

# Australia Day Awards 2024

## Guidelines

The Benalla Australia Day awards are a great way to acknowledge, honour and celebrate the outstanding achievements and voluntary service of individuals, groups, events and projects in our community.

### Categories for awards are:

- Citizen of the Year (*over 26 years on 26/01/2024*)
- Junior Citizen of the Year (*12 - 17 years on 26/01/2024*)
- Young Citizen of the Year (*18-25 years on 26/01/2024*)
- Community Event or Project of the Year (*event/project occurred after 27/01/2023*)
- Community Group of the Year
- District Achiever of the Year

We encourage you to provide a detailed summary of between 200–500 words to outline why your nominee is worthy of an Australia Day Award. This enables the judging panel to make an informed decision.

Support your nomination with facts and reliable statistics. Attach copies of newspaper or magazine articles or other supporting documentation. Aim for quality, not necessarily quantity. A long nomination isn't always a better nomination. Try to keep your sentences concise and avoid repetition. Tell a story about your nominee to capture the characteristic of an extraordinary Australian making a difference. Check that your nomination addresses the selection criteria.

District Achiever awards are awarded by the selection panel from the list of remaining nominees after the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year has been selected.

The Advisory Committee has the discretion to nominate an additional merit award in the categories of Citizen and Young Citizen.

### Eligibility/Selection criteria

#### Citizen of the Year

Eligibility/Selection criteria for Citizen of the Year:

- be an Australian Citizen, 26 years or over on 26 January 2024
- be a current or past resident of Benalla Rural City or
- if residing in an adjoining municipality, have done most of their community work within Benalla Rural City
- have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year or
- have given outstanding service to the local or wider community over several years or
- be outstanding achievers in the field of sports, arts, education, science or medicine
- not be a member of the Australia Day Award Selection Panel
- not be a current elected member of Benalla Rural City Council, a Council employee, or a member of state or federal parliament.

## **Junior Citizen of the Year**

Eligibility/Selection criteria for Junior Citizen of the Year:

- be an Australian Citizen, 12-17 years on 26 January 2024
- be a current or past resident of Benalla Rural City or
- if residing in an adjoining municipality, have done most of their community work within Benalla Rural City
- have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year or
- have given outstanding service to the local or wider community over several years or
- be outstanding achievers in the field of sports, arts, education, science or medicine
- An inspirational role model for the community
- The scope of impact the individual's contribution has made to Benalla Rural City
- Significant contribution to the community, above and beyond employment duties
- not be a member of the Australia Day Award Selection Panel
- not be a current elected member of Benalla Rural City Council, a Council employee or a member of state or federal parliament

## **Young Citizen of the Year**

Eligibility/Selection criteria for Citizen of the Year:

- be an Australian Citizen, 18 - 25 years on 26 January 2024
- be a current or past resident of Benalla Rural City or
- if residing in an adjoining municipality, have done most of their community work within Benalla Rural City
- have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year or
- have given outstanding service to the local or wider community over several years or
- be outstanding achievers in the field of sports, arts, education, science or medicine
- An inspirational role model for the community
- The scope of impact the individual's contribution has made to Benalla Rural City
- Significant contribution to the community, above and beyond employment duties
- not be a member of the Australia Day Award Selection Panel
- not be a current elected member of Benalla Rural City Council, a Council employee or a member of state or federal parliament

## **Community Group of the Year**

Eligibility/Selection criteria for Community Group of the Year:

- be a not-for-profit organisation operating within Benalla Rural City
- have four members or more
- have made a significant contribution to the local community during 2023
- The scope of impact the groups work has on the community

## Community Event or Project of the Year

Eligibility/Selection criteria for Community Event or Project of the Year:

- has been undertaken/held in the Benalla Rural City
- has demonstrated community social/economic benefits, values of unity and community spirit
- The quality of the event
- The event's contribution to the community

## Nominations

- Consent should be sought from the nominee prior to making a nomination.
- Nominations must be made on Council's nomination form.
- Reasons for the nomination must be provided in 200-500 words. Additional information (photos, press clippings, awards, written references) can be attached but must not exceed 5 pages (or 5 files of max. 2MB each).
- Nominations must include the name and contact number of at least one referee who can provide supporting evidence for the nomination.
- Previous unsuccessful nominations can be resubmitted, providing they are updated and submitted on the required form.
- Nominations should be submitted through our online form from [benalla.vic.gov.au](http://benalla.vic.gov.au), downloaded as a PDF or collected from the Council's Customer Service Centre.
- Nominations must be received by **1 December 2023**.

## Selection process

The selection panel comprises the Mayor and representatives of the Benalla Rural City Australia Day Advisory Committee. The panel is chaired by the Chair, Benalla Rural City Australia Day Advisory Committee. Each panel member is given a copy of each nomination. They score the individual nominations based on the selection criteria. When the selection panel meets, the individual scores are added up and the award winners are chosen based on the total score received.

District achievement award winners are chosen after the Citizen, Junior and Young Citizen of the Year have been determined. The highest scoring nominees in each locality are awarded Achiever of the Year.

## Notification of awards

Nominees will be advised that they have been nominated. Nominators will receive an acknowledgement that their nomination has been received. The Awards Ceremony will be held on Australia Day, Friday 26 January 2024.