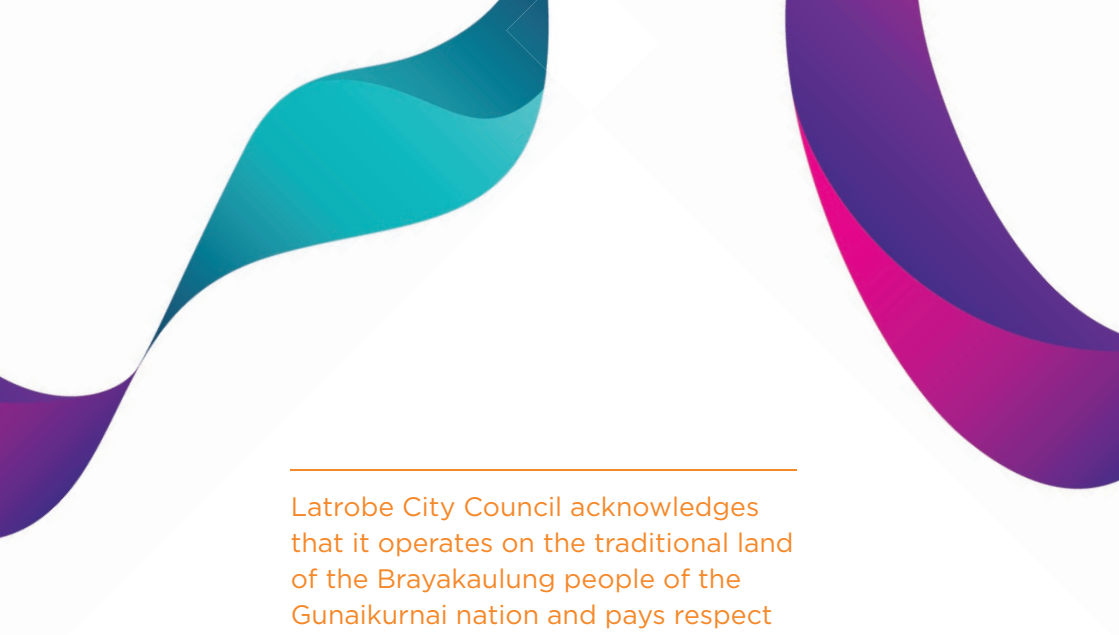


Latrobe City Australia Day Awards 2025

Cr Dale Harriman
Mayor, Latrobe City Council

Barry Whitehead
Master of Ceremonies





Latrobe City Council acknowledges that it operates on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

Order of Events


Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

Australia Day Mayoral Address

Presentation of Australia Day 2025 Awards


Refreshments



Latrobe City congratulates the community members nominated in this year's Australia Day Awards program.

They have all selflessly sought to make our region a great place to work, live and visit. We know that through volunteering and other acts of service, we can help foster a greater sense of belonging within our community.

To each and every single person that is nominated, we thank you for the significant impact you have had in our community. We celebrate and recognise you for your outstanding efforts.






Celebrating Australia Day and our volunteers

Happy Australia Day! Today is a day to reflect on our shared history, celebrate the diverse culture that makes our nation unique, and honour the values that unite us as Australians. It is also a time to shine a spotlight on the remarkable individuals and groups whose efforts build the vibrant, connected community we are so proud to call home.

As we gather to commemorate this special occasion, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the recipients of this year's Australia Day Awards. These awards recognise individuals and groups whose dedication, passion, and generosity have made a significant impact on our community. Your efforts are an inspiration to us all, and we thank you for the example you set.

This year, I want to particularly highlight the backbone of our regional communities: our volunteers. Across every corner of our community, volunteers play an essential role in shaping the fabric of our lives. Whether it's coaching a local sports team, running a community fundraiser, planting trees for conservation, or lending a listening ear to those in need, volunteers bring people together and make our communities stronger, more compassionate, and more resilient.

Volunteering is more than a contribution of time; it's an investment in the future. Many of our most cherished traditions, events, and services rely on the goodwill and tireless efforts of volunteers. From the local firefighting brigades that protect us in times of crisis to the individuals who quietly ensure that meals are delivered to those who need them most, the impact of volunteering is far-reaching and profound.



In regional communities like ours, this spirit of generosity is even more pronounced. Volunteers are often the glue that holds our small towns and neighbourhoods together, stepping up to fill the gaps and ensure that everyone feels supported and included. Without them, many of the services and opportunities we take for granted simply wouldn't exist.

To every volunteer in our community: Thank You. Your contributions often go unnoticed, but they never go unappreciated. You are the heart and soul of our region, and your efforts leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

As we celebrate Australia Day, let us also take a moment to think about how we can give back to the community. Whether it's a few hours a month or a larger commitment, there's always a way to make a difference. By coming together, we can continue to strengthen the connections that make our region such a wonderful place to live.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees of this year's Australia Day Awards. Your exceptional contributions truly embody the spirit of Australia Day and reflect the values that make our community so special. Whether you were honoured as a winner or nominated for your dedication and hard work, your efforts inspire us all.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment, passion, and service to community.

Cr Dale Harriman
Mayor

Australia Day Awards 2025

Nominees

COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR

- Give a Damn. Give a Can
- Latrobe Theatre Company Inc – Celebrating 60 years
- Latrobe Youth Space
- Make Moe Glow
- Maltese Community Centre Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum
- Moartz Inc
- Paid Forward Pty Ltd
- Rotary Club of Moe – serving the community for 75 years
- The Wear House at Latrobe Regional Health

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

- AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International
- Australian Club Championship Inline Hockey Tournament
- Boolarra Community Development Group, in partnership with the Community Supporting Dolly's Dream
- Conference of the Birds: The Valley of the Quest
- International Women's Group Inc – Harmony Day Event
- Knitted Knockers Australia Traralgon Branch – An Afternoon with Elvis and Friends
- Old Gippsdown 50th Anniversary Celebration

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

- Claire Lindsay
- Kirra Hanson

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

- Beverly (Bev) Maguire
- Catherine (Kay) Agatha Radford
- Delia D'Amico
- Domenico (Dom) Manzo
- Gilio Barbara
- Glenys Webster
- Ron Wall
- Virginia Swan

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

- David McInnes
- Mathias Wood
- Matthew Beatson
- Nicole White
- Peter Harrison



BARRY WHITEHEAD

In recognition of 25 years of service as MC for Latrobe City Council.

Barry has lived in Latrobe City for 48 years, and during this time has firmly established himself in his community. He has, without fail, shown himself to be a man of great integrity and commitment. He is a committed family man, a hard-working individual and a generous supporter and provider to the Latrobe City community through a wide range of activities.

Barry is widely known throughout the region for his participation in the arts (theatre, radio, dance) sport (football, basketball) and as a local newspaper columnist; and for his willingness to act as MC or host for many sporting, school and fundraising events. Barry is a wonderful ambassador for the region and a great role model.

Barry was recognised in 2012 with the Latrobe City Citizen of the Year Award.

Thank you Barry for 25 years of service as Latrobe City Council's Australia Day Civic Function and Awards Presentation MC.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE - COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR

GIVE A DAMN. GIVE A CAN.

The Give a Damn. Give a Can. campaign, coordinated by the Rotary Club of Traralgon Central for over 30 years, is a standout community initiative. In 2024, the campaign collected a record 14,000 cans of food which were donated to Vinnies Traralgon Food Bank.

What made this year's collection especially remarkable was the involvement of 16 local schools including Government, Catholic, Independent and Special Schools along with several outlying schools. The campaign engaged students of all ages, from large institutions like Traralgon Secondary College to small rural schools like Narracan Primary School.

Beyond schools, the campaign sees contributions from local businesses, sports clubs, aged care facilities and even kerbside collections. It is a testament to the generosity of the Traralgon community.

The Rotary Club also supports other impactful initiatives, such as Latrobe Youth Space, Lift the Lid (a mental health awareness campaign) and the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, which fosters leadership skills in local youth. Through Give a Damn. Give a Can. Rotary's work emphasises the importance of community support and the principle that no one needs go hungry in Traralgon and District.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE -
COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR**

LATROBE THEATRE COMPANY INC - CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

For 60 years, the Latrobe Theatre Company has been a cultural cornerstone in Latrobe City, offering high-quality community theatre that enriches the region's arts scene. Through productions ranging from musicals to dramatic plays, the company has both entertained and cultivated a deep appreciation for theatre among residents.

The theatre company's commitment extends beyond performances to developing skills in acting, directing and technical aspects of theatre, particularly through workshops and training programs for youth.

The company also provides opportunities for local talent, with involvement in all areas of production, from stage management to set design. This inclusivity has helped foster a thriving arts community in the region.

In addition to providing entertainment, Latrobe Theatre Company's leadership and volunteerism play a pivotal role in Latrobe City. With productions like *Mary Poppins*, they continue to offer local individuals the chance to refine their craft and engage with the arts. The theatre company's volunteer base dedicates countless hours to each show's success, from set construction to costume design. Their ongoing contributions have firmly established the Latrobe Theatre Company as a vital and respected part of the local community.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE - COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR

LATROBE YOUTH SPACE

Latrobe Youth Space, located in Morwell, is a critical resource for young people aged 12-25, providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. With a focus on addressing mental health and social challenges, the youth space offers personalised mentorship and guidance from qualified staff, connecting youth with relevant services and organisations. This tailored approach helps empower young individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to overcome barriers and build resilience for a brighter future.

A standout initiative is the Latrobe Youth Kitchen, which serves approximately 4,000 meals annually, offering young people access to hot and frozen meals. This program plays an essential role in combating food insecurity among vulnerable youth in the region.

Latrobe Youth Space is also known for its commitment to leadership and community involvement through its Young Person's Committee. By involving youth in decision-making, the youth space ensures its programs reflect their needs and aspirations. Furthermore, the committee offers leadership and mentorship training, preparing the next generation of youth leaders to contribute positively to their community. Through these efforts, Latrobe Youth Space continues to foster empowerment, resilience and a connected community for young people across Latrobe City.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE - COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR

MAKE MOE GLOW

For over 17 years, Make Moe Glow has been a driving force in improving the local community, working with government bodies and the private sector to create lasting, positive changes for Moe and its residents. Their notable achievements include transforming the Moe railway station into an inviting community space with painted bollards, sculptures, historical murals and native plant gardens. The group also worked to secure funding for additional car parking in George Street, which was completed in 2024 enhancing accessibility for locals and visitors alike.

Make Moe Glow's efforts extend to various other projects, including advocating for the Moe Freight Rest Area and Gateway Project, promoting local tourism through postcard designs and supporting the 100th anniversary of the Walhalla stream train. The group's dedication has earned them recognition, including the prestigious Tidy Towns Award in 2007.

Led by passionate community members, Marilyn and Simon May, Make Moe Glow continues to tackle projects that improve public spaces including ongoing initiatives for traffic management at the railway station and the clean-up of the old Baw Baw Hotel site. Their leadership and commitment to Moe's development make them a key player in the town's growth and vibrancy, creating a more connected and welcoming environment for all.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE -
COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR**

MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE LATROBE VALLEY MALTESE MUSEUM

The Maltese Community Centre in Latrobe Valley is honoured to be considered for the Community Service Award. For years, the Centre has served as a hub for cultural preservation and community engagement, bringing people together to celebrate Maltese heritage and offering vital services to the broader Latrobe City community.

At the heart of the Centre is the Maltese Museum, the first and only Maltese museum outside of Malta. The Museum is a living tribute to the stories of Maltese migrants who settled in the Latrobe Valley in the early and mid-1900s. Each artifact on display, from everyday items to cherished heirlooms, reflects the deep emotional ties these migrants maintained to their homeland.

A key highlight of the Centre's efforts is the Latrobe Valley Maltese Festa, a major cultural event that attracts over 10,000 visitors annually. This celebration fosters community spirit and preserves Maltese traditions. In the past year, the Museum has hosted over 42 events, welcoming over 1,200 visitors from across Australia. Despite challenges, the Centre remains a cornerstone of local cultural life, with dedicated volunteers working tirelessly to ensure its continued success.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE - COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR

MOARTZ INC.

Moartz Inc. proudly marks 25 years of enriching the Latrobe City community through exceptional theatre and visual arts. Over the years, it has grown into a cultural powerhouse, known for its high-quality productions and commitment to local talent. Recently, Moartz celebrated its milestone with a 25th Anniversary One-Act Play Gala at Monash Hall, featuring sold-out performances, an art exhibition, and live music from local musicians.

Moartz continues to nurture the arts by encouraging diverse activities, such as Open Studios Latrobe, which partners with community groups like ARC Yinnar to showcase local artists in their own studios across the region. By supporting local businesses and volunteer groups, including CFA and Fulham Prison crews, Moartz generates financial benefits for the area.

As a leader in local arts and entertainment, Moartz has hosted 33 theatre productions and nine Open Studios events, engaging around 200 artists and providing valuable opportunities for more than 160 actors and countless volunteers. The organisation's contributions have earned numerous accolades, including multiple Gippsland Theatre Awards and Victorian Drama League Awards. Moartz remains dedicated to fostering creativity and bringing the community together through its ongoing projects and initiatives.





2025 AWARD NOMINEE - COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR

PAID FORWARD PTY LTD

Paid Forward Pty Ltd has made a significant impact in Newborough by addressing food insecurity and supporting vulnerable individuals. Over the past two years, this grassroots community initiative has provided emergency food relief packages, including basic toiletries, to those in need. In collaboration with local organisations such as Vacca, Quantum, and local refuges, Paid Forward ensures that support reaches the most at-risk populations, including the homeless community, offering essential items like sleeping bags.

Beyond immediate relief, Paid Forward fosters a sense of community by involving local volunteers, raising awareness about food insecurity, and empowering individuals to contribute to a greater cause. The group has expanded its mission to include backpacks filled with emergency supplies for children at local schools and kindergartens, as well as toys for the annual Toy Run at Christmas.

With a small, dedicated team of volunteers, Paid Forward continues to strengthen community bonds and make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Their efforts have been recognised for promoting volunteerism and providing consistent, compassionate support, including a free weekly food bank service to ensure no one faces hardship alone.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE -
COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR**

**ROTARY CLUB OF MOE
- serving the community for 75 years**

The Rotary Club of Moe is proud to celebrate 75 years of service to the local community. Since its founding in April 1949, the club has made a lasting impact through fundraising, community projects, and youth leadership initiatives. In June 2024, the club hosted a gala event to commemorate its rich history, featuring memorabilia, a photo collage, and a commemorative booklet for attendees.

Throughout its history, the Rotary Club of Moe has maintained a prominent presence in the community, engaging in projects like tree planting, town beautification and supporting local organisations such as Gippsland Rotary Centenary House and Latrobe Regional Hospital. The club's ongoing efforts also include advocacy for youth development, with programs like Pride of Workmanship, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and Rotary Junior Community Awards at local schools.

In recent years, the club has raised over \$100,000 for various initiatives, including contributions to the Botanic Gardens and the Rotary Golf Day fundraiser. Internationally, the club supports Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio and has adopted a school in Bali. With a steadfast commitment to "Service Above Self," the Rotary Club of Moe continues to make a positive impact locally and globally.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE -
COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE YEAR**

**THE WEAR HOUSE AT LATROBE
REGIONAL HEALTH**

The Wear House at Latrobe Regional Health (LRH) provides essential support to patients who arrive at the hospital without a change of clothes, offering new clothing free of charge to restore dignity and comfort.

Established in 2022, the initiative has become increasingly vital as cost-of-living pressures have affected the community. From October 2023 to August 2024, the Wear House provided clothing, toiletries and footwear to 561 patients, with nearly 1,000 individuals receiving assistance since its opening.

The program serves a wide range of people, with the highest user group being women over 50. Many recipients face challenges such as mental health conditions, homelessness, lack of support networks and family violence. In response to these needs, the Wear House ensures that patients are provided with track pants, t-shirts, windcheaters, underwear, and socks, allowing them to feel valued and cared for.

Uniquely, the Wear House is the only facility of its kind in a Victorian hospital, supported entirely by corporate sponsors, local community groups and staff. Numerous community organisations including the Lions Club of Traralgon and the Inner Wheel Club of Moe contribute donations to ensure the program's success. Managed by LRH's Engagement team and supported by volunteers, the Wear House continues to make a meaningful impact on the well-being of vulnerable patients in Latrobe City.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

AGL LOY YANG TRARALGON INTERNATIONAL

The AGL Loy Yang Traralgon International, held annually at the Traralgon Tennis Association, is celebrating its 32nd event in January 2025. Over the past 31 years, the tournament has provided a crucial platform for young, world-class tennis talent, with past participants like Roger Federer, Alex Zverev, Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff going on to international stardom.

This event offers local, Victorian and interstate players the invaluable opportunity to compete at an international level, boosting their confidence and experience. Through nominations, local youth have the chance to compete in the qualifying draws, opening doors to new opportunities.

The tournament also brings significant economic benefits, contributing over \$2.4 million to the region in 2024.

The success of the event is made possible by more than 100 dedicated volunteers, who assist with catering, transport and general venue maintenance. Local ball children, who are often aspiring tennis players themselves, also play a key role during the semi-finals and grand finals. These children mentor one another, demonstrating leadership and community spirit.

With strong support from Tennis Australia, the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon International continues to be a cornerstone event in both the local community and the tennis world.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE –
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR**

AUSTRALIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP INLINE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Australian Club Championship Inline Hockey Tournament, hosted annually at STADIUM34, has become a standout event in Latrobe City, drawing participants from across Australia and internationally, including New Zealand and South Korea.

The tournament showcases the talent of inline hockey players while significantly boosting the local economy. In 2024, the event contributed \$2.7 million through its impact on local businesses, from accommodation to dining and entertainment.

The event fosters community pride and inclusivity, providing opportunities for local volunteers and sports enthusiasts to get involved. This collaboration between organisers, volunteers and local businesses has created a vibrant atmosphere, making the tournament a cornerstone of the region’s sporting calendar.

With strong leadership driving the event, it has grown into a premier inline hockey competition. The organisers’ vision and ability to unite teams, volunteers and businesses set a high standard for sportsmanship and event organisation. Their dedication to delivering a top-tier experience for participants and spectators alike demonstrates the profound impact such events can have on both local pride and economic vitality.

For its leadership, community engagement, and economic contribution, the Australian Club Championship Inline Hockey Tournament is a deserving nominee for the Community Event of the Year award.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE –
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR**

**BOOLARRA COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT GROUP,
in partnership with the Community
Supporting Dolly’s Dream**

The Boolarra Community Development Group, in partnership with Dolly’s Dream, hosted an impactful event featuring Tom Curtain, a renowned musician and advocate for mental health awareness. Tom’s dedication to Dolly’s Dream is evident through his award-winning song “Speak Up.”

Tom’s involvement extended beyond the concert, as he visited local schools to reinforce the anti-bullying message and engage students in discussions about mental health and well-being. His role as an ambassador for Dolly’s Dream helped raise awareness about the importance of speaking up, especially for rural youth facing mental health challenges.

The event, organised in just six weeks, brought together a committed group of volunteers and sponsors. They facilitated school visits, coordinated support agencies, managed logistics and ensured the event ran smoothly. Volunteers were instrumental in tasks such as event promotion, setup, medical assistance and post-event cleanup.

The event received positive feedback from schools and the community, with many families reporting improved awareness of mental health issues and strategies to support young people. This collaboration empowered the community to better understand and address bullying and mental health challenges, making the event a vital resource for future generations.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE –
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR**

CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS: THE VALLEY OF THE QUEST

The Conference of the Birds was a unique cross-artform event that fosters community resilience, connection and hope. Held on 25 May 2024 in Centenary Park, Boolarra, the pilot project brought together over 65 performers including Gunaikurnai dancers, Latrobe Valley Choir, local school groups and individual artists. The event celebrated cultural diversity, with performers from different backgrounds showcasing their talents including dance, music and storytelling.

This vibrant, outdoor performance was a collaboration between D&M Art Projects, Gunaikurnai Elders and the wider community, amplifying the creative voice of Latrobe City. The event highlighted Boolarra as a creative hub, fostering a sense of pride in place.

Designed to be inclusive, the event invited people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to participate with free workshops, transportation and meals for performers. It was a space for learning and collaboration, providing professional development for local artists and performers.

The Conference of the Birds not only entertained but created lasting relationships, cultural understanding and pride within the community, making it a pivotal event for the region’s cultural landscape.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE –
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
GROUP INC
- Harmony Day Event**

The International Women's Group (IWG) hosted its annual Harmony Day event, creating a vibrant and inclusive space for the Latrobe City community to come together. Held at the Morwell RSL, the celebration welcomed 85 attendees and featured a rich lineup of performances including a traditional dance by a local Indigenous group that honoured the culture of First Nations Peoples.

The event also showcased multicultural dance groups, a sing-along and live music by Ken Shing and Logan Long bringing diverse cultural expressions to the forefront. A guest speaker from Gippsland Multicultural Services shared important insights on the significance of diversity and inclusion. Attendees were treated to a two-course meal with sweet treats generously provided by member Amaline. Additionally, the event included a raffle with prizes donated by guests and members.

This celebration is one of many facilitated by the International Women's Group, an organisation dedicated to supporting women in Latrobe City. The group promotes inclusivity, teamwork and leadership while offering opportunities for community members of all ages to engage with each other in a positive and supportive environment. Through events like Harmony Day, the International Women's Group continues to foster a sense of unity, while celebrating the diversity that enriches our community.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE -
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR**

KNITTED KNOCKERS AUSTRALIA TRARALGON BRANCH - An Afternoon with Elvis and Friends

Knitted Knockers Australia Traralgon Branch hosted its inaugural awareness event, An Afternoon with Elvis and Friends in October 2023 which attracted 200 attendees. The event featured the talented entertainer Mark Andrew, who had the crowd laughing and singing, alongside MC Trent McCurdy. The fun-filled afternoon raised vital awareness of the support Knitted Knockers provides to women in the community who have undergone partial or full mastectomies.

The event featured appearances by Austin Powers and Elvis, further engaging the crowd, making the day both entertaining and informative. The overwhelming response and support from the community led to a sell-out event, with attendees traveling from as far as Melbourne to join in. The success of the event paved the way for a follow-up in November 2024.

The 10 dedicated volunteers behind the event put in countless hours to ensure the day was both fun and meaningful, balancing entertainment with spreading awareness. This well-organised event showcased their commitment to supporting women in the community and demonstrated the positive impact of community involvement. In recognition of their efforts, the group won the Australia Day Community Service Award in January 2024, further amplifying their important cause.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE –
COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR**

OLD GIPPSTOWN 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Old Gippsstown’s 50th Anniversary Celebration marked half a century of preserving and showcasing Gippsland’s rich history. The event was a vibrant reflection of the region’s past, present and future, drawing community members together to celebrate the park’s historical significance and its ongoing role in the community.

Attendees enjoyed traditional demonstrations like blacksmithing, wheelwrighting and steam engines, along with fun activities such as horse and cart rides, old-fashioned games and visits to the Cobb & Co Inn.

The celebration also highlighted the contributions of local community groups. The Lions Club served a delicious Devonshire Tea, Rotary hosted a sausage sizzle and the Old Gippsstown Men’s Shed raised funds for a new shed. The Latrobe Valley Woodworkers and Woodturners Club demonstrated their skills and various local performers, including the Latrobe Community Concert Band and O’Dowd School of Singing, entertained the crowd.

Organised by a dedicated group of volunteers, the event exemplified community spirit and collaboration. The planning committee coordinated a range of activities, supported by local businesses and community organisations, ensuring the day was a memorable celebration of Gippsland’s heritage and the collective efforts of those who help keep it alive.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

CLAIRE LINDSAY

Claire is a dedicated young leader whose contributions to the Latrobe City community are both inspiring and impactful. As a key figure in the Blue Light program, she has worked to build positive relationships between local youth and law enforcement, fostering a safer, more connected community.

Claire's leadership also shines in the Community Leading Project, where she has directed initiatives that engage youth in addressing local issues and driving meaningful change.

Claire's achievements have been recognised with her selection as an ABC Takeover Latrobe Valley award winner. During the Latrobe Valley Takeover Week, she will share her inspiring story, encouraging other young leaders in the community.

Claire has served as Mayor of the Latrobe City Youth Council, representing young people's voices and advocating for initiatives that benefit local youth. Her roles as School Captain and House Captain at Kurnai College Junior Campus further demonstrate her ability to inspire and lead. Claire's experience as a Peer Support Leader and at the School for Student Leadership has honed her skills, making her a positive force for change.

Claire's unwavering dedication to community service, leadership, and youth advocacy makes her a deserving candidate for Young Citizen of the Year.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

KIRRA HANSON

Kirra is a passionate and dedicated young leader who actively contributes to the Latrobe Youth Space and the Young Peoples Committee. As a regular attendee of the youth space, Kirra advocates strongly for the needs of young people in Latrobe City, participating in decision-making processes for programs and activities that support local youth.

Kirra also played a key role as a youth facilitator in the Festival of Big Ideas, showcasing her ability to create positive change.

Kirra demonstrates leadership by assisting in facilitating Latrobe Youth Space's outreach program at her secondary school, where she helps organise activities and ensures her peers feel included. Her efforts create a welcoming, positive environment for her classmates. Known as a peacemaker, Kirra mediates conflicts, supporting her friends and peers while being a positive role model.

Since joining the Young Peoples Committee, Kirra has grown in her leadership role, chairing meetings, guiding discussions, and ensuring everyone's voice is heard. She is also responsible for taking meeting minutes, managing tasks and following up on key action points, all while continually developing her leadership skills.

Kirra's commitment to her community, her growth as a leader, and her positive impact on those around her make her a deserving candidate for Young Citizen of the Year.



**2025 AWARD NOMINEE –
SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

BEVERLEY (BEV) MAGUIRE

Beverly is a committed volunteer of the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden, joining the Friends group in 2001 and has held the position of Deputy Chairperson since 2011.

Bev is the quintessential quiet achiever, working tirelessly to ensure this iconic public garden flourishes. Bev is the ‘go-to-person’ who can step up to any committee position as required.

A skilled photographer, Bev promotes the Rose Garden with her beautiful cards, calendars, brochures and many of her photos are featured in the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden 1992-2022 publication. She is generous with her time, organising private garden visits for volunteers, providing inspiration and ideas from likeminded gardeners.

Bev organises social events, including education, movie nights and a special Christmas party trivia quiz. When volunteers experience sickness and family loss, Bev offers support when needed.

Bev has been involved in a Spinning and Weavers group for over 20 years and is a member of the Maryvale Probus Club. She also knits for the annual Alice Springs Beanie Festival and knits tiny dolls for Charity.

Bev is a fine example of a community minded senior who continues to be involved in many organisations.

A portrait of Catherine (Kay) Agatha Radford, a woman with reddish-brown hair, wearing a purple patterned top and a silver headband. The portrait is set against a white background with large, abstract, colorful shapes in teal, purple, and pink.

**2025 AWARD NOMINEE –
SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

**CATHERINE (KAY)
AGATHA RADFORD**

Catherine is known as the local fund raiser, she has worked on fundraising committees for many organisations over the years with two outstanding experiences.

Kay was on the fundraising committee for Ronald McDonald House Parkville for over 23 years and for the past 17 years she has been part of the Committee for the Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

Kay has brought her experience and expertise to this recent effort, and it is no secret that the Gippsland Rotary Centenary House is modelled on the Ronald McDonald Houses around the world.

Each year she runs and hosts the Chat n Chew function to raise money for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. She is often at the Bunnings BBQ cooking sausages to raise funds for the house.

Kay is also an active member of the Catholic Women's League and organised a pilgrimage to the Mary McKillop Centre in Sydney for local Catholic Women.

Kay has a strong history of volunteering in our local community including Churchill Kindergarten, Sacred Heart Primary School, Mechanics Institute Hall Yallourn, Good Beginnings a program for single fathers in Moe and Rotary International.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

DELIA D'AMICO

Delia has been an active member of the International Women's Group since 2008, contributing as a dancing choreographer and founder of a group that now has over 20 members. She leads weekly dance lessons, continuing her commitment to the group to this day.

Delia's performances have enriched many events across Victoria, including at the Rotary Club, Philippine Australians Medical Association and the Australian Commonwealth Games, among others. She is known for her talent, kindness, patience, and ever-present smile.

Delia is also deeply involved in other community organisations, holding roles such as Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President. She worked at Provider Family Day Care and Pooch Corner Child Care Centre until her retirement. Delia earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education in the Philippines in 1972 and has lived in Boolarra, Victoria, since 1985.

At 72, Delia remains fit, active, and a true leader in the community. She serves as Vice President and Treasurer for the Alay Kapwa Filipino Charity, and Treasurer for both the Filipino-Australian Association of Gippsland and Filipino-Australian Senior Citizens in Gippsland. Delia's leadership, volunteerism, and positive energy inspires others, making her a valued role model in her community.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

DOMENICO (DOM) MANZO

Domenico and his family migrated from Italy to Morwell, where Dom has become a cherished and respected member of the community.

Known for his quiet demeanour and dedication to helping others, Dom actively participates in the Morwell Catholic Parish, serving as an Eucharistic minister and contributing to the Music ministry. He helps with church maintenance and, alongside his wife Elis, hosts the Lenten Program for the Italian community. Dom is also a valued committee member of the parish.

Dom is a long-standing member of the Italian Catholic Federation Morwell, he has served as secretary and assists with transportation, translation and organising events including the Italian feast of St. Francis of Assisi. A talented musician, he performs on the piano accordion and coordinates other musicians for community events.

Dom has been a vital member of the Morwell Citizens Band for over 27 years, playing the tuba, attending all rehearsals and performances and supporting fellow members. He has held the role of President and is currently Assistant President, mentoring others and ensuring the band's success.

Dom continues to serve his community, helping others without seeking recognition. His leadership, compassion, and unwavering support make him a deserving role model.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

GILIO BARBARA

Gilio grew up in Latrobe City during its peak as an energy hub. His activism began in his youth with involvement in party politics and support for the Aboriginal Advancement League.

After moving to Yinnar, Gilio founded the Yinnar Ratepayers Association, playing a key role in revitalising the township and overseeing the redevelopment of the Yinnar Recreation Reserve.

He was instrumental in organising the world peace march in Traralgon supporting the anti-Iraq war movement, which received worldwide attention. Gilio also supported the local arts as a long-time volunteer at ARC, modernising ceramics kilns to ensure their future viability.

Gilio currently serves as President of the Traralgon and District Art Society, restoring its former home at the Vic Rail Authority Building. His leadership has been pivotal in preserving local heritage and promoting the arts.

Throughout his life, Gilio has remained committed to social justice, youth development, and community service. He has also mentored youth, served as a blood donor and contributed to the Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition. Gilio is an active committee member for the Morwell Maltese Club, where he is involved in cultural promotions.

A portrait of an elderly woman with short blonde hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a colorful patterned top. She has a rainbow-colored face paint design on her forehead and is smiling. The portrait is set against a white background and is framed by a large, colorful, abstract graphic element that transitions from orange at the top to purple and pink at the bottom.

2025 AWARD NOMINEE – SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

GLENYS WEBSTER

Glenys has been a dedicated leader in the Yinnar community for over a decade, serving as the head of the Yinnar and District Memorial Hall Committee. Her efforts were key in redeveloping the community hall, where she oversaw repairs and upgrades, dedicating countless hours to create a space for the community.

Recognising a need for health and balance programs, Glenys partnered with local exercise therapist Kathleen Millett to create a specialised program, securing funding through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal. Thanks to Glenys' leadership, the program supported over 1,200 attendees in its first year and has now been operating for eight years with support from Latrobe City Council, Bendigo Bank and Mirboo North.

A long-serving member of the Yinnar and District Community Association, Glenys has remained committed to the community, even during personal challenges. In recognition of her dedication, she was named Yinnar Citizen of the Year three years ago.

Glenys continues to volunteer countless hours to improve outcomes for seniors and serve her community. Her passion and selfless contributions make a lasting impact, proving that everyone can make a difference. Glenys's leadership is a true inspiration to all.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

RON WALL

Ron has been a dedicated member of the Latrobe Orchestra since 1983, playing the viola and flute for over four decades. His commitment to music is evident in his preparation, peer support and advocacy for musicians of all ages.

Ron has also served on the Orchestra's Committee of Management for 35 years, holding roles such as Secretary and Public Officer. His volunteering extends to fundraising events, transporting equipment and supporting performances across Gippsland.

Before retiring, Ron made a significant impact as a Primary School teacher, inspiring many students throughout Gippsland. He is passionate about lifelong learning, promoting positive ageing through music and staying connected to the community.

Ron has always shown deep care for others, particularly those living with disabilities, demonstrating kindness and generosity in all his endeavours.

Ron has volunteered for a range of organisations including the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod, Hazelwood Cemetery Trust, Citizen's Advocacy Group and Morwell Tennis Club. He also volunteers at Morwell Central Primary School teaching recorder and ensembles and organises local children to perform at nursing homes, continuing to enrich his community through music and service.

A portrait of Virginia Swan, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a light blue polo shirt. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background behind her is white, and the portrait is framed by a large, abstract graphic of overlapping orange, yellow, and red shapes.

2025 AWARD NOMINEE – SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

VIRGINIA SWAN

Virginia has been a dedicated volunteer at Gippsland Multicultural Services (GMS) for the past eight years, consistently volunteering up to three days a week and rarely missing a day. Her commitment has been invaluable to GMS, the staff and the clients.

Virginia manages the kitchen for the Senior Social Groups, planning and preparing healthy, delicious meals for up to 30 people each day. She handles everything from menu planning and ingredient shopping to spending hours in the kitchen, sharing her culinary skills and knowledge with staff and direct care workers.

Virginia's contributions reduce the workload for paid staff, earning praise from the Social Support Coordinator for making her job significantly easier. She also enjoys engaging with the clients, fostering a positive atmosphere and sharing her love of music with everyone around her.

Virginia's leadership is exemplified by the way she leads by example, creating a positive, welcoming environment for staff and clients with her infectious attitude. Virginia embodies the values of integrity, compassion and inclusion. Her initiative in running the kitchen with minimal fuss sets a high standard for others.

Virginia's dedication to giving back to her community significantly enriches the lives of those she serves and strengthens the fabric of the society around her.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE - CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

DAVID MCINNES

David volunteers his time supporting local organisations and community events, offering mentorship, social connection and building pride of place.

David has an active role in a range of community initiatives including Rotary, Advance Morwell, Neighbourhood Watch Latrobe, Eat Up Initiative, Historical Society, Gippsland Centenary House and Airlie Bank House.

David's community connections range from donning an apron and serving high tea in local nursing homes to supporting the Proactive Policing Unit to deliver their Blue Light discos.

David has a willingness to enhance his own personal development and has a keen interest in understanding and supporting settlement services initiatives and first nation people's aspirations. He acknowledges the need to be curious and kind to create community prosperity.

As a proud Morwell resident, David has a strong commitment to building pride of place and understands how it anchors people to a place where they have a level of comfort to pursue their passions, build connections and establish roots. He is often seen promoting the region's natural and built environment.

David aspires to enable positive change in the community by mobilising people and creating community-driven, place-based solutions to social issues and industry transition.

2025 AWARD NOMINEE – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

MATHIAS WOOD



Mathias has a strong commitment to both the energy sector and community health in Latrobe City.

Mathias volunteers in his local community for multiple causes including the Yinnar Community Garden, Baw Baw LLEN Job Skills Expo, Victorian Cemetery Trust – Narracan Cemetery and North Gippsland Football and Netball League for the Mindful Aus Mental Health Round Ambassadorship.

In addition to his contributions locally, Mathias has participated on community advisory groups including the Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project. Mathias also sits as a member of the Gippsland Primary Health Network’s community advisory committee as he wishes to raise the community’s voice in health, particularly since becoming a dad.

Mathias challenges himself to have input in Latrobe City’s future, as he wants to make it a better place for his daughter.

Mathias has a goal to make meaningful and impactful contributions by the time he is thirty. He will turn thirty in March 2025 and is well and truly on the trajectory to develop his involvement in the community.

Mathias is also a well-respected team member and team leader at one of Latrobe City’s largest employers, AGL Loy Yang.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

MATTHEW BEATSON

Matthew has made an outstanding impact on the local community through his 20-year involvement at Stadium 34 in Moe.

Matt created a diverse range of activities that cater to all ages, promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering a strong sense of community. His commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment has brought people together providing a safe and enjoyable space for recreation, socialisation and most importantly fun.

Matt established one of Latrobe City's largest annual community events, the Australian Club Championship Inline Hockey Tournament. The event highlight's Matt's commitment not only for Stadium 34 and its users but the wider Latrobe City community.

Matt also developed the Energy Australia Scholarship which in partnership with Energy Australia funds several children to participate in basketball programs who otherwise would not have the opportunity.

Matt demonstrates his leadership capabilities at both Stadium 34 and his volunteer positions at the Moe Basketball Association.

Matt's commitment to growth at Stadium 34 has seen him provide jobs for 35 local community members, including 18 junior staff. His ability to foster a positive environment where people of all ages can come together is a testament to his leadership and commitment.

A portrait of Nicole White, a woman with red hair, wearing a black lace top and a necklace. The portrait is set against a background of large, overlapping teal and orange shapes.

2025 AWARD NOMINEE - CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

NICOLE WHITE

Nicole has been President of the Morwell Baseball Club for three years.

Nicole has eight children and cared for a few more over many years. She has completed a University Diploma of Community Statutory and Forensic Child Youth and Family Welfare and works full time in Indigenous development.

Nicole is key to the function of the Morwell Baseball Club and, along with her husband and son, is the reason why the club is where it is today. She has turned the club from surviving to thriving, hosting major state tournaments that brings thousands of dollars into the Latrobe City community. She runs the canteen, runs the club, organises everything and is always positive.

Nicole has also been involved in several committees in Yallourn North relating to the local community including AFL at both senior and junior football club levels, Country Fire Authority and the Yallourn North Kinder Committee of Management. Her community sense has helped guide these organisations forward during her time of involvement.

Nicole is well respected within the greater Yallourn North community as a leader from within town that gets things done and provides a light to guide community forward for the future.



2025 AWARD NOMINEE – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

PETER HARRISON

Peter has made a significant contribution to Latrobe City for over 20 years.

Peter has been a volunteer on many community organisations and raised thousands of dollars for community groups and charities including the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, Country Fire Authority, Tyers Uncle Bob’s Club, School of Saint Jude, Canteen and Vision Australia.

Peter held leadership and advocacy roles following the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires that impacted locally and was Chair of the Traralgon South Community Recovery Committee and managed the Traralgon South Relief Centre.

Peter has been director of the Tyers Art Festival for over 20 years and has built the festival to being a major event within Latrobe City. He has ensured the festival continues to grow and move with the times and provides an opportunity for artists of all ages to share their work as well as giving the town of Tyers a significant community and cultural event.

He has also been Deputy Chair and Chairperson for the Latrobe City Business and Tourism Association where he worked tirelessly to build connections between businesses and the community while promoting the wider Latrobe City area as a great tourism location.



