

Media Release

13 October 2022

Nominations open for Australia Day Awards with new category introduced

Nominations for the 2023 Gladstone Region Australia Day Awards are now open with a new category to be introduced.

The *Mayor's Community Champion Award* will be awarded for the first time in 2023, adding to seven existing award categories including *Citizen of the Year* and *Young Citizen of the Year*.

Nominations are open until Sunday, 13 November 2022 and can be done online via Council's Conversations platform.

The winners will be announced at Gladstone Regional Council's award ceremony held at Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre on 25 January 2023.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the nomination process is easy and takes no more than five minutes.

"Anyone can be nominated for an award, and with refreshed categories and easy to follow eligibility criteria, the contributions of our everyday heroes and quiet achievers can be recognised and celebrated," Councillor Burnett said.

Cr Burnett said the *Mayor's Community Champion Award* will recognise an individual for their outstanding contribution to the Gladstone Region community.

"Anyone can be nominated for the Mayor's Community Champion Award in any area including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability," he said.

"Existing award categories include Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Sport and Recreation, Young Peoples Sport and Recreation, Arts and Culture, Community Event, and Community Volunteer Award."

Visit <https://conversations.gladstone.qld.gov.au/gladstone-region-australia-day-awards> to complete a nomination form – please review the category criteria and entry rules before completing your nomination.

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Citizen of the Year Award

This award recognises an individual for their outstanding contribution and/or achievement to the Gladstone Region community during the preceding year. The winner of this award will be an Australian Citizen who lives in the Gladstone Region. Community contributions and achievements may be in any area of community life, including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability.

Young Citizen of the Year Award

This award recognises an individual aged 15-25 for their outstanding achievement and/or contribution to the Gladstone Region during the preceding year. The winner of this award will be an Australian Citizen who lives in the Gladstone Region. Community contributions and achievement may be in any area of community life, including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability.

Sport and Recreation Award

This award recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual or group that has made a significant contribution towards the sporting or recreational achievements of the Gladstone Region in the preceding year, including official coaching, sports officials, management and administration.

Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award

This award recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual or group (aged 15-25) that has made a significant contribution towards the sporting or recreational achievements of the Gladstone Region in the preceding year, including official coaching, sports officials, management and administration of sport and recreation activities.

Arts and Culture Award

This award recognises the significant achievement and dedication by an individual or group who produces and promotes outstanding creative work in the Gladstone Region in the preceding year.

Community Event Award

This award recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual or group that have delivered community events that generate civic pride and connect our community.

Community Volunteer Award

This award recognises the outstanding dedication and contribution by an individual to one or more areas of the Gladstone Region in the preceding year by demonstrating voluntary service, expertise and community leadership that has led to the enhancement of the activity and/or region.

Mayor's Community Champion Award *(new award)*

This award recognises an individual for their outstanding contribution to the Gladstone Region community. Anyone may be nominated. The winner is not required to be a current resident of the region or an Australian Citizen. Community achievement and/or contribution may be in any area including sport and recreation, arts, events and culture, and environment and sustainability.

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