



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

Community Awards Nomination Guide 2025

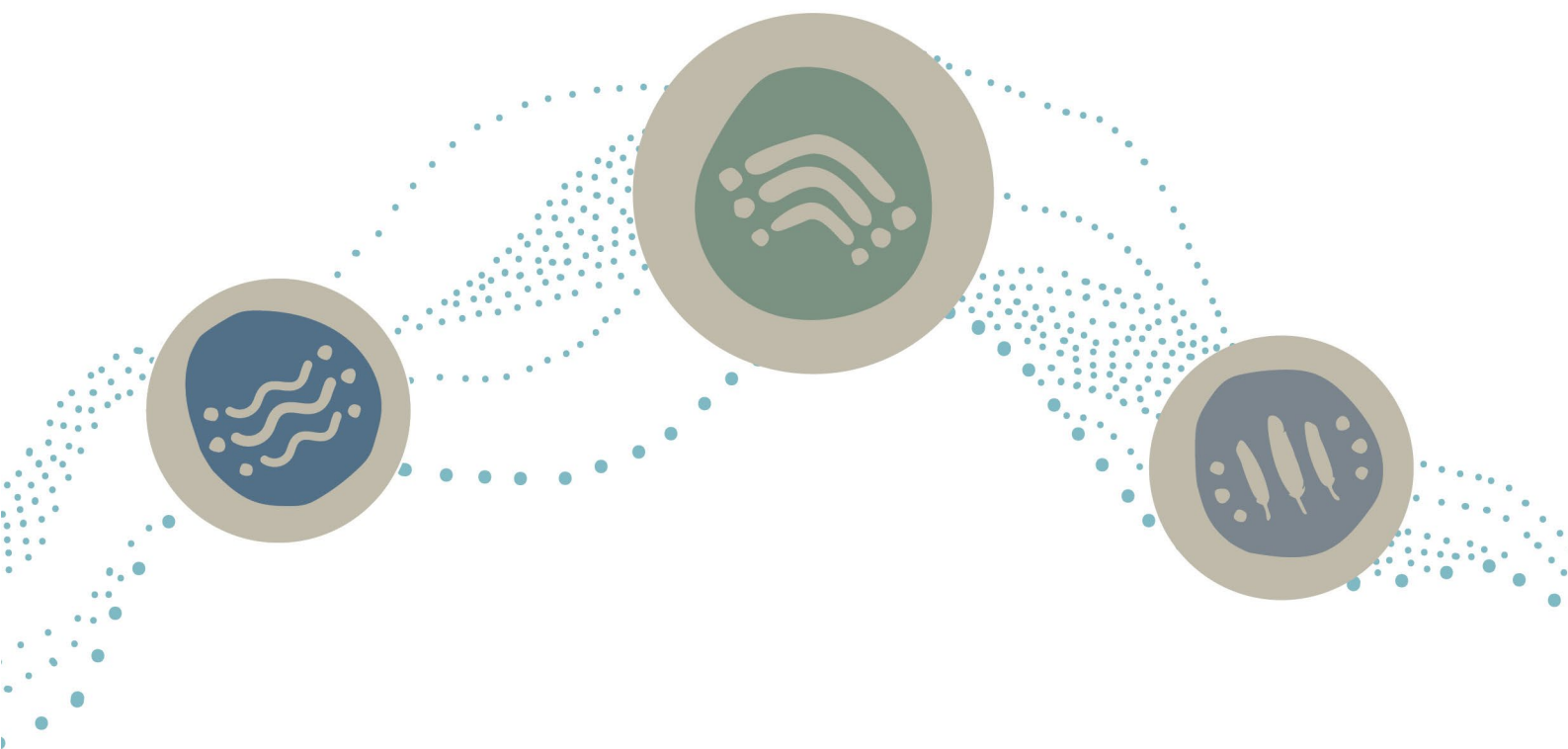


Acknowledgment of Country

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 several categories which align with Council's Plan and Vision and are held annually during National Volunteer Week.

The following Award categories are open for nominations:

Citizen of the Year

Young Citizen of the Year

Inclusive Communities Award

Contribution to the Environment Award

Contribution to Community Arts Award

Contribution to Sports and Wellbeing Award

Youth Leadership Award

Community Event of the Year Award

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

Key dates

Nominations open: 3 March 2025 at 9am

Nominations close: 28 March 2025 at 11pm

Assessment: April 2025

Recommendations to Council: April Meeting (Confidential and embargoed until awards ceremony held)

Winners announced: at awards ceremony held during National Volunteer Week 19 - 25 May 2025

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.

Nominated Community Groups must be incorporated.

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

Citizen of the Year

Awarded to an individual of any age who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Macedon Ranges community and has demonstrated community service over many years.

Young Citizen of the Year

This award is for a young person aged 12 - 25 who has made a significant contribution to their community and demonstrates community service in the Macedon Ranges Shire. This could be through advocating and raising awareness of important local issues, involvement in promoting and advancing participation in health and wellbeing activities, fundraising, volunteering, business, sports, arts, the environment, or other contributions that help the community grow and thrive.

Inclusive Communities Award

Awarded to an individual or group whose work promotes harmony and understanding of others and has made a significant contribution to helping to build a more inclusive community in the Macedon Ranges. This could include building social connectedness and equity among diverse and underrepresented groups or improving participation for isolated and vulnerable community members.

Contribution to the Environment Award

Awarded to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution in the areas of protection of the natural environment, such as biodiversity, climate change and waste reduction. This could include contributions related to climate emergency, building disaster preparedness, sustainability, reducing impact on the environment, improving biodiversity.

Contribution to Community Arts Award

Awarded to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to community in the areas of arts and culture. This individual or group may have encouraged artistic expression in community members who would not usually participate in the arts or inspired community members with a performance or art installation.

Contribution to Sports and Wellbeing Award

Awarded to an individual or club who has made a significant contribution to community in the areas of sports and wellbeing. This individual or club may have encouraged participation in sport by community members who would not usually participate in active recreation or inspired club members to do their personal best.

Youth Leadership Award

Awarded to an individual aged 12 – 25 years or group that has shown exemplary leadership, innovation, advocacy or service to Youth in the Macedon Ranges. This might include demonstrated leadership and teamwork skills within a community or school setting, raising awareness on a particular topic or issue, advocating for change, inspiring other young people, mentoring fellow students or community members.

Community Event of the Year Award

Awarded to an individual or group for the most outstanding community event of the year that involved significant community organisation, participation and attendance, resulting in a substantial impact across the shire.

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 11pm on 30 March 2025.

Nominee details – what you will be asked to provide

- Identify the areas in which the nominee has excelled
- Describe your reasons for nominating this person or group
- List past and present memberships of community groups
- List past and present achievements of the group or nominee
- Provide any relevant background details on the nominee
- Upload any additional information to support your nomination e.g. letters of support from other groups, news articles or reviews
- 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 award category areas. All nominations will be assessed against a scoring matrix 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/nominated group Outcomes delivered for community (relevant to award category) Involvement in community groups or partnerships with other groups and organisations Sustained achievements of the group or individual with measurable benefit to the broader community
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 received recognition for the same contributions previously or through other awards?

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