



MEDIA RELEASE
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Australia Day honours

A volunteer who teaches English to refugees and a woman who co-founded a charity to help homeless women have joined Olympic champion Kyle Chalmers as the City of Marion's Australia Day Award winners.

Marion Mayor Kris Hanna presented the awards at a special Australia Day ceremony in front of more than 100 family and friends at Marion RSL on Thursday, 26 January.

The winners are:

- **Citizen of the Year** – Robyn Richards
- **Young Citizen of the Year** – Amy Rust
- **Community Event of the Year** – Maker Faire 2016
- **Sportsperson/team of the Year** – Kyle Chalmers

Mr Hanna said Clovelly Park resident Robyn Richards, 60, was an inspirational volunteer.

"Robyn has valiantly refused to let a near fatal brain aneurism slow her down. She welcomes new arrivals to our community by teaching them English," Mr Hanna said. "Robyn has become an integral part of Mitchell Park Neighbourhood Centre over the past two years where she also organises outings for the elderly."

Young Citizen Amy Rust, 29, lives in Seaview Downs and co-founded the charity *Essentials for Women SA*. Mr Hanna said she was changing the lives of our most vulnerable.

"Amy has taken the initiative to support homeless women, refugees, and women fleeing domestic violence, by collecting and distributing more than 220,000 packs of toiletries," Mr Hanna said. "She has forged relationships with business and secured a van to expand the operation."

Sportsperson of the Year is Olympic gold medalist Kyle Chalmers, who was also presented with the Key to the City of Marion in October.

"Kyle is a role model for every sportsperson. His self-discipline and his maturity brought him gold at the Rio 2016 Olympics."

Mr Hanna said November's Maker Faire - organised by volunteers - was a unique event that drew more than 5000 people to Tonsley to explore technology, science, arts, engineering and food sustainability.

Mr Hanna thanked all nominees for their outstanding service to the community.

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