

All-star launch for 2016 access awards nominations

Access campaigners full of beans for start of 2016 awards

Several prominent campaigners for access and inclusion in Tweed Shire gathered at Kingscliff's Daily Grind Coffee House today to officially launch nominations for the 2016 Tweed Shire Access and Inclusion Awards.

Invited guests for this week's launch included awards patron and multiple paratriathlon world champion Bill Chaffey, Paralympic gold-medal-winning swimmer Tracy Barrell, awards ceremony Master of Ceremonies Kristian Keogh, and friends and family of celebrated advocate for accessibility Faye Druett, who died earlier this year and has been honoured with the introduction of a new award.

"The Daily Grind Coffee House is a very fitting location to launch this year's award, because the café was among our 2015 award winners," Council's Development Officer – Ageing and Disability, Karen Collins, said.

"The café was chosen from a great list of nominations for the business category, which definitely had the biggest increase in candidates in a year when nominations overall continued to rise."

Ms Collins said one of our priorities this year would be to encourage a boost in the list of contenders for the Government category, which debuted in 2015 to recognise the inclusion achievements in the public sector.

"We received a wonderful total of 27 nominations last year and we're again inviting the community to nominate any individuals, organisations and businesses that have taken steps to make the Tweed more accessible and inclusive for everyone," she said.

"The Tweed Shire Access and Inclusion Awards have steadily grown since their launch in 2013, attracting a rising number of nomination and capacity crowds for the past two presentation ceremonies at the Tweed Heads Civic Centre.

"The stellar list of guests at today's official launch is an indication that we're in for an even bigger and better access and inclusion award in 2016."

Nominations close on 30 September, with the awards ceremony to be held on Wednesday 30 November 2016.

To help celebrate the launch, videos from last year's award are now available on Council's YouTube channel.

"People can relive all the highlights of the 2015 awards ceremony or watch all of the fantastic presentation by former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes."

For nominations and further information, visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/AccessInclusionAwards

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