



**2025 Banana Shire
Australia Day Award Nominee**

Acacia Ferry

Acacia Ferry has a passion for the arts and helping others. She is an accomplished artist, holding two exhibitions and being commissioned to create personalised pieces. Acacia uses her art to instill the importance of community and to create a pathway for sharing personal experiences of life with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). On top of her own artworks and exhibitions, Acacia has undertaken volunteer work at St Joseph's Kindergarten with the Uplift Art Program, showing a commitment to nurturing future generations.

Nominated by: Sarah Larsen (Hayshead Studio) & Kylie Caughey



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Adisyn Dodson

Adisyn Dodson's dedication and passion for her dancing is an inspiration to those around her. In 2024 Adisyn starred locally in a junior lead role at Moura School of Ballet's annual recital, excelled at the ADA State Championships in Rockhampton, and performed beautifully on the Gold Coast at the Dreamworld TP World Dance Tour Country Fair. Adisyn was awarded with the "Promising Ballet Dancer" Bursary for Moura School of Ballet. She is also an accomplished Cattle Stud Groomer, Exhibitor & Judge. Competing in many events throughout Queensland in 2024, Adisyn shows commitment and determination well beyond her years.

Nominated by: Hannah Tolliday



**2025 Banana Shire
Australia Day Award Nominee**

Alana Changuion

Alana Changuion's devotion to the Moura Playgroup's annual Under 5's Day event is unmatched. Alana spends weeks creating one of the most loved attractions at the event, a mini IGA shop complete with toy money, allowing the kids to recreate an everyday requirement of home in a fun and independent way. Alana also volunteers every year for the Moura Coal and Country Festival. From manning the entrance gates, to set up and pack down, there is no job too big or small for Alana to help with.

Nominated by: Rejuana Neumann



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Allan Hayward

Allan Hayward is a talented and passionate musician. His desire to not only play music, but to teach and perform has become a reality through hard work, commitment and determination. Being mostly self-taught, Allan has played a variety of instruments as a member of numerous ensembles. He has self-recorded his own album and worked as a tutor for many years. Despite an accident in 2020 that could have seen him never pick up an instrument again, Allan has not only overcome but surpassed so many obstacles to pursue his lifelong passion. Along with his performances and his diligent mentoring of others, Allan brings skill, knowledge and inspiration to all those around him.

Nominated by: Fiona Hayward



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Annie Stephenson

Annie Stephenson is an inspirational woman who brings so much to her community through her singing, community group performances and volunteer work. She has a bubbly personality and beautiful voice, which she uses for the good of those around her. Annie can be found performing at every Lion's Markets event in Moura to raise money for many deserving causes. She also performs at various volunteer events such as the Biloela Centenary Celebrations, Moura Christmas Street Party, Moura Annual Lions Seniors Christmas Dinner, Baralaba Aged Care, Theodore Seniors Christmas Luncheon, and many more. Annie uses her talent for the gain of others and always puts her community first.

Nominated by: Elizabeth Camplin & Karen Botha (Moura Real Estate)



**2025 Banana Shire
Australia Day Award Nominee**

Anthony Watson

Anthony Watson is a hardworking and generous member of the community. Through his work and volunteering over the last 30 years, Anthony has made a positive impact, showing dedication and passion. He has been commended on a high level for his firefighting capabilities that have been used to serve and help save his community many times.

Nominated by: Chennae Watson



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Ashley Cook

Ashley Cook is a successful recording Country Music Artist who positively promotes the community through his music. His collaboration of music with others shows love and passion for our region. Ashley's contributions to the Biloela Centenary Celebrations saw many local musical talents take the stage at the family fun day, where he also performed his own song 'Bilo's Going Strong', written to celebrate 100 years of Biloela.

Nominated by: Sandy Rinaldis



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Ava Haine

Ava Haine is an outstanding member of Moura, known for her extensive contributions to both her local and broader communities. In 2024 alone, she took on numerous volunteer roles while excelling academically, earning Dux of her graduating class and maintaining a school-based apprenticeship with Anglo American at Dawson mine. Her extensive list of volunteer activities includes mentoring older adults through the Queensland Government's Young Mentors Intergenerational Pilot Program, co-leading the Anglo American Wellbeing Expo, and assisting at the Moura Coal and Country Festival. She has also volunteered at the RSL, organised fundraising initiatives as part of the Student Council, and supported early childhood development at the Anglo American Under 5's Day. Ava has played a significant role in promoting STEM education as a QMEA Ambassador and has served as a representative for young women in resources through her work with Woman in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) and Country to Canberra. Additionally, as a member of the Moura Advisory Council and the Multi-Purpose Health Service Auxiliary, she has provided a youth perspective on local issues and supported health service initiatives. Her dedication and leadership across these various projects demonstrate not only her commitment to her community, but also her capability as a role model for her peers.

Nominated by: Hannah Tolliday



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Ava Haine

Ava Haine is an exceptional young woman committed to community advocacy and support. As an ambassador for the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, she promotes youth engagement and STEM education. She participated in the Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) Girls in Resource Leadership Skills (GIRLS) Program, where she received mentorship and served as Master of Ceremonies for a state event. Ava also engaged in AFS Global programs focused on sustainable development and mentored older adults in digital literacy. She won the Country to Canberra competition, advocating for rural equality and women's leadership, and co-chaired the Australian Association for Adolescent Health National Conference to address rural health needs. Additionally, she has led mental health initiatives at the Anglo American Wellbeing Expo and is actively involved in the Moura Advisory Council and Multi-Purpose Health Service Auxiliary.

Nominated by: Hannah Tolliday



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Bianca Swift

Bianca Swift's work at the Biloela Bowls Club has brought a variety of enriching cultural activities to the community. She has worked to bring live music, special interest nights, trivia, paint and sips, and more to the venue which provides an important meeting place for the community, fostering connections and wellbeing.

Nominated by: Sharon Hare



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Chelmer Roots

Chelmer Roots was an outstanding member of the Biloela community for over 65 years. Throughout her life, her talent at the piano and organ brought joy and comfort to those around her, even as she continued to play in her later years at Wahroonga Retirement Village and St Gabriels Anglican Church. Chelmer was a pioneer for women's involvement in rugby league and her dedication to the Callide Rugby League Club as an executive committee member for many years, was rewarded with their highest honour of life membership. Chelmer was an active member of the Biloela branch of the CWA, holding many executive committee roles during her service of over 50 years. In 2020 on International Women's Day, Chelmer was recognised as a 'Living Treasure'; for her active volunteering services within the community for more than 65 years.

Nominated by: Di Morris



**2025 Banana Shire
Australia Day Award Nominee**

Courtney Gould

Courtney Gould's talent, dedication, and generosity enriches the community of Biloela, leaving a legacy of creativity and compassion. She is both an author and a mentor, inspiring everyone that she meets. Her contributions ripple outwards, extending far beyond her own work and touching lives in profound and meaningful ways. Courtney has made an impactful contribution to the local writing scene where she has become a guide for budding authors. She generously shares her insights into the often-daunting worlds of publishing and editing.

Nominated by: Tia Kalinya (Biloela Body, Mind & Soul)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Darryl Shorten

Darryl Shorten is a volunteer Director of Water Ski Central Queensland. He has a strong passion for educating others in the sport of water skiing. Darryl humbly coached local water skiing champion, Mel Collins, to victory at many titles locally and overseas this year alone. He has overcome obstacles to ensure the continuance of the Moura Ski Competition which involved moving the entire event to Theodore this year. Though an accomplished and talented skier himself, Darryl chooses to spend most of his time and effort coaching those around him to learn and enjoy this wonderful sport, and his dedication is something to be admired.

Nominated by: Elyce Davies



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Dave Pitfield

Dave Pitfield is a committed and generous Cub Leader for Biloela Scout Group. He undertakes regular training to expand on his skills to bring more activities to the group and the region. Dave spends his free time organising fundraising events and contacting local support organisations to continually provide a better service to his community.

Nominated by: Naomi Pitfield (Biloela Scout Group)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Dawsen Dodson

Dawsen Dodson has had a very successful year dancing and representing Moura School of Ballet. In both exams and performances, Dawsen's love for her dance shines through. Her representation of Moura School of Ballet has seen her dance in both Rockhampton and on the Gold Coast. Dawsen is also showing a lot of promise as an up-and-coming Cattle Stud Groom, Exhibitor and Judge, competing in events from Moura to Rockhampton.

Nominated by: Hannah Tolliday



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Elise Petty

Elise Petty is a dedicated young athlete in both swimming and netball. Elise qualified for the 2024 Hancock Prospecting Queensland Championships at the Brisbane Aquatic Centre. In this event she represented the Biloela Swimming Club in two individual events and a relay team. In 2024, she also competed in the Queensland Sprint Championships in three individual events. Elise joined the Port Curtis Under 12s Netball team, participating in weekly club matches, and represented the Biloela Netball Association at the Junior State Age Championships. Elise was also selected for the Capricorn Netball Stars Development Program in 2024 and will continue in 2025.

Nominated by: Helene Marcussen (Biloela Amateur Swimming Club Inc.)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Gwen Evetts

Gwen's voluntary work reflects a genuine passion for the arts. She has been involved with the Banana Shire arts scene in multiple areas, including as a member of the Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery volunteers' team. She has also played a vital role by running captivating and inspiring workshops promoting artistic expression, particularly among children. Gwen has been fostering creativity and enrichment of those around her for years. Gwen's artwork can be admired in many public art installations in Biloela adorning power poles in Kariboe Street. Through her dedication, generosity and artistic vision, Gwen has made a lasting impact on the cultural fabric in our region.

Nominated by: Di Corfield



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Heidi Morris

Heidi Morris's passion and dedication for her dance has seen her excel in 2024. She starred in a junior lead role at Moura School of Ballet's annual recital and was awarded as the most improved contemporary dancer. Heidi also competed at the Australian Dance Association State Championships in Rockhampton, the Gold Coast's "C-GEN Creative Generation – State Schools on Stage" production, and the Dreamworld TP World Dance Tour Country Fair. Heidi's discipline to master her routines is shown in her successes. In addition to her dancing, Heidi is a valuable member of the Moura State School Band, Moura Marlins Amateur Swimming Club, and has represented the Dawson Valley Public Speaking Team.

Nominated by: Hannah Tolliday



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Jacy Austin

Jacy Austin is second to none when it comes to her commitment and exceptional contributions to the Biloela Panthers Rugby League Club and Callide Valley Touch Association. Jacy consistently demonstrates a can-do attitude and approaches every responsibility with enthusiasm and a commitment to excellence. Jacy has been instrumental in organising events and functions for both clubs. Her meticulous planning and execution have made these events successful and memorable. Jacy's capability shines through in her management of logistics, volunteer coordination, and effective communication with participants and stakeholders. She is an incredible role model who successfully encourages others to contribute while embodying the values of hard work, reliability, and selflessness.

Nominated by: Casey Drochmann



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Jaxon Dodson

Jaxon Dodson, a 9-year-old sports enthusiast, has made significant achievements in both rugby league and cattle showing. He plays for the Moura Tigers' under 10 team and has competed in notable events like the Paul Bowman Challenge Cup and the Gordon Tallis Cup with the Theodore Roosters. In cattle showing, Jaxon excels as a groom, exhibitor, and judge. He has won several awards, including first place in Junior Paraders at the Monto Show and Rockhampton Junior Beef, as well as first place in Commercial Cattle Junior Judges at Beef Australia 2024. His dedication to both sports demonstrates his determination, discipline, and love for what he does.

Nominated by: Hannah Tolliday



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Jessica Weimar

Jessica Weimar is a dedicated volunteer in the Theodore community, actively contributing to various local organisations and initiatives since her family moved there eight years ago. She plays key roles in multiple committees, including the Theodore P&C Trail Ride, Swim Club, and local football associations, where she coaches young athletes. Her leadership fosters community pride and unity, with her efforts significantly impacting youth development, water safety, and family engagement through inclusive activities. Jessica often addresses community needs with great competency and passion. Her unwavering commitment and selflessness have enriched the lives of many.

Nominated by: Anne Chater (Theodore Chamber of Commerce) & Charisse Anderson



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Jessica Weimar

Jessica Weimar is an outstanding member of the Theodore community who goes above and beyond to improve her town and deliver lasting positive change. Jessica is an integral member in a wide range of community committees and events including the Bulls and Barrels Bonanza, the Theodore P&C, the Theodore Swim Club, Junior Touch Football and the Chamber of Commerce Centenary Subcommittee to name only a few. Notably, Jessica was a driving force behind the delivery of Theodore Centenary Celebrations in 2024, communicating between multiple parties and organising volunteers. Jessica's community-minded business skills have also allowed her to secure funds for the upgrade of the Theodore Football Grounds, a project that has created a tangible benefit for the entire community. Jessica's impressive achievements are the result of her selfless, humble and dedicated attitude. She enriches and strengthens the fabric of the Theodore community and leads by example in all things. Jessica is truly an embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism, inspiring those around her to passionately invest and be involved in community life. Her community-first mindset and can-do attitude make her an invaluable asset to Theodore.

Nominated by: Charisse Anderson, Christopher Holmes (Theodore Sport and Recreation Association), Kellie McLean & Anne Chater



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Jocelyn Austin

Jocelyn Austin has made significant contributions to the Baralaba community through various roles. She has served as the Assistant Steward and Chief Steward of the Horticultural Section at the Baralaba Show, as a judge at various Theodore shows, and as a treasurer for the Baralaba Uniting Church. She has also been involved with the Baralaba Senior Citizen Association as secretary and is a long-standing member of the Baralaba Community Aged Care Association, where she has been President since 2008. Jocelyn's dedication is evident through her extensive volunteer work, including driving clients, delivering Meals-on-Wheels, and gardening. Her leadership has been crucial for the stability and success of Baralaba Community Aged Care Association, ensuring compliance with government standards and enhancing support for aged residents. Jocelyn's commitment to her community has been consistent and impactful, making her a valuable and inspirational member of Baralaba.

Nominated by: Regan Austin (Baralaba Community Aged Care Association Inc.)



**2025 Banana Shire
Australia Day Award Nominee**

Lacey Townsend

Lacey Townsend coaches soccer, squad swimming, pony club and athletics, and is a true inspiration to all athletes, young and old. She not only coaches for these not-for-profit organisations but also volunteers as a committee member, applying for grants to expand and enrich these clubs. Lacey is an invaluable asset to her community.

Nominated by: Nicole Schulz



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Marley Ellis

Marley Ellis has shown remarkable dedication to softball, participating in multiple tournaments and teams. In July 2024, Marley was selected to play in the Under 14s Aussie Drop Bears team to compete in the Babe Ruth World Series in Florence, Alabama. Marley's team achieved a silver medal, and she received player of the game honours. Marley's commitment to softball involves huge amounts of travel to enable her to play competitively with multiple teams in Rockhampton. She has earned honours such as best fielder for her team, and helped secure three championship trophies. Marley was selected for the Rockhampton Under 16s representative team and competed at the Queensland State Championships. She also contributed to the growth of softball in Taroom by mentoring younger players. In May, she attended a development clinic with Aussie Spirit players. Additionally, Marley is committed to tennis, regularly attending coaching sessions and competing in both junior and senior fixtures, achieving overall first place in a recent tournament.

Nominated by: Ashley Adcock



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Mel Collins

Mel Collins is a remarkable water skier who has represented her community on the world stage. She recently achieved great success at the World Titles in Spain, winning silver. Mel's passion for the sport of water skiing and her commitment to her community are intertwined. She consistently breaks records and trains locally on the Dawson River, inspiring others in her community to learn the sport. She actively supports their development by helping to run local ski competitions and teaching aspiring skiers. Coached by her partner, Darryl Shorten, she is dedicated to her sport and self-funds much of her journey. Mel truly deserves recognition as a world champion from our community.

Nominated by: Elyce Davies



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Natalie Stanley

Natalie Stanley is a passionate vocal instructor within the Biloela community, volunteering to help the Redeemer Lutheran College Secondary Vocal Group and various students within the region. Natalie participates in many local Art and Cultural events. Along with a team of others, Natalie helped to establish the Little Market Co in Biloela, a gift boutique that showcases and celebrates the incredible talents of local artisans and creators. She also volunteers to run Little Market Co, so it can continue to be an avenue for the creative community.

Nominated by: Sarah Conway (Redeemer Lutheran College, Biloela)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Nicole Schulz

Nicole Schulz's years of volunteering have provided an invaluable contribution to her community. Under Nicole's supervision as President of the 2024 Moura Coal and Country Festival, the event was a wonderful success. This is a testament to the countless hours and endless passion she has for her community. From ballet, soccer, swim club, Kindy, Moura State School and Moura Coal and Country Festival, the hours Nicole has given show a passion and desire for the betterment of her community and those around her.

Nominated by: Dee Lack (CQ Fitness and Wellbeing)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Nicole Canales

Nicole Canales' commitment to the Banana Shire community through volunteering and civic engagement is highly commendable. As a member of the 2023 Queensland Youth Parliament for Callide, she has advocated for rural Queensland issues and contributed to passing the youth bill "Community and Homelessness Outreach Youth Act 2023". Nicole is an active Interact volunteer with Rotary, participating in events like Day for Daniel and the Callide Valley Show. Her volunteering also includes school community activities like clean-up efforts, sorting recyclables, and the ANZAC Day March. Nicole also volunteers her time helping at Wahroonga Aged Care and continuously strives to give back to her community.

Nominated by: Nicole Canales



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Rikki Jordan

Rikki Jordan has excelled in rugby league, touch football, and athletics. Rikki has earned multiple best & fairest awards and has led her teams to success, including being runners-up in a local touch football grand final. Rikki recently won her school's age champion title for athletics and qualified for the Capricornia team making it through to competing at the State Championships in Brisbane. Her rigorous training routine and commitment to improvement inspires her teammates. Rikki consistently demonstrates true sportsmanship by encouraging her peers and celebrating their success. Beyond athletics, she is active in her community, volunteering and successfully running her own lawn mowing business.

Nominated by: Karl Stevens



2025 Banana Shire

Australia Day Award Nominee

Rosalynde Pearce

Rosalynde Pearce is a key member of the arts and cultural community of the Banana Shire. She has developed and delivered multiple arts events including community markets, and arts workshops for all ages and interests. Rosalynde is an effective communicator and has used this skill to build networks with similar community groups around Queensland. This has resulted in new programs for the Biloela community, and flourishing relationships between like-minded creatives from across the region. Rosalynde spearheaded the revitalisation of the Biloela Community Arts House and the creation of the community garden, bringing a new asset to the town. Her wonderful ability to secure grant funding has been critical in allowing the total refurbishment of the site. From a run down and neglected building, The Biloela Community Arts House is now a sound and thriving community space, in large part due to Rosalynde's passion and professional knowledge. Additionally, Rosalynde uses her business skills to source grants to make event attendance as affordable as possible for the community. Her vision and drive has grown the Banana Shire Community Arts Incorporation to over 50 members, ensuring sound fiscal management for years to come. Through her passion, leadership, and commitment, Rosalynde has been instrumental in developing the Biloela Community Arts House into a hub for the arts and cultural community.

Nominated by: Linda Meredith (Banana Shire Community Arts Inc.)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Shannon Harris

Shannon Harris is a talented sportsperson who has shown continued commitment to the sports of cricket and rugby. She is a keen and active member who has become known locally for proudly representing her town across multiple competitions including Queensland Country Rugby Union. Shannon is a versatile athlete with an interest in multiple sports and is frequently recognised for her achievements.

Nominated by: Karen Kington



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Shaynae Pearson

Shaynae Pearson is a passionate and committed cricket player. From previously playing backyard cricket casually, in just two years Shaynae has forged a path for a promising cricketing future. In her first season playing, Shaynae was selected for the 10-12 year old Girls Capricornia team and later the Under 13s Girls Central Queensland Centurion team, making history as part of the first all-girls squad in the Under 12s Intercity Carnival in February 2023. Shaynae has won multiple awards, including the John Sack Spirit of Cricket Award, and has been recognised for her achievements in academics and sports at Biloela State High School. Currently in her third year, she continues to play for the Callide Dawson Division 2 team while balancing school and work, and has been selected for the 13-15 year old Girls Capricornia team and the Under 15s Girls Central Queensland Centurion Team for upcoming championships. Shaynae's ultimate goal is to play for Brisbane Heat in the WBBL and represent Australia, showcasing her dedication and love for the game.

Nominated by: Deborah Stephenson



**2025 Banana Shire
Australia Day Award Nominee**

Sheree Adcock

Sheree Adcock's commitment to bringing gymnastics to the Taroom community is admirable. Her determination and commitment make her an outstanding coach, leading young gymnasts to competitions far and wide. Sheree's involvement with the gym provides a wonderful service to the community, bringing health and fitness to young and old.

Nominated by: Alleisha Symes (Wandoan & Taroom Gymnastics)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Taneal Perry

Taneal Perry has become a prominent figure in Biloela's wellness sector by establishing a successful nutrition, fitness and massage business. Her journey of recovery and resilience has empowered many in the community, particularly women, as she fosters connections and personal growth through events that encourage open sharing. Taneal actively supports local businesses and invests time in uplifting others while balancing her family and business roles. Her dedication has filled a gap in the wellness sector, driving positive change and solidifying her position as a respected leader in Biloela.

Nominated by: Tia T



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Tony Cock

Tony Cock is the Vice President of the Biloela Junior Cricket Association, as well as being the coach for the Junior Division 2 team for Callide Dawson Cricket. Tony is also the assistant coach to the Under 13s Central Queensland Boys team, and helps to run the Friday night social cricket games in Biloela. Tony travels extensively to fulfill these roles, not just within the Biloela region, but wherever the competition takes his teams. Tony loves teaching the kids on his teams and watching their confidence grow. He helps them at every opportunity and provides tips to improve their performance and encourage their development. Tony is a very fair person and gives recognition and praise where warranted. His coaching and knowledge with both the juniors teams and the committee is invaluable.

Nominated by: Deborah Stephenson



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Wendy Hoadley

Wendy Hoadley has been an invaluable volunteer in the Baralaba community since 2007, serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of Baralaba Community Aged Care Association and holding numerous other roles, including Secretary of the Baralaba Agricultural & Pastoral Society and the Country Women's Association. Her extensive involvement includes positions with the Playgroup, Parent's and Citizen's Association, and the Red Cross, among others. Wendy's dedication has been crucial in stabilising and supporting community organisations, particularly the Baralaba Community Aged Care Association, which helps seniors remain in their homes. Her commitment to volunteering and leadership has greatly benefited the community and deserves formal recognition.

Nominated by: Regan Austin (Baralaba Community Aged Care Association Inc.)



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

William Morris

William is a passionate and talented young athlete with a deep love for soccer. He has played for the Moura Rangers Under 16s team and represented the Strikers Football Academy and the Football Queensland's Capricornia Coast SAP Team. In addition to soccer, William is an accomplished swimmer, competing for the Capricornia Coast in State School Swimming Titles. Additionally, he represented the Moura Marlins in the Central Queensland State Championships. His achievements led to him being selected for the Queensland State Titles Team at the end of 2024. William has also represented his school and district in cross country and track events. He is known for his competitiveness, team spirit, and gracious sportsmanship.

Nominated by: Hannah Tolliday



2025 Banana Shire

Australia Day Award Nominee

Callide Valley Junior Touch Association

Kellie Keller and Kate Benecke of the Callide Valley Junior Touch Association are being nominated for their exceptional commitment to junior touch football in the community. Over the past three years, they have significantly increased participation to over 180 juniors and organised the inaugural Central Queensland Country Cup, which earned recognition as the Community Program of the Year at the Queensland Touch Awards. They prioritise creating enjoyable and educational experiences for young players through the local competition and by coordinating attendance at various carnivals. Kellie serves as the Junior Coordinator and Vice President, while Kate brings her own expertise, making them an effective leadership duo. Their efforts have fostered a nurturing environment and a sense of community among players and families, promoting teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect. Their contributions have transformed the association into a model youth sports program, making them deserving nominees for this award.

Nominated by: Casey Drochmann (Callide Valley Touch Association)



2025 Banana Shire

Australia Day Award Nominee

Biloela Mind, Body & Soul

Biloela Mind Body & Soul Community Group was founded in 2021 to promote wellbeing and community connections. Founder Tia has over twenty years of experience in Holistic Health and Personal Development Coaching. The group has regular Sound Immersion events and workshops that encourage healthier lifestyles and social engagement. The group also has a vibrant online platform for resource sharing. Beyond events, the Biloela Mind Body & Soul group advocate for local initiatives and small businesses, positively impacting the community's morale and wellbeing.

Nominated by: Meta Hann



2025 Banana Shire

Australia Day Award Nominee

Biloela Junior Cricket Association

The Biloela Junior Cricket Association Inc relies on dedicated volunteer committee members to provide local kids with opportunities to learn and play cricket. Key activities include running a well-organised canteen, overseeing Blaster Programs and social games, and managing divisional teams in competitions. The President takes personal responsibility for maintaining the turf pitch and improving facilities, while the Grants Coordinator successfully secures funding for equipment and enhancements. Other committee roles include coaching, social media management, secretarial duties, financial management, and registration. Efforts to recruit new volunteers are ongoing, as the club seeks to engage parents in supporting their children's cricket experiences.

Nominated by: Deborah Stephenson



2025 Banana Shire Australia Day Award Nominee

Biloela 100

The Biloela Centenary Advisory Committee organised a memorable 100th Birthday Celebration uniting locals, visitors, and dignitaries to honour the town's rich history. The event showcased community collaboration, featuring activities for all ages, including heritage exhibitions, story compilations from local families, a time capsule dedication, a glamorous 1920s-themed black-tie ball, a family fun day with live music and entertainment, and a grand parade with vintage vehicles. This milestone celebration highlighted Biloela's resilience and growth, allowing residents to reflect on their history while embracing the community spirit. The success of the event was attributed to the meticulous planning and efforts of the Advisory Committee, which ensured a memorable experience for all attendees.

Nominated by: Deborah Stephenson



2025 Banana Shire

Australia Day Award Nominee

Moura Coal and Country Festival

The Moura Coal and Country Festival has become increasingly popular and is highly regarded in the community. The festival features a wide range of free children's entertainment, including a petting zoo, face painting, and camel rides, making it a budget-friendly outing for families. Attendees can enjoy activities like coal shoveling, a street parade, fireworks, and various market stalls. Additional events leading up to the festival, such as a primary school colouring competition and a community concert with local talent, further involve the community in the Coal & Country Festival experience. The new committee and volunteers have made successful changes, contributing to the festival's growth and community spirit.

Nominated by: Erica Lamb



2025 Banana Shire

Australia Day Award Nominee

Housing + Health Connect

The Banana Shire Support Centre's Housing + Health Connect event successfully united the Biloela community with over 35 local service providers to enhance awareness and access to essential services. Covering areas such as housing, financial assistance, and healthcare, the event made it easy for residents to connect with services tailored to their needs. The well-organised initiative focused on inclusivity and empowerment, receiving positive feedback for fostering collaboration and raising awareness about vital services available to improve community well-being.

Nominated by: Nathan Capuano (Banana Shire Support Centre)



2025 Banana Shire

Australia Day Award Nominee

Theodore Centenary

Theodore Centenary Celebrations brought the community together to celebrate Theodore's 100-year history and the joint centenaries of the Theodore State School and the Queensland Ambulance Service. Over three days, approximately one thousand visitors enjoyed a variety of activities, including historical exhibitions, local art displays, a grand street parade, and live music. Notable guests included the Governor of Queensland and descendants of key historical figures. Highlights included the "Dancing Under the Lights" welcome dance, the dedication of the water tower mural, and the illumination of the town's name in lights. The Centenary Subcommittee and Theodore Museum played pivotal roles in organising the event, which fostered a deep sense of community pride and connection.

Nominated by: Anne Chater (Theodore Chamber of Commerce)