

# 2026 Community Awards Nomination Form

## *Nominate your local legend today!*

Use this form to nominate an individual or group for one of the 2026 Community Awards.

One form covers all categories – just select the most relevant award below.

Award recipients will be announced at the 2026 Australia Day Event at Cressy Aerodrome (26 January 2026).

### Your Details (Nominator)

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone Number

Relationship to Nominee (e.g. colleague, friend, etc.)

### Nominee Details

First Name

Last Name

Age (for Young Citizen)

Organisation or Group (if relevant)

Phone Number or Email

Address (Nominees must reside in the Colac Otway Shire)

### Nominee Consent

We encourage nominees to be aware of their nomination, but we understand that some people may feel shy or unsure.

If your nominee has agreed to be nominated, please tick below:

The nominee is aware of and supports this nomination.

If not, that's okay – we still welcome your submission. Council may contact the nominee if needed.

### Award Categories

Please tick one category that best fits your nominee:

- Citizen of the Year – Local Impact Award – For someone making a lasting difference in their community.**  
Example: A long-time community organiser, a local advocate driving change, or someone who's led a major community initiative.
- Young Citizen of the Year – Rising Star Award – For a young person aged 18 or under who is showing leadership, creativity, or commitment to making a positive impact in their community.**  
Example: A youth leader a student running a community project, or a young person inspiring others through sport or the arts.
- Community Service Leader – Helping Hands Award – For someone who uplifts others through dedication, compassion, and grassroots involvement.**  
Example: A volunteer who supports vulnerable groups, a mentor in a local program, or someone who consistently gives back behind the scenes.  
*Note: This award is intended for individuals operating in a non-commercial capacity.*
- Creative and Active Contribution – Culture & Connection Award – For individuals or groups who energise community life through creativity, sport, or cultural engagement.**  
Example: A local artist or performer, a community sports coach, or a group running inclusive cultural events.

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## Tell Us Why You're Nominating Them

Tell us what makes your nominee a local legend. You might like to include:

- What they've done to contribute to the Colac Otway community
- How their actions have made a positive impact on others
- Any achievements, leadership, or volunteer work they've been involved in
- Why they stand out in the category you've selected

You don't need to be a professional writer – just share your story in your own words. Every nomination helps us celebrate the incredible people who make our Shire stronger, kinder, and more connected.

## Supporting Information (Optional)

You may attach or include:

- Letters of support
- Photos, media coverage, or project examples
- Links to websites or social media showcasing their work

## Checklist

- I confirm that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that nominations close at **midday**, on **Wednesday 26 November** and award recipients will be announced at the **2026 Australia Day Event at Cressy Aerodrome** (26 January 2026)
- I'm happy for Council to contact me if more information is needed about this nomination.

## Collection of Information

Colac Otway Shire is committed to protecting your privacy. The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Colac Otway Shire for the purpose of the 2026 Community Awards Nominations or other related purpose. The personal information may also be disclosed to Economy and Creative Industries, and Customer and Communications departments for the purpose of reviewing the nomination. It will not be disclosed to any other external party without your consent, unless required or authorised by law. If the personal information is not collected, the nomination cannot proceed. If you wish to alter any of the personal information you have supplied to Colac Otway Shire, please contact Council via telephone on 5232 9400 or email [inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au). Council's Privacy Policy is available from our website: [colacotway.vic.gov.au/Council-the-shire/Council-policies](http://colacotway.vic.gov.au/Council-the-shire/Council-policies) and all Council Customer Service Centres.

Return your completed form by post: PO Box 283, Colac, 3250, email: [inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au) or call into one of our service centres.

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