

Glenorchy 2025 Community and Volunteer Awards

Nominees

Raquel Blackwell

Nominated for Citizen of the Year.

Raquel is a passionate advocate for the disability sector, driven by her experience as a mother of a son with autism. She works tirelessly to support individuals and families, ensuring they can live fulfilling lives with dignity and respect. As a leader at Reconnect Support Services, she fosters collaboration and innovation, guiding her team to implement programs that improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Raquel engages in the Glenorchy community, volunteering her time and resources to local initiatives. Her dedication to advocacy, leadership, and community service has made her a respected figure and an inspiration to many.

Jean Colenso

Nominated for Senior Citizen of the Year

Jean plays a key role in the Aged Care and Driving Program at Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania, assisting migrants and refugees in gaining driving skills to enhance their independence and access to essential services. She mentors new drivers, helping them navigate licensing and develop safe driving habits, which improves employment opportunities and integration. In the Aged Care Program, Jean helps elderly individuals retain their driving abilities, reducing isolation. Her work promotes road safety, social inclusion, and community engagement. With strong leadership and commitment, Jean's contributions positively impact mobility, safety, and community development in Glenorchy.

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Mala Crew

Nominated for Senior Citizen of the Year and Local Hero

Mala is a dedicated community advocate, assisting multicultural organizations and helping diverse groups navigate life in a foreign country. In January 2024, she diffused a tense situation at the Multicultural Hub after the racially motivated death of a young Indian student. Mala organized a peaceful vigil, working with government agencies and the media to bring the community together. She also wrote the “Hate Crimes Petition”, advocating for legal changes to address prejudice in sentencing. Additionally, she petitioned Parliament for increased police presence and security measures in the Glenorchy region, demonstrating strong leadership and advocacy.

Huzaifa Fakhruddin

Nominated for Citizen of the Year and Local Hero

Huzaifa Fakhruddin has played a pivotal role in creating a welcoming, inclusive community in Glenorchy through his work with the Pakistani Australian Cultural Organisation (PACO). He has organized cultural events like the Multicultural Aid Festival and Pakistan Independence Day celebrations, fostering mutual understanding among diverse groups. His initiatives, such as employment assistance, childcare access, and accommodation support, have significantly helped migrants and international students. Huzaifa also promotes youth engagement and mental well-being through projects like the "Hope and Heal" BBQ and sports tournaments. His efforts strengthen community connections and advocate for migrants' voices at the government level.

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Kodie Kamaric

Nominated for Young Citizen of the Year

Kodie has demonstrated outstanding leadership through his podcast, "The Surprise Show," where he interviews experts, including barristers, judges, and members of the judiciary, discussing youth crime. His dedication is evident in his roles at the Tasmanian Youth Parliament, working hard at KFC, along with completing a Certificate III in Retail. While studying at Guilford Young College, he represented Tasmania at the National Constitutional Convention in Canberra and participated in Youth Parliament and debating. With over two years in the Australian Navy Cadets, Kodie also published a book inspiring others to follow their dreams.

Jordon King

Nominated for Young Citizen of the Year

At just 22, Jordon has significantly impacted the disability sector as Director of Reconnect Support Services. His person-centred approach empowers individuals with disabilities, fostering inclusivity and support. His advocacy began at 14 when he raised over \$60,000 for the Royal Hobart Hospital Children's Ward, inspiring community involvement. Jordan's leadership, especially among young males, earned Reconnect Support Services the 2024 Child Disability Support Service of the Year award. Overcoming personal challenges, he motivates others through resilience.

Lil Mirtl

Nominated for Senior Citizen of the Year

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Despite her own diagnosis of vascular dementia, Lil has become a passionate advocate for breaking the stigma surrounding dementia and supporting those affected by it. She founded The Friendship Hub in Glenorchy—a safe, inclusive space where seniors can connect, socialise, and support one another. Rather than stepping back after her diagnosis, Lil has actively lobbied local, state, and federal governments to support the Hub and foster dementia-friendly communities. Her leadership and resilience have created lasting change and empowered others facing similar challenges.

Kishor Nepal

Nominated for Citizen of the Year and Local Hero

Kishor has long contributed to the community through his roles in education and volunteering. With two decades of academic experience, he actively supports migrants, particularly South Asians, by helping them settle in Hobart, find housing, and navigate essential services. As a literacy volunteer at Glenorchy Library, he teaches adults vital skills, enhancing their job opportunities. He also mentors migrant children in Mathematics and Science and assists elderly residents. His role in educational initiatives, including the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages further showcases his dedication. Through his service, Kishor has become a respected community role model, inspiring a more inclusive and supportive community in Tasmania.

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Les Williams

Nominated for Senior Citizen of the Year

Les has shown exceptional leadership, resilience, and compassion through his lifelong dedication to advocacy, volunteerism, and community service. He supports families affected by illness, participates in medical research, and organizes fundraising efforts. Despite facing personal adversity, including battling prostate cancer and the sudden loss of his wife in 2022, he continues to inspire others with his strength and selflessness. His ability to bring people together, mentor others, and promote kindness has left a lasting impact on his community, fostering a culture of generosity and resilience that continues to uplift those around him.

Winners

Local Hero Award – Huzaifa Fakruddin

Young Citizen of the Year – Jordon King

Citizen of the Year – Kishor Nepal

Senior Citizen of the Year – Jean Colenso and Lil Mirtl (joint winners)