The Women of the Year Awards provides an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the outstanding work that women are doing in our communities.

The NSW Government is committed to supporting and recognising the significant contributions and achievements of NSW women.

We are committed to ensuring NSW women are well supported and empowered to achieve more than ever before.

These awards demonstrate our appreciation of so many admirable women in regional and metropolitan communities across the state.

Congratulations to all of the winners and nominees for the 2012 NSW Women of the Year Awards.

Barry O’Farrell MP
Premier
As the Minister for Women, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the outstanding contributions that women are making to our state in 2012 through the new NSW Women of the Year Awards.

This year the NSW community embraced this refreshed opportunity to nominate wonderful women and also to vote for their Community Hero winner. This is the first time NSW citizens have been given the final say in deciding the winner for any NSW Woman of the Year Award.

We received more than 200 nominations for the Awards from across NSW, from Albury to Nyngan, Grafton to Cronulla, showcasing incredible women who have made a significant contribution to NSW and their local communities.

Many of these extraordinary women are quiet achievers, local heroes and wonderful volunteers. Their stories are inspirational and the generous work that they are doing is benefitting our communities across the state. They are models of good citizenship and of the values that we all hold dear.

Congratulations and thanks to all of the award winners and nominees for 2012.

Pru Goward
Minister for Women
Congratulations to the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognises the outstanding contributions of women throughout their life which have benefited NSW women.

Edith Weisberg OAM
Nominated by Ann Brassil
Edith is recognised for her advocacy for women’s health around the world, with over 40 years of dedicated work in reproductive and sexual health issues.
Congratulations to the finalists for the People’s Choice Community Hero Award

The People’s Choice Community Hero Award is nominated and chosen by the NSW community. The Award recognises quiet achievers, local heroes and volunteers who contribute to their local communities.

Jenny Armstrong
Nominated by Jaci Armstrong
Jenny is recognised for her dedication to volunteering with Riding for the Disabled NSW.

Elsie Gordon
Nominated by Karen Hyland
Elsie is recognised for her work as a dedicated teacher and advocate for people experiencing domestic and family violence and women’s health.

Yvonne Keane – WINNER
Nominated by Paul Keane
Yvonne is recognised for her outstanding efforts volunteering with Hear the Children and her advocacy for early intervention as founder of Reach for the Rainbow.

Rose Lehmann
Nominated by Frances Day
Rose is recognised for dedication to her local community in Lockhart as a volunteer for more than 60 years.

Shirley Nelson OAM
Nominated by Jacinta Rose
Shirley is recognised for her work in the aged care sector as founder of Feros Care Ltd, a not-for-profit organisation providing aged care.

Sheila Turnbull
Nominated by Marilyn Forsythe
Sheila is recognised for her advocacy for women’s equality, and her passion to help women and girls fulfil their potential.
Congratulations to the finalists for the Premier’s Woman of the Year Award

The Premier’s Woman of the Year Award recognises inspirational women who have accomplished significant achievements in NSW.

Krystal Barter
Nominated by Julie Barter

Krystal is recognised for her outstanding work in supporting women as the founder of Pink Hope, an online community for women at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

Lyn March
Nominated by Kate Needham

Lyn is recognised for her work as Professor of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Sydney and champion for evidenced-based care for people with musculoskeletal diseases and osteoporosis.

Fran Rowe – WINNER
Nominated by Stephen Griffith

Fran is recognised for her advocacy for farmers, and her work to establish one of the first rural financial counselling services for farming families facing financial difficulties.

Anne Simmons
Nominated by Rowan Johnston

Anne is recognised for her pioneering work in a traditionally male dominated area and for her role as Head of the School of Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering at University of NSW.
Congratulations to the nominees for the Local Woman of the Year Awards

The Local Woman of the Year Awards recognises women who have made wonderful contributions and achieved great things for their local communities.

Colleen Abela
Nominated by Mr Kevin Conolly MP
Member for Riverstone
Colleen is recognised for her commitment and passionate advocacy for the Rouse Hill community.

Nicole Alexander
Nominated by The Hon. Kevin Humphries MP
Member for Barwon
Nicole is recognised for her literary talent and promoting Outback Australia and providing a strong female role model for rural professionals.

Lucy Bilsborough
Nominated by The Hon. Richard Torbay MP
Member for Northern Tablelands
Lucy is recognised for her voluntary work establishing and promoting Bingara and the Gwydir district through the annual ‘Nasho’s Reunion’.

Veronica Bird
Nominated by Ms Anna Watson MP
Member for Shellharbour
Veronica is recognised for instigating the push for indigenous constitutional recognition and for her commitment and dedication to reconciliation.

Sharon Anne Bishop
Nominated by Mr Jai Rowell MP
Member for Wollondilly
Sharon is recognised for her community service and dedication to the Wollondilly community.

Mary Ellen Bland
Nominated by Mr Bryan Doyle MP
Member for Campbelltown
Ellen is recognised for her service to the Campbelltown community.
Lucia Bokulic
Nominated by Mr Stephen Bromhead MP
Member for Myall Lakes
Lucia is recognised for her wonderful and extensive contribution to the Manning community.

Ruth Bradfield-Ling
Nominated by The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP
Member for Marrickville
Ruth is recognised as an inspiring leader, educator and community builder who has made an extraordinary contribution to South Marrickville.

June M Bullivant OAM
Nominated by Mr Tony Issa OAM MP
Member for Granville
June is recognised for her contribution to the community in supporting the Granville Historical Society over many years.

Carolyn Byers
Nominated by Mr Bart Bassett MP
Member for Londonderry
Carolyn is recognised for her exemplary service to the community, particularly through the Living in Communities scheme, as a volunteer visitor, trainer and coordinator.

Betty Carroll
Nominated by The Hon. Andrew Constance MP
Member for Bega
Betty is recognised for her 40 years of service with the Bega Valley Meals on Wheels.

Anne Charlton
Nominated by Mr Chris Spence MP
Member for The Entrance
Anne is recognised for her outstanding contribution to the Central Coast community through the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

Jean Cinis
Nominated by Mr John Robertson MP
Member for Blacktown
Jean is recognised for her many decades of volunteer service, including for social housing clients in the western suburbs of Sydney.

Anne Charlton
Nominated by Mr Chris Spence MP
Member for The Entrance
Anne is recognised for her outstanding contribution to the Central Coast community through the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

Jean Cinis
Nominated by Mr John Robertson MP
Member for Blacktown
Jean is recognised for her many decades of volunteer service, including for social housing clients in the western suburbs of Sydney.

Narelle Clay
Nominated by Mr Lee Evans MP
Member for Heathcote
Narelle is recognised for her work in building the Southern Youth and Family Services Association into an organisation that advocates for the wellbeing of young people in the Heathcote community and surrounds.

Beverley Cole
Nominated by Mr Dominic Perrottet MP
Member for Castle Hill
Beverley is recognised for her tireless work over the past 27 years in Neighbourhood Aid.

Gabrielle Collett
Nominated by The Hon. Jillian Skinner MP
Member for North Shore
Gabrielle as Principal of Neutral Bay Public School is recognised for her extraordinary leadership in inspiring teachers and encouraging students during a period of major redevelopment.
Robyn Cotterell-Jones  
**Nominated by Mr Tim Owen MP**  
**Member for Newcastle**  
Robyn is recognised for her dedication to helping others in the community, through the Victims of Crime Assistance League of Newcastle.

Catherine Craig  
**Nominated by Mr Stuart Ayres MP**  
**Member for Penrith**  
Catherine is recognised for her contribution to the community by assisting people who are in the greatest need.

Susan Cull  
**Nominated by The Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC**  
Susan is recognised for business leadership and regional development in an export industry.

Jodie Davis  
**Nominated by Mr Darren Webber MP**  
**Member for Wyong**  
Jodie is recognised for her outstanding dedication and contribution to the needs of people with a disability and her service to Camp Breakaway.

Madiana (Marie) Evanian  
**Nominated by The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP**  
**Member for Willoughby**  
Marie is recognised for her commitment to the Armenian language broadcasting on SBS Radio for the past 30 years.

Carolyn Evans  
**Nominated by Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP**  
**Member for Coogee**  
Carolyn is recognised for her service to Zonta International, professional women, and those women in need of recognition and advocacy.

Betty Evers  
**Nominated by Ms Cherie Burton MP**  
**Member for Kogarah**  
Betty is recognised for her tireless and passionate advocacy work on behalf of the people of Beverly Hills.

Susan Cull  
**Nominated by The Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC**  
Susan is recognised for business leadership and regional development in an export industry.

Anne Farrell OAM  
**Nominated by Mr Chris Gulaptis MP**  
**Member for Clarence**  
Anne is recognised for excellence in nursing and dedication in the field of community involvement and hospital-based progressive management.

Patricia Giles OAM  
**Nominated by Mr Rob Stokes MP**  
**Member for Pittwater**  
Patricia is recognised for outstanding service to the Pittwater community.

Kim Edwards  
**Nominated by Ms Gabrielle Upton MP**  
**Member for Vaucluse**  
Kim is recognised for her dedication, commitment and leadership to the Waverley and Woollahra State Emergency Service unit as a Local Controller.

May Gill  
**Nominated by The Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC**  
May is recognised for her 23 years of volunteer service as unit controller with the Kempsey State Emergency Service, where she always ‘goes the extra mile’ to assist those in need.
Lorraine Gilmore  
Nominated by The Hon. Donald Page MP  
Member for Ballina

Lorraine is recognised for her outstanding contribution to her community.

Deidra Groppenbacher  
Nominated by Mr Chris Holstein MP  
Member for Gosford

Deidra is recognised for service to the community through her fundraising and volunteer work and her contribution to the arts.

Sylvia Haller  
Nominated by Ms Sonia Hornery MP  
Member for Wallsend

Sylvia is recognised for community service as a volunteer with Toastmasters, Lions and Lifeline.

Sharon Hamilton  
Nominated by Mr Ryan Park MP  
Member for Keira

Sharon is recognised for outstanding contribution to the Keira community.

Gloria Hansen  
Nominated by Mr Glenn Brookes MP  
Member for East Hills

Gloria is recognised for her contribution to the community by providing our children with a safe and enjoyable place to spend their Saturday evenings.

Vera Hatton AM  
Nominated by The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP  
Member for South Coast

Vera is recognised for dedicated service to the museums sector, the Lady Denman Heritage Complex and for her support of youth and social welfare in the Shoalhaven.

Judith Hopwood  
Nominated by Mr Matthew Kean MP  
Member for Hornsby

Judith is recognised for her work as Chair of the Homelessness Taskforce, where she has helped to develop a local plan to tackle homelessness and provide housing options for members of the Hornsby Shire community.

Georgina Hrdina  
Nominated by Mr John Flowers MP  
Member for Rockdale

Georgina is recognised for outstanding community service.

Louise Hufton  
Nominated by The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP  
Member for Burinjuck

Louise is recognised for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Harden and Murrumburrah communities through her contribution to the local Landcare Group.

Martha Jabour  
Nominated by Dr Geoff Lee MP  
Member for Parramatta

Martha is recognised for her compassion for those in distress and her willingness to fight for others in improving the justice system.

Ellie Kambos  
Nominated by The Hon. Amanda Fazio MLC

Ellie is recognised for her service to the Cypriot community of NSW and the Cyprus Community Club.

Jo Karaolis AM  
Nominated by The Hon. Barry O’Farrell MP  
NSW Premier

Jo is recognised for her outstanding contribution in the Ku-Ring-Gai area as Principal of St Lucy’s School.
Tracy Kastelein  
*Nominated by Mr Andrew Gee MP*  
*Member for Orange*  
Tracy is recognised for her long term volunteer work to develop netball in Mudgee and its district.

Sandra Kirby  
*Nominated by Mr Greg Piper MP*  
*Member for Lake Macquarie*  
Sandra is recognised for her volunteer and advocacy work with the Salvation Army and the Morisset Vision Impaired Support Group in support of the Lake Macquarie community.

Linda Lambourne  
*Nominated by Ms Melanie Gibbons MP*  
*Member for Menai*  
Linda is recognised for advocating for a safe play environment at her local school.

Dai Le  
*Nominated by The Hon. Charlie Lynn MLC*  
Dai is recognised for her positive leadership and inspiring young women from Western Sydney to achieve their potential.

Patricia Long  
*Nominated by The Hon. Greg Smith SC MP*  
*Member for Epping*  
Patricia is recognised for outstanding service to the local community in the electorate of Epping with ongoing involvement in the Beecroft Lions Club.

Susan Mann  
*Nominated by The Hon. Chris Hartcher MP*  
*Member for Terrigal*  
Susan is recognised for her dedication and compassion to the Central Coast community.

Vicky Mar Syrios  
*Nominated by The Hon. Sophie Cotsis MLC*  
Vicky is recognised for her contribution to business, philanthropy and the Australian Hellenic community.

Mary Mathias  
*Nominated by Mr John Barilaro MP*  
*Member for Monaro*  
Mary is recognised for her outstanding contribution to the Braidwood community.

Angela Maxwell  
*Nominated by Mr Geoff Provest MP*  
*Member for Tweed*  
Angela is recognised for her work as Manager of the Tweed Shire’s Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre, where she has worked tirelessly to provide a focal point for the community and links to the services that enhance it.

Fatma Mohamed  
*Nominated by The Hon. Barbara Perry MP*  
*Member for Auburn*  
Fatma is recognised for her dedication to the Somali Welfare and Cultural Association in Auburn, where she is a mentor and role model for the local Somali community.

Lorraine Montgomery  
*Nominated by Mr Gareth Ward MP*  
*Member for Kiama*  
Lorraine is recognised for outstanding advocacy of women’s issues as the National President of VIEW.
Clover Moore
Nominated by The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP
Member for Heffron
Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP is recognised for representing Sydney simultaneously at state and local levels since 2004.

Shirley Nelson OAM
Nominated by The Hon. Jan Barham MLC
Shirley is recognised for her inspirational and tireless contribution to the health and wellbeing of society.

Suzie van Opdorp
Nominated by The Hon. Helen Westwood AM MLC
Suzie is recognised in her Blue Mountains community and beyond for her dedication and commitment to addressing the social and economic barriers that exist in our society that prevent women from achieving gender equality especially in the area of women’s health.

Ida Ozoux-Blessing
Nominated by The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
Member for Lane Cove
Ida is recognised for her longstanding commitment to the communities of Hunters Hill and Gladesville.

Kathryn Ridge
Nominated by The Hon. Mike Baird MP
Member for Manly
Kathryn Ridge is recognised for her outstanding contribution to cultural heritage and biodiversity in the Manly area.

Jan Roberts
Nominated by Mr Daryl Maguire MP
Member for Wagga Wagga
Jan is recognised for her outstanding commitment and contribution to the Wagga Wagga community, in particular women’s health.

Joan Robertson
Nominated by The Hon. Pru Goward MP
Member for Goulburn
Joan is recognised for her 43 years of voluntary service with football clubs around NSW and the Southern Highlands.

Christine Rogers
Nominated by The Hon. George Souris MP
Member for Upper Hunter
Christine is recognised for her active and dedicated involvement in the Muswellbrook community for the past 30 years.

Elizabeth Ruthnam
Nominated by Mr Andrew Fraser MP
Member for Coffs Harbour
Elizabeth is recognised for her dedicated service to the Coffs Harbour community in ensuring that the highest quality medical care is available to patients at Baringa Private Hospital.

Rebecca Yi Jeong Shin
Nominated by Mr Charles Casuscelli MP
Member for Strathfield
Rebecca is recognised for using Hoju Dong-A to promote understanding, harmony and engagement between the Korean and Australian communities.

Noela Sikora
Nominated by Mr Paul Toole MP
Member for Bathurst
Noela is recognised for her dedication to the community and in co-ordinating the Bathurst Christmas Miracle Appeal for over 30 years.
Loanna Single  
*Nominated by Mr Kevin Anderson MP  
Member for Tamworth*  
Loanna is recognised for her leadership and mentoring skills in working to constantly improve the Tamworth community.

Gladys Smit  
*Nominated by The Hon. Linda Burney MP  
Member for Canterbury*  
Gladys is recognised for her outstanding contribution to the local community.

Marion Smith  
*Nominated by Mr Mark Coure MP  
Member for Oatley*  
Marion is recognised for outstanding service to the St George community.

Ann Spillane  
*Nominated by The Hon. Thomas George MP  
Member for Lismore*  
Ann is recognised for her outstanding commitment and service to the Friends of St Vincent’s and the Diocese of Lismore.

Julie Sutton  
*Nominated by Mr Jonathan O’Dea MP  
Member for Davidson*  
Julie is recognised for inspirational and dedicated service to the local community in Warringah.

Mary Tarr  
*Nominated by The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP  
Member for Oxley*  
Mary is recognised for 50 years of service with the Kempsey - Macleay RSL, Sub Branch Auxiliary.

Norma Thorburn  
*Nominated by Mrs Tanya Davies MP  
Member for Mulgoa*  
Norma is recognised for being a gracious and strong stalwart citizen of St Marys where she has supported its history, beauty, richness and people.

Lesley Tierney  
*Nominated by Mrs Leslie Williams MP  
Member for Port Macquarie*  
Lesley is recognised for her tireless work and commitment to the Hastings community for over 45 years.

Teresa Todaro-Restifa  
*Nominated by The Hon. Marie Ficarra MLC*  
Teresa is recognised for outstanding service to older people and the community.

Carole Twist  
*Nominated by Ms Clover Moore MP  
Member for Sydney*  
Carole is recognised for supporting her community.

Helen Whittaker  
*Nominated by Mr Chris Patterson MP  
Member for Camden*  
Helen is recognised for outstanding service and generosity to the Camden Senior Citizens Club and its members.
Thank you

We would like to thank the following people for their contribution to the 2012 NSW Women of the Year Awards:

Judges

Jodie Fox  Co-founder of Shoes of Prey and Sneaking Duck, Telstra Businesswoman of the Year 2011, Hudson Private Award
David Gallop  Chief Executive Officer, Australian Rugby League Commission
Major Paul Moulds AM  Director Mission and Resources Social, The Salvation Army
Jeni O’Dowd  Editor at Large and Saturday Editor for the Daily Telegraph
Cath Webber  Editor, thetelegraph.com.au
Janet Dawson  Public Service Commission

Sponsored gifts

20th Century Fox
Art Gallery of NSW
Captain Cook Cruises
Napoleon Cosmetics
National Rugby League
NewsLifeMedia
News Limited
Royal Doulton
Shoes of Prey
Village Roadshow
Voodoo Hosiery

Sponsored Women of the Year cake

Planet Cake

All the nominees and the people who nominated these wonderful women