

South Gippsland Australia Day Awards – Nominations Now Open

Nominations for the South Gippsland 2026 Australia Day Awards are now officially open. The awards are a chance to celebrate the people who make South Gippsland such an excellent place to live, work and play.

This year, there are three categories to nominate for:

- **2026 Citizen of the Year:** This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated exceptional service or contributions to our community and made a significant impact through their dedication and passion for enriching our community.
- **2026 Young Citizen of the Year:** This award highlights the achievements of a young person (12 – 25 years) who has shown exceptional promise and made a positive difference in their community through their actions, leadership, or commitment.
- **2026 Community Event of the Year:** This award celebrates an event that has brought the South Gippsland community together, showcased local spirit, and made a significant contribution to our regional identity.

This is a fantastic opportunity for residents to bring awareness to a community member's outstanding contribution to the region.

To lodge a nomination, you only need to answer two questions about the nominee's contribution to the South Gippsland community and provide at least two letters of support. Nominations can be made online at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/aus-day-awards.

Submit nominations before they close on Wednesday 5 November 2025. Nominees will be recognised at an awards ceremony at the Meeniyan Hall on Wednesday 14 January 2026.

Quote attributable to John Schelling, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council:

"These awards are an excellent chance to give a big, loud thank you to the people who work behind the scenes to make South Gippsland a better place. If you know someone who has made a contribution to our region, put their name forward. Likewise, if there's a community event you love attending, consider

nominating them. We are very lucky to have so many community members who use their time and resources to strengthen our community and it's crucial to celebrate them at every turn."

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www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au