

Australia Day Awards 2026 Nomination Form

The Rural City of Wangaratta Australia Day Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of individuals and community groups **in our municipality and the recipient is acknowledged at the Wangaratta Celebration on January 26.**

IMPORTANT: This form should be completed after reading the 2026 Australia Day Awards Nomination Criteria on page 3 and 4.

Nomination for (please tick one)

- ☐ Citizen of the Year
- ☐ Young Citizen of the Year
- ☐ Event/Project of the Year

Details of nominated person / event (required)

Name: _____

Community Project or Event (if applicable): _____

Organisation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Date of birth: _____

Australian Citizen: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Is the nominee aware of this nomination? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Your details (required)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

How do you know the nominee? _____

How did you hear about the Australia Day Awards?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Correspondence from Council ☐ Other (please state below)
- ☐ Social Media ☐ Word of Mouth
- _____

Why are you nominating this person / event? (min. of 100 words – max of 500 words)

*TIP: The information provided above is how your nomination will be judged. Examples of what the selection panel will be looking for can be found in the **Nomination Criteria** section of the application form.*

Any supporting documentation, such as photos, newspaper clippings or exerts, can be attached to this form.

Referee (required)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Submitting your nomination (required)

Nominations close **Saturday 8th November 2025**. Please return completed form and supporting documentation to Council:

Mail or hand deliver:

Att: Australia Day Awards
Rural City of Wangaratta
62 - 68 Ovens Street
WANGARATTA VIC 3678

Email:

council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au
RE: Australia Day Awards

Australia Day Awards 2026 Nomination Criteria

The Rural City of Wangaratta Australia Day Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of individuals and community organisations or groups in our region. These prestigious awards are one of the highest honours a Council can bestow to publicly acknowledge local heroes, whose dedication and contributions may otherwise go unnoticed.

This information is to aid in the completion of the **Australia Day Awards 2026 Nomination Form**.

Award Categories

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event/Project of the Year

Citizen of the Year

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Citizen of the Year Award, nominees must:

- Be an Australian Citizen,
- Be a resident of the Rural City of Wangaratta area (when nominations close),
- Be 25 years of age or older on 1st January of the year the award is given,
- Not have received the same award previously,
- Not be a current sitting Councillor, nor have been in the past two years,
- Not to be nominated by a member of the selection panel, and
- All applications must have a supporting referee.

Selection Criteria

When considering nominations for this award, the selection panel shall consider the following criteria:

- Has made an outstanding contribution to the community.
- Has been an inspiration / role model to the community.
- Has shown achievements in community activities, academic, sporting, personal, cultural, environmental and/ or social responsibility.
- Has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the welfare and wellbeing of the community, which has benefits to others.

Young Citizen of the Year

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Young Citizen of the Year Award, nominees must:

- Be an Australian Citizen,
- Be a resident of the Rural City of Wangaratta area (when nominations close),
- Be 25 years of age or younger on 1st January of the year the award is given,
- Not have received the same award previously,
- Not be a current sitting Councillor, nor have been in the past two years,
- Not to be nominated by a member of the selection panel, and
- All applications must have a supporting referee.

Selection Criteria

When considering nominations for this award, the selection panel shall consider the following criteria:

- Has made an outstanding contribution to the community.
- Has been an inspiration / role model to the community.
- Has shown achievements in community activities, academic, sporting, personal, cultural, environmental and/ or social responsibility.
- Has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the welfare and wellbeing of the community, which has benefits to others.

Community Event / Project of the Year

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Community Event of the Year, the event must:

- Be a not-for-profit event that provides opportunities for the community to participate and contribute to social, economic and cultural life,
- Bring recognition and credit to the community through a cultural, environmental or sporting achievement within the Rural City of Wangaratta,
- Have been completed (or the completion of a stage), or held in the year immediately before the award is given,
- Not have received the award previously, and
- Have a supporting referee.

Selection Criteria

When considering nominations for this award, the selection panel shall consider the following criteria:

- The events service and benefit to the community.
- The events significant involvement of volunteers and empowerment of the community for successful delivery.
- The events reflection on the community values and contribution to the diversity of the community.

How to complete your nomination

Nominations must be submitted on the official Rural City of Wangaratta Australia Day Awards 2026 Nomination Form (Nomination Form pages 1 and 2)

The answer to the question, 'Why are you nominating this person / project / event?' requires a minimum of 100 words and maximum of 500 words. Include as much detail as you can as this forms the majority of the material to be assessed by the judging panel.

Additional details can be included in a separate document along with details / copies of any other awards or supporting documents (i.e. photos, newspaper or magazine articles about the Nominee and their achievements).

Please provide all required information on the nomination form.

Failure to provide complete information may result in the nomination not being considered.

Selection Process

Following the close of nominations, the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel will score nominations based on the Selection Criteria.

In the event that no nomination or no suitable nominations are received in any of the categories, the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel reserves the right to grant the award to a group, event or citizen of its choice. This would be selected from the unsuccessful nomination finalists from the previous three years. In the result of a tied vote, the Mayor will have the final decision.

The decision of the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel is final, and no additional correspondence will be entered in to.

Award Ceremony

Award recipients are announced on Australia Day at the Wangaratta Australia Day Event.

All nominees and nominators will be invited to attend the award announcements at Wangaratta's Australia Day ceremony on 26 January 2026.

Further Information

Please contact the Events Team, 03 5722 0888 or email events@wangaratta.vic.gov.au