



Nominations Guide: Local Government Regional **NAIDOC Awards 2024**

Hosted by Shoalhaven City Council



Join the celebration, nominate today!

The Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards celebrate the amazing contributions and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in six different categories.

This year's NAIDOC theme **KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD** honours the enduring strength and vitality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"The resilience of mob, our shared experiences, collective memories and kinship is a source of tremendous pride...We honour the flame of the fire, kindling the sparks of pride and unity, igniting a renewed commitment to acknowledging, preserving, and sharing the cultural heritage that enriches our nation...This year's theme is a clarion call to continued unity and solidarity for all Australians to come together and celebrate."

- National NAIDOC Committee Co-Chair, Aunty Lynette (Dr) Riley -

"'Blak, Loud, and Proud' encapsulates the unapologetic celebration of Indigenous identity, empowering us to stand tall in our heritage and assert our place in the modern world...This theme calls for a reclamation of our narratives, an amplification of our voices, and an unwavering commitment to justice and equality."

- National NAIDOC Committee Co-Chair, Steven Satour

If you know someone, or an organisation or business in Shoalhaven, Kiama, Shellharbour, or Wollongong that has made a big difference in our community, you can nominate them for Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards 2024.

The winners and finalists in all categories will be announced at the Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards 2024. This ceremony will take place on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre in Nowra.

For more information about the Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards 2024 please scan the QR code below or visit Shoalhaven.gov.nsw.au/NAIDOC2024



Nomination Steps

Nominations open

9am 12 February 2024

Nominations close

5pm 25 March 2024

Nominations assessed by panel

April 2024

Winners Announced

Awards Ceremony 27 July 2024

How to Nominate

To nominate, please fill out the nomination form for one of the categories listed below.

- There are three ways to complete the form: online, papercopy or a digital version of the form. See the Nominations form for 'How to Submit Your Application'.
- Consider letting the Nominee know that you are nominating them and seek their support/permission.
- You may be asked for more information after submitting your nomination to help us when assessing applications.
- Nominations for the Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards 2024 close and must be received by 5pm Monday, 25th March 2024.
- If you have any queries about the Awards or would like help completing your application please contact: CommunityConnections@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au or 1300 293 111

Who can be nominated?

- ☐ An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, community group, organisation, service, or business*.
- ☐ The nominee must be known as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person by the local community.
- ☐ The nominee must live, work, study, or do business in the Shoalhaven, Kiama, Shellharbour, or Wollongong Local Government Areas.
- ☐ If the nominee has won an award in the same category in the last three years, they can't be nominated again. However, they can still be nominated for other award categories.
- ☐ If nominated for "Elder of the Year" (Aunty/Uncle), the nominee needs to be recognised as an Elder within your local community.
- ☐ If nominated for "Young Achiever," the nominee must be a young person between 12 and 25 years old.

* Non-Aboriginal people or groups are only eligible to apply for the 'Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation' category.

How will the winner be picked?

The assessment panel will consider the following things:

- ✓ How has the nominee been an inspiration or role model for others in the community?
- ✓ How has this nominee shown outstanding contribution to the community?
- ✓ How has this made things better for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?

Award Categories

Elder of the Year (Aunty and Uncle)

This award celebrates the accomplishments of an Elder and recognises how they help and improve their local communities, life for their people, and share their culture.

Two winners will be selected for this award category:

- Aboriginal Elder of the Year – Uncle
- Aboriginal Elder of the Year - Aunty

Young Achiever of the Year

This award is for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who show excellence or strong leadership. They are seen as great role models for their local community.

Two winners will be selected for this award category.

The award aims to celebrate leadership and achievements in different areas, for example sports, school, arts, volunteering, and mentoring etc

Outstanding Contribution to the Community (Paid and Voluntary)

This award is given to someone who has been actively helping and making a positive impact in their local Aboriginal community and beyond. It honours individuals who care about their community and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander causes. The award acknowledges remarkable contributions to the community, whether through paid or volunteer efforts.

Two winners will be selected for this award category:

- Outstanding Contribution to the Community - Paid Work
- Outstanding Contribution to the Community - Voluntary Work

Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation

This award is for a person, group, organisation or business that has made an outstanding contribution towards reconciliation. This award recognises work to bring all Australians together and make positive contributions to reconciliation.

Reconciliation Australia defines “reconciliation” as “strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.”

Up to two winners may be selected for this award category.

- Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation (Aboriginal)
- Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation (Non-Aboriginal)

Examples of reconciliation actions can include:

- Supporting positive two-way relationships built on trust and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal people.
- How this person or organisation works to overcome racism in the local community.
- Supporting and contributing to Closing the Gap initiatives within the local Aboriginal community e.g. programs or support for health & wellbeing, education & employment, economic wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land & waters, languages, digital inclusion.
- Bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to create unity.
- Participating in truth-telling and helping to educate people to understand and accept the wrongs of the past and their impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Creating more opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the local community e.g. employment, education etc.

Organisation of the Year (Not for Profit and For Profit)

This award recognises Aboriginal organisations, services and business which make exceptional contributions to the local community and/or demonstrate excellence through business practice or social impact initiatives e.g. employment initiatives, teaching cultural awareness programs, promoting and selling Aboriginal creative arts etc

Up to two winners may be selected for this award category:

- Aboriginal Organisation of the Year - Not for Profit
- Aboriginal Organisation of the Year - For Profit

Caring for Country and Culture

This award is for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members, organisations, projects, or businesses who care for Country and Culture in their local community or across the Shoalhaven or Illawarra regions.

One winner will be selected for this award category.

Examples of Caring for Country and Culture may include:

- Traditional land management practises e.g. fire management programs.
- Biodiversity programs or projects e.g. planting native bush tucker gardens.
- Sharing knowledge between Traditional Custodians and land managers, such as NPWS, to create ways of taking care of the land led by Aboriginal people.
- Delivering training and/or education that helps the community protect or maintain Country.
- Creating jobs and education opportunities to educate the wider community on the importance of Country e.g. cadetships or ranger programs.
- Sharing and reviving Aboriginal language: helping to keep Indigenous language alive by teaching classes, workshops and making learning materials.
- Celebrating culture and opportunities to build community pride through connection to cultural identity: putting on events that showcase and celebrate Aboriginal traditions and include storytelling, dancing, painting and cultural ceremonies.
- Honouring Elders: making sure Aboriginal Elders are respected and supported and their stories are passed down to younger generations.
- Improving awareness of Aboriginal stories and history within community: offering opportunities for people to learn through activities such as yarning groups, workshops, school programs or training sessions for organisations and businesses.