has been delivering friendly social support to other senior residents in the City of Parramatta community through regular well-being check-in phone calls and paying home visits since 2001. During the pandemic, Jenny's support to others reduced people from suffering social isolation. She shows devotion to her role in a very gentle and professional manner and is always willing to help with a friendly smile.

Australian National Anthem

Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts Of
beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**



City of Parramatta together with the Australian Turf Club (Rosehill Gardens) have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and are committed to keeping you safe.