



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

Community Awards Nomination Guide 2024



Acknowledgment of Country

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past, and present.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

Artwork by Taungurung artist Maddi Moser



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Overview

Council recognises and celebrates community members and organisations that make significant contributions to our community each year through the Community Awards program. Awards are allocated across the four categories, established in 2022, which align with Council's Plan and Vision:

1. Business and Tourism Award
2. Connecting Communities Award
3. Healthy People and Environment Award
4. Citizen of the Year

Please note: Council also holds an annual Youth Awards program, run by Council's Youth team, and a Business Awards program, run by Council's Economic Development Team.

Key dates

Nominations open: 2 October 2023 at 9am

Nominations close: 30 October 2023 at 5pm

Assessment: November 2023

Recommendations to Council: 13 December 2023 (Confidential and embargoed until awards ceremony held)

Winners announced: at awards ceremony held on 25 January 2024

Eligibility

Who can be nominated?

To be eligible for nomination, nominees must live, work or study in the Macedon Ranges Shire at the time of nomination.

Who can't be nominated?

- Nominees who do not live, work or study in the Macedon Ranges
- Previous recipients of Community Awards (formerly known as the Australia Day Awards)

Award Categories

Business and Tourism Award

The Business and Tourism Award will be awarded to a group or individual who has demonstrated a significant achievement or ongoing community contribution to the economic vitality of the shire, including tourism, agribusiness, small business and local employment.

Connecting Communities Award

The Connecting Communities Award will be awarded to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to community life in the shire. This could be in the area of physical connections such as trails, paths, open spaces or other infrastructure that enables the community to connect and participate. It could also be social connections that ensure people have access to services and which create a sense of community and belonging.

Healthy People and Environment Award

The Healthy People and Environment Award will be awarded to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution in the areas of promoting healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities – such as supporting mental health, recreation, community safety or arts and culture. It additionally includes making a significant protection of the natural environment such as biodiversity, climate change and waste reduction.

Citizen of the Year

The Citizen of the Year 2024 will be awarded to an individual of any age who has made a significant contribution to their community in the past calendar year or has demonstrated community service over a period of time.

Conditions of nomination

1. Nominators must have the permission of the person they are nominating, prior to submitting an application.
2. Nominators can save and return to their application at any time. When you save the form you will be provided with a link so you can return to the form at any time before the closing date.
3. Nominations must be received by 5pm on 30 October 2023.

Nominee details – what you will be asked to provide

- Identify which areas the nominee has excelled in
- Describe your reasons for nominating this person

- List past and present memberships of community groups
- Provide any relevant background details on the nominee
- Upload any additional information to support your nomination e.g. letters of support from other groups
- Details of at least two referees who may be contacted to provide further information about your nominee.

Assessment

All nominations will be reviewed by an assessment panel made up of Council officers whose roles align with the four award category areas: Business and Tourism; Health and Wellbeing; Community; and Environment.

In assessing the nominations, the panel will be guided by the applicant's ability to address the nomination criteria listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Scoring criteria

Weighting	Criteria	What we will consider
60%	Impact in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support for nominee • Involvement in community groups • Outcomes delivered for community (relevant to award category)
20%	Alignment to Council goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions made towards Council goals/strategic plans e.g. business and tourism, health and wellbeing, environment
20%	Equity of recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the nominee represent a new/emerging group? • Does the nominee represent a diverse group? • Has the nominee or group been recognised previously?

Contact information

For further information or to discuss your event ideas please visit Council's [website](#) or contact the Community Development team on:

Ph: (03) 5422 0333 **Email:** grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au