

11 MAYORAL MINUTE

11.1 Mayoral minute: Recognition of local achievements

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

Nil

Item 11.1

RECOMMENDED

That Council formally acknowledges and recognises the achievements of local individuals, groups and businesses from the Kiama Municipality who recently received significant recognition at the Local Government Regional 2026 NAIDOC Awards, the Local Government Week Awards 2026, as finalists for the IMB Illawarra Business 2026 Awards.

Report

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate a number of individuals, groups, and businesses from the Kiama Municipality.

1. Local Government Regional 2026 NAIDOC Awards

Elle Steward-Reid was named Young Achiever of the Year for her outstanding leadership and commitment to First Nations culture, community and youth, making a significant contribution to cultural preservation, advocacy and mentoring through her active involvement in local Aboriginal initiatives and community programs.

Gordana Sterjovska was awarded Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation (non-Aboriginal), for her outstanding contribution to reconciliation through her leadership in Aboriginal education, fostering culturally safe and inclusive learning environments, strengthening partnerships with local Aboriginal communities and championing meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal students to connect with culture, identity and education.

2. Celebrating Our Community: Local Government Week Awards 2026

As part of Local Government Week 2026, Kiama Council proudly recognised a number of outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions to our community. These awards celebrate the spirit of service, leadership and inclusion that makes our municipality such a vibrant and connected place to live.

Award recipients included:

- Citizen of the Year – *Vivienne Marris*. Recognised for her longstanding volunteer service and leadership across numerous community organisations, strengthening community connections, supporting local families and making a lasting positive contribution to the Municipality..

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- Senior Citizen of the Year – *Anne Doorn*. Honoured for her 25 years of dedicated leadership in aged care at Blue Haven, where she championed compassionate, innovative care and made a lasting contribution to the wellbeing of residents, families and staff in the Kiama community.
- Community Group Award – *Kiama Community Radio*. Commended for its outstanding volunteer-led contribution to community connection, engagement and storytelling, providing a platform that celebrates local voices, strengthens community networks and preserves the history of the Kiama region.
- Sports Achievement Award – *Nardia Guillaumier and Alan Swan*. Recognised for their community leadership through the creation of Kiama's Ultra Challenge, using endurance sport to inspire community participation and raise significant funds for a range of charitable causes.
- Robert East Award (*Kiama Council Volunteer*) – *Cathie Bax*. Acknowledged for participation and community connection.
- Megan Dalley Award (*Kiama Council Cadet/Apprentice*) – *Jacob McIntyre*. Acknowledged for his outstanding achievement as Kiama Council's Town Planner Cadet, demonstrating professionalism, initiative and a strong commitment to serving the community while excelling in both his planning work and academic studies.
- Arts Honour Roll - *Claire Foxton*. Recognised for her exceptional ability to transform public spaces through inspiring, community-focused mural art that blend realism with abstract elements to create works rich in emotion, storytelling, and a strong sense of place.

Congratulations to all award recipients — and thank you for the vital role you play in strengthening and enriching the Kiama community.

3. IMB Illawarra Business Awards – Finalists from Kiama

Several Kiama-based businesses and individuals have been named finalists in the 2026 IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards, which honour excellence across the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands. The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony on Friday 11 September 2026.

Kiama finalists are:

- Outstanding Employee – *Jes Cochrane (Marketing Movement)*
- Outstanding Young Business Leader – *Teresa Vi Nguyen (Specsavers Kiama)*
- Outstanding Business Leader | 20 employees and under – *Gulcin Topel (Saltwater Café)*
- Employer of Choice – 20 employees and under – *Marketing Movement*
- Outstanding Community Organisation – *Kells Kiama Sevens*
- Outstanding New Business – *The Sea & Beau*
- Excellence in Micro Business (5 employees and under) – *Bee Inspired*

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- Excellence in Small Business (6-20 employees) – *Cin Cin Wine Bar*
 - Outstanding Local Chamber – *Kiama Business Network*
 - Outstanding Visitor Experience – *The Collective Beat*

This is a remarkable representation for Kiama and reflects the strength, innovation and diversity of our local business community.

I would also like to acknowledge all those businesses that nominated for the Kiama Business Network Awards held on 23 July 2026. The awards celebrated excellence across a range of industries, and showcased the diversity, spirit and dedication of our local businesses.

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