

2022 Australia Day Awards

Information below on the nominees received for the 2022 Australia Day Awards



Congratulations to the winners and nominees in each category:

Citizen of the Year – Margaretanne Hood



In this critical and unique year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, there is one figure who stands head and shoulders above all others in the Mansfield Shire, Margaretanne Hood.

Margaretanne's has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the overall health of our community during a career that spans 38 years in nursing. Renown for her caring personality, her patients always came first. She is extremely professional, often working up to 12 hours per day. She's an excellent leader, one with compassion and someone who always maintains the highest standards.

Her extensive and varied professional career commenced in Mansfield and culminated in her being appointed as the Mansfield District Hospital Director of Nursing in 2012, a role she served in until her well-deserved retirement in October 2020.

In that time she has also been a manager of the visitor nursing service. This service coordinates home help visits and is at times extremely challenging given the geographical constraints of our Shire.

As director of nursing she was proven to be very proficient and multiskilled she was extremely supportive of the workforce and the quality of service and care that they provided making sure the hospital aligned with the safer care national standards and maintained proper staffing levels.

As a midwife she was an extremely caring and dedicated nurse. She has been, and is still, a very competent theatre nurse and since retirement and with the recent shortages of staff, added her name to the roster to help her community again.

More recently, she agreed to return from retirement and prolong her service to community health by taking on the challenge of establishing and successfully running the COVID Vaccination Clinic. This involved starting from scratch, securing and training a workforce and converting the Buckland Centre to an efficient vaccination hub.

Her exceptional leadership, ability and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our community ensured well over 100 people were fully vaccinated by mid-November.

For more information, please contact [name] [title] by [phone] or [email].

mansfield.vic.gov.au

Senior Citizen of the Year – Zaldah Kirley

Zaldah has a very long list of community service that has been undertaken during her lifetime of volunteering.

She is a businesswoman, volunteer, music entertainer, former Shire Councillor and fundraiser extraordinaire. She is the first on the doorstep of anyone in crisis offering support and assistance. At 88 years of age, she still spends her time looking out for the wellbeing of others, including her considerable family (she is the mother of 11!).

Time has not slowed her down. This great grandmother prefers to keep a low profile which also says a lot about her incredibly humble nature however, the number of people and organisations that have benefitted from her generosity and practical approach over many decades makes her a worthy winner in this category.

Nominees:

- ▶ **Sylvia Ash**, nominated for the volunteer pursuits undertaken for the Mansfield community including the time donated to playing piano at the Buckland Centre and volunteering at the Mansfield Hospital. More specifically, the programs she has established at the Library, Scrabble Club and also the Jigsaw Club, which provides vital social interaction and enrichment to the lives of the many participants who look forward to this time each week.
- ▶ **Genevieve Bolwell**, nominated for her passion and commitment to the Jamieson community which has been displayed in a myriad of ways over the past 35 years. Of significant note is work with the Catholic Church, the Jamieson Primary School and Historical Society, all of which have benefitted from her organisational skills and community mindedness.
- ▶ **Bill Copley**, nominated for the business experience and enthusiasm he has brought to his role as President of the Mansfield Mens Shed. The initiatives he has pursued have significantly contributed to the success and growth of the organisation. The strength and leadership provided in support of men's mental health and to affected families cannot be underestimated.
- ▶ **Ray Robinson**, nominated for his work within, and for, the Mansfield community. Specifically, his considerable contribution to the Mansfield Football and Netball Club over many years of involvement including taking on the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and President. Other notable contributions include municipal involvement as Councillor for Delatite and Mansfield Shire Council. He served as Mayor of Mansfield Shire Council in 2013.
- ▶ **Tom Thoburne** – nominated for numerous reasons including sporting achievements, and his loyalty which is evident in his commitment to career and family, and also for the considerable time and effort put into volunteering. His ongoing service to the SES and the leadership role he has taken on over the last 5 years is particularly commendable and ensures the safety of our community following emergency and disaster events.
- ▶ **Sue Wilson**, nominated for the volunteer pursuits she has dedicated her time to since her arrival in Australia, all of which has benefitted many organisations and groups within the Mansfield community, and further afield.

Young Citizen of the Year – Riley Tanner

This year we received numerous nominations for Riley from multiple sources. Throughout life, Riley has battled with weight due to medical condition all of his 21 years of life, but never stopped him enjoying life and more so helping others enjoy theirs. He is someone that is truly inspirational. He draws admiration from so many people because of the adversity he faces due to his considerable health issues, and the way in which he approaches life, taking every opportunity to live it to the full. This attitude is infectious and sets a wonderful example for others who also struggle with life's challenges. He is someone whose spirit ensures that he embraces all opportunities presented and enjoys his life fully, and in doing so encourages and helps others to do likewise.

Due to his health problems, he is unable to grow facial hair but decided that this shouldn't prevent him from supporting the annual Movember campaign. He set himself a target of raising \$2,000 by walking 60 kms to raise money for the campaign and to get people talking about men's health and awareness of the increase in men's suicide.

After almost hitting the wall at the 45 km mark, his incredible resolve kicked in and he completed the challenge within 24 hour goal. With the support of family, friends and the Mansfield Community (many of who joined him on and off throughout his walk) he far exceeded his target and ended up raising over \$8,000. An incredible and admirable achievement.

Nominees:

- ▶ **Jack Brudenell**, nominated for his passion for all things basketball. This extends to all areas of the sport, from considerable personal success playing the game right through to coaching, scoring and mentoring of the junior players. Sporting clubs cannot work without the input from people such as Jack and the Committee of the Mansfield Basketball Association is significantly enhanced by Jack's support and involvement.
- ▶ **Breanna Tivendale**, nominated for her instrumental contribution towards the establishment of the Mansfield Venturers Group. In her leadership role, she has ensured that the 15-18 year old youth in our community have access to activities and experiences that lead them to explore and discover their own independence, extending their personal and physical growth. These experiences assists with their mental health and broadens their perspective in many diverse situations. Her leadership qualities have a profound effect on our young people.
- ▶ **Zoe Ellen, Hayley Cotterill, Lani MacMunn, Kate Thomson** – joint nomination. Nominated for their initiative and work in creating the Bagungga Garden at the Mansfield Secondary College which was a result of their involvement in the Leadership Program. This project, as intended, will support and enhance Aboriginal learning, land use and culture for all students at the College.

Community Group or Organisation of the Year – The Mansfield Mens Shed

The Mansfield Mens Shed has grown to become an incredibly important organisation within our community providing a wonderful space for people to connect, practice skills, problem solve and is somewhere to seek out friendships.

With a current membership of over 80, the Mens Shed is also instrumental in instigating programmes that benefit and assist people with a wide variety of needs throughout our community and is particularly supportive of those from suffering mental health problems and their families.

The Mens Shed fulfils an incredibly important role by allowing men to gather, speak about or seek help for mental health issues in a safe environment knowing that “What is said in the Shed, stays in the Shed”.

Not only have the physical and mental health programmes and events saved lives, the shed also have been caring for all its members during Covid by finding ways for members to maintain contact with one another whilst in isolation and lockdown. This has been invaluable to many at a time when they were feeling isolated and alone.

Nominees:

- ▶ **Beolite Village** - Beolite Village started with a vision to provide independent affordable living for those not yet ready to enter an aged care environment and has not stopped expanding since.

Such is the demand, 55 high quality homes and a community centre have been constructed with an estimated expenditure of more than \$25m, providing continued employment for local tradespeople within the Shire.

Just as importantly, the 70 residents are well supported by many medical, personal and recreational services and are active and happy within our community. This is a credit to the Board of 10 who provide an excellent, innovative, caring and comfortable environment in which to live.

Community Event of the Year – The Rideathon (Mansfield Autism Statewide Services)

The Mansfield Rideathon is an event that first commenced 50 years ago to raise money for Mansfield Autism.

The new look rideathon gained local, regional and state attention in the lead up to the summer season through a number of events including a family friendly outdoor movie night, a High Country Bush Dance as well as the ride itself. There was also the opportunity to register online to ride towards a collective target of riding around the world whilst raising funds in support of Mansfield Autism's Operation Gamechanger.

These combined events also generated a significant spend for local businesses with the purchase of food, alcohol, promotional material advertising and support services.

Nominees:

- ▶ **Tour de Trail** (Friends of the Rail Trail) - The Tour de Trail was made possible through funding and 350 hrs of volunteer time and was successful in providing business economic stimulus and also raised awareness of the rail trial increasing visitation to our area.