

2025 ClubsACT Clubs & Community Awards – Categories

Clubs of the ACT support over 1,000 community groups—now it’s time to celebrate those efforts!

These awards recognise the outstanding contributions clubs make to the community. Whether it’s through sport, culture, hospitality, sustainability, or social inclusion, we want to hear your club’s story.

Arts & Culture

Honouring clubs that champion arts, language, and culture in the community. This includes supporting artists, celebrating diverse cultures (including Indigenous heritage), and hosting festivals, concerts, performances, literature events, and public programs.




TIP:

- Does your club support a festival or cultural celebration like **Reconciliation Day, Diwali, or ANZAC Day**?
 - Do you host **music events, concerts, or open mic nights** featuring local artists?
 - Do you have partnerships with **local arts groups or cultural organizations**?
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Hospitality Innovation

Recognising clubs that go above and beyond in delivering **exceptional customer experiences** through creativity and innovation in hospitality.

Areas of innovation could include:

-  **Menu Innovation:** Offering unique, seasonal, and diverse food options (vegan, gluten-free, etc.).
-  **Service Innovation:** Personalised experiences, digital services, or tech-driven enhancements.
-  **Renovation Innovation:** Facility upgrades to create modern, inviting spaces for members.

 **TIP:** How has your club **transformed its dining, service, or venue experience** to wow members?

Celebrating Diversity & Social Inclusion

Recognising clubs that foster an **inclusive and diverse** community by supporting people from all backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and ages.

TIP:

- Did your sporting teams participate in a **Pride Round or Mardi Gras celebration**?
 - Has your club **achieved gender equality in leadership or sports payments**?
 - Do you offer **accessible facilities and programs for people with disabilities**?
 - Do you actively **employ and support people with disabilities**?
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Education, Learning & Development

Acknowledging clubs that support **education and vocational training** for members, staff, and the broader community.

TIP:

- Does your club offer **training, mentoring, or career pathways** for employees and volunteers?
 - Have you funded **local schools, scholarships, or education programs**?
 - Do you run **learning and development workshops** for your community?
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Contribution to Grassroots Sports & Inclusion

Celebrating clubs that champion **grassroots sports**, this award recognises initiatives that promote participation, inclusivity, and accessibility in sport and recreation. Whether through junior development programs, adaptive sports, or initiatives supporting diversity, this award honours those making sport welcoming for all.

TIP:

- ✓ Does your club provide opportunities for juniors, women in sport, or people with disabilities?
 - ✓ Have you introduced new programs or partnerships to increase participation?
 - ✓ How does your club remove barriers to sports participation (e.g., financial assistance, equipment access, community outreach)?
 - ✓ Remember, sports aren't just football and cricket—chess, eightball, and eSports count too!
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Community Development & Wellbeing

This award recognises clubs that go beyond sports to enhance **social connection, mental health, and overall community wellbeing**. Whether through mental health programs, social initiatives, or projects that foster a sense of belonging, this category highlights the broader impact clubs have on their communities.

TIP:

- ✓ Does your club provide mental health training or support spaces for staff and members?
 - ✓ What initiatives does your club run to combat social isolation and improve quality of life?
 - ✓ How does your club support broader community wellbeing beyond sports—through events, education, or outreach programs?
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Sustainability & Environment

Celebrating clubs that lead the way in **environmental sustainability**, community-led green projects, and the circular economy.

TIP:

- Does your club **recycle, compost, or run a sustainable food program**?
 - Have you taken steps to **reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, or support local environmental initiatives**?
 - Think beyond governance—**how does your club take real action for sustainability**?
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Emerging Talent – Employee of the Year

Recognising an outstanding employee who has shown **exceptional skill, dedication, and innovation** in their role.

TIP:

- Who in your club has **gone above and beyond** to create a better member experience?
 - Has someone **led a new initiative** or significantly improved operations?
 - Consider employees from **all areas of the club**—from hospitality to administration and community engagement.
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Individual Service to the Industry

(Nominated by Member Clubs, final determination by the ClubsACT Board)

Honouring the **unsung heroes** of the club industry—those who have dedicated their careers to **supporting clubs and their communities**.

TIP:

- Who in your club has **worked tirelessly for years** to strengthen your community?
 - This could be **staff, board members, managers, or long-standing volunteers**.
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Heart of the Community – Club of the Year

(Awarded to the best overall club entry)

Recognizing the **club that exemplifies excellence** across all categories—going above and beyond in **community involvement, innovation, and social impact**.

TIP:

- Does your club **embody the spirit of community** in every way?
 - This award celebrates **clubs that make a real, lasting impact** on the people around them.
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 **READY TO CELEBRATE YOUR CLUB’S SUCCESS? Submit your entry and share your story!**

Final Sign-Off

By submitting this entry, we confirm that:

- We agree to the **Terms and Conditions** of the Clubs & Community Awards.
- The information provided is accurate and true to the best of our knowledge.

Club & Entrant Details

Entrant & Club Name: _____

Title of Story: _____

Category: _____

CEO signature: _____ Date: _____