

Australia Day Awards 2027 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 or 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 Council area (when nominations close).
- Be 26 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 be nominated by an Officer of the Council or Councillor.
- Not be self-nominated.
- Couples will be accepted as a joint nomination.
- 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 for 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 (when nominations close).
- Be under 25 years of age on the 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 be nominated by an Officer of the Council or Councillor.
- Not be self-nominated.
- 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 for 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 or community project 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 event/project 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 same award previously. Not be nominated by an Officer of the Council or Councillor.
- All applications must have a supporting referee.

Selection Criteria

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

- The events or projects service and benefit to the community.
- The events or projects significant involvement of volunteers and empowerment of the community for successful delivery.
- The events or projects reflection on 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 Online Nomination Form.

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 2027.

Further Information

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