



MOIRA SHIRE
**COMMUNITY
ACHIEVER
AWARDS**

23 APRIL 2026

Order of Proceedings

Guests' arrival

Introduction – Matthew Morgan, Moira Shire CEO

Welcome to Country – Nicky James, Yorta Yorta representative

Welcome and evening overview

Musical performance – Matilda Altoft

PRESENTATION OF:

■ **Community Star(s)** Achiever of the Year Award

■ **ACE Star** Achiever of the Year Award

Guest Speaker – Cedric Pang, 2025 Young Star Achiever Award recipient

PRESENTATION OF:

■ **Young Star** Achiever of the Year Award

■ **Shining Star** Achiever of the Year Award

■ **STAR** Achiever of the Year Award

Speech formalities conclusion

Photographs / music

Drinks and canapés



Moira Shire Message

On behalf of Moira Shire Council, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Moira Shire Community Achiever Awards.

Now in its fourth year, these Awards continue to recognise and celebrate our 'STAR' Achievers — individuals and groups who lead by example, go above and beyond, and make a lasting difference within their communities.

Across Moira Shire, we are incredibly fortunate to have so many dedicated and passionate volunteers who generously contribute their time, skills, and energy for the benefit of others. Your commitment strengthens the fabric of our municipality and enriches the lives of those around you. With hundreds of volunteers across the Shire, our communities are empowered to deliver a diverse range of valuable services, programs and activities that enhance connection and wellbeing.

This year, we are proud to showcase an outstanding 26 nominees across five categories: STAR Achiever, Young Star Achiever, Shining Star Achiever, Community Star Achiever, and ACE Star Achiever (Arts, Culture and Environment). Each nominee represents the very best of community spirit, leadership, and service.

Tonight provides an important opportunity for us to come together to acknowledge, celebrate and applaud the efforts and achievements of every nominee, as we also announce this year's award recipients. Without these nominations, many of these remarkable individuals, organisations and initiatives may never receive the recognition they so richly deserve.

It is truly an honour to celebrate the positive impact you have made and the light you continue to shine across our communities.

We hope you enjoy the evening and take pride in the extraordinary contributions being recognised tonight.

Dr Graeme Emonson PSM

Chair Administrator

Susan Benedyka

Administrator

Please note that the information in this booklet provides a brief overview of what these groups and individuals undertake, and has been collated from their nomination applications.

Community Star Achiever of the Year Nominees





Katamatite Lions Club

The Katamatite Lions Club holds a rodeo each year, with profits made being donated back into the community. The members of the Lions Club contribute numerous hours volunteering through planning this event to ensure it is coordinated and delivered safely. The safety of the community and the participants involved in the rodeo is of the utmost importance, and they welcome this event each year, attracting people not only locally but also from afar, which brings economic benefit to the region.

The event requires many hours of planning and coordination from various members of the committee as well as members from the community to ensure the delivery of this popular, successful event, which has now been running for four years.

From ticket sales and profits from the event, the Katamatite Lions Club has donated over \$15,000 to local fire victims already this year. They donate to local sports clubs, schools, kindergartens and are involved in Katamatite's 150th Anniversary this year. They are also involved in the upkeep of the local cemetery and help local individuals when needed.

The Katamatite Lions Club helps with manpower as well as donations to keep sports clubs, local education and the community alive and operating. They are currently working to paint the Grain Corp tin silo to enhance the silos already painted to help with local tourism.

The club is open to people aged 18 or over who would like to help with community-based projects, and they are a deserving group to be nominated for this prestigious award.



Cobram SES

The Cobram SES Unit continues to demonstrate outstanding dedication to community safety through road crash rescue, flood and storm response, emergency prevention, and public education.

Over the past year, the unit responded to more than 83 requests for assistance, including 40 storm or tree-related incidents, 22 road rescues, nine assists to Victoria Police, five assists to Ambulance Victoria, four water rescues and four building damage responses, with all responses achieved within a four-minute turnout to unit response time. These efforts protected lives, property and essential infrastructure.

The Cobram SES Unit delivers an exceptional community service through its consistent, high-impact contribution to emergency response and community resilience.

Volunteers respond across a wide range of incidents, including road trauma, rescues, flooding and severe weather, providing rapid and reliable support when the community needs it most. Equally important is the unit's focus on prevention and preparedness. Through structured training, public safety activities, and practical community education, the unit helps residents understand risks and take action before emergencies occur. The dedicated Community Engagement Team has expanded this reach, strengthening local knowledge, confidence, and self-reliance across diverse community groups.

By working seamlessly with CFA, Ambulance Victoria, and Victoria Police, the Cobram SES Unit exemplifies teamwork, leadership and service, making a lasting contribution to a safer, more resilient and better-prepared community.



Cobram Fire Brigade

The Cobram fire brigade is a volunteer brigade that responds to more than 150 calls each year. The Cobram Fire Brigade is serviced by fully trained volunteer fire fighters, with a broad range of skills, from bushfire, structural, hazardous materials and rescue.

The fully volunteer brigade goes out of their way morning, noon and night to fires, medical response, car crashes and much more. They conduct various trainings, community engagements, and more and are an integral part of our community. The community benefits greatly from Cobram CFA. Saving houses, farms, properties, giving information to community and children, giving CPR and medical response when ambulance is not within distance (they save lives).

The brigade supports several other emergency agencies when requested. All the volunteers deserve to be recognised for the efforts all year round but also more recently with the Yarroweyah Fires, they have a tremendous role in the community who keep us safe and are a worthy recipient of the Community Star Achiever Award.



Nathalia New Years Eve Carnival

The New Years Eve Carnival is a wonderful event that is enjoyed by people from across the shire and neighbouring towns, as well as visitors. Fun for all ages in a safe environment, the event is well attended by many within the community, looking forward to the end of year celebrations.

The event gives Moira Shire community somewhere safe to enjoy their New Year's Eve celebrations, the fireworks are a real hit and enjoyed by all within the community. The event has activities for kids, young and old, the car show, market stalls and food trucks for all to enjoy and this is topped off at the end of the night with an amazing display of fireworks at midnight.

Wayne Limbrick has been the chief organiser of the New Years Eve Carnival for many years, spending countless hours during the year to make the event come together on the day, seeking and writing grants to ensure this event continues.

Wayne organises the various market stall holders, food trucks, fireworks, traffic control and entertainment.

This event would not happen without him (with help from his wife Pam). The running of the event is helped by community groups such as Nathalia Football Netball Club and Broken Creek Connect to name a few. The number of countless hours having to setup on the day starts at 7am, organising stall sites, setting up gazebos etc. and event delivery on the day, this event continues long into the night, and this event is worthy of the Community Star Achiever Awards. An amazing effort!



Dutch Thunder Wildlife Rescue

Dutch Thunder Wildlife Rescue is a dedicated, volunteer-run wildlife rescue and rehabilitation group based in Koonoomoo. Founded on compassion, action and community, Dutch Thunder provides 24/7 emergency rescue service, hands-on care and long-term rehabilitation for injured, orphaned and displaced native wildlife. They cover all the north central Victoria as well as southern central NSW.

They are called upon by other wildlife organisations for some of the most difficult rescues. Working closely with vets, wildlife experts, licensed carers and local communities, the organisation focuses on giving every animal the best possible chance of recovery and release back into the wild. Dutch Thunder is also passionate about education, conservation, the environment and community partnerships, inspiring people of all ages and abilities to protect and respect Australia's unique wildlife.

Dutch Thunder is a star role model within the community, inspiring compassion, responsibility and action for wildlife and the environment. Strongly committed to volunteering, the organisation actively supports, mentors and encourages volunteers of all ages and abilities, fostering skills, confidence and a sense of purpose. Through education programs, community partnerships, community engagement and public awareness initiatives, Dutch Thunder delivers genuine social value while strengthening community connections. Their ongoing involvement, dedication and resilience have created lasting benefits for both people and wildlife, making Dutch Thunder Wildlife Rescue a truly outstanding and deserving community organisation.



Katamatite Primary School Fete

The Katamatite Primary School held a Fete on the 14 September 2025. It was organised by the small school's Parents and Friends Committee with assistance from several community volunteers. The event united the town and surrounding district in a lively celebration of community spirit. More than 500 people attended, enjoying stalls, raffles, live music, food and children's activities that promoted inclusion and local pride. The fete raised vital funds to upgrade the school playground and outdoor learning areas, directly benefiting families and students of the local community.

The Katamatite Primary School Fete benefited residents of the Moira Shire, it was an inclusive, volunteer-led event that brought together families, students, local businesses and community groups. Organised by the school's small Parents and Friends Committee, the fete encouraged participation across all ages and backgrounds,

celebrated community spirit, and strengthened rural connections.

It achieved promotion of the school within our local community, leaving a lasting positive impact. The event reflected outstanding teamwork, local engagement and social inclusion.

If anyone was fortunate to attend our school fete, it really was a magical day. It's still spoken about today reflecting the amazing achievement that our small parents and friends committee was able to achieve. It had such a great atmosphere bringing the whole community together. The event highlighted cross generational, family friendly, inclusive activities that were enjoyed by all. To show the reach of our event we had a bus load of older women from Melbourne attend who were on their way to Tocumwal.



Tungamah Kickstart Committee

150th Anniversary

Tungamah Kickstart Committee has been operating for some years with an aim of improving the town. They hold a public meeting, and it includes participants from many different organisations. It is very much a combined effort.

The 150th Anniversary of Tungamah was a great event held on 14-16 February at the Tungamah Recreation Reserve. People came from interstate to return to Tungamah, their families' original home. They stayed in hotels and motels in the shire; many other people came from Melbourne for the weekend.

The Historical Society had the museum open; everyone then went to the football ground for the official opening. Guests at the opening included several residents representing the original families of Tungamah, it also included Moira Shire

Administrator Graeme Emonson who spoke at the opening as well as several other VIP's.

The 150th anniversary showcased this event for the whole of the Shire. The Committee organised fabulous sponsor and VIPs including; Moira Shire, Tungamah Hotel, Tungamah General Store, Mulwala Water Ski Club, Tungamah Garage, Bunnings, Hunters Mitre 10, Tungamah Kickstart, CMCU, Lawrence Family, Tyrrell Family, Northern Vic Ammo to name a few. The Tungamah Kickstart Committee are a very active small group who make a difference to the community and are a deserving nominee for the Community Star Achiever Award.



Invergordon Township Group Inc.

Outdoor Activity Centre

The Invergordon Township Group Inc was established with two main purposes. Firstly, to run the functions of the township raw water dam, and secondly, to apply for grants to fund projects for the enhancement of the Invergordon Township.

The Invergordon Outdoor Activity Project was established to replace the existing, not fit for purpose, playground equipment at the Invergordon Recreation Reserve and Community Hall, with a more user friendly, enhanced playground equipment, along with the conversion of a tennis court to a pickleball court and the installation of basketball ring. The project was undertaken after successfully applying for a \$50,000 Tiny Town Grant from the Victorian Government, along with financial support (over \$35,000) from the Friends of Invergordon Recreation Reserve and Community Hall Group.

The completed Outdoor Activity Centre now provides an excellent, family orientated area, with multifunction play activities, two tennis courts with lighting, a pickleball court and a court with a basketball ring at one end and a netball ring at the other. The area also has seating and an electric BBQ along with the former tennis club rooms, making it an ideal area for family functions, such as children's parties or other gatherings.

Together with the \$50,000 Tiny Towns Grant, we were able to achieve the project through many hours of volunteer labour, which saw us save over \$10,000 by removing the old equipment and making the site ready, together with installing the recycle plastic borders and spreading the softfall. The project was also made possible by the establishment of the Incorporated body, which made it administratively possible, together with the contribution of the Friends Group. We now have an excellent facility, which was established without having to draw on Council funds.



Lions Club of Tungamah and District

Lions Skin Cancer Van

Tungamah Lions is a small Lions Club regionally, but a very active club. The club made the decision to book the Lions Skin Cancer Van, which is usually an expensive program, but one which is very important and encouraged many people to have their skin checked for cancer. This was an opportunity to bring a vital service to Tungamah for the health of its community. As part of this service, qualified health professionals carried out the service. This was the first time the club had hosted such a large event and was supported by the entire community.

The community has never had a dedicated skin cancer van visit before and certainly met the criteria for health services. There was plenty of room for everyone and the area assisted to the consulting rooms by dedicated Lions staff. The skin professionals were housed at the local

hotel, and much of the food was supplied by the local General Store.

Over the weekend 15 people were referred on for urgent attention for skin cancer detection. The whole weekend was fully booked, but we were still able to fit in the extras who just turned up hoping to be seen. Bringing a service such as this to a small town like Tungamah benefits the entire community and as part of this service if we can help as many people as possible stay healthy and have their skin checked this is such an important step to preventing skin cancer. Unfortunately at least 2 in 3 Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime, this is why this service is so important.



Yarrowonga Mulwala Basketball Association

Yarrowonga Mulwala Basketball Association has been a thriving community organisation since 1987. Dedicated to fostering participation, development, and excellence in basketball. Central to its mission is Aussie Hoops, which engages more than 100 young beginners each year, providing them with skills, confidence and a love for the game.

The Association also runs a strong domestic competition, with over 230 junior players and 115 senior participants. At the representative level, 130 athletes proudly compete, showcasing the region's talent and commitment to higher performance pathways.

The Association also supports refereeing and coaching pathways, encouraging volunteers and young leaders to develop skills that benefit both sport and community. Each year, participation continues to grow, reflecting the Association's inclusive culture and dedication to providing opportunities for everyone. It stands as a vital hub of sporting and social connection across the shire.

The Association has become a cornerstone of community life, fostering inclusion, participation and pride across the region. It has provided pathways for children, youth, and adults to engage in sport, promoting health, teamwork and resilience. Under strong leadership, participation has grown significantly, with a particular focus on increasing opportunities for girls, and all abilities, ensuring equity and representation in local sport.

Volunteers, coaches, and umpires have been inspired to contribute, strengthening civic engagement and building a culture of service. The Association has also championed the campaign for a new basketball stadium, a visionary project that will deliver lasting social and economic benefits to the shire. Its commitment to growth, inclusivity, and community development makes the Yarrowonga Mulwala Basketball Association a deserving nominee for Community Star Achiever of the Year.

ACE Star Achiever of the Year Nominees





Tungamah Weir Project

Tungamah Leo Lions Club

Tungamah Leo Club is a part of Lions Clubs International. This club has been operating now for 16 years, and they have done a lot of great work for the environment. They are committed to making a change to their environment. They are encouraged to show leadership, respond to education and seize opportunities, not only to enhance their own growth, but encourage the growth of others.

The planning for improving the environment in the Tungamah Weir Pool began about six years ago when a group of Leos visited Cohuna and saw a fountain in the creek. They made inquiries and raised the money to install one in the Tungamah Weir Pool. They had to run the gauntlet of the permits system, but they succeeded. The fountain seemed to improve water quality, and after approaching Fisheries Victoria, we were rewarded

with 5,000 Yellow belly fingerlings being released into the weir pool.

Many people stay at the RV Friendly Park, and a lot of them have thrown a line in. Generally, Carp is the most common species, but we are now trying for variety. The Annual Carp Muster has now been running for 10 years and has helped keep the numbers of this pest to manageable numbers. So many campers love coming to Tungamah and spending money in the town and the Shire.

The Leo Lions achievements have been publicised in the local press and through the Lions District from Kerang to Corryong, their work in the community plays an important part within our environment and the Leo's deserved to be recognised within this category.



Arts for All Inc.

Cobram

Arts for All Inc is a community-focused arts group that forms one of Moira Shire's Creative Arts Hubs. They aim to strengthen creative participation and connection by delivering inclusive arts and cultural activities. It is an active and dedicated community group with a strong commitment to making art accessible to everyone. The group demonstrates remarkable energy, creativity and collaboration in delivering projects that engage a wide cross-section of the community.

Driven by passionate volunteers, Arts for All Inc works to remove barriers to participation by offering inclusive, welcoming and affordable activities. Their focus is on creating opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to connect, express themselves and feel a sense of belonging. The group's activities include public artwork, community workshops and events that bring people together and make art more accessible to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Arts for All Inc meets the criteria for the most outstanding Arts, Cultural or Environmental Project through the installation of the giant, colourful Eastern Rosella sculpture in Federation Park. This project demonstrates artistic excellence, strong community engagement and environmental significance. The sculpture has quickly become a focal point, attracting families, visitors and photographers, and increasing activation of the space. By drawing more people into Federation Park, the project enhances community use of a valued public area and contributes to local vibrancy and pride.

The sculpture is symbolic of the native birdlife found throughout our region and celebrates local biodiversity and raises awareness of the natural environment in a creative and accessible way. The project showcases collaboration, vision and community spirit. As a highly visible and enduring installation, it leaves a lasting cultural and environmental legacy, embodying the very essence of an outstanding arts and community initiative.



Limelight Touring Co.

Yarrawonga – Brenda Spilva

Limelight Touring Co. was developed by Brenda Spilva. Limelight's efforts have contributed in many ways to Moria Shire. Building on our tourism, highlighting local towns and their halls to a much wider network. Providing never seen before drama classes for our youth, driving their confidence to flourish in all aspects in their life. Representing a local initiative on a national scale such as the Shine of Remembrance and Adelaide first fringe festival where Limelight was invited to perform. Such achievement does not land in your lap easily as you could appreciate, many hours of communication, networking and promotion go into such an achievement.

Brenda pursued a passion of drama within her school community at Sacred Heart College Yarrawonga, playing many lead roles in the yearly school production. This ignited a passion for the arts and theatre, which she will later celebrate with and for her local community through the conception of Limelight Touring Co.

She was involved with Yarrawonga Allegro theatre organisation where she shines in a number a lead roles such as the one in Shoehorn Sonata. Brenda sharpened her theatre skills with lead roles in the Wangaratta art scene as well. She has at all times had the passion to celebrate what we have in our on backyard and valued all aspects of anyone or group that has contributed to the arts and culture within our local and surrounding communities.

There is no greater example of this then Limelight's chosen venues and townships to showcase their production over the years. It has been important to Brenda to bring about connection and belonging within our shire. Show casing these productions through Limelight Touring Co. In our little local township not only promotes these little pockets of paradise but also builds our communities connection and bring about a sense of belonging, bringing people together to experience events that would possibly never been available to them.

Young Star Achiever of the Year Nominees





Abbie Milne

Cobram

Abbie is a dedicated Year 9 student who demonstrates maturity, initiative, and a strong commitment to her education and community. She was selected from over 500 applicants nationwide as one of only 25 students in the prestigious CSIRO Young Future Shapers program, highlighting her academic promise, leadership in STEM and strong work ethic.

Abbie is an active member of the senior concert band, where she plays the clarinet and mentors younger members, fostering growth and teamwork. The band earned a gold award at the 2025 Victorian School Music Festival. Abbie also performs at community events such as the IGA Family Fun Day and CSC ANZAC Commemorative Service.

She is also a member of the Cobram Barooga Paddling Club, winning three medals at her first Victorian School Paddling Competition, and volunteers locally, including helping to set up the Cobram Show.

Abbie has also contributed through the Moira Arts Clinic. Abbie was awarded the Junior Citizen of the Year award at the Cobram Australia Day event.

Abbie has made meaningful contributions to the Moira Shire community through her involvement in music, sport and volunteer services. She has a positive impact on the Shire through her dedication, leadership and willingness to support others. Her involvement in community activities have helped strengthen local connections and inspire other young people, which is why she was recognised as the Junior Citizen of the Year.

Abbie is a deserving nominee for the Young Star Achiever of the Year award.

Shining Star Achiever of the Year Nominees





Grace Hall Numurkah

Grace is an incredible young woman who gives her heart and soul to any project that she embarks on. Her most recent volunteer project was with the Numurkah Singers holiday program. She volunteered her time with months of preparation and then running a two-week program during the summer holidays. This program included over 30 children (under 18 years of age), and ran for the full two weeks where every weekday the participants attended and learned an entire stage show directed by Grace.

An individual and group who is leading the way in making the Moira Shire a place where people, culture and nature can thrive. Grace's inclusive program demonstrates that every participant feels included and respected. Grace created an environment where every child was safe, welcome and happy. The kids looked forward to showing up and being a part of something great every day for two weeks. Grace and her group have made a significant contribution to arts, culture and/or the environment in the local and/or wider community.

The stage show Legally Blonde was a fantastic showpiece. Not only did the program encourage young people to enter the arts, but it also encouraged more than 350 ticket holders to get out and be a part of the arts in our town. This was a massive contribution of time and effort by Grace, and she deserves recognition for her efforts.

Grace gave up months of her time to give this program to our youth. As a parent of one of the young participants, I can truly say this was one of the best activities my child has participated in. The program was incredibly well run. Child safety was at the forefront, and it was run in a very professional manner.

In a world where children look at screens, the Grace Halls of the world are so very important. We need to recognise people like Grace, so they continue to spread their sparkle in our communities. People with giving hearts such as Grace's need to be encouraged and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honour.



Skye Young Numurkah

Skye is currently studying her VCE-VM certificate at Numurkah Secondary College and is a school captain. As well as being a school leader, Skye was our 2025 Youth Ambassador with the Country Education Project which involved representing our rural community over the year at a number of youth forums in Melbourne.

In 2025, Skye identified a need to continue the tradition of a Debutante Ball and with the support of the Numurkah Lions Club, she took the initiative to organise the inaugural Numurkah Debutante Ball. Her vision, planning and coordination resulted in a highly successful event, with 14 young people and their families enjoying a memorable evening celebrating the cherished tradition of an old-time Debutante Ball. Demonstrating both commitment and sustainability in her leadership, Skye brought together interested community members and is currently organising the 2026 Numurkah Debutante Ball.

Skye's compassion for others is evident in her mentoring and youth advocacy work. She supported disadvantaged young people as a mentor with the Mirabel Foundation Youth Program, meeting with young people via Zoom to provide guidance and encouragement. Over the recent summer break, she volunteered as a leader at the Portsea Camp, supporting underprivileged children and providing a safe and enriching camp experience.

The youth of our community were despairing that the community groups who had in the past run events such as the Debutante Ball were aging and there was a risk this event would not run. Skye provided the opportunity for this tradition to continue and has provided a positive and enjoyable opportunity for her peers.

Skye exemplifies initiative, compassion, and authentic leadership. She does not wait for opportunities — she creates them. Her commitment to her school, her peers, and the wider Numurkah community makes her an exceptionally deserving recipient of this award.



Taylor Knight Cobram

Taylor is an exceptional leader whose commitment to service, learning and community embodies the spirit of the Moira Shire Shining Star award. At school, we've watched Taylor grow into a compassionate, hardworking, and determined role model. She consistently demonstrates kindness with strong academic dedication.

In 2025, Taylor worked tirelessly toward becoming the first in her family to attend university while balancing extensive community involvement. She served as Vice-Captain of Cobram Secondary College, volunteers with the Cobram CFA, plays in the inaugural Barooga Hawks Girls AFL team, supports local events. Taylor has represented our community nationally and internationally, attending the National Youth Science Forum and being selected as one of fewer than ten Australians for the London International Youth Science Forum.

Taylor won young citizen of the year at this year's Australia day awards. Her passion, integrity, and service make's her an outstanding nominee.

Taylor has made a significant voluntary contribution through her active service with the Cobram CFA and her regular involvement in community events, including assisting the Cobram Barooga Apex Club.

Taylor enhances community spirit through her kindness, leadership, and advocacy for regional education. Her selection for the National Youth Science Forum and the London International Youth Science Forum highlights her commitment and elevates the profile of the Moira Shire. End of 2025 CFA Cobram awarded Taylor Fire fighter of the Year. Taylor's dedication strengthened the Moira Shire community, and they were proudly recognised as this year's Australia Day Awards.



Emma Corrin Cobram

Emma is a model student and citizen, known for her kindness, unmatched work ethic, and passion for learning. She often advocates for her peers by asking questions on their behalf, demonstrating empathy and leadership.

Emma is also a dedicated canoeist with Cobram-Barooga Canoe Club, holding multiple state and national titles. Her rigorous training and competitive success highlight her commitment to the sport. Valued for her patience and support of newcomers, Emma has earned the Raj Award and John Lidstone Award.

She consistently displays excellent sportsmanship, congratulating competitors and striving for self-improvement. Beyond canoeing, Emma volunteers as a weekly kickboxing coach, contributing to her community. She has built strong connections with Australian Olympic paddlers and aspires to follow their path.

She has been a junior canoeist with Cobram-Barooga Canoe Club for eight years and is a highly accomplished kayak paddler with multiple local, state, and national victories. Known for her dedication, she trains tirelessly and supports newcomers with patience and encouragement, earning the Raj Award and John Lidstone Award.

Emma exemplifies outstanding sportsmanship, always celebrating competitors and striving to improve. This year she's hoping to make world titles in Argentina. Her achievements, generosity, and commitment make her an exceptional nominee.

STAR Achiever of the Year Nominees





Chris Johnson Numurkah

Chris is someone who consistently puts the community first. He has contributed many years of service through the CFA, always showing reliability, leadership and dedication to keeping our district safe. Beyond his CFA role, Chris has also taken on important responsibilities within CAN Hub (arts group), helping strengthen local connections and support networks. He is passionate about building community spirit and is always the first to put his hand up to help, organise, or encourage others to get involved. His commitment isn't for recognition — he genuinely wants to make Moira Shire a stronger, safer and more supportive place for everyone.

Chris consistently goes above and beyond, whether it's responding to emergencies, supporting other volunteers, or helping develop community-driven programs. He brings people together and helps create spaces where locals feel supported, included and cared for. His leadership style is grounded, approachable and service-focused — he leads by doing, by showing up, and by investing his time and energy into the wellbeing of others.

Chris is someone who acts quietly but makes a big difference. His dedication across multiple areas of the community shows a long-term commitment that truly reflects the values of the Star Achiever Award.



Fiona Nethercott Numurkah

Fiona is a dedicated person who has built a life centered around community, kindness and personal growth. She lives and works in Numurkah and is actively involved in local committees including Numurkah Love Our Lifestyle, the Numurkah Toy Library and the Numurkah Preschool committees.

She volunteers her time at community events and has also supported BlazeAid to help families after natural disasters. Fiona is studying her Certificate III and Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care while running her own small business, Paint Me Pretty Face Art, where she also donates her time for fundraisers. She recently completed the Moira Shire Leadership Program, using her skills to further contribute to the community. Fiona exemplifies strength, warmth and determination. She is passionate about giving back to the Shire and making it a better place for families.

Fiona's consistent dedication to community involvement and leadership; she demonstrates excellence by being an active contributor across multiple areas — early childhood education, local events, community committees, arts and culture, and natural disaster recovery. Her involvement in the Moira Shire Leadership Program highlights her commitment to growing her leadership skills and using them to benefit the community.

Fiona goes above and beyond by volunteering her time, offering support to families, and stepping up whenever help is needed. She represents what it means to be a positive role model in the Shire: resilient, hardworking and community minded. Fiona's passion for supporting children, families and local initiatives shows her genuine care for the people around her.



Ken Dodd Tungamah

Ken and his family moved to Tungamah in 1993 and immediately became involved in the community. The whole family became involved in first the cricket club and then the football club. Ken was an active player and administrator for both clubs. He also became president of the Jubilee Park Committee of Management. He was captain of the B Grade cricket premiership side and also filled the role of treasurer of the cricket club.

He was active in many working bees and fundraisers that clubs need to remain solvent. Ken was a committee member of the football club for many seasons and spent five years as president. While president, he was in his fifties and pulled on the boots for the seconds when numbers were down, which was most of the time. He worked hard behind the bar after training and at home games. Ken has been a member of the Fire Brigade for over 20 years.

Ken has made sure the football club and cricket club survived and blossomed to make the town a healthy one. Many young people have benefited from having a very active football club and they have access to a terrific environment. This attracts people to our small town and supports local businesses.

The Moira Shire needs all its sporting clubs to bring visitors into the Shire on a regular basis, and the success of our sporting clubs, headed for a long time by Ken, makes sure this happens. Because of the strength of cricket and football during Ken's time, facilities have been improved with the benefit of grants. Finals are played at Tungamah, bringing visitors from outside the Shire. Ken is a worthy recipient of the Star Achiever of the Year Award, and the community is lucky to have him.



Heather Tyrrell Tungamah

Heather is a resident of Tungamah who does a lot of volunteer work in the community. She voluntarily mans the information point on a regular basis and also maintains the centre by keeping it clean, ensuring there is tea, coffee, milk and biscuits for our volunteers, and rearranging our stock and brochures. She cleans the shower and toilets in our RV Park daily. She volunteers at Tungamah Primary School three days a week, serving breakfast to the children and ensuring that all children have something to eat in these hard times. Heather also buys the ingredients herself so that the school does not have to bear the cost. She prunes the rose bushes in the Lions/RV Park and those at the Cenotaph on a regular basis. She also volunteers at the Yarrowonga/Mulwala Annual Show.

Heather is totally community minded. Her volunteer work at the RV Park, Information Point and the Yarrowonga/Mulwala Show encourages

community spirit in Tungamah and the wider community, and increases tourism not just to Tungamah but to Moira Shire as well. It has really helped tourists to linger longer in our town and shire. Her work on the Tungamah 150th celebration was exemplary, and the event put Tungamah and the Moira Shire well and truly on the map. The Family Fun Day, of which she was an organiser, brought parents and children from all over the Shire.

Her volunteer work at Tungamah Primary School creates great community spirit in Tungamah, and her volunteer work cleaning the toilets and showers daily fosters tourism within the town of Tungamah and the Moira Shire. The five stars that the Tungamah RV Park has on WikiCamps is attributed to the work she and her husband volunteer to do in the care and maintenance of the park's amenities, which is of great benefit to the Shire and the town of Tungamah.



Linda Schimer Numurkah

Linda has lived in Numurkah district all her life. She is a member of the Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc (10 years), the Numurkah and District Garden Club Inc (3 years), and the Numurkah and District Historical Society Inc (11 years). She is also a Legatee who regularly visits and aids a number of war widows in Numurkah district. This is a caring role she shares with her husband. Always energetic, she is frequently one of the first to put up her hand to volunteer when help is needed with a task. She is a tireless worker for the Historical Society in all its endeavours.

Linda is a member of the Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society Committee. She has been Steward for the Photography, Cropping and Wool Sections at the Annual Show for several years. In 2025, Linda, along with other Show Society members, was actively involved in replacing old pavilion display boards with new ones as part of the organisation and preparation prior to the Show.

Linda was a key member of the Numurkah 150th Anniversary Planning Committee. She took on a leadership role in selecting and setting up special displays at the Showgrounds and at the President's Room, as well as organising the horse demonstrations for the celebrations.

Linda's "can do" attitude is of huge benefit to the community. Her willingness to be involved is a positive example for others to follow. Her active participation in planning for the 2025 Sesquicentenary activities in Numurkah and Wunghnu contributed to the success of each event. Her artistic skills were invaluable in the design phase of the Numurkah History Signs Project, which will be of interest to visitors to Numurkah for years to come. Linda has supervised visiting groups of school children during their tours of the Museum, answering questions and pointing out special exhibits. Linda also helps to maintain the Yarwood Pavilion in Rotary Park where examples of historic restored farming implements are displayed.



Amanda Wheaton Yarrowonga

Amanda's tireless dedication to basketball and her broader community involvement have made a lasting impact on countless individuals, particularly young people and women in sport. Amanda has served as both President and Committee Member of YMBA. Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping the direction and growth of basketball in our community. Her long-standing commitment has been recognised with a YMBA Life Membership.

Amanda has significantly increased participation in basketball within our community. Providing safe, structured, and positive activities. This has reduced social isolation and encouraged healthy lifestyles. Increasing female participation has promoted equality in sport, giving girls and women greater opportunities to be active, confident, and connected. Inspiring others to volunteer as coaches, umpires and committee members, strengthening civic engagement.

Amanda has been the driving force behind the campaign for a new basketball stadium, recognising the need for modern facilities to support the growing demand and secure the future of basketball in our region.

Amanda's contributions extend far beyond the basketball court. She has fostered a sense of community, inclusivity and pride, inspiring young athletes and volunteers alike. Her vision and persistence have ensured that basketball is not only a sport but a vehicle for personal growth, teamwork, and community connection. Amanda exemplifies the qualities of a Star Achiever: leadership, service, and a commitment to creating opportunities for others. Her legacy is evident in the thriving basketball community that she has nurtured and the countless lives she has touched.



Dianne Sampson Tungamah

Dianne has been a serving member of the Tungamah (Tharanbegga) Cemetery for over 25 years which has included several terms as secretary — a position she still holds today. Dianne is also a long-term member of the Tungamah Hall Committee, an outstanding member of the Tungamah Bowling Club and has worked tirelessly over many years for the Tungamah Football and Netball Club.

Dianne demonstrates care and professional advice to families who have lost a loved one. Dianne is contact person who helps families, undertakers, stone masons and grave diggers through these processes — a huge responsibility. Dianne also coordinates cemetery meetings, ensures the correct documentation is submitted to the Crematorium and Cemeteries Victoria and informs the Trust members.

Dianne has been instrumental in obtaining grants for the cemetery which includes a new toilet block, rotunda and new lawn bowls section and she is currently working on applying for a grant to improve the safety of our cemetery.

Dianne is a very good role model for the local community as she quietly goes about her work, not seeking any recognition. Many people would not realise the amount of time and effort Dianne contributes to the wider community — she has supported all events in and around Tungamah all her life. Some of these include the Church, Kindergarten, Primary School, Hall committee, Football and Netball Club, Bowling Club, Cemetery, Historical Society and CRC. Dianne is a deserving nominee for the Star Achiever of the Year award.



Pamela O'Dwyer Tungamah

Pam has lived in Tungamah for 33 years and is an integral part of the Tungamah and Yarrowonga community. Pam is a dedicated wife and has children and grandchildren. She is a carer for her husband.

Pam is an active CFA member. She has been the treasurer and community safety officer for 8 years. Pam used to volunteer at the Tungamah Kindergarten and Tungamah Primary School where she helps cook meals and cleans. Pam has previously dressed up as Captain Koala which is a testament of her character. She used to volunteer to clean the town public toilets. She was an active member of the Tungamah Primary for nine years where she organised multiple fundraisers, BBQs and School Fetes. She also went on many school excursions. Pam was School Council President for many years.

The Moira Shire relies on CFA volunteers to keep the community safe, and Pam is Tungamah's most active firefighter.


As part of the CFA Pam organises the Good Friday Appeal every year, encouraging community members to get involved, installing smoke alarms, organising the event and buying chocolates for the local children out of her own pocket. She also runs the yearly CFA Christmas event. Pam has been to over 35 emergency calls this year, making her the member with the most call outs in the Tungamah brigade. She is well known by all firefighters in the area for being knowledgeable and a good leader. She also runs other community events including fire safety education at the local kindergarten. The community knows that if anything needs to be done that Pam will help. Pam volunteered at a nursing home in Yarrowonga for many years where she helped make memory books with the residents. Pam is a deserving recipient of the Star Achiever of the Year award.

Past Winners

	STAR	Shining Star	Young Star	ACE Star	Community Star
2023	Phillip Ross-Soden <i>Strathmerton</i>	Emily Ford <i>Tungamah</i>	Emily Davies <i>Cobram</i>	Cobram Secondary College <i>Pedal Empowerment Program</i>	Eden Farm <i>Multicultural Festival 2022</i> Cobram Barooga Business and Tourism <i>Tri State Games 2022</i>
2024	Debbie Hayes <i>Tungamah</i>	Cadence Pang <i>Cobram</i>	Emily French <i>Cobram</i> Cameron Sneddon <i>Cobram</i>	Katamatite Lions Club <i>Silo Art Project</i>	Dutch Thunder Wildlife Rescue Inc. <i>Koonoomoo</i>
2025	Dario Prighel <i>Yarrowonga</i>	Nikita Carroll <i>Yarrowonga</i>	Cedric Pang <i>Cobram</i>	Numurkah and District Historical Society	Cobram SES Unit

2025 Achiever Awards Recipients





On behalf of Moira Shire Council, thank you
to all nominees for their amazing efforts
and achievements.

Together, our communities shine brightly.