

1.27 Australia Day Awards

POLICY TITLE: AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

FILE REF: SC221

EXPIRY DATE: JULY 2027

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to outline the arrangements for receiving and assessing nominations for Lockhart Shire Council's annual Australia Day Awards and for determining the recipients of the Awards. The Awards aim to recognise outstanding contributions to the Lockhart Shire community in the year immediately prior to receiving the award, as well as their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the community.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

There are many in the community who volunteer their time and effort to support others and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the community and whilst not doing it in expectation of receiving any recognition or reward, recognising these efforts enhances the pride and self-esteem of the community and encourages volunteerism. Recognising the valuable contribution people make to their community is also consistent with the following strategies contained in the Lockhart Shire's Community Strategic Plan and the Council's Delivery Program:

- a) *'E1: Promote the increased participation of local people in local government and the community.'*
- b) *"E2: Provide effective community engagement practices with the community."*

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD CATEGORIES

1. Nominations will be invited from the community on an annual basis for the following Award categories, with the exception of the Student Achiever Award for which all schools in the Shire will be invited to submit nominations:
 - a) Australia Day Award
 - b) Sportsperson of the Year
 - c) Young Citizen of the Year
 - d) Citizen of the Year
 - e) Student Achiever Award
 - f) Discretionary Award
2. All Australia Day Award nominees who meet the eligibility criteria and who, based on the assessment criteria are considered worthy, shall receive an Australia Day Award.
3. The Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year shall be selected from among the Australia Day Award recipients as the one(s) considered most worthy having regard to the assessment criteria.
4. Council may in exceptional circumstances Award joint Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year Awards.
5. In addition to presenting a Student Achiever Award to a school student in accordance with Assessment Criteria Section 3 of this Policy, Council will on Australia Day also acknowledge those students that have excelled academically in the preceding year as determined by the respective schools i.e. school duxes.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Nominees for all categories must:

1. Be an Australian citizen
2. Fall within the following age categories for the respective Awards:
 - a) Young Citizen of the Year: Under 30 years of age
 - b) Citizen of the Year: 30 years and over

Note: the age of the nominee must fall into the applicable category as at 26 January in the year the Award is given.

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3. Reside in the Lockhart Shire Local Government Area at the time of nomination, or if not living in the shire must have contributed to the shire for a period of twelve (12) months or longer and who has demonstrated a record of providing beneficial services, to the Lockhart Shire community.
4. Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.
5. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
6. Sitting state and federal politicians and current councillors are not eligible.
7. Retired politicians and former councillors are eligible however consideration of their nomination would be for their work over and above their official duties.
8. Persons who have been awarded a Citizen of the Year Award may not be re-nominated for an award for a period of five (5) years.
9. Council will not award a Citizen of the Year Award to the same person until five years has elapsed.
10. Awards will not be granted posthumously

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1. In determining recipients of the Australia Day, Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year Awards nominees will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - a) The activities undertaken have a positive purpose and benefit to the community.
 - b) Outstanding achievement in a specific field, including but not limited to environmental, community engagement, welfare, arts and culture, leadership, charitable activities and civic responsibility.
 - c) The level of voluntary contribution beyond paid employment.
 - d) The length of activity or service.
 - e) The degree of challenges faced in a role and ability to go above and beyond.
2. The Sportsman of the Year nominees will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - a) Demonstrated achievement in one or more of the following:
 - b) Good practice in sport and being a positive role model in sporting and recreational pursuits
 - c) Encouraging membership and participation in sport
 - d) Contributing to the outstanding management or administration of sporting activities
 - e) Participating in official sporting or recreational duties in a voluntary capacity
3. The Student Achiever Award will be assessed against the following criteria as applied by the respective school submitting the nomination and which recognises students who:
 - a) Are developing leadership skills and skills of active citizenship.
 - b) Have shown either consistent or outstanding qualities of kindness, honesty and/or service to their school community.
 - c) Have demonstrated community spirit and integrity when participating in sporting, cultural or recreational activities.
4. Discretionary awards are to be awarded at Council's discretion when the Council resolves that the circumstances warrant.

DETERMINATION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

1. An Australia Day Awards Committee shall be convened by Council each year for the purposes of assessing the nominations received and making a recommendation to Council as to the Award recipients.
2. The Committee shall comprise at least one councillor from each Ward.
3. The Committee's recommendation shall be presented to the December ordinary meeting of Council preceding Australia Day.
4. The Award recipients shall be determined by resolution of the Council in closed session.
5. The Award recipients will be announced on Australia Day.

*Adopted by Council, 19 August 2024
Refer minute 135/24*

*Adopted by Council 17 April 2023
Refer minute 59/23*