



*From top left: Dale Towell, Darrell Weekes, Eva Tonks, Claire Tonks, Fiona Young
Bottom left: Graeme Welsh, Ruth Doggett, Alexander Skeffington, Sid McPherson, Hannah Orr and Robert Fletcher with Hephner the Alpaca*

Young Citizen of the Year

Hannah Orr

Hannah is a 13-year-old girl dedicated to serving her community, with over 14 months of active involvement in the Goulburn Mulwaree Youth Council. She successfully advocated for a pedestrian crossing at her high school for safety and has contributed to events like the Lilac Festival and a community bike ride. In addition to speaking at the Southern Tablelands Women's Breakfast and attending the NSW Youth Conference, Hannah plays the bagpipes in the Goulburn Pipes and Drums,

competes in Goulburn Physical Culture Dance, and is part of the Mulwaree High School Social Justice Committee, organizing fundraisers and running a free school opportunity shop.

Citizen of the Year

Dale Towell (finalist)

Dale is nominated for her outstanding contributions as Secretary of the Organising Committee for the 100th Anniversary of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix and as the former Secretary of the Classic Riders Club of Goulburn. Joining the GP Committee in 2023, she played a key role in organising the event, including researching family descendants' of 1924 participants and creating a Commemorative Booklet. With seven years of experience as Secretary of the Classic Riders Club, Dale managed rally routes, coordinated events, and led the Swap Meet Committee for one of Australia's top motorcycle events. Additionally, she serves on the Bendigo Bank Board and works as a Civil Celebrant, demonstrating her commitment to the community.

Ruth Doggett (finalist)

Ruth Doggett is the current Liaison Officer and President of Can Assist for Goulburn and Districts, a group formed in 2010 to support local people battling cancer by assisting with treatment-related costs. Despite having only eight members, the group organizes 10-12 fundraising events each year, with all funds going directly to local families. Since its inception, Can Assist has helped 493 families. In addition to her work with Can Assist, Ruth is a member of the Goulburn Quilters group, contributing to quilts donated to the oncology unit for patient comfort. Ruth's tireless efforts make a significant impact on the local community.

Robert Fletcher (finalist)

Robert Fletcher, alongside Hephner the Alpaca, is nominated for their outstanding contributions to charity, particularly in mental health and wellbeing. The duo has raised thousands of dollars through fundraisers and volunteered at local nursing homes, childcare centers, and disability services, making a significant impact on the community. Their work has gained national and international recognition, especially after Hephner's famous sneeze during a meeting with the King of England, which brought attention to Goulburn. Despite their newfound fame, Robert and Hephner remain humble, continuing to support local events and causes with selflessness.

Jock McLean (finalist)

Jock McLean is nominated for the Goulburn 2025 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award for his outstanding contributions to the community. He has played a pivotal role at the Lieder Theatre Company, directing youth productions, mentoring young actors, and organizing events. Jock is also active in the Goulburn Club, supporting the community through event management and live music. In addition, he lectures at 3WA, further enriching the region. His dedication, leadership, and lasting impact on Goulburn make him a deserving nominee for the award.

Graeme Welsh (finalist)

Graeme Welsh is nominated for the 2025 Goulburn Citizen of the Year for his exceptional contributions over 45 years. A lifelong resident, Graeme has led in both professional and volunteer roles. As Group Captain of the Rural Fire Service Southern Tablelands Zone, he coordinated fire

brigades and responded to emergencies, including the 2020 bushfires, earning the NSW RFS Life Membership Award. He also volunteers as an auctioneer for charity fundraisers, supports Goulburn Can Assist, and has been involved in local initiatives like the Hydrotherapy Pool, youth sports, and environmental advocacy.

Noel Brian Sylvester

Noel Brian Sylvester is nominated for the 2025 Goulburn Citizen of the Year for his outstanding community contributions. A long-term Goulburn Mulwaree resident, Noel has volunteered with emergency services and community organizations for many years. He served 22 years with the Windellama Rural Fire Brigade, was a founding member of the Windellama First Responders and SES, and played a key role in local emergencies, including a critical bus accident in 2015. Noel has also contributed to the Tarago Men's Shed and made toys for the Windellama Christmas Giving Tree. His service has earned him prestigious awards.

Courtney Hirst

Courtney Hirst is nominated for her exceptional contributions to the Goulburn community through the Mummas and Munchkins Group, which she founded on Facebook to support mothers. The group offers regular meet-ups, child-friendly activities, and social opportunities, helping mothers build friendships and avoid isolation. Courtney also organizes monthly relaxation events for mums, visits the Masonic Nursing Home, supports local mums in business, and hosts book readings. In addition, she has volunteered at the Goulburn Show and works in childcare. Her dedication and efforts have positively impacted many families, making her a deserving nominee.

Michael Parsons

Micheal is nominated for his exceptional dedication as a caring colleague and his volunteer work with Meals on Wheels for over 31 years, including 9 years as president. With more than 40 years of service to the organization, he has made a significant impact in supporting the community through his commitment to helping those in need.

Kay Rudd

Kay is nominated for her outstanding advocacy and support for people with disabilities in the community. As a dedicated volunteer, she ensures individuals with disabilities receive the assistance they need at events and regularly contributes to community projects. Kay is an active member of the Goulburn Disability Forum, inspiring others to get involved, and is also a local business owner and member of the Goulburn Chamber of Commerce. She played a key role in the Goulburn Hospital Redevelopment Committee. Her selfless dedication and proactive approach make her an exceptional nominee.

Community Event of the Year

International Day of People with a Disability

The International Day of People with Disability Community Event 2024 is nominated for Event of the Year for its focus on inclusion and disability awareness. Held on December 3rd, the event attracted over 500 attendees and featured more than 50 stakeholders. Activities included wheelchair basketball, adaptive cricket, and chair Zumba. Highlights were an inspiring speech by Paralympian

Luke Pople and participation from local schools, promoting disability education. Supported by community organisations, the event offered free admission and a BBQ, showcasing people with disabilities running micro-businesses, reinforcing Goulburn's leadership in disability inclusion.

100th Anniversary of the First Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix in Goulburn

The 2024 Centenary Celebration of Australia's First Motorcycle Grand Prix is nominated for Community Event of the Year for its remarkable tribute to Goulburn's motorsport heritage. The three-day event, attracting over 10,000 visitors, featured a commemorative ride along the original 80-kilometer course, connecting participants to the 1924 Grand Prix history. Highlights included a street cruise, a motorcycle expo with rare machines, and a prestigious Gala dinner. The event showcased Goulburn's key role in Australian motorsport, fostered community engagement, and generated significant economic benefits, celebrating history, heritage, and community spirit.

Tallong Apple Day

The Tallong Apple Day Festival, run by a dedicated group of volunteers, is a beloved annual event that unites the community through fundraising and celebrates the region's apple heritage. The festival showcases local exhibitors, crafts, and produce, while offering a variety of activities for visitors of all ages. Each year, it attracts thousands of attendees, with the 2024 festival being its most successful yet. The event not only highlights Tallong's agricultural history but also supports local businesses and fosters a strong sense of community pride and engagement. It remains a key event in the region's calendar.

Junior Sports Person of the Year

Alexander Skeffington

- Australian Cross Country Championships (12th)
- NSW state Cross Country Championships (3rd)
- Australians All Schools Cross Country (25th)
- NSW All Schools Cross Country (6th)
- NSW CCC Cross Country (1st)
- Australian Track and Field Championships 3000m (12th), 1500m (22nd)
- NSW All Schools Track and Field Championships 3000m (8th), 1500m (9nd)
- NSW CCC Track and Field Championships, 1500m (3rd)
- Trinity Catholic Collage, Archdiocesan and NSWCCC Cross Country Age Champion 2024
- Shows extreme dedication to his running and has been a mentor to younger students both at TCC and the Athletics Club

Elsie Apps

- National Track Championships (Cycling) - Womens Under 17 Team Pursuit 3rd, Womens Under 17 Scratch Race 2nd, Womens Under 17 Keirien 2nd, Womens Under 17 Omnium 2nd, Team Sprint JW17 2nd
- National Road Championships - Womens Under 17 Road Race 3rd
- NSW Track Championships (Cycling) - JW17 Individual Pursuit 2nd, JW17 Keirin 2nd, JW17 Sprint 3rd, JW17 Points race 3rd, Scratch Race JW17 1st Madison JW17 1st, Omnium JW17 2nd, JW 17 ITT 3rd
- VIC Road Championships - JW17 Road Race 1st, JW Time Trial 1st
- NSW Road Championships - JW17 Time Trial 1st, JW17 Road Race 2nd, JW17 Criterium 2nd

- NSW Track Championship Team Pursuit JW17 1st, Team Spring 2nd
- NSW Time Trial Champion
- 2024 Senior Sportswoman of the Year - Trinity Catholic College
- Elsie has been selected by the Australian Cycling Academy to be part of the Jayco Alula, Skip Capital Team. This will involve representing her team, living in Belgium and racing over Europe for 3 months in 2025.

Sid McPherson

- Selected for NSW in the Australian U14s Hockey Championships in Perth
- Selected for the NSWCCC Hockey team
- Selected in the ACT U14s Futures Talent Academy (Hockey)
- Member of the U16s NSW Pathways and Performances Program (Hockey)
- Co-Captain of the Goulburn District Hockey Association U14s representative team.
- Member of the Goulburn District Hockey Association U16s rep team.
- Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese Representative in Cross Country and Athletics.
- NSWCCC Representative in Cross Country and Athletics.
- 2024 Junior Sportsman of the Year - Trinity Catholic College