

IWD Loretta Baker Scholarship – Framework

International Women’s Day Loretta Baker Scholarship

Overview

International Women’s Day (IWD), celebrated annually in March, recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women globally. It also serves as a call to action to accelerate progress toward gender equality.

The inaugural Maitland City Council International Women’s Day Loretta Baker Scholarship honours this spirit by supporting local women to achieve their goals across various fields, including arts, culture, environment, business, community, health, and sport.

Purpose

The scholarship celebrates the achievements and potential of young women in the Maitland Local Government Area (LGA), empowering them to contribute meaningfully to their chosen fields and fostering leadership and community involvement.

Key Dates

Applications Open: Monday 13 January 2025

Applications Close: Sunday 9 February 2025

Awards Announced: March 2025, at an International Women’s Day event hosted or supported by Maitland City Council

Funding Available

One scholarship of \$1,000 each are available annually.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Identify as female.
- Be aged 16 years or older.
- Reside within the Maitland LGA.

- Not be a Maitland City Council employee or an immediate family member of a Council employee, Mayor, or Councillor.

Application Process

Submission: Applications can be submitted online or via a physical form provided by Maitland City Council.

The closing date for submissions is 9 February 2025.

Required Documentation:

- A personal statement (up to 500 words) outlining the applicant's goals and how the scholarship will assist in achieving them.
- A description of how the goals align with fields such as arts, culture, environment, business, community, health, or sport.
- Two character references attesting to the applicant's community involvement and personal qualities.

Shortlisting:

A selection committee will review applications based on merit and alignment with the assessment criteria.

Event Participation:

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an International Women's Day event in March 2025.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Foreseeable Impact:** The potential positive outcomes of the applicant's goals in their chosen field during the scholarship year.
- **Character References:** Strong testimonials from two referees supporting the applicant's suitability.
- **Community Interaction:** Evidence of active engagement with and contributions to the local community.

- The final recipients will be endorsed by a selection committee appointed by Maitland City Council.

Conditions of Funding

Recipients must agree to the following:

- Funds must be used as outlined in the application.
- Recipients may be asked to participate in promotional activities or share their journey as part of International Women’s Day celebrations.
- Applicants must not be employees or immediate family members of Maitland City Council staff, the Mayor, or Councillors.

Contact Information

For further inquiries, please contact:

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This framework ensures transparency, equity, and alignment with the values of International Women’s Day, while celebrating the achievements and potential of Maitland’s young women.