AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Western Downs Regional Council Australia Day Awards are presented annually and recognise those outstanding persons or groups who make a real contribution and difference to the communities of the Western Downs. These prestigious awards are one of the highest honours a Council can bestow to publicly acknowledge those in the community who are making an outstanding contribution.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS PROCESS

1. Award Schedule:
2 September 2019 ....... Nominations Open
31 October 2019 ............ Nominations Close
20 November 2019 ........ Assessment Meeting
4 December 2019 ........... Council Meeting to resolve Award selection
26 January 2020 ............ Presentation of Awards

2. Award Categories:
2.1 Regional Award Categories:
Regional Award Winners will be selected from nominations received across the Western Downs Regional Council area in the following categories:
- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year

2.2 Local Award Categories:
Local Award Winners will be selected from the following areas within the Western Downs Regional Council area:
- Chinchilla and District
- Dalby and District
- Jandowae and District
- Miles and District
- Tara and District
- Wandoan and District

Categories for the Local Awards are:
- Local Volunteer of the Year
- Local Community Organisation Achievement Award
- Local Cultural Award
- Local Sports Award
3. Nomination Conditions:
- Nominees must reside within the Western Downs Regional Council area, or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.
- Council may not necessarily make an award in any of the categories in any given year if circumstances arise where granting of an award is not considered appropriate.
- If no nominations are received in any of the categories, the Australia Day Steering Group reserves the right to grant the award to a group or individual of its choice.
- Individuals or groups can self-nominate.
- Councillors, Council Staff and State and Federal elected representatives are eligible for nomination.

4. Eligibility and Selection Criteria:

4.1 Regional Citizen of the Year
Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for the Citizen of the Year Award, the nominee must:
- Reside within the Western Downs Regional Council area, or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.
- Not have received the Regional Citizen of the Year award since 2009.
Selection Criteria
The Citizen of the Year will be awarded to the nominee who:
- Has been an inspiration/positive role model for their peers/community/region.
- Has shown outstanding achievement in their chosen field; e.g. academic, sporting, cultural, environment or civic responsibility.
- Shows vision, leadership, innovation or creativity.

4.2 Regional Young Citizen of the Year
Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for the Citizen of the Year Award, the nominee must:
- Reside within the Western Downs Regional Council area, or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.
- Be 16 to 25 years of age as at 26 January of the year the award is given.
- Not have received the Regional Young Citizen of the Year award since 2009.
Selection Criteria
The Young Citizen of the Year will be awarded to the nominee who:
- Has demonstrated leadership, innovation or creativity.
- Has shown outstanding achievement in their chosen field; e.g. academic, sporting, cultural, environment or civic responsibility.
- Is a role model that other young people can aspire to.
- Has shown a significant contribution to the community.

4.3 Local Volunteer of the Year
Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for the Local Volunteer of the Year Award, the nominee must:
- Reside within the Western Downs Regional Council area, or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.
- Not have received the same award in the previous five years.
- Have acted or served in a way that is voluntary in nature (i.e. not their paid profession).
Selection Criteria
The Local Volunteer of the Year will be awarded to the nominee who:
- Has made a significant contribution at community level through volunteering.
- Has shown a personal effort that has made a lasting and significant difference to the community.

4.4 Local Community Organisation Achievement Award
Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for the Local Community Organisation Award, the Community Organisation must:
- Be a local community group or organisation based within the Western Downs Regional Council area or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made to the community.
- Be 16 to 25 years of age as at 26 January of the year the award is given.
- Not have received the Local Community Organisation award since 2009.
Selection Criteria
The Local Community Organisation Award will be awarded to the organisation who:
- Has demonstrated leadership, innovation or creativity.
- Has shown outstanding achievement in their chosen field; e.g. academic, sporting, cultural, environment or civic responsibility.
- Is a role model that other people can aspire to.
- Has shown a significant contribution to the community.
has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.

- Not be nominated for a Council initiated event, project or program.
- Not have received the same award in the previous five years

Selection Criteria
The Local Community Organisation Achievement Award will be awarded to the nominee who demonstrates:

- The social, cultural and/or economic benefits the contribution has brought or will bring to individuals, community organisations or the community in general.
- Significant volunteer involvement.
- Excellence in their field or previous awards or recognition received.
- That the organisation/event/project/program brings recognition or credit to the community or region.

4.5 Local Creative Arts Award

Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for the Local Creative Arts Award, the nominee must:

- Reside within the Western Downs Regional Council area, or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.
- Not have received the same award in the previous 5 years.

Selection Criteria
The Local Creative Arts Award will be awarded to the nominee who:

- Has provided outstanding contributions bringing long or short-term benefits to the arts and/or cultural community.
- Shows vision, leadership, innovation or creativity in the arts and/or cultural community.

4.6 Local Sports Award

Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for the Local Sports Award, the nominee must:

- Reside within the Western Downs Regional Council area, or alternatively, where this is not the case, the nomination must demonstrate that a significant contribution has been made by the nominee to the Western Downs Regional Council community and that they are considered to be part of the community.
- Not have received the same award in the previous five years.

Selection Criteria
The Local Sports Award will be awarded to the nominee who:

- Is an outstanding sportsperson with a noteworthy record of achievement in sport.
- A role model that people can aspire to.

5. Submitting your nomination:

Nominations must be submitted in the correct category through the online application form which can be accessed via the Council website at www.wdrc.qld.gov.au

Please ensure that each question is answered fully and with as much detail as possible. The information supplied in the application will be used by the assessment panel to make a final decision. Assume that the assessment panel do not know anything about the person or group nominated, so give as much information as possible.

Attaching support materials to the application is encouraged. Attachments can include media articles (e.g. social and print media), copies of other awards or achievements, personal references, or copies of written feedback received by the person or group.

6. Selection Process

Following the close of nominations, the Australia Day Awards Steering Group will review and make a decision on the winners of each category based on the responses to the selection criteria.

Council may not necessarily make an award in any of the categories in any given year if circumstances arise where granting of an award is not considered appropriate. In the event that no nominations are received in any of the categories, the Australia Day Steering Group reserves the right to grant the award to a group or individual of its choice.

The decision of the Australia Day Steering Group is final and no additional correspondence will be entered into.

7. Award Ceremony

Award recipients will be advised prior to the Australia Day celebrations of their successful nomination. Awards will be presented at the Australia Day celebration functions held across the region on 26 January.

8. Further Information

For further information or assistance, please contact 1300 COUNCIL (1300 268 624) or email australia.day@wdrc.qld.gov.au