

## GUIDELINES

### Buloke Shire - Australia Day Awards

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#### 1. Purpose

The Buloke Shire Council Australia Day Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of individuals and community organisations or groups in our shire.

These prestigious awards are one of the highest honours a Council can bestow to publicly acknowledge local heroes, whose dedication and contributions may otherwise go unnoticed.

This information is to aid in the completion of the **Australia Day Awards Nomination Form**.

Buloke Shire Council awards Australia Day Awards annually under three categories:

1. Citizen of the Year
2. Young Citizen of the Year
3. Community Event of the Year

The purpose of Australia Day Awards is to recognise individuals and community groups who have made outstanding contributions to Buloke Shire. These awards aim to celebrate civic pride, volunteerism, leadership, and community service.

The eligibility criteria and decision-making processes for each category are detailed in these guidelines.

#### 2. Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year Awards

The Citizen of the Year Award and Young Citizen of the Year awards are awarded to a person who has made an individual outstanding contribution to the community. Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- The person is an Australia Citizen;
- They live within Buloke Shire Council (as of 26 January of the relevant award year); and
- They have not received the same award in the last 5 years.
- The person must be 15 to 24 years (on 26 January 2026) to be nominated for Young Citizen of the Year and over 25 years or older (on 26 January 2026) to be nominated for Citizen of the Year.

Selection criteria are as follows:

- Has made an outstanding contribution to the community.
- Has been an inspiration / role model to the community.
- Has shown achievements in community activities, academic, sporting, personal, cultural, environmental and/ or social responsibility.
- Has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the welfare and wellbeing of the community, which has benefits to others.

Community members cannot self-nominate for the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards.

### **3. Community Event of the Year Award**

The Community Event is awarded to the persons/group who have staged the most outstanding community event in Buloke Shire during the calendar year preceding the year the awards are given.

Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- The event was held within the municipal boundaries of Buloke Shire;
- The event was held within the calendar year preceding 26 January of the award year; and
- The event has not received the same award in the last two years

Selection criteria are as follows:

- The events service and benefit to the community.
- The events significant involvement of volunteers and empowerment of the community for successful delivery.
- The events reflection on the community values and contribution to the diversity of the community.

Along with nominations from the community, event organisers can nominate the event that they were involved with organising and/or running.

### **4. Nominations, Assessment and Announcement**

Nominations will be sought in the month of November of the year preceding the Australia Day Award presentation year via online forms.

Following the close of nominations, the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel will score nominations based on the Selection Criteria.

On receipt of the nomination, Council officers may seek further information from the nominator or identified parties to ensure complete information is provided to Council prior to the decision being made.

All nominations will be provided to Council, considered against the assessment criteria and a confidential decision made by Council unless otherwise delegated.

All nominees and nominators will be invited to attend the award announcements. Successful nominees will receive their award at the Buloke Shire Australia Day Awards Event hosted In January (this event is not hosted on Australia Day).

The decision of the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel is final, and no additional correspondence will be entered in to.