Nillumbik Community Awards 2027
Nomination Guidelines

Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire

If you need the *Community Award Guidelines* in another format, please contact Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111 or email nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, please contact us through the National Relay Service on 13 36 77.

Acknowledgement of Country

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, and we value the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the Shire. We pay tribute to all First Nations People living in Nillumbik, give respect to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People.

We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge the ongoing impacts of past trauma and injustices from colonial invasion, massacres and genocide committed against First Nations People. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the distinctive place of our First Nations People in both Nillumbik and Australia's identity; from their cultural heritage and care of the land and waterways, to their ongoing contributions in many fields including academia, agriculture, art, economics, law, sport and politics.





Inclusion statement

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to creating a fair, equitable and inclusive community where human rights are respected, participation is facilitated, barriers are addressed and diversity is celebrated. We support the rights of all people regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability or cultural identity. We value the diverse and changing nature of our community and understand that some groups and individuals experience more barriers than others.



If you need an interpreter, please call TIS National on 131 450 and ask them to call Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111.

Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire

Nillumbik Community Awards 2027

Overview

The Nillumbik Community Awards celebrate individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to the community across various fields such as arts, culture, environment, and community service. The awards recognise efforts that enhance the community spirit and foster growth in Nillumbik.

At the August Awards Ceremony, we gather to recognise and celebrate the outstanding individuals and community groups whose contributions enrich our community's fabric, highlighting their invaluable impact and achievements.

Nominating an individual or group for an award is easy. You can do it online, and if you need any help, our team is here to assist you.

Information and support

Phone	(03) 9433 3111
Email	community@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Website	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-awards

Key stages and dates

Nominations open: November 2026

Nominations close: Sunday 2 May 2027 (11:59pm)

Shortlisted nominees notified: Early June 2027

Awards Ceremony: Thursday 12 August 2027

Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire

Purpose

These guidelines contain information about the Nillumbik 2027 Community Awards and how to nominate.

The terms and conditions are found below. Please read the guidelines and ensure that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions prior to participating in the Awards.

Categories and recognition

The awards program has seven categories. All individuals and community groups shortlisted for an award will be recognised for their contributions with a certificate.

Categories

- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Contributions to Environment and Sustainability
- Contributions to Diversity and Inclusion
- Contributions to Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Contributions to Reconciliation

Recognition

Winners in each category will receive a certificate, trophy, and a token of appreciation, which will be presented at the Community Awards ceremony on Thursday 12 August 2027.

All shortlisted nominees will be recognised for their contributions at the Awards Ceremony, regardless of the final outcome.

Nomination process

How to nominate

Nominations can be submitted online via the link found on the awards webpage: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-awards

If you cannot complete the nomination online or would like support, contact our Community Development Officer at community@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or on (03) 9433 3111.

Nominating requirements

To nominate an individual or group, you will be asked to provide:

- Contact details for yourself
- Contact details for the nominee

You will also need to:

- Agree to the terms and conditions for the Awards
- Confirm the nominee has agreed to be nominated
- Answer the selection criteria

Note: You must complete a separate form for multiple nominations.

Nominees can self-nominate or nominate an individual and/or community groups in Nillumbik for their outstanding contributions and significant impact on the community.

Eligibility

- Nominees must either live, work, play, study or volunteer in the Nillumbik Shire
- Nominators must have the permission of the person/group they are nominating prior to submitting an application
- Current Nillumbik Shire Councillors and Members of Parliament are not eligible.
- Retired Members of Parliament and former Councillors will be considered for work undertaken in addition to their official duties
- Council staff are not eligible
- Past winners will not be considered for the same category again.

Assessment process

Eligibility

Council officers check all applications to ensure each nominee is eligible. If a nomination doesn't meet the eligibility criteria, it won't move forward in the process.

Assessment

The 2027 Community Awards will be reviewed and assessed by an external community panel. The panel will carefully consider each nominee and assess each nomination against the below assessment criteria. Shortlisted nominations for each award category will then be reviewed and recommended winners for each award will be put forward by the panel to the Director of Communities, Nillumbik Shire Council, for final consideration and approval. The community panel's combined knowledge and experience ensure the process is fair and transparent.

Assessment Criteria

Volunteer of the year

This award recognises a person of any age that has made an outstanding contribution and/or given outstanding service to the Nillumbik community.

- **Contribution to the Nillumbik community (25%):** how the nominee has contributed to the community through voluntary work that exceeds expectations
- **Leadership (25%):** The nominees ability to lead, innovate and produce new ideas
- **Role model (25%):** How the nominee supports and encourages others to succeed
- **Impact (25%):** A commitment resulting in outstanding and visible impact on the community

Nillumbik Community Group

Recognises a Nillumbik community group, or not-for-profit organisation that has made an outstanding contribution for the benefit of the Nillumbik community, its residents, and/or environment.

- **Contribution to the Nillumbik community (25%):** how the nominated group has contributed to the community through voluntary work that exceeds expectations
- **Leadership (25%):** The group's ability to lead, innovate and produce new ideas
- **Role model (25%):** How the community group supports and encourages others to succeed
- **Impact (25%):** A commitment resulting in outstanding and visible impact on the community

Young Citizen Award

Recognises a young person up to the age of 25 years who has made an outstanding contribution and/or given outstanding service to the Nillumbik community.

Nominee must be 25 years or under on Sunday 3 May 2027

- **Contribution to the Nillumbik community (25%):** how the nominee has contributed to the community through voluntary work that exceeds expectations
- **Leadership (25%):** The nominees ability to lead, innovate and produce new ideas
- **Role model (25%):** How the nominee supports and encourages others to succeed
- **Impact (25%):** A commitment resulting in outstanding and visible impact on the community

Contribution to Arts, Culture or Heritage award

Recognises artists, creatives, collectives, or cultural practitioners who have made exceptional contributions to fostering a thriving, interconnected, diverse, inclusive, and resilient creative community.

It also recognises the invaluable efforts of local community members, groups, societies, and professionals who have actively contributed to preserving and promoting arts, culture, and/or heritage.

- **Contribution to the Nillumbik community (25%):** how the nominee has contributed to arts, culture or heritage in Nillumbik
- **Leadership (25%):** The nominees level of commitment to the development of arts, cultural or heritage activities for the Nillumbik community

- **Role model (25%):** How the nominee supports and encourages others to engage with arts, culture and/or heritage
- **Impact (25%):** Nominee is a Nillumbik resident that has demonstrated significant achievement in the arts.

Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion

Recognises a significant contribution to advance the rights of all people regardless of age, gender, ability or background, while creating meaningful change aligned to Council's Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy and identified priority groups.
Refer to Councils Access, Equity and Inclusion Policy

- **Contribution to the Nillumbik community (25%):** how the nominee has contributed towards diversity and inclusion in Nillumbik
- **Leadership (25%):** Level of contribution towards advancing the rights and interests of diverse peoples
- **Role model (25%):** The nominee has provided opportunities for increased participation, and inclusion
- **Impact (25%):** A commitment resulting in outstanding and visible impact on the community

Contribution to Environment and Sustainability

Recognises significant contributions to enhancing Nillumbik's environment and/or to taking climate action. This includes those who undertake, lead, support or inspire others to take action in areas such as biodiversity, waste, water, transport, energy or any other area that enhances local sustainability or environmental outcomes.

- **Contribution to the Nillumbik community (25%):** how the nominee has contributed to the environmental sustainability of the Nillumbik community.
- **Leadership (25%):** The nominees ability to lead, innovate and produce new ideas
- **Role model (25%):** How the nominee has influenced the attitudes of others in the local Nillumbik community (and potentially beyond) regarding the environment and sustainability
- **Impact (25%):** A commitment resulting in outstanding and visible impact on the environment and sustainability in Nillumbik

Contribution to Reconciliation

Recognises demonstrated commitment towards progressing reconciliation in Nillumbik through community programs, events, initiatives and/or the fostering of meaningful partnerships with First Nations people.

- **Contribution to the Nillumbik community (25%):** Level of contribution to building better relationships between the wider community and First Nations peoples in Nillumbik.
- **Leadership (25%):** Level of contribution towards advancing the rights and interests of First Nations people
- **Role model (25%):** The nominee has provided opportunities for increased participation, and inclusion of First Nations people
- **Impact (25%):** Nominee has shown commitment to create positive change by encouraging community awareness about reconciliation between wider the community and First Nations peoples in Nillumbik.

Terms and Conditions

1. **Entries for the 2027 Nillumbik Community Awards** open 1 November 2026, and close at 11:59 pm on Sunday, 2 May 2027. All entries must be submitted before the deadline to be considered.

2. **Award Ceremony:** The 2027 Nillumbik Community Awards will be presented on Thursday, 12 August 2027, at the annual Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will include entertainment, food, drinks, and award presentations.

3. **Eligibility Requirements:**
   - Nominees must either live, work, play, study, or volunteer within Nillumbik Shire.
   - Council staff and current Nillumbik Shire Councillors and Members of Parliament are ineligible.
   - Former Councillors and retired Members of Parliament are eligible if the nominated work extends beyond their official duties.
   - Nominators must have the nominee's consent to submit a nomination.
   - Unsuccessful and successful nominees can be re-nominated in subsequent years.
   - Past winners will not be considered for the same category again.

4. **Award Categories:**
    - Awards will be presented across seven categories: Nillumbik Volunteer, Nillumbik Community Group, Nillumbik Young Citizen, Contribution to Arts, Culture and Heritage, Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion, Contribution to Environment and Sustainability, and Contribution to Reconciliation.
    - Each category will recognise nominees who have made significant contributions to enhancing the quality of life within the Shire.

5. **Nomination Requirements:**
    - Nominations must be submitted online via the Nillumbik Shire Council Awards webpage or by contacting a Community Development Officer for assistance.
    - The nomination form must include the nominator's and nominee's contact details and responses to the selection criteria.
    - Only one nomination per category can be submitted for each nominee.
    - Nominators can select up to two different categories per nomination. Note, this will require two sets of nomination questions to be answered.
    - Nominees can self-nominate or nominate an individual and/or community groups in Nillumbik for their outstanding contributions and significant impact on the community.

6. **Selection and Assessment Process:**
    - Nominations will be checked for eligibility by Council officers before proceeding to the assessment stage.
    - An independent panel of community members, selected to reflect Nillumbik's diverse demographics, will review and score nominations based on the assessment criteria.
    - Panel members will consider each nominee's overall contribution, leadership, role model qualities, and community impact within Nillumbik.
    - The panel may also consider each nominee's engagement with diverse priority groups within Nillumbik, including First Nations, LGBTIQA+, people living with a disability and culturally diverse communities, as well as their lived experience as someone who identifies with one or more of these communities.
    - The Assessment Panel reserves the right to vary the category for which a person has been nominated if a quorum of the Panel members agree that a different category is more appropriate.

7. **Assessment and Award Decisions:**
    - Decisions by the assessment panel are final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the decision.
    - Council officers will document the panel's recommendations and submit them to the Director of Communities, Nillumbik Shire Council for final approval.

8. **Award Prizes and Recognition:**
    - Winners in each category will receive a certificate, trophy, and a token of appreciation.
    - All shortlisted nominees will be recognised for their contributions at the Awards Ceremony, regardless of the outcome.
    - As part of their recognition, award winners will be invited to join a mailing list that connects them with Council and community event opportunities

9. **Publicity and Promotion:**
    - By attending the event, nominees consent to the use of photographs, video, and audio recordings for Council's promotional purposes.
    - Award winners may also be featured in Council communications, including press releases, social media posts, and community newsletters.

10. **Confidentiality and Privacy:**
    - All information provided in nominations will remain confidential, in compliance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and the Health Records Act 2001.
    - Personal information will be collected, stored, and disclosed in line with Nillumbik Shire Council's privacy policy, available at https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Privacy.

11. **Feedback and Improvement:**
    - Nominees and attendees will be invited to provide feedback on the nomination process and event experience to help improve future awards.
    - Council may contact nominators, nominees for further information as required.

12. **Event Accessibility and Inclusion:**

- The Awards Ceremony will accommodate accessibility needs, and assistance is available for those requiring help with the nomination process.

For more information or assistance, contact Council's Community Development Officer at community@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 9433 3111.

Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire