

6.2. 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

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DEPARTMENT	People and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. That Council endorses the Australia Day Awards recipients as decided by the Australia Day panel in line with the Douglas Shire Australia Day Award Guidelines.
2. Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise any amendments in relation to administering the Australia Day Awards Ceremony for 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An integral part of Australia Day celebrations are local Australia Day Awards ceremonies held throughout the country, recognising outstanding achievement and excellence in our communities.

Douglas Shire Council's Australia Day Award Ceremony will be held on Friday 26 January 2024, commencing after the Citizenship Ceremony at the Port Douglas Community Hall.

BACKGROUND

Douglas Shire Council's Australia Day Award categories are:

Citizen of the Year recognising outstanding members of the community for their personal endeavours, achievements, and community involvement.

Senior Citizen of the Year (Over 65 years of age as of 26 January 2024) recognising senior citizens for their personal endeavours, achievements, and community involvement, or outstanding service to the local community.

Young Citizen of the Year (Aged 25 years or under as of 26 January 2024) recognising young citizens for their personal endeavours, achievements and community involvement.

Volunteer of the Year recognising members of the community of any age making significant and lasting contributions to the social, recreational, environmental and economic quality of life in the community through their endeavours on behalf of individuals, organisations, charities, service groups, clubs, churches, sporting groups, health or youth.

Arts and Cultural Award recognises community members of any age, making significant and lasting contributions to arts and culture.

Environmental Achievement Award recognises members of the community of any age making significant and lasting contributions to the environment.

Senior Sports Award recognises sports people for their personal endeavours and achievements in their sporting code.

Junior Sports Award (Aged 18 years or under as of 26 January 2024) recognises young sports people for their personal endeavours and achievements in their sporting code.

To be eligible to be nominated for a Douglas Shire Council Australia Day Award, nominees must be;

- An Australian citizen
- Resident of the Douglas Shire Council local government area
- Has not been a previous recipient of an Australia Day Award in the same category,
- Is not an elected representative e.g. MP, Councilor or a recipient of Australia and Imperial Honours.

COMMENTS

The nomination period for the awards opened on 15 September 2023 and closed on 17 November 2023.

Promotion of the awards consisted of:

General:

- Media Release - sent to 59 media contacts and published on Council's Website
- Article published in Cairns Local News 6 October 2023
- Advert published in Cairns Local News 3 November 2023
- Story in E-newsletter 10 November 2023 emailed to 1,603 subscribers
- Website homepage ad
- Council staff encouraged to nominate and contact clubs and community groups

Social Media:

- 1x Featured in Minute with the Mayor
- 4x Social Media posts
- Video featuring last year's winner and nominator encouraging others to nominate a friend.

Statistics:

- Social Media: Organic reach 4.5K with 5.8K Impressions resulting in 8 click throughs to the online nomination form
- Online Nomination Form: 116 unique views
- Online Media Release: 60 unique views

The Australia Day Awards will be held at Port Douglas Community Hall on Friday 26 January 2024 in conjunction with a Citizenship Ceremony.

Each eligible award nominee will be acknowledged and presented with a nomination certificate and a gift from the council nursery, at the ceremony.

Each award recipient will be presented with a framed certificate and engraved medallion.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

1. That Council endorses the Australia Day Awards recipients as decided by the Australia Day panel in line with the Douglas Shire Australia Day Award Guidelines.
2. Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise any amendments in relation to administering the Australia Day Awards Ceremony for 2024.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Australia Day Awards ceremony is budgeted for within the People and Community Services 2023-24 operational allocation.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

To avoid the risk of printing certificates and engraving medallions for recipients not wanting to accept their nomination or award, the nomination form stipulated all nominees will be contacted in the first instance to confirm acceptance of their nomination before proceeding with assessment of the nominations.

The risk of not approving this recommendation would mean that the Australia Day Awards are not able to be presented at the celebrations.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Nil

Social: Celebration of individual and group's accomplishments through the Australia Day Awards is an integral part of Councils role and commitment to celebrate and acknowledge achievements in the Douglas Shire.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

Goal 1 - *We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.*

Goal 4 - *We will promote arts and cultural programs and events that bring vibrancy to the community and compliment the tourist experience.*

Operational Plan 2023-2024 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Service Provider	Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.
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CONSULTATION

Internal:	Workshopped with Australia Day Panel on 5 December 2023
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External:	Council's call for nominations for the Australia Day Awards was a form of engagement with the community. Referee details have been included in nominations and may be contacted if required. Council officers consulted all nominees on their eligibility and acceptance of award nominations prior to the panel considering the nominations.
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council's call for nominations for the Australia Day Awards was a form of engagement with the community. Referee details have been included in nominations and may be contacted if required. Council officers consulted all nominees on their eligibility and acceptance of award nominations prior to the panel considering the nominations.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil