



MAJOR SPONSOR



**AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS TO VISIT TO SYDNEY
Ita Buttrose AO OBE, Corey Payne and Ron Allum
10 April 2013**

Australian of the Year Ita Buttrose, NSW Young Australian of the Year Corey Payne and NSW Senior Australian of the Year Ron Allum will visit Sydney schools on Wednesday 10 April.

The visit is part of the Australian of the Year Awards program's Tour of Honour, which brings the recipients of the nation's most respected honour into contact with school students and community members to share their inspiring stories.

The Tour of Honour will see the award recipients visit schools in Concord, Punchbowl and Strathfield, giving students the opportunity to learn more about the experiences of these recipients in their various community efforts.

Ita Buttrose is the youngest ever editor of *The Australian Women's Weekly* and since this role, Australians have been inspired by her passion and determination to succeed, not only in publishing and business, but in community and social work. Her distinguished career has led all Australians to proudly acknowledge her as one of our most significant Australian icons.

"Being awarded the 2013 Australian of the Year Award is a great way to highlight that all Australians can achieve their goals, no matter their age, gender or background. I am looking forward to getting out in to the community to share this message and inspire our Australian youth, who will be the future leaders of our nation," Ita Buttrose said.

Nominations for the 2014 Australian of the Year Awards are open now. Nominations for all award categories can be made online at www.australianoftheyear.org.au or via a nomination form, available from any branch of Major Sponsor the Commonwealth Bank from early June.

Ends.

For information about the Tour of Honour in Sydney's South Western Sydney contact Karina Eustace - 0427 297 644

For further media information on the Australian of the Year Awards contact Nicole Browne, Media Opps - 02 9954 7677 or 0414 673 762

Notes:

Tour of Honour Itinerary & 2013 Australian of the Year Award recipients' bios attached with this media release.

**TOUR SCHEDULE
SYDNEY
WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2013**

What:

NSW Australian of the Year Tour of Honour 2013 will see the NSW Australian of the Year recipients visit a number of schools, community organisations in Sydney.

Who:

The 2013 NSW Australian of the Year recipients participating in the tour are:

- Ms Ita Buttrose AO OBE - 2013 Australian of the Year
- Mr Corey Payne - 2013 NSW Young Australian of the Year
- Mr Ron Allum - 2013 NSW Senior Australian of the Year

When: Wednesday 10 April

9:30am – 11:00am Concord High School, 3 Stanley Street, Concord
Q&A session with students followed by morning tea

11:15am – 12:45pm Punchbowl Boys High School, Kelly Street, Punchbowl
Q&A session with 70 students from across all years

1:30pm – 3:00pm Strathfield Girls High School, Albert Street, Strathfield
Q&A session with entire school (approx 1,200 students)
followed by afternoon tea

Bios:

2013 Australian of the Year - Ita Buttrose AO OBE – Media icon

Acknowledged for her brilliant and groundbreaking media career, Ita Buttrose now dedicates her considerable energy and skills to championing medical education and health care. Starting her career as a copy girl at the Australian Women's Weekly, she quickly became a cadet journalist at the Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph. At 23 she was appointed women's editor at The Telegraph and in 1971 was promoted to founding editor of Sir Frank Packer's new women's magazine Cleo. In parallel to her stellar media career, Ita continues to champion social and health issues. Since 2011 she has been National President of Alzheimer's Australia and is also Vice President Emeritus of Arthritis Australia. She uses her national profile to raise awareness of breast cancer, HIV/AIDS and prostate cancer.

2013 NSW Young Australian of the Year - Corey Payne, 28 – Ex-footballer & youth mentor

Canterbury Bulldogs back rower Corey Payne is a champion athlete on the field and a remarkable role model away from the game. Passionate about encouraging Western Sydney High School students to continue with tertiary education, Corey is on the board of the scholarship committee of Youth Off the Streets. He also established and runs the Future Directions Network to provide financial support, mentoring and careers advice for young people to go on to university. In 2012 Corey was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship to research culturally diverse programs that build ambition and aspiration in young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to inspire them to continue their academic studies. Corey will carry out his research in South Africa, Spain, Brazil and the UK.

2013 NSW Senior Australian of the Year - Ron Allum – Submarine designer

Ron Allum is the designer of the world's most innovative submarine, the *Deepsea Challenger*. This specialised underwater craft was the first to carry a solo submariner 11 kilometres to the floor of the Mariana Trench – the deepest point in the world's oceans. Ron started on the *Deepsea Challenger* project in 2005, gradually assembling a team of engineers and technicians to build his submarine. In March 2012, movie maker James Cameron who directed *Titanic*, climbed inside the Allum-designed submarine and descended to become the first human to tweet from the bottom of the world. Ron, in his own right a record breaker in cave diving deep beneath the Nullarbor, describes it as one of the most satisfying moments in his life.