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# Media Release

25 January 2017

## Australia Day Civic Awards Ceremony celebrations

Maribyrnong City Council acknowledged the efforts of individuals and organisations who contribute to making the municipality great, at the Australia Day Civic Awards Ceremony celebrations on Thursday 26 January.

Maribyrnong Mayor Cr Catherine Cumming said the municipality has a number of talented, compassionate and inspiring community members who make our City a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

“We delight in thanking individuals, businesses and organisations as part of the annual Civic Award celebrations, recognising those who go ‘above and beyond’ every single day to help people across our community,” she said.

### Australia Day 2017 recipients

#### Citizen of the Year - Gerard White and Maureen Marshall

##### Gerard White

Gerard has played a significant role in growing and nurturing young people in our community to become community leaders.

He has been instrumental in working for the expansion of Children’s Services through his work at Clare Court Children’s Hub, where he was a former board member.

He’s worked actively to improve the lives of others, this includes his role as a foster parent and his most recent involvement as Chairperson for the Brain Injury Foundation (Victoria).

Gerard was also a foundation member of Yarraville Rotary and was president of Yarraville Rotary twice. His tireless work with Yarraville Rotary and his commitment to simply ‘be there and help’ during tree plantings or Clean Up Australia Days are a clear demonstration of his community orientated nature.

He’s been a Scout Leader for twelve years and district Scout Leader for six years.

He was also a Councillor at Maribyrnong City Council for nine years and Mayor for two years finishing up in 2005. He worked on many great projects during his time on Council and is a great example of a person committed to our community.

##### Maureen Marshall

She is a longstanding volunteer across a number of local organisations with a strong connection to Braybrook.

Maureen was an active participant in the inaugural Braybrook On Board Program (a joint venture between Maribyrnong Council and Victoria Polytechnic) in 2015, which led to her completing a Certificate III in Community Services Work in 2016.

### Media Enquiries:

Communications Advisor Christine de Kock 9688 0189/ 043 037 9942

She is a Committee member at Western Health (in various roles). Maureen has been volunteering in the areas she is passionate about in the community involving health, safety and education, and assisting the disadvantaged in the community for over 20 years.

#### **Community Strengthening Award - Crystal Harris**

Crystal is the Cohealth Aboriginal Food Share Coordinator based out of the Braybrook Community Hub. The program offers fresh and healthy food to local Indigenous community members while connecting with them and linking in to agencies such as Women's Health West, VACCA and Victoria University. Crystal also acts as a positive role model to the Aboriginal community as she is an Aboriginal person in the mainstream health workforce, in a respected and productive role.

#### **Active Maribyrnong Sporting Award - Robert Sneddon**

Robert has been an inspiration to the Yarraville Glory Soccer Club and the local community. His leadership with young people has provided direction and guidance and his desire for social inclusion has resulted in children from many different cultural backgrounds playing soccer. He has also been instrumental in the inclusion of women in team sports at Yarraville Glory Soccer Club.

#### **Enterprise Maribyrnong Awards - Contribution to Business Community Award Littlefoot Bar**

Since opening in January 2015, Littlefoot has made a meaningful contribution to the community of Footscray. Littlefoot provides locals with a unique venue, not before seen in Footscray. Littlefoot is also an enthusiastic supporter of the local arts community and plays host to a number of activities; events and launches, as well as engaging musicians and performers, facilitating visual art installations and sponsoring local arts groups.

#### **Enterprise Maribyrnong Awards - Innovative Business Award TIC Mattress Recycling**

TIC Group launched Australia's first automated mattress recycling system in Tottenham in October 2014. This new facility - TIC Mattress Recycling means the waste and pollution associated with 'end-of-life' mattresses can now be greatly reduced as fewer mattresses will end up in landfill. TIC Mattress Recycling is also proud to be working closely with national social enterprise group, Soft Landing, who provide work opportunities for communities and people experiencing hardship.

#### **Enterprise Maribyrnong Awards - New and Emerging Business Award The Dream Factory**

The Dream Factory, an innovative business and community hub, brings together forward thinking and values-driven businesses, community leaders and up and coming entrepreneurs, providing an environment that encourages collaboration not only between residents but also the inner west community. The focus on attracting value driven tenants has resulted in organisations such as Engineers Without Borders, Cohealth and Inspire9 taking up space within the premises. Each of these organisations reaches the local and broader communities in different ways, all of which are positive.

#### **Mayoral Award - Eddie Merrifield**

Eddie is an active member of the community and strongly advocates on behalf of City of Maribyrnong residents on a number of issues, with a particular focus on increased community safety.

He's worked towards improving lighting by reporting when lights are out, reducing graffiti and rubbish and improving the municipality's roads and footpaths.

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Eddie contacts the Mayor and Council whenever he identifies an issue that needs attention whether it be Footscray, Braybrook or elsewhere in the municipality.

It's not just Council that Eddie reports issues of concern, he's developed relationships with key State and Federal Government agencies and service providers to ensure issues are addressed.

Eddie keeps abreast of issues in the municipality by attending every Council meeting and celebrates the municipality's successes by attending Mayoral functions and many other events.

In addition to addressing community issues, he works full time and is a long-term carer for his older brother. Eddie's commitment to the community is highly valued. In the words of the Mayor: *"We need more people like Eddy who have such a commitment to their community."*

#### **Volunteer of the Year Award - Col Paterson**

Col was an inaugural Committee Member of the Braybrook Men's Shed when it first formed in 2012 becoming Chairperson six months later. Col has championed a number of major local projects in his time and has developed into a true leader who community members look to for guidance and support.

#### **Youth Leadership Award - Terry Tran**

Terry has been proactive in the development and implementation of the Maribyrnong Youth Advisory Committee. He planned and delivered the Changemakers 2.0 Youth Conference and has provided regular advice to Council on new projects or redevelopments. Terry was also one of three students selected to represent Braybrook College at the VicSRC Congress.

#### **Certificates of Commendation**

- **Margaret Haggart**
- **Peter Milne**
- **David Palmer**

Council values the commitment of these volunteers who have supported the Yarraville Carols for the past 23 years.

On behalf of the community we thank you for your dedication, community spirit and selfless enthusiasm to deliver this much loved event for so many years.

Council also officially welcomed 40 of our residents, both adults and children, from more than 17 different countries when they became Australian Citizens on the day.

ENDs

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