Rose Bay local who keeps homes and streets beautiful named Vaucluse Woman of Year

‘An all-round great role model’

Rose Bay local Anita Birges has been recognised as Vaucluse Woman of the Year 2026 for her longstanding commitment to community service, social responsibility and practical support for families across Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs and beyond.

She was nominated by Vaucluse MP Kellie Sloane, who praised Ms Birges for “building relationships and offering practical tips to help people live calm and uncluttered lives”.

“She supports meaningful social causes and is an all-round great role model for young women in the community,” she said.

Vaucluse Woman of the Year Anita Birges with MP Kellie Sloane, who nominated her for the award.

Upon received the award, Ms Birges commented on Instagram: “I’m incredibly proud to represent this community. And if there’s one thing this moment reminds me of, it’s this: When women support women, incredible things happen.”

Ms Birges is the owner of Mise En Place, a professional organising and decluttering business founded in 2013.

Over more than a decade she has worked hands-on in local homes, helping families create calm, functional spaces while building trusted relationships with clients throughout the Eastern Suburbs.

Well known for her practical and approachable style, Ms Birges is a regular cleaning and organising expert on Channel 7’s Sunrise, where she shares simple and achievable advice.

Online, her reach extends to more than 300,000 followers who engage with her light, action-orientated content.

She actively supported the 36 Months campaign advocating for restrictions on social media access for children under 16; attending events, creating content and openly sharing her family’s experience managing phone use with a young teenager.

She has also taken direct action to support community safety and cohesion.

When anti-Israel graffiti appeared repeatedly in Rose Bay, Ms Birges personally removed it using her own supplies.

Each time it reappeared she returned to clean it off and continued monitoring the site.

After the Chanukah by the Sea terrorist attack, she purchased stones and markers to support mourners.

The site grew to thousands of stones and was taken over by Waverley Council with the contributions set to form part of the permanent memorial artwork.

Ms Birges’s contributions reflect a deep commitment to community wellbeing, practical support and standing up for shared values; all the hallmarks of a Local Woman of the Year.

Mise En Place owner Anita Birges. Picture: AAP

Danielle and Mac Murphy with children Grace, 3, and Cillian, 7 months, at the St Patrick’s Day parade. Picture: Damian Shaw

Parade has Irish eyes smiling

Evelyne Dowsett

The streets of Sydney’s CBD were a sea of green for the St Patrick’s Day parade on Sunday as Sydney’s Irish community celebrated.

Crowds waving Irish flags and wearing fuzzy green beards gathered to watch marching bagpipe bands, stilt walkers, leprechauns and Irish dancers.

The parade started at about 11am at Martin Place, and the fun continued in The Rocks, with stalls playing music, offering face painting, and selling potato bread and Guinness.

A strong sense of Irish spirit and pride filled the air as people brought their families into the city for the celebration.

Ashley, who has lived in Sydney for four years and has celebrated here many times before, said she loved the holiday because it brought the Irish community together.

“In Sydney, we love St Patrick’s Day because it brings the Irish community together. It’s amazing how many Irish people there are in Sydney, and we all get to let loose and have a good time!”

Another attendee, Mark, who moved to Sydney from Ireland in 2024, said he loved the parade for the music and the celebration of the Irish community.

“St Patrick’s Day is our day, isn’t it? It’s our national day, and it’s a good day to be Irish,” he said.

St Patrick’s Day events in Sydney ran across the weekend, but the holiday is officially celebrated in Ireland on March 17. It is a celebration of all things Irish, from shamrocks to pots of gold, and in Sydney it’s a chance for the Irish community to celebrate their national day in their adopted city.