



2025 Lord Mayor's Australia Day Awards

Dedicated to a better Brisbane

The 2025 Lord Mayor's Australia Day Awards recognised the incredible people in our community who have dedicated years of their lives to go above and beyond for others and make our suburbs better places to live.

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Winner profiles

Citizen of the Year - Lynn Atkinson

Lynn has been volunteering for almost 40 years. In the early days of her journey, she was part of Giving Grannies, a beloved initiative that eventually closed. Undeterred, Lynn saw this as an opportunity to continue making a difference. She went on to establish 2 new

charities—Let's Give and Umbrella – each focusing on helping vulnerable children and youth in our community.

Lynn's dedication is apparent in her day-to-day activities. You can often find her working from her garage, assembling care packs filled with essentials and thoughtful surprises for children in need. She has formed strong and lasting partnerships with local schools, allowing her to identify children who require extra support and ensuring they receive it.

During the holiday season, Lynn's dedication shines even brighter. Lynn spends months gathering donations to ensure that each child receives a special Christmas gift. Lynn often shares the profound impact these gifts have on children, how even the simplest items bring tremendous joy and appreciation. Witnessing the happiness these thoughtful gestures bring to children in the local community is truly humbling.

Lynn actively encourages others to get involved by providing tips on finding affordable gifts and personally thanking every contributor on the Let's Give Facebook page. She dedicates herself on a weekly basis to collecting, organising and distributing donations, showcasing her unwavering commitment.

"Lynn is a real go-getter; she is always thinking of other people and really cares for underprivileged children and families."

Senior Citizen of the Year - Michael Joseph Flanagan

Michael has served as a Justice of the Peace (JP) since 1987, demonstrating unwavering commitment to volunteering his services to the public. Throughout his tenure, he has actively contributed to various JP initiatives and organisations. Notably, he has been listed on the after-hours contract for Cannon Hill YMCA and is a trusted JP contact for multiple police stations across Brisbane, including Morningside. He actively collaborates with the police on critical tasks, including the execution of search warrants, and participates in sensitive interviews, particularly those involving children.

Michael's dedication knows no bounds, as evidenced by his availability to assist law enforcement at any hour of the day or night, 24/7. He willingly serves at 4 different JP sites, including the Holland Park Court, where he volunteers at least 3 times a week. Additionally, he plays a vital role as the JP Coordinator at the Cannon Hill YMCA site, where his instrumental efforts were pivotal in its establishment. Furthermore, Michael generously imparts his knowledge as a mentor to new JPs on a regular basis.

In recognition of the public's needs, Michael has extended his services outside of traditional settings. He has willingly ventured into hospitals and nursing homes, providing assistance and support during times of need. Through his selfless contributions, he has positively impacted the lives of many individuals by offering his time, services and invaluable experience.

"Michael always goes the extra step to make sure people are well looked after."

Young Citizen of the Year - Jessica Hernandez

Jessica is a dedicated leader within Scouts Queensland, having started at the age of 15. From being a youth helper to a cub leader and now a scout leader, she has shown a strong commitment to the organisation.

As a Rover Scout, Jessica has served on state and national committees and held various roles within the Queensland Branch Rover Council. Although she has recently stepped down from her leadership position, her passion for scouting continues. Jessica has taken on roles in state events and is currently involved in organising the Australian Contingent to the World Scout Moot (International Scout meet up) in Portugal. Outside of scouting, she volunteers with the Red Cross Emergency Services and has contributed countless hours to support various causes.

Despite dealing with her own health issues and managing her studies and work, Jessica remains determined and resilient in pursuing her goals. Her dedication to scouting and the young people involved has been recognised with the Meritorious Service Award from Scouts Australia.

“Jessica is passionate, driven, motivated and is an amazing role model for young people.”

Australia Day Cultural/Arts Award - Ingrid James

Ingrid is a renowned performer and vocal teacher with over 20 years of experience. She has dedicated her time to helping aspiring singers develop their talent.

Ingrid has been organising the monthly Jazz Singers Jam Nights in Brisbane for the past 23 years. These events give singers the chance to perform with a live band and gain valuable experience. Usually, around a dozen singers, both seasoned and newcomers, perform 2 songs each with a professional jazz trio.

In addition, Ingrid has created Voices of Tomorrow, a platform for school-aged students. Ingrid's contributions to the vocal jazz scene go beyond performance opportunities. Since 2016, she has been the inaugurator and artistic director of the Brisbane Vocal Jazz Festival, a 4-day event showcasing local and international artists. As part of the festival, Ingrid organises workshops with visiting artists to help aspiring singers improve. The festival has been successful and is expanding in collaboration with the Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

Ingrid's dedication to nurturing emerging voices and fostering a vibrant vocal jazz community has earned her international acclaim.

“Ingrid's passion and dedication as an artist makes her a true champion of vocal jazz.”

Australia Day Sports Award - Eastern Suburbs Football Club

Accepted by Glen Brown, Dennis and Trish Da Rin

The Eastern Suburbs Football Club has experienced significant growth and success, largely attributed to the exceptional efforts of 3 individuals: Glen, Dennis and Trish.

Glen, a longstanding Club member, held multiple roles and made significant contributions. As president from 2012 to 2024, he led the Club to win Club of the Year in 2014 and 2015, overseeing improvements both on and off the field. He was instrumental in establishing top-rated junior boys' and girls' programs and securing the Club's involvement in high-level football initiatives. Glen played a crucial part in rebuilding the Club after a devastating fire and 2 floods, leading recovery efforts and securing funding.

Dennis and Trish have dedicated over 15 years to the Club. Trish, as Club treasurer, oversees finances for stability and growth. Dennis has held multiple roles, including player, groundskeeper and committee chair. He secured approximately \$5 million in funding, significantly benefiting the Club. Alongside Glen and other members, Dennis and Trish successfully managed the Club's recovery from floods and a fire. They also greatly improved the female football program, increasing participation and earning recognition.

In 2023, they were all deservedly recognised with Life Membership for their exceptional commitment.

“Together, Glen, Trish and Dennis’s invaluable contributions have transformed the Eastern Suburbs Football Club into a thriving community dedicated to excellence and inclusivity.”

Corporate Citizen of the Year - Brook Monahan

Brook is not only the founder and managing director of Mosaic Property Group, but also an active and dedicated individual when it comes to charitable work. He generously volunteers his time, fundraises and makes substantial donations to several charities, including prominent organisations like the Property Industry Foundation, EndED and Destiny Rescue.

Brook's commitment to making a difference in the community is evident through his significant involvement with Emmanuel City Mission (ECM) for over 5 years, which has enabled the organisation to continue operating and serving the community. Brook remains selfless and grounded, driven by a genuine desire to improve the lives of those who need it most. He has played a critical role in ensuring a bright future for ECM, supporting the homeless centre financially and as a dedicated volunteer.

Brook and his foundation have sustained the operations of ECM and is one of the charities' most important and most humble donors. However, Brook's involvement with ECM extends beyond financial support. He actively volunteers with his family and offers personal support to individuals in need. Brook's commitment to addressing societal challenges is evident through the initiatives he champions with the Mosaic Foundation.

“Brook’s selfless efforts have been the driving force behind Emmanuel City Missions’ ability to grow and meet the increasing needs of Brisbane’s homeless community.”

Community Event of the Year - Brookfield Show

The Brookfield Show is the highlight annual event for residents in the western suburbs. In 2024 there were approximately 30,000 patrons attending the event over the 3 days. With a history of over 100 years, the show has played a significant role in connecting Brookfield's rural past with its present. The Brookfield Show Society, managed by local volunteers, oversees the event which takes place at the historic Brookfield Showgrounds.

The show's success is attributed to the strong support received from various local community organisations, including the Brookfield Horse and Pony Club, the Country Women's Association, as well as artists, animal owners and the Kenmore and Brookfield Rotary clubs. Additionally, corporate support and sponsorship contributes to the event's success.

The original Brookfield and Moggill Show Society was established in 1905, and their first show took place in 1906. The showgrounds were secured in 1911, and the event has been

held most years since. Agricultural shows were popular in Brisbane during the early 20th century and served as platforms for residents to exhibit their produce. The Brookfield Show has been able to continue hosting a traditional agricultural show, primarily due to its status as a rural residential community. It is now the only remaining show in the western suburbs of Brisbane.

“The Brookfield Show is the best little country show in Brisbane.”

Green Heart Award - John Tennock

For 20 years, John has dedicated his time and skills to community service, environmental conservation and sustainability. John’s dedication is evident through his involvement in a range of initiatives, including Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group, which has been operating successfully for decades, and has actively participated in wildlife environmental audits.

John has been involved in the Kedron Brook Action Group, focusing on weed eradication. He actively participates in sustainability fairs, displaying visually appealing posters that showcase local lakes and water systems. John also takes initiative in organising Clean Up Australia Day events to help maintain a cleaner environment.

John actively promotes sustainability and conservation by raising awareness about climate change and resource depletion. He collaborated with a local science teacher to demonstrate energy consumption using a bicycle and generator. John also played a key role in promoting solar panels through informative displays and talks.

John actively contributes to Transition the Grove Inc., focusing on building local resilience and sustainability. As the webmaster and treasurer, he developed a comprehensive website that provides valuable local information. In 2022, he played a vital role in establishing Repair Cafe the Grove, which repairs a wide range of items to reduce waste.

“John is a quiet individual, who operates behind the scenes to get things done.”

Australia Day Achievement Awards

Burt Beasley

Burt has a long history with Rotary, having joined in 1984 and participated in the Rotary Group Study Exchange to Florida, USA, that same year. Over the years Burt has held various positions within different Rotary Clubs including international director, president and secretary. Burt has been actively involved with the Toowong Rotary Club since 2011 taking on various executive roles and contributing to its success.

Additionally, Burt has played a crucial role in establishing the Indooroopilly Men’s Shed Inc. in 2013 and has served as president, secretary and treasurer. Burt has helped increase membership and has been actively involved in various activities offered by the Shed. Moreover, Burt has built strong relationships with community groups and government entities, collaborating on projects such as planter boxes, street libraries, possum boxes and bee hotels.

Burt has always prioritised the health and well-being of the Shed members, implementing programs to support these goals. Burt has been vital to the success of both the Toowong

Rotary and the Indooroopilly Men's Shed, contributing to their respective communities without seeking personal gain or recognition for his efforts.

"Burt is a kind and approachable individual who consistently goes above and beyond to offer assistance and seek out answers."

Chen Chiu-Yen Melody Wang

Melody is the Life Honorary President of World Art and Multi-Culture Inc. (WAMCI) and has selflessly volunteered for more than 2 decades. She is passionately dedicated to engaging with the community and using the arts to support charitable causes.

Melody's visionary leadership has transformed WAMCI into a catalyst for social change. Through the Sunnybank Multicultural Art Gallery she has made the arts accessible to all, fostering inclusivity and inviting participation from diverse backgrounds.

In addition to promoting arts and cultural establishments, Melody has focused on using the arts as a tool to raise funds for charitable causes. She has organised successful art auctions, exhibitions and performances, with the proceeds benefiting local charities.

Under Melody's guidance, WAMCI has expanded its reach to support emerging artists and nurture creative talent. Initiatives such as art exhibitions in local hospitals provide young and aspiring artists with opportunities to showcase their work and gain visibility.

Melody is a dedicated advocate for diversity and inclusion in the arts.

She organises exhibitions and performances that highlight multicultural voices and ensure representation within the art association. Melody's initiatives provide platforms for emerging artists, women in the arts and under-represented groups, fostering a more inclusive arts culture.

"Melody has inspired change, and supported those in need, showcasing the transformative power of the arts."

David Kenneth Cope

Over the past decade, David has played a key role in establishing and growing the Centenary Men's Shed, showcasing exceptional leadership and dedication. As president since 2014, David secured a location and crucial grant funding for the impressive facilities at Seventeen Mile Rocks. One notable achievement under his guidance is the creation of a meticulously detailed scale model traction engine steam train, engaging over 15 dedicated members.

In addition to his project management skills, David is passionate about creating opportunities for men to connect and engage in meaningful activities. Under his leadership, the Men's Shed has expanded its offerings to include art, sheet metalwork, gardening, beekeeping and IT basics, reflecting his commitment to camaraderie and skill development.

David's ability to secure funding through grants has ensured necessary repairs and enhancements to the Shed, contributing to its ongoing development. Although David has recently passed on his presidency, he continues to play a critical role within the club, extending his impact far beyond the Shed's activities. Through his unwavering dedication, he

has created a welcoming haven for locals, offering not just a physical space but a supportive community where men can thrive.

“David is highly knowledgeable, approachable and effortlessly fosters close connections with everyone as a true friend.”

Garry Ernest Fenner

Garry has been a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Hamilton for over 15 years, consistently giving his time and energy to serve others. Garry has a strong commitment to giving back to the community wherever he can and has held various leadership positions within the club, serving as the president in the past and as the vice president in 2023.

Garry has been the lead organiser for the annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony for many years. This ceremony, organised by the Rotary Club, includes the official citizenship ceremony and a morning tea that promotes community spirit and provides an opportunity for new Australian citizens to connect with others in the community. Garry’s dedication, care and expertise ensures the ceremonies are held to the highest standard and has made the Rotary Club of Hamilton’s Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony a highly anticipated event in the local community.

Garry’s tireless voluntary efforts have contributed to the ongoing success of this event. His commitment to giving back to the community is evident through his dedicated service and involvement in Rotary activities.

“Garry exemplifies the true spirit of kindness and generosity, always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.”

Bobbie Foot

Bobbie is a renowned leader in business and has made a profound impact on the Brisbane community through her selfless volunteer roles.

During her time at the University of Queensland, Bobbie dedicated around 3 years to volunteering with Rosies – Friends on the Street an organisation supporting people experiencing homelessness and hardship.

Bobbie’s extensive volunteer work within the mining and resources sector goes beyond her professional responsibilities. She chairs the Queensland Resources Industry Respect at Work Committee, advocating for safer and more inclusive workplaces. As a director of the University of Queensland’s Sustainable Minerals Institute Advisory Board, she supports initiatives focused on environmental sustainability and community wellbeing.

Bobbie also serves as chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Taskforce on Just Transitions, advocating for sustainable transitions for mining communities. Her work in this space showcases Brisbane as global leaders in this area.

Additionally, Bobbie is a dedicated advocate for education, particularly encouraging young women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. She has engaged with local schools, inspiring students and providing mentorship. As a member of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association Education and Pastoral Care Committee, she contributes to the strategic direction of Brisbane’s leading schools.

“Bobbie selflessly prioritises the health, wellbeing and safety of the community, inspiring others to create a better world.”

Heather Irvine

Heather, a devoted member of The Rotary Club of Mount Gravatt, has been organising the annual Christmas Carols in the local community since 2017. With Heather’s meticulous planning, it has been estimated that approximately 4,000 people gather to enjoy the festivities. A major highlight of the event is Santa Claus, who steals the show with his charm and joyous presence.

In addition to providing a joyful experience for the community, Heather has also made sure the Christmas Carols serve an important fundraising purpose. The proceeds from the event are directed towards supporting 2 worthy causes – the Red Rose Foundation and Australian Rotary Health. Heather’s community oriented approach ensures that the festive celebration not only brings joy to the attendees but also contributes to making a positive impact within the local and wider community.

Under Heather’s guidance, the Christmas Carols organised by the Rotary Club of Mount Gravatt will only continue to grow in popularity as the event has become an annual tradition. Eagerly anticipated by all, the Christmas Carols are hailed as an event that should not be missed.

“Heather’s dedication and the magical experience she creates will ensure that the Christmas Carols remain an enchanting and unforgettable event for everyone involved.”

Professor Neville Alexander Marsh

Professor Neville Marsh has been a dedicated member of the Moggill Historical Society, serving as president from September 2014 to 2023 and continuing as a committee member today. He has made significant contributions to local history through his research and authorship of 4 well-referenced books, including an updated version on the 2011 floods.

In addition to his written works, Professor Marsh has organised various community events such as talks and tours at the Moggill Cemetery and Sugars’ quarry. He also played a key role in the installation of interpretative signage at the bora ring, showcasing his commitment to preserving and sharing local heritage.

Beyond his involvement with the Historical Society, Professor Marsh has undertaken an extensive community project. In January 2024, he led the conception, installation and dedication of a memorial for 2 soldiers who lost their lives in the January 1974 floods in Bellbowrie.

Professor Marsh invested over 1,000 hours of his time coordinating this memorial with various stakeholder organisations, securing approvals, navigating protocols and obtaining grants. He wrote a memorial booklet and a comprehensive account of the tragedy, both of which are now freely available on the Historical Society’s website. Additionally, he connected with individuals involved in the event and their families, raising awareness of this largely unknown accident through a John Oxley Library blog post.

“Neville is very passionate for preserving history and honouring the community’s past.”

Andrea Miller

Andrea is a remarkable individual who has overcome significant challenges and dedicates her life to empowering others. As a former professional ballerina and survivor of domestic violence, Andrea's journey is a testament to her fortitude and dedication to uplifting others. She teaches ballet and supports survivors of abuse through her organisation, Broken to Brilliant.

In 2015, Andrea co-founded Broken to Brilliant, a not-for-profit dedicated to supporting survivors of domestic violence. The charity works with survivors in crisis and transition stages to leave abusive relationships. Through practical assistance and innovative programs, Andrea helps others navigate these difficult situations.

In 2023, Broken to Brilliant ran 8 successful programs that directly assisted 243 domestic violence survivors and received the Volunteer Group or Program of the Year Award. The organisation has grown into a thriving community and operates 2 op shops to further support its mission.

Aside from her work with Broken to Brilliant, Andrea's love for ballet persevered. In her 60s, she qualified as a ballet teacher for seniors and currently teaches 3 seniors' ballet classes per week. Participants report improved physical strength, balance, mental clarity and enhanced social interaction under Andrea's guidance.

Andrea's contributions in combating domestic violence have transformed many lives, and her strength and commitment to making a positive difference are truly commendable.

"Andrea is a selfless and dedicated individual who quietly supports everyone in the class and prioritises their success."

John Purcell

John is an outstanding individual who has shown unparalleled dedication to the Ashgrove Rangers Club since its establishment in 1962. This Queensland Athletics affiliated club focuses on training and competing in track, field and cross-country events. John has selflessly volunteered in various capacities, including coaching and club administration. From his role as treasurer to his leadership as president, John has played a crucial part in guiding the club's growth and achieving success.

John joined the Ashgrove Rangers at the age of 13 in 1981 and quickly earned respect as a dedicated member. At 15, he became club captain, showcasing exceptional leadership. In the 1980s, John initiated the beloved Flying 4 Cross Country event, which has become a cherished tradition. In 1999, John was granted the esteemed title of Life Member in recognition of his contributions. Currently, he serves as the director of coaching, passionately nurturing and developing talent within the club.

The Ashgrove Rangers Club trains twice a week at The Gap State High School and collaborates with other athletic bodies, including The Gap Little Athletics and The Gap State High School sport program. This approach nurtures a competitive spirit and fosters a strong sense of community.

Furthermore, John actively supports and participates in the Ashgrove Park Run and Junior Park Run, promoting physical activity and a healthy lifestyle within the community.

“John is a remarkably quiet and considerate man who puts in a tremendous effort behind the scenes to benefit and uplift athletes within the Brisbane area.”

Mark Smith

For over a decade, Mark has been an integral part of the South West Metro Basketball Association, serving as the president of the Runcorn Rockets. His dedication has propelled the Rockets to great success within the Association.

Mark’s objective extends beyond basketball and focuses on empowering students with essential life skills. He utilises basketball as a medium for holistic growth. Through strong relationships with Taiwanese clubs, Mark has created life altering experiences for young players in the past 3 years. Leveraging the Sister City Relationship between Kaohsiung and Brisbane, he has bridged cultural gaps and exposed students to a broader global perspective.

Mark invites international school teams to visit Brisbane and leads substantial groups to Kaohsiung, going beyond basketball games to serve as a mentor. He showcases the beauty of Brisbane and exposes visiting students to cultural experiences in Taiwan. Additionally, Mark spearheads fundraising efforts to sponsor students, ensuring equal opportunities for all to participate in these valuable experiences.

Mark prioritises the development of well-rounded individuals, emphasising respect, manners and appreciation. He encourages students to express gratitude to their parents through messages of acknowledgment. Mark’s relentless drive to positively impact the lives of young people sets him apart as a remarkable role model.

“Mark is passionate, focused, community driven and is always making a difference to the community.”

David Smithson

David is the driving force behind the UQ Junior Bullsharks Rugby Club in Graceville. His dedication and impact have transformed the club into a financially viable and thriving establishment and his tireless efforts have created a vibrant environment for junior athletes.

David, the club president for the past 2 years, has had a significant impact as a leader. He previously served as treasurer and currently holds a position as a general committee member. Under David’s guidance the Bullsharks have provided unique experiences for junior teams, rivalling those of larger Brisbane clubs.

Initiatives such as the Run on Wales, forming a guard of honour for the Queensland Reds versus Wales match, have created lasting memories for young players. David also facilitated player participation in the Coffs Harbour Rugby competition, enhancing their growth and skills.

David’s commitment to the club goes beyond logistics. He embodies the values of teamwork, sportsmanship and community, inspiring not only the players but also their families and supporters. Countless children have developed a love for rugby union through his passion, ensuring they have a positive and rewarding experience.

David's relentless dedication and effort to the club guarantees that young athletes have access to opportunities that shape their love for the sport and contribute to their personal growth.

"David is committed and always adopts a can-do attitude for doing the right thing for the betterment of the Club."

Karen Willis

The Valley Districts Cricket Club's All Abilities Cricket Program (VAACP) was founded 6 years ago by Karen. The VAACP aims to provide children and young adults with intellectual learning disabilities the chance to learn and play cricket.

The VAACP, led by Karen and her coaching team, fosters a supportive and inclusive environment for participants. It promotes friendship, confidence building and overcoming social anxiety. The program is free for participants and their families. Each activity is tailored to provide support, safety and encouragement to every child. For players aged 14 and above, the program offers a structured summer training program with specialist coaches for continuous development support.

The VAACP allows players to engage in personal growth and achievement. It provides fun sessions, promotes joining senior teams and offers pathways to Queensland Cricket inclusion teams. The program ensures a positive and supportive environment for children, giving parents peace of mind. It also facilitates connections with other families, fostering new friendships and emotional support.

Karen's dedication is evident in her fundraising efforts and seeking community support, enhancing resources available to young athletes in the program. Her commitment to providing free participation in sport for all children is commendable and deserving of recognition.

"Karen's involvement in the Valley Districts Cricket Club's All Abilities Cricket Program has had a profound impact on participants and their families, exemplifying the spirit of inclusion and community."

Tracey Wyatt

The Annual Family Fun Day, held at George Clayton Park in Wynnum Manly, has become a beloved community event since its establishment in 2017. Tracey, a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Wynnum Manly, has played a pivotal role in the event's success. With a focus on domestic violence prevention and promoting respectful relationships, Tracey has been instrumental in organising an event that brings together families, local organisations and community members for a day of entertainment and family fun with community spirit.

Under Tracey's guidance, the Fun Day offers a wide range of free activities for all ages. With over 3,000 attendees in recent years, the event has been both popular and impactful, spreading awareness about domestic violence while providing a fun-filled experience for families.

Tracey's commitment to education and support is evident in the event's collaboration with local service agencies. By partnering with these agencies, the Fun Day offers resources on domestic violence prevention and community safety, ensuring that attendees have access to

essential information. Tracey's dedication to inclusivity is also apparent, as the event remains accessible to all with free activities and resources. By working together, she ensures that the Annual Family Fun Day not only entertains but also promotes a safe and secure community.

The success of the Annual Family Fun Day is further amplified by Tracey's efforts in securing strong sponsorship partnerships. The event also incorporates local schools, bands and performers into the program, along with appearances by celebrated country music artists. This has made the Fun Day an exciting attraction for families across the bayside area.

"Tracey's dedication and passion have made the Annual Family Fun Day a symbol of community cohesion and support."