

NSW Women of the Year Awards 2026

Ceremony

Thursday 5 March



Message from the Minister



I am pleased to welcome you to the NSW Women of the Year Awards 2026. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the achievements of the incredible women and girls from right across our state.

Each year, the NSW Women of the Year Awards shines a light on women who are improving lives, leading in their industries, breaking social barriers and fostering social cohesion in our communities.

The NSW Government works to empower women and girls in NSW to create a safe place where they are treated with respect and dignity, and have equitable access to services, resources, opportunities and protection.

The 2026 Awards attracted a record number of nominations, highlighting the increasing recognition of women and girls in our state and their invaluable contributions to our communities.

This year's finalists are all making NSW a better place. The women we honour today come from diverse backgrounds, bring unique lived experiences, and contribute across a wide range of industries including health, education, science, business, the arts and community services. What they all have in common is that their voices, vision and determination are helping build a more equitable NSW.

I am proud to recognise these remarkable women at the NSW Women of the Year Awards. Thank you to all for your dedication.

I look forward to seeing the continued impact their achievements will bring to our communities.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

The Hon Jodie Harrison MP

Minister for Women

Minister for Seniors

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Menu

On the table

Mini smoothie shots (V)

Bircher muesli pots with berry compote (V)

Mini Danish breakfast pastries (V)

Coffee and teas

Orange juice

House-made botanical water
infused with seasonal fruits and herbs

Hot dish

Scrambled free-range eggs, sweet potato hash, grilled zucchini with Vannella ricotta, smashed avocado, oven baked tomatoes and salsa verde (V)

V Vegetarian

Program

Master of Ceremonies

Leigh Sales AM

Welcome to Country

Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM
Representative of the Metropolitan
Local Aboriginal Land Council and
former NSW Aboriginal Woman of
the Year

Minister's Address

The Hon Jodie Harrison MP
Minister for Women

Breakfast is served

The Ones to Watch

Presented by

The Hon Jodie Harrison MP
Minister for Women

NSW Young Woman of the Year

Presented by

Her Excellency the Hon
Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of NSW

NSW Community Hero

Presented by

Her Excellency the Hon
Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of NSW

Deputy Premier's Address

The Hon Prue Car MP
Deputy Premier
Representing the Premier of NSW

NSW Premier's Woman of Excellence

Presented by

The Hon Prue Car MP
Deputy Premier
Representing the Premier of NSW

NSW Regional Woman of the Year

Presented by

The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC
Minister for Regional NSW

NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year

Presented by

The Hon Jodie Harrison MP
Minister for Women

The Ones to Watch

The Ones to Watch recognises girls and young women aged from 7 to 15, who demonstrate a single act or ongoing acts of courage, strength, determination and kindness to help and support those around them.

Imali Bamji, 12



Imali is a changemaker whose quiet determination and radiant spirit are already making waves across continents. As a co-founder of the Akka Project, alongside her mother and sister, Imali has built a volunteering pathway where Aussie teens and parents travel to India to support a local school. Her holidays are spent rebuilding libraries, delivering lessons and leading other Aussie teens through immersive, intercultural experiences that foster empathy and global awareness. With a focus on play, joy and cultural exchange, Imali inspires young people to become globally minded citizens. Her bubbly nature, endless ideas and readiness to chat make her a natural leader who brings people together.

Piper Clarke, 11



Since the age of 7, Piper has committed herself to helping others, raising more than \$15,000 for local and national charities. Causes she has supported include Supported Accommodation and Homelessness Services Shoalhaven Illawarra's winter appeal and Christmas toy drive, Sydney Children's Hospital and The Smith Family's education initiative. While supporting the toy drive, Piper hand-picked presents for children in the local community, partnering with students from Shoalhaven River College to have them all hand wrapped. Despite facing her own health challenges, Piper is determined to make a difference to those who may go without or face difficulties in life.

Hafsa Faizan, 14



At 13, Hafsa was selected as a TEDx speaker to deliver a talk on the importance of AI in education, reflecting her commitment to meaningful, inclusive learning opportunities for all children. Her advocacy extends into environmental and political action. Hafsa helped lead a campaign against bilge dumping, co-creating a children's book to raise awareness about toxic waste in oceans.

She presented her ideas at NSW Parliament, highlighting her ability to bring youth voices into policymaking spaces. Hafsa has been a member of her school's robotics team for 4 years and voluntarily coaches younger students. She was recently selected as a member of the 2026 NSW Youth Advisory Council.

Shanvi Govinda Raju, 11



Shanvi exemplifies compassion, leadership and purpose far beyond her years. Since the age of 7, she has championed community causes, hosting the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea and supporting SHINE for Kids through a book drive. A creative change-maker, her artwork highlights messages for Earth Day, International Women's Day, International Day of Peace and more, inspiring her peers to reflect and take action. She promotes positive habits through World Book Day initiatives and proudly represents her language and culture, encouraging other young people to stay connected to their roots and celebrate diversity. Through kindness, resilience and creativity, Shanvi proves that young voices can create powerful impact.

Emma Hoskins, 15



Emma is a proud Wiradjuri and Gamilaraay girl who is recognised in her community for her achievements and commitment to volunteering and charity work. At school, Emma is a leader and role model, helping with her school's Breakfast Club, leading Indigenous cultural dance performances and implementing a Chill & Chat room for kids to connect and feel heard. She serves on Blacktown City Council's Youth Advisory Committee and was named the council's Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year in 2023. During NAIDOC Week 2025, Emma was invited by Blacktown Council to MC the Warami Mittigar Concert and Corroboree.

Amalia Carolyn Howard, 10



Amalia has 2 missions: to raise money for the homeless, and to spread happiness and kindness. A resident of Central West NSW, Amalia spends her free time busking to raise awareness and money for the homeless, donating the proceeds to Wayside Chapel. While she initially aimed to raise \$1,000, she has doubled her goal. Amalia busks using a steel tongue drum and crystal singing bowl. In an effort to spread kindness and happiness, she carries affirmation cards to give to people who donate as well as other passers-by. Amalia is kind, thoughtful and conscientious, using compassion and intention to make the world a better place.

Elly Ings, 14



Elly is dedicated to advancing Aboriginal education and strengthening the role of First Nations perspectives in her school community. Her leadership is evident through her coordination of camps and expeditions to culturally significant and educational sites, including Taronga Zoo, where students engage in learning that connects them to culture, land and community. Through her professionalism, passion and vision, Elly is shaping sustainable programs with long-lasting impact. Elly also coordinates school-wide activities for important events, ensuring that First Nations voices and traditions are respectfully acknowledged and celebrated.

Hannah Orr, 14



Hannah is a member of the Goulburn Mulwaree Youth Council and Deputy Youth Mayor, a role in which she has successfully advocated for a pedestrian crossing near her school and contributed to local events such as a community bike ride and the Goulburn Lilac City Festival. While Hannah lives with disability and medical issues, this doesn't hold her back from her commitment to serving the community. At school, Hannah is junior president of the Social Justice Council, which raises money for various charities, and is part of the Bridges to Borders group, which celebrates multicultural students. In 2025, she was named Goulburn Mulwaree Council's Young Citizen of the Year.

Ruvi Pooliyadde, 14



Ruvi is a courageous changemaker, a kind-hearted leader and a force for good. Through her 'Poppy Flower' project, Ruvi crochets and donates handmade poppies to organisations like the RSL, helping raise funds for veterans and community causes. She also authored a book on the history of the poppy flower, distributing it to raise awareness and honour those who served – a compassionate act for someone so young. Ruvi's kindness extends beyond borders. Through her 'Sharing Knowledge' initiative, she teaches English via Zoom to students in rural Sri Lanka, empowering children with tools for a brighter future. Locally, she volunteers at a preschool, helping young children prepare for school.

Ivy Walker, 14



Ivy is an extraordinary para-athlete whose courage, determination and kindness inspire everyone she meets. Living with significant vision impairment, she has shown remarkable strength in tackling sports that demand precision, speed and resilience. Ivy refuses to be defined by her disability, instead viewing it as an opportunity to challenge perceptions. Ivy's

actions reach beyond her own sporting success. She is a passionate advocate for inclusion in sport, encouraging others – both with and without disabilities – to step outside their comfort zones and pursue their goals. Ivy is a 5-time gold medallist in alpine skiing at state and national competitions, and has represented NSW in blind cricket, athletics and cross country.

Finalists

NSW Young Woman of the Year

The NSW Young Woman of the Year has demonstrated incredible potential or achievement in her chosen field, passion or area of interest. It is open to women aged from 16 to 30 years.

Miranda McGufficke



Raised amongst fleeces in shearing sheds and mobs of merinos, Miranda McGufficke is the epitome of an agricultural leader. Miranda is transforming her childhood passion into a remarkable career, combining science, progressive thinking and innovation. With a Bachelor of Animal Science majoring in genomics, Miranda is advancing the merino industry using science-backed

approaches that deliver proven, predictable and profitable outcomes. Miranda's initiative is demonstrated in her commitment to harnessing genomic tools to drive smarter breeding decisions. Miranda demonstrates determination, resilience and vision in a male-dominated space. Her achievements were recognised in 2022 when she was named a finalist for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW's Rural Achiever Award.

Layne Paull



Layne is a young leader with a passion for inclusion, innovation and community service. As Inclusion Nippers Coordinator for North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club and Team Leader for Disabled Surfers Association, she has developed programs that make aquatic environments welcoming for people of all abilities. Layne also volunteers at Amputees NSW's AMP CAMP, inspiring participants to build confidence and resilience. As a disability support worker, Layne designs personalised strategies to enhance clients' skills and independence. She aspires to advance assistive technology and inclusive design, and is currently studying biomedical engineering at the University of Technology Sydney. Layne was awarded the Women in Engineering Scholarship 2025 by Engineers Australia.



Milli Weaver



Milli is the founder and Chief Executive of the Australian Endometriosis Foundation, a volunteer-run charity she established at the age of 24 in 2023 to address the gap in peer-led support and advocacy for young people with endometriosis. Since then, the foundation has grown into a registered organisation, supporting more than 1,600 young Australians through community programs and awareness campaigns. In 2024, the foundation launched Australia's first Endometriosis Youth Summit, equipping young women with evidence-based information and self-advocacy training. That same year, Milli spearheaded a hospital care-pack program, now operating across major NSW hospitals, providing young patients with free practical and comfort resources during unexpected hospital stays.

Dr Mithila Zaheen



Mithila is a cardiology advanced trainee, researcher and clinical lecturer dedicated to improving women's cardiovascular health and healthcare access for vulnerable communities. Her PhD focuses on spontaneous coronary artery dissection, a rare heart condition that disproportionately affects women. Beyond her clinical and research work, Mithila volunteers with Street Side Medics, the Water Well Project, and local Aboriginal and refugee support programs, providing free healthcare and education to underserved groups. She was named as the Australian Medical Association (NSW) Registrar of the Year in 2022, and was a finalist for Blacktown City Woman of the Year in 2021.

NSW Community Hero

The NSW Community Hero shines a light on the accomplishments of an extraordinary woman who works tirelessly to contribute to the prosperity of those in her local community.

Carolyn Campbell-McLean



Drawing on her lived experience of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), Carolyn is a powerful advocate, mentor and leader whose impact is felt across NSW. For almost 30 years, Carolyn has worked in adult education, the disability sector, government and for-purpose organisations. A research associate on the first evaluation of individualised funding, Carolyn has supported people with disability as a Living Life My Way Champion; Senior Facilitator at My Choice Matters' leadership program; and Training Facilitator with the Council for Intellectual Disability and the Physical Disability Council NSW. As leader of Muscular Dystrophy NSW's Peer Connect, Carolyn has built networks that reduce isolation, foster resilience and self-advocacy.

The founders of Gidget Foundation Australia: Alexandra Berthold, Libby Bowditch, Jacqui Cotton, Stephanie Hughes, Lou Hunter, Kim Mouret and Simone Short



For 24 years, these incredible women have worked to improve mental health support for parents in NSW. In 2001, their sister and friend, Louise (nicknamed Gidget), took her own life while experiencing postnatal depression. Following this tragedy, they set out to make a difference in Gidget's honour by increasing awareness of the illness and support for parents. Today, Gidget Foundation Australia provides parents with accessible, timely and specialist care. The foundation has established 39 Gidget Houses and delivered a total of 108,704 appointments to support 12,705 families. The founders are still actively involved, demonstrating dedication that has had a direct impact on perinatal mental health awareness, education and support in NSW.



Ruby Riethmuller



Ruby is the founder and CEO of Womn-Kind, a leading youth mental health organisation transforming the way young people access wellbeing education and support. Focused on adolescent girls and gender-diverse youth, Womn-Kind delivers innovative, low-intensity services through school workshops, a pioneering social wellness app, podcast and partnerships with schools, community groups and government. With an emphasis on accessibility and prevention, the organisation has already supported more than 30,000 young people, providing daily support to over 7,000 users across Australia and 37 countries. Ruby also serves as Deputy Commissioner (Lived Experience) at the Mental Health Commission of NSW. Ruby embodies resilience, initiative and an unwavering commitment to uplifting others.

NSW Premier's Woman of Excellence

The NSW Premier's Woman of Excellence is a role model who has excelled in her chosen field. In doing so, she effects lasting change and is an inspiration to others.

Professor Tracey O'Brien AM



Tracey is a leading Australian cancer clinician, researcher and advocate whose career has centred on one mission: improving the lives of people with cancer. A haematologist–oncologist and former Director of the Kids Cancer Centre, she has led breakthroughs in precision medicine, and transplant and cellular therapies, while mentoring the next generation of clinician-researchers. Now NSW Chief Cancer Officer, Tracey works across communities, government and science to ensure equitable, culturally safe cancer care for all. She is known for bringing siloed worlds together with humanity and purpose, uniting researchers, clinicians, policymakers and communities around what matters most: compassionate, life-changing outcomes for every person facing cancer.

Clare Pearson



Clare is the CEO of Little Wings, a not-for-profit organisation that provides free, professional and safe flight and ground transport services for seriously ill children in rural and regional NSW, ACT and Queensland. Under her leadership, Little Wings has achieved record service delivery, increasing flights and ground transport year on year. Clare is a qualified psychologist, specialising in child and adolescent welfare, and is passionate about working in not-for-profit and community-based projects. She has authored a book, *Threads of Hope*, that celebrates the lives of human trafficking survivors. Clare is a strong believer in the power of people, whereby a united effort can affect meaningful change.

NSW Regional Woman of the Year



The NSW Regional Woman of the Year recognises the accomplishments of an exceptional woman living in regional NSW who inspires and advances their community and contributes to the fabric of their local area.

Jo Marshall



Jo is a visionary leader and advocate for rural communities. As the driving force behind the Australian Agricultural Centre, including their Women in AG program, Jo inspires and equips the next generation of agricultural leaders through immersive education, hands-on training and innovative programs. Her work is grounded in a commitment to tackling entrenched

disadvantage in regional areas. Jo has championed pathways for young people, women and jobseekers who are disengaged from traditional education, ensuring they have access to opportunities that build skills, confidence and sustainable employment futures. Through her collaborative approach, she has built partnerships across schools, government, industry and community organisations, amplifying impact well beyond her immediate region.

Amy Riddle



Amy is highly influential within the corrective services sector, having spent 8 years working to reduce recidivism rates by having challenging and confronting conversations with offenders as part of supporting them to change anti-social behaviours. As part of this commitment, Amy has built relationships with services that support vulnerable people and divert them from

reoffending, as well as support them in identifying as victim-survivors. She is a strong, inspirational role model for female offenders and victim-survivors as well as her colleagues. Amy's dedication and efforts have been recognised by way of commendation from the Corrective Services Assistant Commissioner and the Coffs Clarence Police District Commander Superintendent.

Jenny Worrell



Jenny is an exceptional educator, musician, volunteer and advocate with a deep commitment to her community in the Clarence Valley. A former schoolteacher and private music educator, Jenny has fostered the musical talent of many rural and regional students, and developed music programs for teens living with disability. After the passing of her mother, who suffered from dementia, Jenny and a friend created Forget Me Nots – a cross-generational choir for people living with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, as well as their carers. The choir has connected hundreds of community members, including many women in caring roles, with support services and advancing music therapy research in partnership with Macquarie University.

NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year



A dedicated pillar of her community, the NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year is a role model who promotes economic, cultural and social opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW. It is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Dr Aunty Rhonda Radley



A proud Aboriginal woman from the Birrbay and Dunghutti countries, Aunty Rhonda embodies a profound connection to Country in all aspects of her life and work. Rhonda plays a key role in revitalising language and culture on the Mid-North Coast and serves as a board member for the Aboriginal Languages Trust. A respected Elder, educator and mentor, she founded the

Nyiirun Djiyagan Wakulda Women's Festival, uniting hundreds of women in celebration of culture and wellbeing. Aunty Rhonda also founded 'Point Plomer – Looking After Country', promoting conservation and regeneration. Rhonda honours and protects cultural heritage, ensuring traditional knowledge is preserved and passed down to future generations.

Adjunct Professor Nicole Turner



Nicole is a proud Kamilaroi woman with over 30 years' experience in Aboriginal health. She is CEO of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, working closely with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations across NSW. She is also Chairperson of Indigenous Allied Health Australia, having served on the board for over 10 years. Nicole is a qualified

nutritionist and is an Adjunct Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Canberra. She is committed to research that creates meaningful impact for Indigenous peoples and future generations. As a mother of 4 and grandmother of 6, Nicole's work is guided by her commitment to her family and community.

Sharon Winsor



As founder of Indigiearth, Sharon has built one of the country's leading Aboriginal-owned businesses, using her expertise to promote native Australian ingredients and culinary traditions. Sharon is a proud Weilwan woman from north-west NSW, born in Gunnedah and raised in Rocky Glen. Her deep connection to Country began in childhood, gathering bush foods, cooking and exploring. She has become a leading figure in Australia's native food industry, as an entrepreneur, chef and cultural storyteller. She also leads Warakirri, an immersive cultural dining experience. Sharon's personal journey is one of resilience – rising above hardship to achieve remarkable success. She continues to inspire through her dedication to culture, community and Country.

NSW Local Women of the Year Honour Roll

The NSW Local Women of the Year Honour Roll is an annual program celebrating outstanding women in local communities. This is a separate program that runs alongside the NSW Women of the Year Awards. Recipients of the NSW Local Women of the Year Awards are selected by their local Member of Parliament, as an opportunity to celebrate the contributions women in their electorate have made to their local communities.

NSW Local Women of the Year Honour Roll

Dr Penelope Egan-Vine
AM MBBS DCH
Albury

Catherine Tucker
Auburn

Kellie Bowden
Badgerys Creek

Kylie Jacky
Ballina

Tania Thompson
Balmain

'Ana Taula Tu'ionuku
Bankstown

Prue Ritchie
Barwon

Mary Fletcher
Bathurst

Helen Slater
Bega

Elfa Moraitakis
Blacktown

Alessandra Pepper
Blue Mountains

Nadia Rivera
Cabramatta

Jo O'Brien
Camden

Mandy Perrin
Campbelltown

Caitlyn Joseph
Canterbury

Katherine Kirk
Castle Hill

Catherine Parsons
Cessnock

Viv Allanson OAM
Charlestown

Michelle Cowan
Clarence

Dr Rebecca Tallis
Coffs Harbour

Licia Heath
Coogee

Tina Kendall-Davis
Cootamundra

Kathryn Wakelin
Cronulla

Rev Bec Baines
Davidson

Mary Rose Bonfante
Drummoyne

Carmen Gain
Dubbo

Bettina Vogel
East Hills

Sharon Kwok
Epping

Genelle Petruszenko
Fairfield

Jayne Mote
Gosford

Jennifer Medway
Goulburn

Dr Jeanie Wood PhD BA
(hons)
Granville

Genean Beetson
Hawkesbury

Neridah Armstrong
Heathcote

Anthia Psarras
Heffron

Katherine Louise Eagle
Holsworthy

Ann Leslie
Hornsby

Val Fell OAM
Keira

Kylie Harvey
Kellyville

Irene Birks
Kiama

Suzanne Egging

Kiama

Mrs Lai Fong Teng

Kogarah

Chris Gavenlock

Lake Macquarie

Karen Neville

Lane Cove

June Young OAM

Leppington

Susanna Freymark

Lismore

Daniela Galgoczy

Liverpool

Joanne Tomic

Londonderry

Jennifer Watt

Macquarie Fields

Barbara Bird

Maitland

Megan Maack

Manly

Karen R Levin

Maroubra

Simone Osfield

Miranda

Yvi Henderson

Monaro

Bec Reidy

Mount Druitt

Brenda Norman

Murray

Donna Ballard

Myall Lakes

Shaleigh Lennox ESM

Newcastle

Hannah Thomas

Newtown

Sheila McGregor

North Shore

Kay Endres

Northern Tablelands

Linda Pritchard

Oatley

Maree Yapp

Orange

Jesse Webber

Oxley

Maeve Brown

Parramatta

Gina Field

Penrith

Skye Rose

Pittwater

Dr Kristy Kostalas

Port Macquarie

**Alison Stewart,
Senior Constable**

Port Stephens

Gemma Farrell

Prospect

Leanne Leach

Riverstone

Linda Prince

Rockdale

Pamela Smith

Ryde

Corrine Ann Boyle

Shellharbour

Dr Tina Broad

South Coast

Jianhua Liu

Strathfield

Coral Lever

Summer Hill

Jane Goddard

Swansea

Yasmina Bonnet

Sydney

Kellie Singh

Tamworth

Sharon Baxter

Terrigal

Megan Pye
The Entrance

Deborah Hunt
Tweed

Jane Hegarty
Upper Hunter

Anita Birges
Vaucluse

Ann Adams OAM
Wagga Wagga

Denise Temisgian
Wahroonga

Michelle Povah
Wakehurst

Frances Crotty
Wallsend

Kay Tang
Willoughby

Cr Georgina Valjak
Winston Hills

Gaye White
Wollondilly

**Dr Tamantha
Stutchbury**
Wollongong

Mandy Shaw
Wyong

For more information on the NSW Local Woman of the Year 2026 recipients, please scan the QR code.



NSW Women of the Year Awards Honour Roll – past recipients

2025

Premier's NSW Woman of Excellence: **Dr Vanessa Pirotta**

NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year: **Marjorie Anderson**

NSW Community Hero: **Sandy Rogers**

NSW Regional Woman of the Year: **Kirsty Evans**

NSW Young Woman of the Year: **Dr Jessica Luyue Teoh**

2024

Premier's NSW Woman of Excellence: **Jessica Hill**

NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year: **Dr Casey Sullivan**

NSW Community Hero: **Monica Mudge**

NSW Regional Woman of the Year: **Theresa Mitchell**

NSW Young Woman of the Year: **Noor Azizah**

2023

NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award and Premier's Award winner: **Lynda Edwards**

Aware Super NSW Community Hero Award: **Mary Hollingworth**

NSW Minerals Council Regional Woman of the Year Award: **Gayle Dunn**

NSW Woman of Excellence Award: **Dr Rebecca Deans**

NSW Young Woman of the Year Award: **Chanel Contos**

2022

NSW Minerals Council Regional Woman of the Year Award and Premier's Award winner: **Anna Barwick**

Aware Super NSW Community Hero Award: **Stacy Jane**

Cancer Institute NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award: **Yvonne Weldon AM**

NSW Woman of Excellence Award: **Professor Julie Redfern**

NSW Young Woman of the Year Award: **Angelique Wan**

2021

NSW Woman of Excellence Award and Premier's Award winner: **Dr Kerry Chant**

Aware Super NSW Community Hero Award: **Jean Vickery**

Cancer Institute NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year: **June Riemer**

Harvey Norman NSW Young Woman of the Year: **Dr Samantha Wade**

NSW Regional Woman of the Year: **Grace Brennan**

2020

NSW Premier's Woman of the Year Award: **Professor Maria Kavallaris**

Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award: **Kirli Saunders**

Business Woman of the Year: **Anneke van den Broek**

Community Hero: **Justine Lorenz**

First State Super Lifetime Achievement Award: **Christine Strachan**

Harvey Norman Young Woman of the Year: **Hannah Beder**

Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year: **Krystaal Hinds**

2019

NSW Premier's Woman of the Year: **Tracey Spicer AM**

Community Hero Award: **Dr Leng Tam**

First State Super Lifetime Achievement: **Shirley Smith**

Harvey Norman Young Woman of the Year: **Dr Angelica Merlot**

NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year: **Associate Professor Faye McMillan**

NSW Business Woman of the Year: **Leanne Heywood**

Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year: **Dr Louise Baker**

2018

Premier's Award for Woman of the Year: **Professor Hala Zreiqat**

Community Hero Award: **Dr Raji Ambikairajah**

First State Super Lifetime Achievement Award: **Norma Ingram**

Harvey Norman Young Woman of the Year: **Shaza Rifi**

NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award: **Julie Shelley**

NSW Business Woman of the Year: **Kristy Chong**

Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year: **Juliet Duffy**

2017

Premier's Award for Woman of the Year: **Associate Professor Catherine Birman**

Aboriginal Woman of the Year: **Kristal Kinsela**

Business Woman of the Year Award: **Gina Field**

Community Hero Award: **Debbie Higgison**

Harvey Norman Young Woman of the Year Award: **Dr Nicole Seebacher**

Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year: **Julia Harpham**

2016

Premier's Award for Woman of the Year: **Jennifer Armstrong**

A.H. Beard's Community Hero Award: **Professor Fadia Ghossayn**

Aboriginal Woman of the Year: **Dana Clarke**

Harvey Norman's Young Woman of the Year Award: **Dr Dharmica Mistry**

Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year: **Jodie McRae**

2015

Premier's Award for Woman of the Year: **Professor Minoti Apte OAM**

A.H. Beard's Community Hero Award: **Lana Borg**

Harvey Norman's Young Woman of the Year Award: **Annabelle Chauncy OAM**

Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year: **Barbara Cowley**

2014

Premier's Award for Woman of the Year: **Turia Pitt**

A.H. Beard Community Hero Award: **Faten El Dana OAM**

Harvey Norman Young Woman of the Year: **Lakshmi Logathassan**

2013

Premier's Award for Woman of the Year: **Dr Cathy Foley**

People's Choice Community Hero Award: **Jessica Brown**

2012

Premier's Award for Woman of the Year: **Fran Rowe**

Lifetime achievement award winner, sponsored by The Daily Telegraph:

Dr Edith Weisberg

People's Choice Community Hero Woman of the Year: **Yvonne Keane**

Presenters and performers

Leigh Sales AM, Master of Ceremonies



Leigh Sales AM is one of the most recognised and respected journalists in Australia. For almost 12 years, she anchored flagship evening current affairs program 7.30 on the ABC, and she is now presenter of *Australian Story*.

Leigh is the author of 5 books and co-hosts a wildly popular podcast, *Chat 10, Looks 3*, with her friend Annabel Crabb. It attracts hundreds of thousands of downloads each month, covering subjects ranging from arts and culture to friendship and grief.

Leigh has been recognised with many honours and awards, including 3 Walkley Awards for journalism and a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to broadcast media.

Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM, Welcome to Country



Yvonne Weldon is an independent councillor and the first Aboriginal councillor in the City of Sydney's history. She was born and raised in inner Sydney but maintains strong ties to her Wiradjuri homelands of Cowra and the Riverina areas of NSW.

Yvonne has worked in government, non-government and Aboriginal-controlled organisations across health, human services, housing and child protection. She is a board member of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and previously served as Chairperson.

In 2022, Yvonne was recognised as NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year and appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to the Aboriginal community. She recently published her debut novel, *Sixty-Seven Days*.

Bella Strings, string quartet



Bella Strings is a Sydney-based string quartet known for its contemporary and energetic live performances. Comprising all-female musicians, the group's members draw on their classical training to perform a diverse repertoire – ranging from jazz and

popular song arrangements to classical masterpieces. All members are graduates of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, with extensive backgrounds in orchestral and chamber music.

Bella Strings performs regularly across Sydney and beyond, bringing its dynamic sound to a variety of events and settings. Whether it's interpreting well-known contemporary songs or classical works, it delivers a fresh and entertaining approach to string music.

bellastrings.com.au

The NSW Women of the Year Awards 2026
is proudly brought to you by The Cabinet
Office and the Premier's Department.

