

2008

CIVIC AWARDS

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS





Welcome to the 2008 Civic Awards evening.

In less than a decade, this evening has grown into an annual tradition that unites a wide range of individuals, community groups and businesses in order to celebrate all that is great about the Port Phillip community.

These awards present us with an opportunity to recognise all voluntary efforts in our community: the individual and the group, the small and the large, the long term and the short term. Whether it is giving time to be on a board, doing regular work for a community organisation, partaking in a once-off project or caring for a neighbour in need, active participation is all about building a stronger and more connected community. Tonight we thank and celebrate those remarkable people of all ages and from all walks of life that help to make our City the special place it is today.

Nominations to the Civic Awards are made by the local community and provide an opportunity for you to identify the people and projects that you value locally. It is my honour as Mayor to present the following pages that share the inspirational accounts of this year's nominees.

On behalf of the City of Port Phillip I offer my congratulations to all the 2008 Civic Awards nominees.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cr Frank O'Connor
Mayor

CIVIC AWARD NOMINEES 2008

Citizen of the Year

Irene Andreanakis
Helen Barfoot
Bill Bradshaw

Bruce Foster
Catherine Hannon
Shirley Hutcheson

Kate Long
Anna Rogalina
Teresa Warren

Civic Project of The Year

Stepping Stones Walking Group by Christ Church Community Centre
Port Phillip Urban Food Network by Port Phillip EcoCentre
Ourspace and the Youth Festival by Kombiz Youth Network

Seniors' Award

Jim Arter
Chris Fotopoulos
John Gilcrist
Lesley Greagg
Martin Herrman

Richard James
Reg Jones
Maria Kallinteridis
Betty Knight
Michael Kypreos (Metaxas)

Julie Meadows
Rex Scambary
Ethel Semmens
Maureen Smith
Peter Sutherland

Young People's Award

Danielle Barker
Miro Djurkovic
Siobhain Geaney

Georgia Hunter
Sophie Lees
Dean Levitan

Felix Löfgren



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Irene Andreanakis

For over 13 years, Irene has been the President of Greek Elderly Association of South Melbourne & Albert Park and has been the driving force in keeping this group alive, ensuring it is a healthy, vibrant and lively place where its members feel welcomed. Irene works well beyond this role's requirements, personally extending the social support to individuals in need. She has also been the dedicated Treasurer of the Greek Elderly Organisation of Melbourne for many years.

Helen Barfoot

Helen has been actively involved as both a volunteer and staff member at Port Melbourne Primary School since 1994. She has played a major role in building positive community perceptions of the school and through her social welfare and mentoring initiatives has touched the lives of many individuals and families in the school community. Helen has been the driving force behind many projects including; Port Melbourne Community Hub, Building Futures submission and the relocation of the school library.

Bill Bradshaw

Since 1997, Bill has played a key part in the development of junior basketball programs and consistently advocated for accessibility to local sporting programs. He was a founding member of the Port Phillip Basketball Association in Albert Park and works tirelessly to engage youth and increase participation by coaching junior teams, promoting programs within schools, running clinics, sourcing sponsorship for and coaching Sudanese youth, and producing material for the development of coaches.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Bruce Foster

Bruce is a committed volunteer with Sacred Heart Mission. For the last 10 years, Bruce has voluntarily treated hundreds of people experiencing hardships with reflexology at Sacred Heart Mission's Hands on Health Clinic. Bruce himself, as a person with complex disabilities, has overcome massive barriers in order to make such a positive contribution to people's lives locally. He is a vibrant, inspirational and humble individual who is dedicated to helping vulnerable members of the community.

Catherine Hannon

Catherine works as the Community Outreach Midwife at Inner South Community Health Service, supporting pregnant women in vulnerable situations and with high social support needs. She works in a manner which is client focused, flexible, non-judgemental and sympathetic to each individual's needs. She enables critical interventions and connections with other health professionals and provides emotional support and stability to those in need. As a result, the women she works with are often more engaged and supported locally.

Shirley Hutcheson

Shirley has volunteered twice a week for the City of Port Phillip's Community Meals Program since 1980, assisting with the preparation and serving of community meals to those in need. Shirley's ongoing commitment and personal touches ensure the success of the program; she provides a caring and welcoming environment which people choose to be a part of. Shirley has a wonderful ability to make each individual feel valued and included.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Kate Long

Kate has volunteered at Sacred Heart Mission's Meeting Place and Dining Hall four days a week for the last four years. In this role Kate serves meals, talks to clients, cleans and is an integral part of these programs. Her non-judgemental attitude has enabled her to build trust with people who, in many cases, have difficulty engaging with and trusting others. She has mentored many, providing a constant support to clients and nurturing a sense of community and security within the Mission.

Anna Rogalina

For five years, Anna has played an active role in coordinating programs at the Park Towers Tenants Association. She works as a volunteer Tenant Support Worker, teaches English as a Second Language and basic computer skills, occasionally provides settlement support, and has facilitated programs including: Russian Women's Choir, Russian Cultural Group, Russian Elderly Person's Recreation Group and Gentle Exercise Group for Women. Anna's valuable contribution allows many Russian speaking older people to connect with local community health and recreational services.

Teresa Warren

Teresa has been active in the local community for 20 years and has played an important part of many local organisations and programs including; St Kilda Auxiliary, Council's Citizen Monitor Network, various programs at St Luke's Church, South Port Uniting Care's Christmas Giving Program, Ardoch Youth Foundation and St Kilda Primary School. Teresa's passion for the community is reflected in the considerable amount of time and energy that she devotes to community group programs, ensuring that all members of the community are cared for.



CIVIC PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Stepping Stones Walking Group by Christ Church Community Centre

Stepping Stones is a social walking group for residents over 55 years of age who are experiencing loss or transition in their lives. The Group meets fortnightly and provides the participants, many of whom have limited mobility or social connections, with social opportunities as well as exercise according to their abilities. Volunteers play an important role in the delivery of the program, with 20 volunteer walking leaders providing support each fortnight. This is a strong and successful program that is now replicated in other areas around Melbourne.

Port Phillip Urban Food Network by Port Phillip EcoCentre

By engaging people of different backgrounds and ages, the Port Phillip Urban Food Network (PPUFFN) encourages healthy eating, assists people to adapt to climate change and creates important social opportunities for members. PPUFFN holds regular public forums for community health interest groups and residents and provides a hub for facilitating the planning and implementation of community food producing gardens. The Network began in 2007 and now has 76 members, a host of partner organisations and a number of community projects that have emerged from the project.

Ourspace and the Youth Festival by Kombiz Youth Network

Ourspace offers valuable support for students with homework, music lessons, cooking and other community projects in a safe, stable and encouraging meeting space. There they gain access to social support, youth workers and mentors for advice or referrals. In partnership with local libraries, churches, police, Ardoch Youth Foundation, Inner South Community Health Service, Kool Skools, Council and St Kilda PCYC, these young people worked collaboratively to plan and implement successful youth festivals for all of the community.



SENIORS' AWARD

Jim Arter

As a committed volunteer at Christ Church Community Centre, Jim has been instrumental over the past five years in the delivery of many programs including the Open House meals program and Stepping Stones walking group. He also plays the indispensable role of handyman, cleaner and gardener for the Centre. Jim is an inspirational figure and a positive role model for many of the people attending these programs, he is an enthusiastic worker and is dedicated to helping vulnerable members of the community.

Chris Fotopoulos

Chris has been an active committee member of the Galini Greek Elderly Association of Port Melbourne for 27 years and is currently its president. His generosity, caring nature and friendly outlook ensure that all members feel welcomed and relaxed each time they meet; his contributions often extending far beyond the defined role of president. Chris also regularly supports the wider community where he often acts in a caring capacity for friends, neighbours or individuals in need.

John Gilcrist

By contributing his skills and expertise in finance and governance, John's tireless community work has helped provide a long term and sustainable future for community-based programs and initiatives such as the Elwood Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank and the EcoCentre in St Kilda. He served as director of Elwood Community Bank for 8 years, and is currently treasurer of the Eco Centre. He has also played an important role in the Linking Neighbours Program in Elwood and Friends of Westgate Park.



SENIORS' AWARD

Lesley Greagg

As a creative person, with a passion for the community, arts and writing, Lesley has been responsible for the instigation and coordination of many community programs, particularly those involving seniors. Lesley's commitment to leading the local community is reflected in the numerous programs in which she is a dedicated and active member, including: Inner South East Partnership in Community and Health Community Advisory Group, Council's Seniors' Festival, Seniors' Register and Older Persons' Consultative Committee, Port Phillip University of the Third Age, St Kilda Historical Society, Probus and Port Phillip Life Activities Club.

Martin Herrman

Martin has shown outstanding care and respect for the local environment and has taken the initiative to stand up and make a difference locally. Every morning for at least the last five years, Martin has cared for the St Kilda Pier, breakwater and boardwalk by collecting rubbish and ensuring that the area is a clean and pleasant place to be.

Richard James

For many years, Richard has listened to the community and has often played the role of advocate. He is a dedicated individual and is committed to addressing inequalities in the community. Richard was a founding member of the Victorian Aids Council, cofounder of Vintage Men and has worked extensively in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (GLBTI) community. He has also held important voluntary advisory and operational roles on projects at the City of Port Phillip and Inner South East Partnership in Community and Health (ISEPICH).



SENIORS' AWARD

Reg Jones

Reg has played an active role at the South Melbourne District Sports Club for 35 years and has filled many different roles during that period, including; Manager, Committee Member, Fundraiser, Canteen and Bar Manager and various other informal roles. At the age of 80 he is still heavily active in the Club and plays an important part in ensuring the canteen and club rooms are well maintained and cared for. Reg's friendly outlook and years of dedication have been recognised by the Club which has named its rooms 'The Reg Jones Social Club' in his honour.

Maria Kallinteridis

For 12 years, Maria has been an active and respected treasurer and member of the Galini Greek Elderly Association of Port Melbourne. She organises information sessions, coordinates social and cultural activities and partners with other organisations to ensure that all members are cared for in a positive and socially supportive environment. Maria also regularly supports the wider community in a caring capacity, often taking care of and assisting elderly neighbours in need.

Betty Knight

Betty is actively involved in fostering the health and well being of older persons. She is a key member of the Council of the Ageing (COTA), a founding member of Port Phillip U3A and has been involved in many seniors' projects led by the City of Port Phillip and the Older Persons' Consultative Committee (OPCC). As a passionate and dedicated person, Betty often acts as an advocate of the rights of seniors.



SENIORS' AWARD

Michael Kypreos (Metaxas)

As the President of the New Life Association, a Greek Seniors' Club in Port Melbourne, Michael works hard to promote multiculturalism and to minimise the social isolation sometimes experienced by the group's members. This is also reflected in his commitment to running bi-weekly Greek community radio shows on 3XY as well as his membership on the committees at various sporting clubs. Michael's contribution to Greek and other communities is widely appreciated and respected by his peers.

Julie Meadows

Julie has spent the last ten years coordinating various community initiatives, including the Makor Jewish Community Library's Write Your Story project, that helps seniors write and publish their life-stories for an archive of social history and to share with future generations of family. In August 2008, Julie published an anthology of stories written and translated from Russian by immigrants of the former Soviet Union. Such projects have offered a valuable space for people to share experiences and to establish connections between immigrants, their families and the extended community.

Rex Scambary

Through his active involvement with the Elwood Angling Club, Rex has created connections between the club and other local community groups, providing social opportunities and activities. In particular he has worked over the past nine years linking Elwood Angling Club activities and facilities with elderly people and people with disabilities, through ARBIAS and the Eroke program. His dedication to this work has had a positive impact on all who have taken part.



SENIORS' AWARD

Ethel Semmens

Ethel has been active in the Port Phillip community for many years in various roles. Most notably for the Salvation Army and in her current voluntary role at the SouthPort Uniting Care Goodwill Op Shop in Albert Park, where she has worked weekly for over 20 years. As well as raising funds and providing affordable shopping for local residents, the Op Shop provides an important community space for residents and visitors to the area that can only be maintained through the outstanding contributions of volunteers like Ethel.

Maureen Smith

Maureen has spent almost 20 years working for community-based services and is currently President of the Lions Club of Port Phillip, of which she demonstrates outstanding leadership and fundraising initiative. Maureen has also made valuable contributions to the Port Phillip Specialist School, Cricketers Arms Social Club, Albert Park Angling and Yacht Social Club, SouthPort Residential Nursing Home, City of Port Phillip Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC), Make a Wish Foundation and South Port Nursing Home.

Peter Sutherland

Peter has been a dedicated volunteer driver with the Russian Women's Choir 'Young at Heart' for over five years. In this role, he plays an important part in ensuring the Choir is able to perform at various locations around the city and provides support not just for the community that enjoy their songs, but for the participants of the choir who value the group as a social support network. His generosity, friendly nature and reliability have been key to the success of the group.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

Danielle Barker

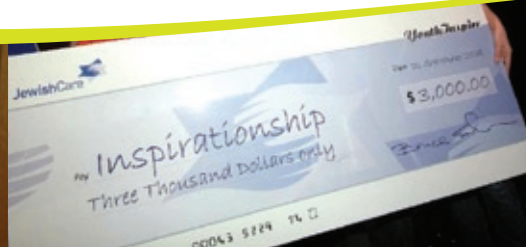
Danielle has played an important role in the Homeless World Cup programs 'Shoesday Tuesday' and 'Adopt a Team'. Both of these programs aim to raise awareness about homelessness and provide direct opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to find pathways into education, jobs, homes and build on individual self esteem. Danielle herself has overcome many personal barriers to recently excel in academic and personal areas of her life as well as successfully work collaboratively on these projects that foster a greater sense of community. Her initiatives have since led to greater youth participation and successful fundraising for the cause.

Miro Djurkovic

As Deputy Captain of Elwood College, Miro co-ordinated and co-hosted a school talent night, which raised in excess of \$1,000 for Oxfam's Close the Gap campaign and the college quadrangle. He has won numerous awards for community and sporting achievements and has been an active participant of the South Melbourne Rotary Club's Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment and the regional Constitutional Convention. His generosity and positive enthusiasm has ensured that Miro is often seen as a role model to other students at the school.

Siobhain Geaney

This year, Siobhain volunteered as a peer leader at Inner South Community Health Service's Young Women's Group, a group that aims to link young people with their peers and provide information about local resources and available support. Siobhain co-facilitated the group, empowering each participant to work in teams, develop skills and produce their own short film. Her well developed leadership skills, encouragement and constant support for the group were key in the development of each participants' skills and confidence.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

Georgia Hunter

As a new mother, Georgia has successfully managed the responsibilities of caring for her child whilst excelling in her academic, personal and community life. She is involved in the Homeless World Cup's 'Adopt a Team' program and is currently co-ordinating fundraising events in support of the Cambodian team. She has volunteered her time at the ABC Childcare Centre and has played an incredibly supportive, generous and nurturing role to friends in need.

Sophie Lees

Sophie has been instrumental in raising awareness of homelessness and promoting fundraising activities to raise money in support of the Homeless World Cup. Sophie has led a team of students in planning awareness campaigns within the school community and has successfully raised a substantial amount of money for the cause. Her passion for the community has increased awareness of homelessness, not only within the school community, but also amongst family and friends. As a result of her advocacy, she has captured the attention of students, parents and the extended community.

Dean Levitan

Dean is the founder of YAGID (Youth Against Genocide in Darfur), a group that focuses on raising awareness of the current genocide in Darfur. Dean has been instrumental in the establishment of a school-based committee in 4 schools across Melbourne that meets weekly. They organise events to raise awareness, write letters to the government, engage with various politicians and the media, fundraise, and work collaboratively with DAN (Darfur Australia Network) and Jewish Aid to help make a difference. The group now has 150 members across Melbourne, Sydney and Perth.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

Felix Löfgren

Over many years, Felix has had many significant academic, music, sport and community achievements. As school captain, Felix recently worked together with the members of the Student Leadership Team to host a school Talent Night, raising over \$1,000 for Oxfam's Close the Gap campaign. Felix co-hosted the event, invited Oxfam to speak and presented Oxfam with the cheque. Felix has also participated in the Oxfam Youth Leadership Summit, Schools' National Constitutional Convention, Elwood College School Council and Port Phillip Speaks.

Congratulations to these organisations that are celebrating milestone years of continuous community service:

10 years – Veg Out Community Gardens

15 years – GROW

Is your organisation reaching an important milestone? Make sure that the achievement is recognised. Contact the Community Sector Strengthening Unit for more information: css@portphillip.vic.gov.au / 9209 6345.

To receive this publication in another language or an alternate format contact 9209 6345 or css@portphillip.vic.gov.au

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