



WILLOUGHBY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

GUIDELINES & CRITERIA

Each year the people of Willoughby are invited to nominate fellow citizens for the Willoughby Citizen of the Year Awards. The awards aim to recognise outstanding achievement during the past year and/or contribution to the local community over a number of years.

AWARD CATEGORIES

There are four Award categories available: Citizen of the Year, Cultural and Community Building Award, Young Citizen Award and Award for Service to Young People.

Citizen of the Year

The Citizen of the Year Award aims to recognise the contribution and commitment of Citizens who either live, work or give voluntary time and effort for the betterment of the Willoughby Community. The awards are open to people who are outstanding in the field of Community Services, including welfare, charitable, arts, sport and leisure organisations.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Significant association with the Willoughby area, through long-term residency or other continuous involvement.
- A commitment to community service over a considerable and/or continuous period of time.
- A significant contribution to the well-being of the community through personal service.
- Positive and inspiring personal attributes, showing qualities such as versatility, flexibility and perseverance in the delivery of community services.
- Personal effort that has made a lasting and significant difference to the quality of life of the community.
- An exceptional or extraordinary history of achievement in community services.

Cultural and Community Building Award

The Citizen of the Year Committee has recognised the need to acknowledge the untiring efforts of Willoughby Citizens that have worked on projects with a focus on fostering and building the Willoughby City community. The Cultural and Community Building Award was introduced into the Australia Day Ceremony in 2005 to acknowledge groups or individuals that contribute positively to the engagement of arts and cultural programs that contribute to the social capital of our community and the people that live, work and visit it.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- A contribution to arts and the cultural well-being of the community through personal service.
- A commitment to arts and cultural community service over a considerable and or continuous period of time.
- Demonstration of working with a variety of groups and building partnerships between groups and individuals.
- Positive and inspiring personal attributes, showing qualities such as versatility, flexibility and perseverance towards building links within the community.
- Personal effort that has made a difference to the quality of life of the community.
- A history of achievement in building community networks.
- Significant association with the Willoughby area through long term residency or other continuous commitment.

Young Citizen Award

The Young Citizen of the Year Award aims to recognise the achievements or service which make Willoughby a better place to live by outstanding young people. The Award is not open for sporting organisations as a separate Sports Award is offered by Willoughby City Council.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- The Young Citizen of the Year must be aged 16 to 25 years on 26 January 2012.
- Must be a resident of Willoughby City or have a significant association with the area (e.g. attend a local school or be involved in a local organisation).
- Must be willing to undertake the role of Young Ambassador for Willoughby City Council during the Year 2012.
- May be nominated by either an individual or an organisation and attainments must be capable of substantiation.
- Demonstrated significant achievement in any field, for example: academic, the arts, environmental protection, business, etc.
- Outstanding contribution to the community through leadership or service, requiring personal initiative and effort.
- May have shown a capacity to overcome major obstacles or disadvantage to reach their goals.

Award for Service to Young People

The Citizen of the Year Committee has recognised the need to acknowledge the untiring efforts of Willoughby community members that have worked on projects with a focus on fostering services and programs for young people in our community. The award for Services to Young People was introduced in to the Australia Day Ceremony in 2005, to acknowledge schools, groups or individuals that contribute positively to the engagement of young people in programs that assist young people in gaining greater understanding and building trust in each other.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstration that the program produces genuine friendships between young people of disparate development, social, physical and or intellectual ability.
- Significant association with the Willoughby area through long term and continuous commitment to fostering an appreciation of young people's strengths and individual qualities, that develops social, communication and moral skills.
- Positive and inspiring attributes, showing qualities such as versatility, flexibility and perseverance towards building links within the community of young people
- That the program fosters cooperation and partnerships between young people
- That the program cultivates appropriate behaviour when interacting with mainstream peers.
- That there is a development of a variety of strategies for improving communication skills between young people that foster an appreciation of diversity and acceptance without prejudice.
- To create opportunities so that young people can develop leadership qualities.
- To develop strategies to work around difficulties by focusing on abilities not disabilities.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Nominees must be Australian citizens and reside in the Willoughby area at the time of nomination.
- Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.
- Self nominations will not be accepted.
- Sitting state and federal politicians and current vice-regal officers are not eligible. Consideration of retired politicians and officers would be for work in addition to their official duties.
- A person cannot receive a second award in the same Awards category, but can be considered for recognition in a separate category in following years eg. Young Citizen of the Year and then Citizen of the Year.
- The minimum age for the Young Citizen of the Year Awards is 16 years on 26 January 2012.
- All nominees will be considered for the Citizen of the Year Award.
- Nominees aged 16 to 25 years on 26 January 2012 will also be considered for the Young Citizen of the Year Award.

HOW TO NOMINATE

To nominate, please complete the nomination form. The nomination should detail the nature, duration and impact of the nominee's contribution to Willoughby.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. The criteria for selection should include details of the nominee's history and background, contribution to the field of endeavour or organisation and achievement in community building. The intention is to recognise a complex range of skills and achievements rather than a single skill or talent.
2. Nominations must be received from organisations, societies or club, or concerned individuals with each group/organization/society/club to nominate only one nominee or joint nominees. Self-nomination will not be accepted.
3. Only nominations submitted on the approved nomination form will be accepted.
4. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

In assessing a nomination, the judging panel may consider:

- the number of hours of work over and above normal employment duties
- the benefit to the community from the nominee's service or contribution
- other outstanding achievements by the nominee
- other recognition of the nominee's contribution or work, including publicity
- whether the nominee worked as part of a team and their role within the team
- whether the nominee has had assistance from council, government or other grants.
- whether the nominee has had to overcome any particular difficulties or hurdles
- who has benefited most from the work of the nominee

Nominations must be received by

Wednesday 23rd November 2011

PRESENTATION

The awards will be presented on Australia Day 2012 held at The Concourse, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, 26 January 2012. The selection of recipients will reflect the nominations received and information available to the Judging Panel at the time. Willoughby Council reserves the right to withdraw an award if further information or the recipient's conduct draws the Willoughby Citizen of the Year Awards into disrepute.