



The assembled group of 2025 Tweed Shire Council Australia Day award winners.

## Tweed Shire Council recognises exceptional local achievements

**Nine individuals and groups were acknowledged at the Tweed Shire Council Australia Day Awards on Friday 23 January for their outstanding contributions and positive impact across the community.**

### **Tweed Citizen of the Year – Jennifer Booth**

Jennifer was named Tweed Citizen of the year for her leadership in emergency responses and decades of volunteer service. Jennifer has lived in Murwillumbah for more than 45 years, raising 5 children while supporting the community through floods, bushfires and cyclones. Her volunteer work has included helping during the 2017 and 2022 floods at the evacuation centre, Murwillumbah TAFE, the 2019 bushfire evacuation centre in Uki and the 2025 Cyclone Alfred evacuation centre.

Her volunteer journey began well before the natural disasters when she gave her time to St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies), Anglicare and local churches. She later expanded her efforts to committees supporting people facing homelessness and disadvantage.

“Not only did I heal myself, but I also found out that I could heal other people by giving to these services,” Jennifer said.

Today, she coordinates local evacuation centres and ensures essential supplies are ready for emergencies.

### **Arts and Culture – Murwillumbah Philharmonic Choir**

This longstanding community ensemble has been proudly singing for more than a century, despite pauses during major events such as WWII, the 1960s and COVID-19. Dedicated volunteers have kept the tradition alive, bringing people together through music.

### **Community Event of the Year – Tyalgum Music Festival**

A much-loved annual celebration that has brought opera and classical music to the local community for more than 3 decades. The 2025 festival marked its 33rd year, continuing to blend world-class performance with the natural beauty of the region.

### **Senior Ambassador – Karen Dawson**

Karen has built an impressive record of volunteer service since 2017, mentoring individuals and organisations across education, health, creative arts and environmental projects. She has also led creative initiatives that bring generations together.

### **Sporting Achievement (Group) – Tweed Netball Assoc – 18 Green Team**

This outstanding group of 10 young athletes earned the title of Queensland State Champions at the State Carnival in Ipswich in April 2025, demonstrating talent, integrity and determination.

### **Sporting Achievement (Individual) – William Mison**

A dedicated bowler since childhood, William has overcome challenges including autism and ADHD to compete at state, national and international levels. He remains committed to representing Australia.

### **Volunteer of the Year (Group) – Noah’s Ark Animal Sanctuary**

A not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers in Tyalgum, providing a safe haven for more than 100 rescued animals including horses, alpacas, pigs, goats, cats, dogs and birds.

### **Volunteer of the Year (Individual) – Amos Suthern**

Known affectionately as ‘Moss’, Amos has dedicated more than 8 years to Tweed Palliative Support, delivering hospital beds and equipment to help people spend their final days at home.

### **Young Achiever in Community Service – Ruby Allen**

She created the ‘Kids of Purple’ website to help children and young people affected by domestic and family violence, offering support and a safer future. Ruby launched the site while still in high school, drawing on her own family’s experience and recognising that many of her peers faced the same lack of support.

Watch award videos: [tweed.nsw.gov.au/australia-day](https://tweed.nsw.gov.au/australia-day)