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## Media Release

# Monash celebrates extraordinary community achievers

Fifty years of dedicated service to the Monash community saw Barbara Thompson presented with the Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Leadership at a glittering event at the Monash Gallery of Art last night.

A Councillor and Mayor with the former City of Waverley (serving from 1985 to 1994), Barbara was the driving force behind the establishment of the Monash Gallery of Art, is currently a trustee of the Monash Gallery of Art Foundation and has helped raise more than \$300,000 for the Bone Marrow Donor Association.

Mayor Paul Klisaris said Council received 59 nominations for the awards, which were held during National Volunteer Week.

“It’s an honour to be able to thank those volunteers who do so much for others and who are the heart of our community,” Cr Klisaris said.

“Many of those acknowledged have battled their own difficulties in life and have used their experiences to better the lives of others. They are true heroes.”

The winners and finalists in all eight categories of the awards are:

- Volunteer of the Year - Bernadette Allan. High Commendations - Shishir Pandit, Fay Sims.
- Outstanding Advocate of People with Disabilities - Phoebe Moore. High Commendations - Janet Savage, Hazel Hockley.
- Multicultural Champion - Mohamed Mohideen. High Commendations - Dimitri Karanikas, Vincent Chow.
- Youth Leadership - Jacqueline Teh. High Commendations - Philip Liberatore, Rose Han, Sagar Iyer.
- Positive Ageing Leadership - Alister Pilley. High Commendations - David Hawkes, Jill Linklater, Trevor Brooks.
- Sustainability Leadership - Dennis Williamson.
- Inspirational Women’s Leadership - Barbara Thompson. High Commendations - Anne McKay, JinMei Jiang.
- Active Monash - Waverley City Archers. High Commendations - Waverley Gymnastics Centre, Glen Waverley Junior Soccer Club.

The overall Sir John Monash Award winner for Outstanding Leadership, Barbara Thompson, was chosen from among the category winners. Each winner will be profiled in the Monash Bulletin newsletter over the coming year, so people can learn more about their special contributions.

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