

11 MAYORAL MINUTE

11.1 Mayoral Minute: Vale Warren Steel

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

Nil

RECOMMENDED

That Council

1. Note the passing of former Councillor Warren Steel and acknowledge his significant contribution to the Kiama community through nearly 30 years of service.
2. Extend its sincere condolences to Warren's family and friends.
3. Recognise and honour his dedication to public service and his lasting legacy within the community, and observe a minute's silence.

Report

It is with great respect that I acknowledge the passing of former Councillor Warren Steel.

Many within the organisation will have worked with Warren across the almost 30 years he served the Kiama community. He was elected as a Councillor for seven terms—from 1983 to 1987, and again from 1999 to 2024, and served as Deputy Mayor between 2012 and 2016. Warren also served on Council's tourism advisory committee for many years. Local Government NSW awarded Warren the Outstanding Service Award in 2016.

Warren was widely respected by those who worked with him and will be remembered for his stories, his ideas and his approach to the role of Councillor.

A Lions Club member for 60 years, Warren was president of the Kiama branch and in 1992 he was awarded the organisation's highest honour, the Melvin Jones Fellowship, recognising his dedication to helping others.

He will be deeply missed by his friends who gathered with him each Thursday at the "Bowlo", where, as Warren would say, they would "solve the world's worries, one beer at a time."

He will be profoundly missed by his family. It is fitting to acknowledge his enduring love for his late wife, Sandra.

The organisation extends its deepest condolences to Warren's family and friends and honours his lasting contribution to the Kiama community.

11.2 Mayoral minute: Congratulations to 2026 King's Birthday Honour recipients**Attachments**

Nil

Enclosures

Nil

Item 11.2

RECOMMENDED

That Council formally congratulates the following recipients of King's Birthday Honours:

1. David MacAllister on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of his service to the community through aquatic safety organisations.
2. Darren Brand on being awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) in recognition of his significant contribution to community safety and policing.

Mr David Macallister OAM

I wish to acknowledge and warmly congratulate Kiama resident Mr David Macallister on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours.

Mr Macallister has been recognised for outstanding service to the community through aquatic safety organisations, with a contribution spanning more than four decades.

His lifelong commitment began as a member of the Royal Life Saving Society in 1978 and includes service as a volunteer, instructor and examiner. From 2001 to 2021, he served as Chief Executive Officer of Royal Life Saving Society New South Wales, providing strong leadership to one of the state's most important community safety organisations. He also contributed at a national level as Chair of the National Sport Committee and National Sport Advisor.

Mr Macallister's broader contribution to the aquatic sector includes a 20 year tenure as a Board Member of the Aquatic and Recreation Institute, where he is now a Life Member, along with extensive involvement with AUSTSWIM. His many awards reflect a career dedicated to improving water safety and saving lives, particularly in communities such as ours where water safety is critical.

On behalf of Kiama Municipal Council, I extend our sincere congratulations to Mr Macallister on this well deserved national recognition.

Superintendent Darren Brand APM

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Kiama Downs resident, Superintendent Darren Brand, Commander of Lake Illawarra Police District, for his outstanding service to policing and the community.

Mayoral Minute

11.2 Mayoral minute: Congratulations to 2026 King's Birthday Honour recipients (cont)

Superintendent Brand commenced his policing career in 1997 and has served across metropolitan and regional New South Wales, including significant time in rural and remote communities. Over his career, he has held a range of operational and leadership roles, including as a police prosecutor and as a senior officer within regional commands.

Since his promotion to Superintendent in 2021, he has demonstrated strong leadership in command positions, including at Barrier Police District and now Lake Illawarra Police District. Of particular note was his leadership of initiatives such as Operation Safer Communities, aimed at strengthening coordinated responses to domestic and family violence.

Superintendent Brand is widely recognised for his commitment to rural communities, his advocacy for the wellbeing of police, and his ability to build strong and respectful relationships within the communities he serves. He is highly regarded as a professional, ethical and dedicated leader.

On behalf of Council, I acknowledge Superintendent Brand's significant contribution to community safety and his ongoing leadership within the Lake Illawarra Police District.

Item 11.2

11.3 Mayoral minute: Induction into the NSW Top Tourism Town, Hall of Fame**Attachments**

Nil

Enclosures

Nil

Item 11.3

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

1. Acknowledges Kiama's induction into the Hall of Fame for the NSW Top Tourism Town following three consecutive wins.
2. Extends congratulations and thanks to Council staff, the Tourism & Economic Advisory Committee and all tourism operators and community members who contributed to this achievement.
3. Recognises the importance of the visitor economy to Kiama and reaffirm Council's commitment to supporting sustainable tourism and continued excellence in visitor experience.

Report

I am delighted to advise that Kiama has once again been named 2026 NSW Top Tourism Town (population over 5,000), marking an extraordinary third consecutive win, following successes in 2024 and 2025.

This outstanding achievement has resulted in Kiama's formal induction into the NSW Hall of Fame, recognising our sustained excellence in delivering a high-quality visitor experience and our position as one of New South Wales' leading regional destinations.

Earning three consecutive titles is a rare accomplishment and reflects not only the strength of our natural assets, but the collective effort that goes into presenting Kiama as a welcoming, vibrant and memorable place to visit.

This result belongs to our entire community.

I extend sincere thanks and recognition to:

- Council staff, particularly those working across tourism, events, economic development and communications.
- the Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee for their strategic guidance and ongoing support.
- local tourism operators, businesses, volunteers and community members whose passion and pride showcase Kiama at its very best.

Mayoral Minute

11.3 Mayoral minute: Induction into the NSW Top Tourism Town, Hall of Fame (cont)

Kiama's Hall of Fame status reinforces our reputation as a premier destination and underscores the importance of the visitor economy to our local area. It reflects consistent, high-quality delivery over a number of years rather than a one-off success.

Item 11.3

11.4 Mayoral minute: Local Government Week Awards 3-8 August 2026**Attachments**

Nil

Enclosures

Nil

Item 11.4

RECOMMENDED

That Council celebrate and recognise the contribution and achievements of people within the Municipality, through the Local Government Week Awards ceremony on 4 August 2026 and encourages nominations for each of the awards.

REPORT

I am pleased to announce that Council has launched its Local Government Awards for 2026. The Local Government Awards are an opportunity to shine a light on people in our Municipality who make a difference no matter how large or small. These awards recognise and celebrate the individuals, groups and organisations who make a meaningful difference and contribute to our 'social fabric'.

The Local Government Awards for 2026 will be presented in the following categories:

- **Citizen of the Year** - An individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community, either during the previous 12 months or over many years of service.
- **Young Citizen of the Year** - An individual aged 24 years or less who has made an outstanding contribution to the community, either during the previous 12 months or over many years of service.
- **Senior Citizen of the Year** - An individual aged 65 years and over who has made an outstanding contribution to the community, either during the past previous 12 months or over many years of service.
- **Community Group Award** - A community group based and operating in the Kiama Municipality that has made an outstanding contribution to the community, either during the previous 12 months or over many years of service.
- **Megan Dalley Memorial Award** - Recognises the outstanding performance by a Council trainee, apprentice or cadet. In memory of Megan Dalley, an outstanding Kiama Council customer service trainee of tremendous ability, attitude and commitment, who was tragically killed in a car accident in 2007.
- **Robert East Memorial Award** - Recognises the outstanding contributions made by Kiama Municipal Council's volunteers in the community. Nominees may include Council staff who volunteer outside their work with Council. In memory of Councillor East who had an outstanding record of community service.

Mayoral Minute

11.4 Mayoral minute: Local Government Week Awards 3-8 August 2026 (cont)

-
- **Sports Achievement Award** – Recognises the outstanding commitment or achievements of individuals that play a part in the sporting community.
 - **Sports Honour Roll** – Celebrates the outstanding achievements of participants, coaches, teams and administrators who make important contributions to the Municipality and excel in their chosen sport at an international or national level.
 - **Arts Honour Roll** – Honours the outstanding achievements of local individual artists who have played an important role in cultural arts within the Kiama municipality.
 - **Community Inclusion Award** – Recognises an individual or organisation who has made an outstanding contribution to enhance inclusion and equity of diverse cultures, First Nations, people with a disability, older people, gender and sexual orientation within the Kiama Municipality.

Nominations open on 17 June 2026 and will close on 15 July 2026. Further information about each award including the selection criteria can be found on Council's website:

The Awards will be presented and celebrated at a function on 4 August 2026, being held at The Pavilion Kiama.