

EVERALD COMPTON COMMUNITY CHAMPION ANNOUNCED

1 October 2024

National Seniors Australia (NSA) has marked International Day of Older Persons by announcing Gold Coast resident Wayne Sticher as the recipient of the inaugural Everalld Compton Community Champion Medal.

After a national search, NSA CEO Chris Grice was delighted to announce Wayne as the recipient of the medal that acknowledges older Australian unsung heroes for his work with the Cycling Without Age program on the Gold Coast.

Wayne secured the funding and resources to introduce Cycling Without Age (a charity that connects those no longer able to ride with their community and the outdoors) to the Gold Coast in January 2020. He provides free trishaw rides for older people, people living with a disability and people impacted by loneliness, enabling them to enjoy the experience of nature, moving and socialising.

“The Everalld Compton Community Champion Medal has demonstrated how older people contribute to their communities. While nominations were strong, it was Wayne who stood out for his work to improve the wellbeing of Gold Coast residents, while promoting the benefits of physical activity and social inclusion,” NSA CEO Chris Grice said.

“We congratulate Wayne on receiving this prestigious and well-deserved accolade and thank all nominees for the vast and varied ways they contribute to their communities.”

NSA’s Founder and medal inspiration, Everalld Compton AO said by introducing Cycling Without Age to the Gold Coast, Wayne has fostered inclusion and connection among those who may feel marginalized, bridged generational gaps and transformed the lives of many through meaningful experiences and social interactions.

“Too often, older Australians get cast aside. But they’re an asset and shouldn’t be ignored. Wayne, and all nominees, are shining examples of the difference older Australians make to their communities through humble, selfless, and inspirational work,” NSA Founder Everalld Compton said.

“Wayne embodies everything the medal represents including impact on the community, inclusivity and accessibility, leadership and inspiration, and intergenerational unity.”

Upon receiving the medal, Wayne said he was deeply honoured and proud to be recognised for the work he does and deeply loves.

“To be nominated is an honour in itself and to receive the medal in its inaugural year for a program which enriches my life and provides such fulfilment is beyond my wildest dreams,” Wayne Sticher said.

“I am inspired by the amazing volunteers I work with and equally amazing passengers we meet, including those living in residential care facilities. To see them ‘out and about’ on the trishaw, smiling and waving at passers-by, hugging our volunteers, and hearing them say ‘it’s the most fun they’ve had in a long time’ is just magic.

“It goes to show, we can’t underestimate our ability to add value through kindness. It does not have the constraints of age, gender, education, or any other barrier. Adding value can be as simple as a smile or a friendly gesture.”

In presenting the Everalld Compton Community Champion Medal to Wayne, Everalld said, “Today, on International Day of Older Persons, we can all vow to collectively help change negative attitudes about older Australians, by acknowledging them as community builders who have the wisdom and ability to turn GREY INTO GOLD throughout Australia in the manner so ably demonstrated by Wayne.”

The recipient of the medal was announced on September 30 at a dinner at Brisbane’s Tattersalls Club attended by the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Minister for Government Services the Hon. Bill Shorten MP (who delivered the keynote address) and Queensland Senator Susan McDonald (who delivered the closing remarks).

His Excellency Hon. Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC, Kathryn Griener AO, and Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie MP presided as judges and also attended the dinner.

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