

I love my mum because...



March 30, 2009

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CHRISTINA CROSS NAMED BARNARDOS' NSW MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In a special presentation ceremony hosted today by **Barnardos Australia**, and presented by the NSW Premier, Nathan Rees, **Christina Cross from St. Clair** was announced as the **NSW Mother of the Year** in the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards**.

Christina will now attend the national function in Sydney on **Thursday, May 7** (just prior to Mother's Day) along with the other seven state and territory finalists where the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year** will be announced.

Keeping family together is of paramount importance to Christina. Five years ago when a relative was no longer able to care for her five children, Christina unhesitatingly took them in. Despite having her own two children aged 15 and 13 at home at the time Christina fought to keep the children together and give them a proper childhood.

Now as their legal guardian the children have flourished under her care and are getting the chance to have the childhood they deserve. Despite her own health problems and suffering the tragic loss of her brother and mother last year, Christina has been resolute in her dedication and love for the children, always putting their needs before her own.

"Mum was on the verge of getting her life back but she put all that on hold so that the children could have a proper childhood and not be separated," says her daughter Tracy who nominated her.

Christina says she was shocked, humbled and honoured when she was announced as the **NSW Mother of the Year**. "There are so many amazing mums out there doing incredible work and I feel very privileged to have been chosen to represent New South Wales."

"This year we had thousands of nominations from truly remarkable mums from around this country of ours," says Glynis Sequeira, Marketing Director for Barnardos Australia. "However, Christina's determination and devotion to fight for her family won her acclaim amongst the judges."

"The outstanding NSW finalists are truly deserving women and it is a shame there can be only one finalist for the national competition," said NSW Premier, Mr Nathan Rees. "Our mothers are sometimes Australia's unsung heroes, who give so much to shape children's lives."

Mr Rees added, "Barnardos also deserves our thanks and support for highlighting the important role of mothers."

As the **2009 Barnardos NSW Mother of the Year**, Christina was presented with a Johnson & Johnson gift pack, a motherInc.com.au pamper pack, a Lindt chocolate basket, a Canon digital camera, a 12-month subscription to Practical Parenting magazine, a Captain Cook Sydney Harbour Sightseeing Coffee Cruise, a deluxe flower arrangement from EasyFlowers, a framed certificate and trophy to mark the event and flights and accommodation to Sydney to attend the national function.

The overall winner will receive a Ford Fiesta, a 3-night PS Murray River Wetlands Discovery Cruise for 2 people from Captain Cook Cruises, an EasyFlowers basket arrangement and a Lindt chocolate hamper.

Launched in 1996, the Awards aim to acknowledge the enormous contribution that mothers make in shaping Australia's future through their role in nurturing children.

For more information contact Sofey Youssef, Awards Publicist, Barnardos Australia on 02 9743 2790 or 0419 272 237 or email sofey@bigpicture.com

Nominate her for Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year
www.barnardos.org.au

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