

# Glenorchy 2026 Community and Volunteer Awards



## Nominees

### **Agnes Frith**

Nominated for Senior Citizen of the Year

Agnes has demonstrated outstanding leadership in supporting people living with dementia and their families within the Glenorchy community, driven by compassion and a deep understanding of community need. Recognising the lack of inclusive, welcoming spaces, Agnes established the Golden Wattle Café, creating a safe and supportive environment where people with dementia and their carers can connect, socialise and access support without judgement.

Through this initiative, Agnes has encouraged open conversations about dementia, helping to reduce stigma and build greater awareness across the community. She has trained volunteers, engaged professionals and welcomed community leaders into the space, strengthening understanding and advocacy at all levels.

Her work has expanded beyond a single initiative, inspiring similar approaches in other communities and creating lasting impact for those experiencing dementia and social isolation. Agnes's leadership, empathy and commitment have significantly strengthened community connection and support.

### **Anthony (Ant) Edler**

Nominated for: Citizen of the Year and Local Hero

Anthony has demonstrated outstanding leadership through his work with the Tasmanian Bike Collective, supporting young people in Glenorchy and creating inclusive, practical programs that support young people to build skills, confidence and connection. His work provides a safe, welcoming environment for disadvantaged and at-risk youth, fostering a strong sense of belonging.

Over many years, Anthony has mentored hundreds of young people, restored and redistributed bikes, and developed recreational spaces that promote wellbeing and participation. His hands-on approach encourages resilience, teamwork and positive engagement with the community.

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Anthony's ability to bring people together, build partnerships and inspire ongoing involvement reflects a sustained commitment to community development. His work has strengthened social inclusion and created lasting opportunities for participation across Glenorchy.

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## **Areej Fatima**

Nominated for: Local Hero

Since 2023, Areej has played an increasingly important role in strengthening connection and inclusion across the Glenorchy Community. She has supported a range of community initiatives, including school engagement, mentoring and local events.

Areej's work focuses particularly on supporting women and migrant communities, helping individuals build confidence, develop practical skills and access pathways to employment. Through both in-person engagement and online community moderation, she creates welcoming spaces that foster trust and connection.

Balancing professional responsibilities with strong community involvement, Areej demonstrates leadership, compassion and initiative. Her work continues to strengthen social networks and contributes to a more inclusive and connected Glenorchy.

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## **Bao Nguyen**

Nominated for: Local Hero

Bao has made a distinctive and forward-thinking contribution to the Glenorchy community through his integration of craftsmanship, sustainability and community values. Through his work, Bao demonstrates how local enterprise can deliver broader environmental and social benefits.

Operating a zero-waste workshop, he repurposes materials and shares resources with community groups and local gardens, supporting sustainable practices and encouraging environmental responsibility.

Bao's approach reflects a strong commitment to stewardship and collaboration. By modelling sustainable practice and sharing knowledge, he is helping to build a more

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environmentally conscious and connected community.

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## **Ben Wilson**

Nominated for: Local Hero and Citizen of the Year

Ben has demonstrated strong leadership in supporting young people and promoting inclusion within the Glenorchy community. As Principal of Indie School Glenorchy, he supports young people who have disengaged from mainstream education.

Through his leadership, students are supported to rebuild confidence, complete their education and reconnect with their community. His approach combines high expectations with genuine care, helping young people achieve positive outcomes.

In addition to his professional role, Ben contributes through volunteer work that supports accessible communication. His combined efforts reflect strong leadership and a commitment to equity, strengthening inclusion and participation across Glenorchy.

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## **Eddy Steenbergen**

Nominated for: Senior Citizen of the Year

Eddy has shown exceptional dedication to community engagement and local democracy through his work in community journalism. By consistently attending Council meetings and local events, Eddy helps ensure the community remains informed and engaged.

Through clear reporting, he makes complex information accessible, supporting transparency and encouraging civic participation. His work helps residents better understand local decisions and processes.

Eddy's dedication, integrity and consistency have strengthened civic awareness and community trust. His contribution plays an important role in fostering an informed and connected Glenorchy.

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## **Grace Chia**

Nominated for: Local Hero and Citizen of the Year

Grace has made a powerful and lasting contribution to the Glenorchy community through her creative leadership and commitment to inclusion. She creates opportunities for migrants, young people and underrepresented artists to develop skills, confidence and connection.

Through workshops, mentoring and inclusive events, Grace has helped reduce isolation and build strong networks of support. Her work has expanded opportunities for diverse voices and enriched the local cultural landscape.

Grace's leadership is marked by authenticity and care. Her contribution continues to strengthen representation, belonging and opportunity across the community.

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## **Jan Southorn**

Nominated for: Local Hero and Senior Citizen of the Year

For more than 20 years, Jan has shown exceptional commitment to serving the Glenorchy community through the Claremont Community Library. She has played a central role in creating a welcoming and inclusive space for learning and connection.

The library has grown into a valued community hub under her leadership, supporting residents of all ages. Jan's role extends beyond operations to fostering a strong sense of belonging.

Her reliability, organisation and care have ensured the sustainability of a volunteer-led service. Jan's contribution has had a lasting and meaningful impact on community wellbeing.

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## **Janine Young**

Nominated for: Local Hero

Janine has played a key role in environmental conservation and community engagement in Glenorchy, driving positive change. Through her work, she has led projects that restore habitats and improve public spaces.

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Janine brings people together, creating inclusive opportunities for practical environmental action. Her approach fosters shared responsibility and community pride.

Her work not only delivers environmental outcomes but also strengthens community connection. Janine continues to create a cleaner, greener and more engaged Glenorchy.

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## **Jeff Bronstein**

Nominated for: Local Hero and Senior Citizen of the Year

Jeff has played a key role in strengthening Glenorchy's cultural life through his leadership of the Tasmanian Transport Museum. He has helped establish the museum as a vibrant, community-focused organisation that preserves and shares local history.

Under his leadership, the museum has become a place of learning, engagement and community participation. He has supported volunteers, programs and experiences that connect people of all ages.

Jeff's leadership combines vision and dedication. His work has strengthened Glenorchy's cultural identity and created lasting community value.

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## **Karen McMullen**

Nominated for: Local Hero

Karen is a passionate advocate for Glenorchy, consistently promoting the community. Through her role in local media, she consistently highlights events, organisations and initiatives.

Her involvement extends beyond her professional work, actively encouraging participation and strengthening community pride. Karen is a trusted and positive voice.

Her genuine enthusiasm and connection to the community contribute to a stronger and more vibrant Glenorchy.

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## **Kodie Kamaric**

Nominated for: Young Citizen of the Year

Kodie has demonstrated outstanding initiative as a young community member, contributing across activities that promote awareness, engagement and leadership. Through his podcast and programs, he explores issues important to young people.

Kodie actively participates in leadership opportunities and advocates for youth voice and participation. His communication skills and creativity enable him to engage others.

His work reflects resilience and ambition. Kodie continues to inspire young people to contribute positively to their community.

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## **Mala Crew**

Nominated for: Local Hero and Citizen of the Year

Mala has demonstrated sustained leadership and advocacy in strengthening inclusion and community wellbeing in Glenorchy. She has led initiatives that address safety, connection and support for diverse groups.

Her work brings people together, fostering understanding and coordinated action on community issues. Through advocacy and events, she strengthens social cohesion.

Mala's leadership is shaped by resilience, empathy and lived experience. Her work continues to build a more inclusive and connected community.

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## **Maria Jakob**

Nominated for: Local Hero and Citizen of the Year

Maria has made a lifelong contribution to the Glenorchy community through decades of dedicated volunteer service. Her work has supported a wide range of organisations and individuals.

Through fundraising, outreach and community support, Maria has strengthened connection and encouraged others to participate. She has been a role model within migrant communities.

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Her generosity, resilience and commitment have had a lasting impact, reflecting a deep sense of community responsibility.

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## **Neil Richardson**

Nominated for: Local Hero and Young Citizen of the Year

Neil has made a meaningful and emerging contribution to the Glenorchy community through his advocacy for young people. Drawing on lived experience, he has helped shape the development of the Glenorchy Youth Hub.

By sharing his story, Neil has strengthened understanding and supported the case for inclusive youth services. His contribution has helped secure support and funding for the initiative.

Neil's courage, empathy and willingness to support others are evident in both advocacy and everyday actions. His work reflects a strong commitment to community connection and support.

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## **Ron Wilds**

Nominated for: Local Hero

Ron has made a valuable ongoing contribution to the Glenorchy community through his support of local students, helping them build practical skills, confidence and engagement.

His presence supports positive learning environments and benefits students who thrive through hands-on approaches. He also supports staff to ensure programs run effectively.

Through consistency and care, Ron continues to strengthen connections within the school community.

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## **Saroja Adhikari**

Nominated for: Local Hero

Saroja has contributed across a wide range of community initiatives through her extensive volunteer work. She supports individuals across education, care, community awareness and inclusion.

Her work assists students, migrants and vulnerable community members to feel supported and connected. She also encourages others to take part in community life.

Through leadership, compassion and consistency, Saroja continues to strengthen wellbeing and participation across the community.

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## **Shaun Williams**

Nominated for: Local Hero

Shaun has played an important role in supporting community wellbeing through his actions both professionally and within the broader community. He consistently promotes inclusion, respect and safety.

He has shown leadership in challenging situations, advocating for fairness and supporting individuals when they need it most. His work builds trust and confidence.

Through his involvement in sport and community initiatives, Shaun has helped bring people together. His dedication reflects integrity and a genuine commitment to Glenorchy.

## **Winners**

**Local Hero Award** – Grace Chia and Ben Wilson

**Young Citizen of the Year** – Neil Richardson

**Citizen of the Year** – Anthony Edler

**Senior Citizen of the Year** – Jeff Bronstein