

# 2026 Merri-bek Community Awards



The 2026 Merri-bek Awards are open to any group or individual whose activity or activities have improved the quality of life in Merri-bek. A nominee may be anyone who lives, works, studies, plays or volunteers in Merri-bek. **Nominations close 5pm, Monday 24 August 2026.**

## CATEGORIES (Limit of one category nomination per form)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer of the Year Award   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport and Recreation Achievement Award                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> First Peoples Cultural Leadership Award<br>(in recognition of Lisa Bellar) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Impact Award            | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Initiative of the Year Award                                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honouring Women Award         | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Creative Expression Award                                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity and Inclusion Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sustainability Award<br>(in recognition of John Englart) |   |

## NOMINEE'S DETAILS

(The person, organisation or group you would like to nominate)

Are you nominating an:

- Individual  Organisation

First name:

Surname:

Age (Youth Impact Award only):

Address:

Email:

Contact number:

Organisation (optional):

Position (optional):

## YOUR DETAILS

(The person completing this nomination)

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Email:

Contact number:

Organisation (optional):

Position (optional):

## CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATION

- I have confirmed with the nominee that they are willing to be nominated for a Merri-bek Award. I hereby declare that the information contained in this nomination regarding the nominee is to my knowledge true and accurate.

Date:

Your signature (nominator):

## SUBMITTING YOUR NOMINATION



In person:

**Merri-bek Civic Centre:**

90 Bell Street, Coburg

**Brunswick Customer Service Centre:**

233 Sydney Road, Brunswick

**Glenroy Community Hub:**

50 Wheatsheaf Road, Glenroy



Post:

Merri-bek City Council

Locked Bag 10 Brunswick, VIC, 3056



Email:

civicevents@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

## More information

9240 1111

[merri-bek.vic.gov.au/merri-bek-awards](https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/merri-bek-awards)

# 2026 Merri-bek Community Awards

## ENTRY INFORMATION

Nominations can be made for individuals or groups that live, work, volunteer or study in the Merri-bek municipality and have made special contribution to Merri-bek in 2024-2025.

### Submitted entries must include the following to be considered:

- A completed nomination form
- A written statement addressing a minimum of one selection criteria (200 – 500 words)
- Detailed information including how the nominee demonstrated excellence, overcame adversity or made a significant contribution to Merri-bek (make reference to any significant dates)
- Where possible a copy of any supporting attachments or documents

Nominations can be submitted for more than one category for the same group or individual however a separate nomination form must be submitted.

Winners of the awards will be announced at Council's Merri-bek Awards ceremony on Thursday 8 October 2026.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

### Community Initiative of the Year Award

An initiative undertaken by an individual or group of people, that has had a significant positive and meaningful impact on the Merri-bek community over the past year. This may include a group that was formed specifically to deliver a project, event, campaign or movement.

### Arts and Creative Expression Award

- Demonstrated a valuable contribution or significant achievement in arts and culture, or a strong commitment to the development of arts and cultural activities for the Merri-bek community
- The nominee must be a Merri-bek resident, or have delivered a project or made a tangible impact within the Merri-bek community

### Sport and Recreation Achievement Award

- Demonstrated outstanding contribution to sport and recreation through increasing participation, fostering inclusion and strengthening community connection, particularly for underrepresented or disadvantaged groups within the Merri-bek community.
- Achieved excellence in sport or delivered initiatives that inspire others, with clear positive impact on community wellbeing, engagement and long-term involvement in active recreation.

### Youth Impact Award

- Supported, inspired or made a valuable contribution to young people within the Merri-bek community
- The nominee must be 25 years or under on the day of the awards ceremony, of the year in which they are nominated

### Volunteer of the Year Award

- Demonstrated a dedication in volunteering, often evaluated by consistency or years of service
- Evidence that the volunteer's actions have significantly improved the Merri-bek community

### Environmental Sustainability Award (in recognition of John Englart)

- Demonstrated how the project has positively contributed to the environmental sustainability of the Merri-bek community (and potentially beyond), including its influence on attitudes toward environmental, social, and/or financial sustainability in the short term or longer term.
- Described the innovative practices or approaches used to overcome obstacles and successfully deliver project outcomes.

### First Peoples Cultural Leadership Award (in recognition of Lisa Bellear)

- Nominee has made a valuable contribution to building better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples in Merri-bek.
- Nominee has shown commitment to create positive change by encouraging community awareness about reconciliation between wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Merri-bek.

### Honouring Women Award

- This category recognises groups or individuals of all genders including men, women and gender diverse people who have made a significant contribution to advancing, supporting, or honouring women and gender equality in Merri-bek through one or more of the following:
- Encouraging participation and leadership.
- Improving health, wellbeing or human rights outcomes.
- Providing opportunities or inclusion and social cohesion in the community.

### Diversity and Inclusion Award

- Demonstrated leadership in advancing equity, inclusion and belonging within the community in line with the Merri-bek Human Rights Policy, which may include initiatives that support LGBTIQ+ inclusion, improve disability access, promote cultural safety or actively address racism.
- Showcased innovative or impactful approaches that create inclusive environments, increased participation or influence positive, lasting change in attitudes, behaviours and opportunities for diverse community members.

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE 5PM,  
MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2026**



