



50 YEARS DEADLY

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE 2025 PARKES NAIDOC AWARDS

SUPPORTED BY:



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Training Program, a collaboration of local land services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.



Aboriginal Affairs



Parkes Shire Council



Evolution Mining
Northparkes

Contact parkesnaidoc@gmail.com or 0438 611 053 for further information.

2026 PARKES NAIDOC AWARD CATEGORY OVERVIEW

2026 PARKES NAIDOC YOUTH AWARD – PRIMARY

The Parkes NAIDOC Youth Award for Primary Students recognises remarkable children who are aged 5 – 12 years (on the day of the awards being given). The Award seeks to recognise the next generation of people who come to respect and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and look to make a positive impact in their own future and the future of the community.

2026 PARKES NAIDOC YOUTH AWARD – SENIOR

The Parkes NAIDOC Youth Award for Senior Students recognises exceptional young people who are aged 13 – 18 Years (on the day of the awards being given). The Award seeks to recognise young people who are inspirational role models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader Australian community, as well as taking into consideration the individual's goals and likely impact.

2026 PARKES NAIDOC ELDER AWARD

The 2026 Parkes NAIDOC Elder Award recognises respected and inspirational Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander role models and leaders. The Award seeks to recognise an individual who has shown long term demonstrable commitment and contribution to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as demonstrated involvement in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities at the local, regional, and/or national levels. This Award is open to nominees aged 60+.

2026 NON-INDIGENOUS AWARD

The 2026 Non-Indigenous Award is open to individuals, groups, businesses and organisations who have worked innovatively in and across our communities. This Award seeks to recognise those who have developed new and innovative ideas, applied forward thinking and/or applied Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in different ways. This Award also seeks to recognise those who have demonstrated efforts to create and champion change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and communities, as well as demonstrated commitment, adaptability and innovative thinking and attitudes that enrich our communities and beyond.

2026 PARKES NAIDOC SPORTSPERSON AWARD

The 2026 Parkes NAIDOC Sportsperson Award recognises accomplished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes or sporting leaders who have promoted or developed sport in their community and served as inspirational role models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community.

2026 PARKES NAIDOC CREATIVE TALENT AWARD

The 2026 Parkes NAIDOC Creative Talent Award recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives, including writers, poets, illustrators and artists of traditional, contemporary and experimental visual arts, crafts and design. The Award is also open to outstanding individuals/groups in the

performing arts sector including music, theatre and dance. Actors and individuals working in film, television and documentaries, or in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media, including those working with online and emerging technologies can also be considered in this category.

The Award seeks to recognise the individual's/group's success and/or achievements in their chosen sector or discipline, as well as individuals/groups who have built greater awareness and celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, lifestyles and cultures.

THE 2026 PARKES NAIDOC CARING FOR COUNTRY AND CULTURE AWARD

The Caring for Country and Culture Award recognises the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities who care for, protect, and nurture Country and culture. Nominate those who are revitalising or teaching language, dance or traditions, conserving our lands and waters and protecting our environment for future generations, or who are sharing and preserving culture. This Award also seeks to recognise those who have demonstrated excellence in relation to caring for Country or culture, conservation of Country or culture, as well as demonstrated benefits to the community.

THE 2026 PARKES NAIDOC EDUCATION AWARD

The 2026 Parkes NAIDOC Education Award recognises exceptional individuals and groups in the education sector (including early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational, and any other education groups) who have made a difference to the lives of students and communities. This Award seeks to recognise individuals and groups who have made a demonstrable contribution to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

THE 2026 PARKES NAIDOC INNOVATION AWARD

The 2026 Parkes NAIDOC Innovation Award is open to individuals, groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and organisations who have worked innovatively in and across our community. This Award seeks to recognise those who have developed new and innovative ideas, applied forward thinking and/or applied Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in different ways. This Award also seeks to recognise those who have demonstrated efforts to create and champion change for our people and our communities, as well as demonstrated commitment, adaptability and innovative thinking and attitudes that enrich our communities and beyond.

THE 2026 ANNETTE SLOANE AWARD

The Annette Sloane award was established to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution made by Annette Sloane to the Wiradjuri community, particularly the youth. Annette grew up in Condobolin and was the first Aboriginal student to receive her Year 10 Certificate. She moved to Parkes with her family and was concerned for the youth of the Wiradjuri community. She believed in nurturing skills that would instil a sense of pride and confidence in them. She opened her home to them and taught them many useful skills, particularly sewing for the girls.



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2026 PARKES NAIDOC AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

In deciding the 2026 winners for each Award category, the judges considered the following selection criteria:

- past and current achievements
- demonstrated excellence in the nominated category
- the individual's and/or group's status as an inspirational role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community
- the individual's and/or group's future goals and their likely impact.

Please note Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, businesses and organisations are able to be nominated for the Creative, Caring for Country and Culture, Education and Innovation Award Categories.

Why nominate?

This was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate those making a difference – whether it's a respected Elder, a rising youth leader, a creative talent, or an organisation driving innovation. Nominations ensure their story is heard and celebrated nationally.

Eligibility

- Nominee must be a resident of Parkes at time of nomination.
- Nominee must be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (descent, identity, and community acceptance).
- Age-specific categories: Youth – Primary (5 – 12 years); Youth – Senior (13 – 18 years); Elder & Lifetime Achievement (60+).
- Previous winners could not be nominated for the same category within 10 years but may be nominated for others.
- Groups, businesses, and organisations could be nominated for Creative Talent, Caring for Country & Culture, Education, and Innovation.
- Nominator must have been 18+ at time of nomination.

Important: Supporting documentation was not accepted. Only one A4 page written response to the Selection Criteria was to be considered.

Privacy: All parties (nominator and nominee) needed to download and sign the nomination.

How to Nominate

Nominations for the 2026 National NAIDOC Week Awards open on Friday, 12 June and close at 5pm on Sunday, 12 July 2026.

The same person could have been nominated for more than one category, and a separate nomination form needs to be completed per category. Nominees in several categories can only receive one Award in 2026.

The award winners will be announced at the Parkes NAIDOC Awards Ceremony as part of the Parkes NAIDOC Family Fun Day on Saturday, 19 September 2026, between 10am and 1pm at Bushman's Hill Amphitheatre.