



# Peter Turnbull Community Service Awards

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## 2024

An award made to outstanding community service volunteers who have performed meritorious, dedicated and inspirational community service.



*Please note that the following pages contain images of people who have died.*



# Community Service Awards

Our club has named these awards after our former Rotary member and friend, the late Peter Turnbull.



Peter grew up on the Central Coast. Originally working in the finance industry, Peter moved onto real estate, establishing Citicoast Realty, which would become a very highly respected industrial and real estate business. Peter was passionate about the region, in particular the potential of Gosford as the city of the future. Peter generously donated time and money to a variety of causes working tirelessly in support of the Gosford Performing Arts Centre. Peter was a dedicated Rotarian for over 40 years, serving two terms as President. Peter was a Charter Member of the Gosford City Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. A true gentleman, Peter acknowledged and supported the work of others in the community. It is fitting that these awards recognise his selfless contribution.

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Community service comprises varied efforts that community members make to improve the quality of life of those who live within this club's locality or municipality. Today we acknowledge 8 members of our community who all contribute to making where we live and work a better place. What they do is exceptional, and enhances our society. Sometimes the efforts of volunteers go unrecognised. Today we will pause to say thank you.

# OUR 2024 COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

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## Colin Henson



Colin Henson has dedicated commitment, time, care, and outstanding leadership to the Coastal Twist Festival. Known affectionately as the “Mamma Bear”, he has shared his nurturing spirit to all those involved in the festival. Turning his hand to any task from marshalling, to handyman, as well as driving – he is committed to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, and the festival in particular. Colin’s background as a former senior manager at ADSSI further highlights his exceptional leadership and organisational skills, and allied to his commitment, dedication, and hard hours for Coastal Twist, it means he is a great nomination for the Community Service Award.

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## Randall Laborde

Randall Laborde shares his own love of sailing with those who need assistance to set sail. Nearly eight years ago he joined Sailability Gosford, an organisation designed to help people living with disability to sail. He took on the role of branch president four years ago, leading a team of volunteers who assist the sailors of all ages, who live with a wide range of disability. Randall has experienced disability in his own family, as when he was aged just eight his younger sister suffered from meningitis, leaving her with a profound disability. Randall originates from the USA, but after moving to New Zealand, he now makes Gosford his home and Sailability his commitment.



## Maeve O’carroll



Maeve O’carroll has shown dedication, creativity and unwavering commitment to fostering inclusivity and growth with the Coastal Twist Festival. She has taken on the role as curator of the festival in 2024, ensuring its vital role in promoting art and supporting the LGBTQIA+ community on the Coast. Her inclusive approach meant this year’s festival in particular highlighted diverse artistic voices, creating a vibrant and welcoming platform for both established and emerging artists. Maeve was acknowledged for curating with “precision and empathy” thereby enriching the cultural landscape, and paving the way for future generations of artists to express their work in this safe, creative space.

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## Lucy Clements

Lucy Clements dedicates her time, creativity and passion to facilitating the important respectful relationship education program, Love Bites, to students in local high schools. She helps prepare and deliver the Love Bite's program's resources, to ensure every session runs smoothly; volunteering up to two days a week, for the last three years, building strong rapport with both staff and students alike. Before joining the Love Bites team, Lucy also volunteered in the kitchen at Coast Shelter Community Centre in Gosford, where she prepared and cooked meals for the vulnerable. Her longstanding commitment to helping others, speaks to her generous spirit and dedication to service.



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## Lynda Stone

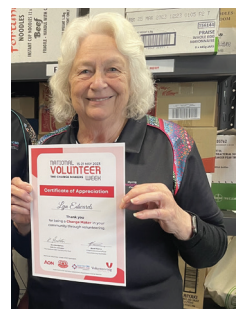


Lynda Stone is an artist, teacher, mentor, community engagement expert, and honorary grandma of kids who live in White Street in East Gosford. She is the glue that holds together the street's sense of community. She welcomes newcomers to the street and provides support and relief to tired parents, she is the person who parents call upon when the unexpected happens, picking up kids from school or running them to a club. Lynda also visits less able elderly neighbours and provides help, company or assistance. She regularly visits the nursing homes where ex-neighbours, those who need a supported living are relocated. She's organised street art classes in the past, sharing her ceramics making skills with the kids.

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## Lynette Edwards

Lynette Edwards has lived on the Central Coast for nearly 45 years, raising five sons here. For the last 3 years she's volunteered with Wyong Neighbourhood Centre. Recently, for two days a week, she started as a volunteer food collection driver. The first to raise her hand to help, she goes above and beyond for community members. Ever resourceful she pickles donated vegetables, like beetroot (the most popular) and radish, and makes chutney from donated excess fruit or over-ripe tomatoes, which community members love. She also regularly shares items donated by her friends for vulnerable clients. In addition, Lyn also volunteers at a local kindergarten, organising craft activities and using her sewing skills to make items for the kids.



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## Diane Castner



Diane Castner has dedicated hours of her time to cooking meals for Wyong Neighbourhood Centre's Frozen Meals Program. She shared her dedication when it's Watanobbi Community Centre closed down and moved to the Gosford Community Hub in the heart of the city; stepping in to train and supervise a team of volunteers who now prepare 200 meals that are frozen and distributed from the hub in Wyong. Feedback is that her efforts and meals are hugely appreciated. She also shares her culinary skills

with young people by providing basic skills cooking skills training through Red Tree Theatre, and volunteers for Orange Sky laundry who support people experiencing homelessness.

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## Jenna Smith



Jenna Smith is a 19 year old law student who dedicates much of her time to helping both animals and people. She has built an independent platform that caters for the well being of abandoned pets on the Central Coast. Working market stalls, communicating with local community and businesses throughout Australia, she has collected and donated pet food and supplies in the last two years, to the value of \$100,000. Her fundraising and supplying of food benefits Central Coast shelters and rescues, such as: SoCares, Peggy's Promise, Wally's Rescue and Claws n Paws. Jenna also volunteers to help young students gain confidence, resilience, and stranger danger knowledge, by teaching them karate, and supported mental health awareness by becoming captain of a team to raise funds for the Black Dog Institute's One Foot Forward.

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## Mark Harland



Mark Harland has volunteered with Wyong Neighbourhood Centre for several years: "We could not operate our emergency food services without Mark" was a comment at the heart of his nomination. It speaks volumes for this man who voluntarily drives three days per week to collect Second-Bite Donations from Coles. The food is then presented for collection in community fridges and at the benches in the Centre's outdoor area, which are designed to make community access easy and

non-confronting for vulnerable community members. Mark often sticks around to assist staff with the removal of cardboard boxes and other waste which he periodically takes to the tip.



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