

Australia Day Awards 2021

Guidelines

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

Categories for awards are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- COVID-19 Most Helpful Citizen
- District Achiever of the Year

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it many new challenges. The Benalla Australia Day Advisory Committee has created an additional award category, COVID-19 Most Helpful Citizen, to acknowledge the community spirit and service shown by a local resident during the COVID-19 months.

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 have been selected.

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

The Community Event of the Year award has been suspended as only very few events were able to be held in 2020.

Eligibility criteria

Citizen of the Year

To be eligible, the nominee must

- be an Australian Citizen, 26 years or over on 26 January 2021
- be a current or past resident of Benalla Rural City or
- if residing in an adjoining municipality, have done the majority 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 a number of 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.

Young Citizen of the Year

To be eligible, the nominee must

- be an Australian Citizen, 12-25 years on 26 January 2021
- 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 a number of 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

Community Group of the Year

To be eligible, the Community Group must

- be a not-for-profit organisation operating with Benalla Rural City
- have four members or more
- have made a significant contribution to the local community during 2020.

COVID-19 Most Helpful Citizen

To be eligible, the nominee

- must be a current or recent resident of Benalla Rural City or
- if residing in an adjoining municipality, has assisted residents of Benalla Rural City during the COVID-19 pandemic
- has demonstrated outstanding community service, values of unity and community spirit in rising to the challenge of this difficult year to help others

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 100-500 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.
- Nomination forms can be completed online, downloaded as a fillable PDF from benalla.vic.gov.au or collected from the Council's Customer Service Centre.
- Nominations must be received by **2 December 2020**.

Selection process

The selection panel comprises the Mayor, representatives of the Benalla Australia Day Advisory Committee and immediate past winners of the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards. The panel is chaired by the Chair, Benalla 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 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.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the way the awards will be presented is uncertain at this stage. We will advise both nominees and nominators when the format of the 2021 Benalla Australia Day celebration is known.