



MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday 26 January 2017

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 10am Thursday 26 January 2017.

Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh today announced the winners of the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year as part of Australia Day celebrations in Wynyard.

“I am pleased to announce Catherine Fernon as our Citizen of the Year, Shaun Hutchinson as our Young Citizen of the Year, and the Wynyard High School and Big hART - Project O Colourathon as our Community Event of the Year,” Mayor Walsh said.

Described by her Boat Harbour neighbours as the “engine room” of their community, Catherine Fernon has been active in the Boat Harbour Community Association Craft Group and has been instrumental in creating the mosaic features at the Boat Harbour Beach lookout.

“Catherine is also very active in a number of other organisations, including the Wynyard Community Garden, Boat Harbour Progress Association and Boat Harbour Path Group,” Mayor Walsh said.

“She has also given her time over the years to be on various community and art focused boards such as Tas Community Fund, Tasmania Together, Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board, and the NW School Improvement Board to name a few.”

Shaun Hutchinson has been a dedicated member of the Wynyard Fire Bridge since 2011 when he joined as a junior and has worked his way up to a member of the Senior Brigade, where he is now a trainer for the juniors and a youth group leader on Friday nights.

“He also volunteers in other areas whenever needed including, playing in the church band, helping out at Carols by Candle light and the Tulip Festival and volunteering numerous times to attend the Arthur River Bush Fires in 2016,” Mayor Walsh said.

The Project O 24-hour Colourathon was held for the first time in 2016 and was organised by 20 young women aged from 14-16 who were mentored in all aspects of the event planning by Big Hart in partnership with the Wynyard High School.

“The Colourathon was a high profile media friendly endurance live art event that raised awareness about family violence and raised funds for specialist trauma therapy for young children in crisis accommodation fleeing family violence,” Mayor Walsh said.

“They also organised a crowd funding campaign alongside the event and raised more than \$13,000, which was double the initial target of \$6000.

“Due to the success of the Wynyard Colourathon, the Project O program is now rolling out in other communities around Australia.”

Mayor Walsh also welcomed nine new citizens as part of today’s celebrations, from countries including England, South Africa, Ireland and the Philippines.

“It is always an honour to conduct citizenships on behalf of the Australian Government, and doing so on Australia Day makes this event all the more special,” Mayor Walsh said.

Further enquiries may be directed to:- Communications Officer Patrick Fahy on 0427 207 573.

Authorised for general media distribution by Michael Stretton, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Thursday 26 January 2017.

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