



**WHITEHORSE**  
CITY COUNCIL

# **Release of Previously Confidential Information**

on

**Tuesday 10 June 2025**

**held in the  
Council Chamber  
Nunawading Civic Centre**

## Preamble

Council is committed to open and transparent decision-making. This report was previously designated confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

This report and information contained in it and any attachment is designated as confidential information pursuant to section 3 (1) (f) as it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Following a review consistent with practices used across Victorian councils, the confidential classification is no longer required. The report is now suitable for public release, with any remaining sensitive information removed in line with legislative obligations

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Cutts, Seconded by Cr Langford

That Council:

1. Awards its Citizen of the Year 2025 to:
  - Rufina Chan JP
2. Awards its Young Citizen of the Year 2025 to:
  - Tom Walsh
3. Awards Community Achievement Awards 2025 to:
  - Forest Hill Chase Community Space
  - Geoff White
  - Jennifer Brosnan
  - Nourishing Our Neighbours
  - Bihong Wang
  - Phra Maha Boonsom Uttan
  - Brian Kemp
  - Michael Wang.
4. Resolves that this report will be made public following the official announcement of Civic Award recipients at the Whitehorse Community Dinner being held on 22 July 2025, in accordance with section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020* with the attachments containing personal information to remain confidential.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10.1 –Whitehorse Civic Awards 2025**

Council Meeting Agenda

10 June 2025

**12.1 Whitehorse Civic Awards 2025**

<b>Department</b>	Governance and Integrity Executive Manager Corporate Services
<b>Confidential</b>	<b>This report has been prepared for consideration by Council in a closed meeting, pursuant to Section 66 (1) and 66 (2) (a) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. This report and information contained in it and any attachment is designated as confidential information pursuant to section 3 (1) (f) as it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.</b>  <b>This ground applies because the matter concerns personal information.</b>

Attachment

**SUMMARY**

The Whitehorse Civic Awards recognise, acknowledge and promote the outstanding efforts of people and community clubs or groups who live, work, study or participate in the Whitehorse community.

There are three categories for the awards comprising:

1. Citizen of the Year
2. Young Citizen of the Year
3. Community Achievement Award

With the timing of the General Elections held in 2024, the beginning of a new Council term, and a decline in award nominations, the 2025 awards were postponed, and a review of the Civic Awards occurred. The review included options which are included in this report.

Nominations have been sought for the 2025 Civic Awards via Councils' website, publications and social media along with direct communication to community groups. The nominations were open for the period between 22 April to 30 May.

The award recipients will be recognised and celebrated at the Whitehorse Community Dinner on 22 July 2025.

The nominations are included as confidential attachments for review and determination.

**10.1 –Whitehorse Civic Awards 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Awards its Citizen of the Year 2025 to:
  - Rufina Chan JP
2. Awards its Young Citizen of the Year 2025 to:
  - Tom Walsh
3. Awards Community Achievement Awards 2025 to:
  - Forest Hill Chase Community Space
  - Geoff White
  - Jennifer Brosnan
  - Nourishing Our Neighbours
  - Bihong Wang
  - Phra Maha Boonsom Uttan
  - Brian Kemp
  - Michael Wang.
4. Resolves:
  - a. That this report and discussion relating to it remain confidential, except to the extent that the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) must disclose aspects of it to give effect to the resolution.
  - b. That following the public announcement of the recipients of the Civic Awards at the Community Dinner on 22 July 2025, this report, except for the attachment, will no longer be deemed confidential in accordance with section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and will therefore be released and published on Council's website.

**KEY MATTERS**

In February 2025 a review of the Civic Awards was undertaken to identify the best way to continue recognising outstanding community members while ensuring the awards remain relevant, accessible, and broadly supported.

As part of this review, several key factors were considered:

- **Event Timing and Relevance:** The Australia Day Concert is a high-profile event with a packed entertainment program, which has led to limited opportunities for the awards to receive the attention they deserve.
- **Declining Nomination Numbers:** Over the past few years, there has been a decrease in nominations.

**10.1 –Whitehorse Civic Awards 2025**

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## 12.1 (cont)

- **Comparison with other Councils:** A benchmarking exercise was conducted to compare Whitehorse Civic Awards with similar recognition programs from neighbouring councils (award categories only).
- **Alternative Presentation Options:** Given the significance of the awards, alternative options were explored to ensure recipients are appropriately acknowledged in a meaningful and celebratory setting.

A key change is to recognise successful nominees at the Whitehorse Community Dinner which is held each year.

The positive recognition of active and valued contributions by members of a community plays an important role in fostering a strong sense of community belonging and community identity. Council's commitment to its Civic Awards is an example of Council's work to strengthen and support its diverse communities within the municipality.

Nominations have been sought for the 2025 Civic Awards via Councils' website, publications and social media along with direct communication to community groups. The nominations were open for the period between 22 April to 30 May.

This confidential attachment to this report provides the listing of all nominees so Council can make decisions on the award recipients.

Through the online process, nominators provided the following details to support their nomination:

- Nominee details
- Category being nominated for
- An additional referee to support the nomination
- A submission supporting the nomination
- Additional support material (if applicable)

By the close of nominations on Friday 30 May 2025, 18\* nominations were received across the three categories. All nominations and supporting documentation are included as confidential attachments to this report.

Award	Nominees
1. Citizen of the Year	7
2. Young Citizen of the Year	3
3. Community Achievement Award	12

\*Four nominees have been nominated for more than one category, for Citizen of the Year and Community Achievement Award.

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12.1 (cont)

**DISCUSSION, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS**

The Whitehorse Civic Awards consists of the following categories:

- **Citizen of the Year** – Honouring exceptional community contributions by an individual.
- **Young Citizen of the Year** – Recognising a young person who is a leader or changemaker within the community (must be under 27 as of 1 Jan 2025).
- **Community Achievement Award** – Celebrating an individual or group who makes a difference or volunteers in the Whitehorse community.

Nominations opened on 22 April and closed on 30 May 2025.

To communicate the opportunity to nominate for an Award the following methods were used:

- key material was published in Council's Whitehorse News and other publications
- there was a focus on digital channels including social media and Council's website as well as radio and Council's on hold message.
- over 200 emails were sent to community groups and clubs on two occasions, inviting nominations.

Eligibility for the Civic Awards is:

- Nominees must be Australian citizens and unless there are exceptional circumstances, must be residents of Australia.
- The nominee must reside, study, work or participate in the Whitehorse community in a significant way.
- The Citizen of the Year must be 27 years of age or older on 1 January 2025.
- The Young Citizen of the Year must be under 27 years of age on 1 January 2025.
- The Community Achievement award nominee may be an individual, over 18 years of age, or an entire community group/organisation from within the City of Whitehorse.

**Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Report Details**

**10.1 –Whitehorse Civic Awards 2025**

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## 12.1 (cont)

<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	<p>Strategic Direction 3 - Our Diverse and Inclusive Community and Strategic Direction 6 - An Empowered Collaborative Community</p> <p>The Civic Awards align closely with Strategic Direction 3 by recognising individuals and groups who actively contribute to a welcoming, inclusive and respectful community.</p> <p>They also support Strategic Direction 6 by celebrating those who demonstrate leadership, initiative and collaboration in making a positive difference, thereby inspiring others to engage and participate in civic life.</p>
<b>Financial and Resource Implications</b>	There are no financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report
<b>Legislative and Risk Implications</b>	There are no legal or risk implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.
<b>Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations</b>	<p>In developing this report to Council, the subject matter has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2024</i>.</p> <p>It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.</p>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Nominations for the awards were invited publicly through Council's website and actively promoted via the website, social media, publications, and direct emails to community groups, aiming to encourage broad engagement and diversity among the nominees.
<b>Innovation and Continuous Improvement</b>	There are no Innovation and Continuous Improvement matters arising from the recommendation contained in this report.
<b>Collaboration</b>	No collaboration was required for this report.