**2019 Youth Awards Fact Sheet**

The Mildura Rural City Council Youth Awards have been established to recognise young people between 12 to 25 years of age, for their achievements and contributions to the community.

The awards program aims to recognise a diverse range of young people with varying potential and skills. The criteria that the applications will be assessed against is listed below. Please note that the application does not have to meet all of the criteria, however the more points of the criteria that are met, the stronger the application will be.

**AWARD CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA**

**Youth Carer Award**

This award recognises an individual who is a carer for a family member, relative or friend with a disability, mental illness or chronic condition.

This may be demonstrated through performing tasks such as;

* Caring for others by cooking, banking, and shopping, driving and daily chores.
* Generally giving his or her time to making life more comfortable for someone else.
* Balances caring, work, school and/or studies commitments.

**Youth Volunteer Award**

This category recognises a young person who regularly gives up his or her valuable time and effort for the benefit of the community or an organisation.

This may be demonstrated through the following:

* Commitment to volunteering.
* Addressing a community need or issue.
* Has organised or been involved in a community group or activity which has improved people’s lives.
* Made a positive contribution to an organisation or group that is community focused.
* Encouraged others to participate in the community.

**Youth Community Group Award**

This category recognises a group of young people who have shown outstanding dedication through their involvement or participation in the community and have made a significant difference.

This could be a group that demonstrates any of the following:

* A team or group committed to the improvement of the wellbeing of others. For example helping others in a time of need, a community group, a church group, school group or charity organisation that creates a stronger caring community
* A team or group that inspires and/or empowers others to add value or participate voluntarily in the community with a positive, caring attitude.

Please note - 80 per cent of the group members need to be between the ages of 12 and 25 to be eligible for this award.

**Youth Artist** **Individual Award**

This category recognises a young person who has demonstrated initiative, innovation and made a positive community contribution through drama, visual arts, performing arts, technical support, debating, literacy pursuits or music.

This may have been demonstrated through any of the following:

* Being supportive and actively involved in the visual arts or performing arts industry.
* Making a particular effort to mentor or teach others in their chosen activity
* Using their talent to volunteer or make a contribution to the community

**Youth Artist Group Award**

This category recognises a group of young people who have shown outstanding dedication through their involvement or participation in the community and have made a significant difference.

* Live performance or displays aimed at enhancing the local visual or performing arts profile or participation
* Being supportive and actively involved in the visual arts or performing arts industry.
* Making a particular effort to mentor or teach others in their chosen activity.
* Showcasing these talents to the community in various ways.

Field could include (but not limited to)

* Singing, playing an instrument, dance, drama, circus, street performance or comedy acts.
* Being part of an ensemble, dance groups or band or performing solo.

Please note - 80 per cent of the group members need to be between the ages of 12 and 25 to be eligible for this award.

**Youth Environmental Group Award**

This category is for young people who are committed to living a sustainable lifestyle, advocate for positive change and is passionate about the conservation of the natural environment.

This may be demonstrated through any of the following:

* Actively involved in projects to protect and enhance the natural environment
* Raise community awareness, understanding and information-gathering on environmental/sustainability issues within our community
* Provide a greater sense of community ownership of our environment
* Assist the community to deliver activities that support environmental outcomes.

Please note - 80 per cent of the group members need to be between the ages of 12 and 25 to be eligible for this award.

**How to enter:**

1. Read the information package and select the category which best suits the applicant’s achievements.
2. Complete the application form which is available at [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Council-Services/Youth](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Council-Services/Youth) or from any of our Service Centres.
3. One application form per category, per person, or one application form per group.

**NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

* Nominees must be between 12 and 25 years of age as of 1 January 2019
* Nominees must either live, work, volunteer or study in the Mildura Rural City Council municipality. Preference is given to nominees whose application displays involvement or participation within the Mildura Rural City Council community.
* Applicants who have moved due to study or work commitments are still eligible to enter if they have lived, worked, volunteered or studied in Mildura region over the previous 12 months.
* Applicants must consent to the nomination.
* Emphasis is given to qualities displayed within the nominated category over the previous 12 months. Consideration is still given to involvement in this category prior to these 12 months.
* Information on the nomination form will be assessed against the judging criteria
* Recipients of a Youth Award in the previous two years will not be eligible to be nominated for an award in their winning category. However, they can be nominated for another category.
* Winners of previous Youth Awards can only apply for a different category to that which they previously won, except in the group awards category where if a minimum of 80 per cent of members were not part of the group which won the award, then they are eligible to apply again.
* For any group nominations, at least 80 per cent of the group members must be between 12 and 25 years of age
* Nominations may only be made on the official Entry Form by mail, email or hand delivered.
* All nomination information and material submitted remains the property of Mildura Rural City Council and may not be returned.
* Nominees agree to make themselves available without cost for publicity purposes as required prior to and after the awards presentation.
* Nominees agree to allow the use of their nomination information for publicity purposes.
* Those selected as finalists should be available to attend the awards night (inability to attend does not disqualify entry).
* A nomination can be withdrawn at any stage at the judge’s discretion, if a recipient’s character is called into question.
* The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

Judging will be based on the Application Form, achievements during the past year, participation in their chosen field and selection criteria.

All young people nominated will be recognised for their achievements and or contribution to the local community. The individual award winners will receive a $100 voucher and a certificate from Mildura Rural City Council. Winning groups will receive $200 and a certificate from Mildura Rural City Council.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information or assistance with the nomination application please contact the Youth Development Officer, Barbara Clifford on (03) 5018 8293 or email [youthservices@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthservices@mildura.vic.gov.au)