



MEDIA RELEASE for Tuesday 2nd September 2008

**HEALTHY CITIES ILLAWARRA'S
19TH ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION**

The region's quiet achievers will be recognised at a gala presentation at the Sea Spray Function Centre, Beach Road, Shellharbour, on Tuesday 2nd September 2008 commencing at 10am.

Healthy Cities Illawarra General Manager, Frank Wallner, will announce the presentation of 53 awards to individuals, community groups and other organisations which recognise their hard work and important contributions in creating a Healthy City. The awards presentation is an annual event which began in 1990.

"These awards are a way of showing our appreciation by acknowledging the efforts of many people who have voluntarily assisted in enhancing the overall quality of life for our community" Mr Wallner said.

Certificates will be presented in the following categories: **Fundraising; Environment, Heritage and Culture; Community Aid and Services; Volunteer Work.**

Current President of Healthy Cities Dr Pat Mowbray, will welcome guests, Kiama Mayor and Vice President of Healthy Cities Illawarra, Cllr Sandra McCarthy, will attend and present awards in the Volunteer section including an award to Dr Margaret Gardiner for her outstanding contribution to breast cancer research. Lylea McMahon, Member for Shellharbour will also be in attendance.

Awards will be presented to individuals and groups who have been voluntarily involved in a wide range of community activities which all contribute to the creation of a healthier, safer, greener and more caring region. A number of Illawarra schools and organisations will also be recognised for the significant contributions they have made to enhancing health, environment or community well being. Some of these include Cedars Christian College, Coledale Public school and Bluescope Steel.

Violinist, Sarah Moir will entertain guests throughout the ceremony playing songs from her recently released self titled CD.

Mr Wallner said, "These are people and groups who work not for reward or recognition, but because they want to make a difference to the lives and well-being of people in the Illawarra region. It is important that, as we strive to create a Healthy City, we pause long enough to appreciate how these accumulated community efforts are helping to create a healthier and more caring place."

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Program and list of award recipients attached.

Better Health For All