

Mansfield Shire Council

Citizen Awards 2025

Nominations
Received



Mansfield Shire

Mansfield Shire Council 2025 Australia Day Citizen Award Nominees

Citizen of the Year

The nominations received for this group of individuals were varied but the common theme was they are all working to ensure that their communities are a better place for all. All provide support and comfort for others, never with the intention of gaining anything personally.

Award Winner – Ian Mallyon

Ian has been nominated for his outstanding effort and dedication to the Tolmie community where he has volunteered on many projects since he joined the community as a 22 yo.

More recently, his contribution and participation in MMuDS, the MAD Orchestra and the Community Radio sharing his knowledge and musical talents as well as deploying his skills in the production of plays is appreciated by all his listeners.



Nominees:

- ▶ **Liam Delaney** – Liam works to support our local young people in their pursuit of sport, particularly the areas of coaching and running the junior tennis as well as supporting Little Athletics and junior soccer. His passion, kindness and generosity does not go unnoticed.
- ▶ **Rolf Koren** –Rolf has been nominated for his extraordinary contribution to our community over numerous years, most notably in theatre, festivals, major events, entertainment and music. His technical expertise has contributed to the success of numerous projects and organisations who have benefitted from his knowledge and talent.

Mansfield Shire Council 2025 Australia Day Citizen Award Nominees

Senior Citizen of the Year

The extensive and prolonged community and volunteer work undertaken by our nominees contributes enormously to the welfare, safety and happiness of our community.

Award Winner – Graeme Stoney

Graeme has been nominated for the considerable body of work undertaken over many decades being community based, political and business related. He has been a member of numerous community groups and organisations supporting our community over many, many years.

Graeme's commitment to preserving Mansfield's history as member and current President of the Mansfield Historical Society is commendable, as is his drive and dedication to progress the Mansfield Heritage Museum. This project may still be on the drawing board without his leadership, passion and commitment.



Nominees:

- ▶ **Bob and Rhonda Carpenter** – Bob and Rhonda have been jointly nominated in recognition of their support for the Mansfield community generally and in particular, their long standing support and dedication to the Mansfield Tennis Club. As a result of their contribution, the club has grown and prospered to the point it is now has improved infrastructure, beautiful grounds including security, social competitions and Rhonda, you've captured the club's history so that it is available for future generations. I was pleased to read that you have both been awarded Life Memberships which is testament to the high esteem you are held within the Club.
- ▶ **Chris Wilson** – Chris has been nominated in recognition of his work with the Bonnie Doon community organising the five music festivals as well as being involved in a leg of the successful High Country Halls Festival. More recently, his drive and motivation in organising numerous activities and events at Beolite Village is to be commended. His efforts contribute to the social fabric of the village and are greatly appreciated by all the residents.

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Young Citizen of the Year

This year's nominees have shown that with a lot of dedication and by following their passions, outstanding results can be achieved. The outcomes from this resolve include leadership development, mentoring other young people, providing inspiration for others through diversity and resilience and also overseeing projects for the benefit of others in our community.

Award Winner – Ella Crathern

Ella is considered to be a kind and passionate young person committed to the growth of Mansfield and its young people.

As a talented singer/songwriter, she has become confident and courageous sharing her gift at numerous events in our community and venturing further afield showcasing her skills.

Ella's dedication to mentoring other young people through her leadership role with the Freeza Committee provides numerous opportunities for others.



Nominees:

- ▶ **Ayshia Beekman** – been nominated for her outstanding contributions to our community taking on a senior leadership role with the Freeza Youth Group organising and executing events for young people within our community. Ayshia lead by example and her participation in MMuDS, Mansfield Scouts and the Mansfield Community Radio inspires other young members of our community.
- ▶ **Dekoda Beekman** – Dekoda is considered to be a light to all young people around her. Her courage to be her authentic self and to step out of her comfort zone to try new things is admirable and inspires younger members of our community. Dekoda is a valued member of our Youth Advisory Group, Freeza Committee, Scouts and basketball.

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Community Event of the Year

Events take a lot of work and dedication and as a Council, we acknowledge the importance of such events and how they contribute to our community's wellbeing and economy.

Award Winner – Mansfield Hunting and Fishing Expo

This inaugural event was an incredibly successful one which saw a huge influx of up to 11,000 people visit our Shire.

The Expo provided something for the whole community to see, participate in and enjoy. The resulting economic boost to other businesses and the potential for return visitation is an additional benefit.

The Mansfield Hunting and Fishing Expo event receive further accolades via the nomination in the 2025 Australian Event Awards, coming in 2nd place.



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Community Group of Organisation of the Year

So much is achieved by often small, but truly passionate, groups of people who form some of the wonderful organisations we have within our community.

Award Winner – The Mansfield and District (MAD) Orchestra

Since inception over 17 years ago, the MAD Orchestra has provided musical enjoyment at numerous events throughout our Shire and in particular, enhanced the MMuDS productions by providing great accompaniment to their performances.

Just as importantly, the Orchestra provides an opportunity for musicians young and old from Mansfield and beyond to hone, nurture and showcase their talents whilst spending time with likeminded people, often forging life-long friendships.

The Orchestra has become an important part of our community's cultural life and has become a Mansfield institution.



Nominees:

- ▶ **Friends of Mansfield Library** – As a volunteer organisation, the Friends of Mansfield Library contribute to and enhance the offering of our wonderful library in immeasurable ways including resources, activities, events and even fixtures and fittings. The Mansfield community benefits hugely by what your generous band of passionate volunteers bring to this space.
- ▶ **West Gippsland Relic Mining and Heritage Protection Inc** - Thanks to the efforts of your group of 30 volunteers, the Jamieson Historic Township Walk is now a reality providing another activity and attraction for residents and visitors alike. The interpretive signage maps the story of the buildings, bridges and other places of significant importance to the town and through the support of the Jamieson Historical Society and residents, provided an important collaborative project that the community could participate and invest in.