
8.4 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS COMMITTEE

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Attachments: *Nil*

SUMMARY

The Australia Day Awards Committee undertakes the processes and activities relating to the seeking and assessment of nominations for the annual Australia Day Awards on behalf of Council.

A call for more community members was advertised in the local newspapers, through the Engaging Mitchell website and social media during the period July-August 2018. Six (6) applications were received by the closing date for the four vacant community member positions. An evaluation process was undertaken, and this report recommends appointments to the Australia Day Awards Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorses the following appointments to the Australia Day Awards Committee:

- Cathy Coppinger
- Mark Ryan
- Maureen Walton; and
- Robert Telfer

for a two-year term.

BACKGROUND

Council holds an annual Australia Day Awards Ceremony in conjunction with its Citizenship Ceremony. The event is held at a different location in the Shire each year and community groups are invited to nominate to host the event. Historically, Council has received very few nominations in each Award category and therefore established an Australia Day Awards Committee to help invigorate this important occasion and recognise the many outstanding people that live in the Mitchell community. This resulted in more nominations being received last year.

Council at its meeting on 21 August 2017 adopted terms of reference for the Committee and nomination for community members were called for and appointed for a two-year period. The two appointed committee members have agreed to stay on for an additional year.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The Australia Day Awards Committee terms of reference require a minimum of three and maximum of six community members representing the communities of Pyalong,

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS COMMITTEE (CONT.)

Tooborac, Seymour, Broadford, Kilmore, Wallan, Beveridge, Wandong/Heathcote Junction and rural based communities. Six (6) nominations for the Committee were received and assessed against the following criteria:

- Must reside within the municipality
- Have a keen community interests and can represent the communities of Pyalong, Tooborac, Seymour, Broadford, Kilmore, Wallan, Beveridge, Wandong/Heathcote Junction and rural based communities; and
- Ability to attend and participate in meetings as scheduled.

All of the nominees met the selection criteria.

Selection process

Three of the four Councillors appointed to the Australia Day Committee reviewed the applications received with an officer in attendance. Members were selected based on their ability to represent a community(ies) of interest and their current community involvement and experience. Representation from each of the three wards was also taken into consideration.

Membership duration

Membership is for a two-year term. The two current members who were appointed to the Committee in 2017 have advised that they would like to continue on the Committee. This structure will mean that six community members are appointed to the Committee.

In 2019 the following process will be undertaken:

Early July - Councillors consulted in relation to Australia Day Award categories. Committee meets to discuss advertising for new community members to the Committee and review the application forms for the Australia Day Awards and Expression of Interest for the host town for the 2021 Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and other associated paperwork.

July-August - Advertising for new community committee members is undertaken.

Late August - Councillor sub-committee assesses community member applications and makes recommendation to Council

Mid-September – Community committee members appointed by Council Meeting resolution

September-November – Advertising for Australia Day Award nominations and Expressions of Interest for host town for 2021 Australia Day

End November – Committee assesses nominations received and makes recommendation to Council

December – Council resolves on award recipients and ceremony location for 2021

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS COMMITTEE (CONT.)

CONSULTATION

Three of the four Councillors that are appointed to the Australia Day Awards Committee met to discuss and assess the nominations received.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This Committee is resourced by staff in Governance & Corporate Accountability.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The nomination process and assessment is in line with the requirements outlined in the Australia Day Awards Committee terms of reference.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)

Nil.

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

All six nominees will be advised of Council's decision.