



## 2023 LAKE MAC AWARD WINNERS

**Lake Mac Ambassador**  
Matt Dun

**Lake Mac Young Citizen**  
Sophie Berude

**Lake Mac Volunteer**  
Ali Kimmorley

**Lake Mac Sports Star**  
Jesse Southwell

**Lake Mac Senior  
of the Year**  
Astrid Hocking

**Lake Mac  
Environmental Leader**  
OzHarvest

**Lake Mac Community  
Group of the Year**  
ADRA Op Shop  
Morisset

**Lake Mac Arts Leader**  
Dennis Blanch

**Lake Mac Young  
Sports Star**  
Melissa Valentina Baez

**Lake Mac Sports  
Leader**  
Russell Grundy

**Lake Mac Community  
Event of the Year**  
Opera Hunter

**Lake Mac Artist and  
Creator**  
Shaquira Hobbs,  
Forbidden Fruit  
Photography

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**Be it spectacular natural beauty, an extensive events calendar or our flourishing infrastructure assets, there's so much to take pride in across Lake Macquarie.**

But the beating heart of our community is its people, particularly those who pull at the threads of the ordinary to weave our social fabric into something special.

It's only fitting we acknowledge these trailblazers for fashioning our Lake Mac culture to be full of pizzazz and personality.

Our annual Lake Mac Awards are tailored to that end.

Every year we celebrate these individuals and groups, who make Lake Macquarie a better place to live, work and play without seeking recognition or reward.

The top award is the title of Lake Mac Ambassador, bestowed on a selfless citizen whose deeds and demeanour embody the best aspects of our community.

Last year the honour went to Dr David Durrheim, a health professional whose tenure as a heartfelt and passionate champion of our city was enriching and educational.

In March I had the pleasure of announcing his successor, a worthy recipient in Associate Professor Matt Dun.

Matt's extensive research, work and charity efforts have led to monumental advancements in the fight against childhood brain cancer.

Creating opportunities in the form of clinical trials, and a custom research lab at University of Newcastle, have meant families facing a DIPG diagnosis can seek help closer to home, instead of making an expensive journey abroad.

I look forward to Matt's ongoing work as a leading medical professional making massive strides in the fight against cancer, and as the face of our city for 2023.

I congratulate all finalists and winners of the Lake Mac Awards, which attracted a record field of nominations.

The night was an opportunity for all of us to pay tribute to the tireless and selfless work thousands of people right across our city undertake every day.

It's work that often goes unnoticed and is achieved without fanfare, but we appreciate it so much, and we are a better community for it.

**Lake Macquarie Mayor**  
Cr Kay Fraser



## EMBARKING ON A NEW PLAN FOR POOCHES

With more than 92,000 registered dogs in Lake Macquarie, it's important to balance the open space needs of pet owners and the general public. That's why we've adopted a Dogs in Open Space Strategy, to establish a fair shared environment for canines, their carers and the community at large. The 10 year-plan identifies up to 10 new off-leash areas across the city, while tweaking the boundaries at some existing off-leash sites to better suit all users. The community will be notified as changes are implemented - visit our website for more information.

[lakemac.com.au/dogs-in-space](http://lakemac.com.au/dogs-in-space)



## BULK CHANGES FOR BULKY WASTE

The way we collect bulky waste is about to change.

Council is poised to switch from a scheduled suburb-wide bulky waste service to a more flexible, bookable system in a bid to clean up streets, reduce landfill and save ratepayers money.

Manager Waste Services Paul Collins said the switch was not a reduction in service.

“A bookable service means people have more flexibility to get their bulky waste collected when it’s most convenient to them,” he said.

“That might be when they’re moving house, when they’re doing spring cleaning or when their bulky goods no longer work and are beyond repair.”

Households will choose either two kerbside collections, two drop-off vouchers to Awaba Waste Management Facility or a combination of both in a 12 month period.

[lakemac.com.au/bulky-waste](https://lakemac.com.au/bulky-waste)



## FLUORO FLEET RETURNS



The spectacular sight of neon light on the water by night will crystallise across Lake Macquarie when the annual ‘Float Your Boat’ fleet sets sail in June.

The open competition, in which boat owners dress their vessels with dazzling lights in pursuit of cash prizes, will swan by Toronto, Coal Point and Wangi Wangi on Friday 23 June, followed by Warners Bay, Eleebana, Valentine and Belmont on Saturday 24 June.

Spectators can line the shores of Toronto and Warners Bay foreshore live sites to enjoy the cascade of colour, along with live music, roaming illuminated performances, entertainment, children’s activities and food trucks from 5-9.30pm each evening.

Nominations to participate are now open; head to [lakemac.com.au](https://lakemac.com.au) for more information or to register your interest in joining the fluorescent flotilla.

[lakemac.com.au/Float-Your-Boat-2023](https://lakemac.com.au/Float-Your-Boat-2023)

## WHAT'S ON

Stay in the loop with what’s happening in Lake Mac by checking out our event calendars.

[lakemac.com.au/events](https://lakemac.com.au/events)

**Archibald Prize** 8 April - 21 May, 2023

The Archibald Prize 2022 Regional Tour will stop in at the Museum of Art and Culture, yapang from 8 April.

**Lake Mac Glam 1: Fab Lab and Maker Movement**

8 May, 2023 | 10am-4pm | The Swansea Centre.

**Lake Macquarie Dobell Festival** 1-30 June, 2023

The festival includes a number of events, workshops, courses and exhibitions at various venues across the lake.



## THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS

**Nominations are now open for the 2023 Lake Macquarie Business Excellence Awards.**

**The awards recognise growth, entrepreneurship and celebrate business success across our city.**

**Help us highlight the best and brightest businesses leading the way across Lake Mac.**

**Categories and nomination information can be found at**  
[lakemac.com.au/business-awards-2023](https://lakemac.com.au/business-awards-2023)

## RATE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD – TAKE THE CENSUS



Council is inviting Lake Mac locals to share your thoughts on what makes an ideal neighbourhood, and to rate the lived experience of your current neighbourhoods. The 2023 liveability census will be live until 30 June. Scan the QR code to take the census.



**GET IN TOUCH**

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