

**THE HON. DAVID HARRIS MP
MEMBER FOR WYONG****THE HON. JODIE HARRISON MP
MINISTER FOR WOMEN****WYONG LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Mandy Shaw from Tacoma South has been named the Wyong Local Woman of the Year for 2026.

The Local Women of the Year Awards celebrate visionary thinkers, everyday heroes, social advocates, and trailblazing role models who make a meaningful difference in their communities.

This year, a total of 94 inspiring women have been nominated by their local Members of Parliament as part of NSW Women's Week (2–8 March) - a week-long celebration that empowers women and promotes gender equality across the state. Award recipient Mandy Shaw was nominated by The Hon. David Harris Member for Wyong in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community as an encouraging sports woman bringing females together.

From a young age Ms Shaw and her sister had been involved in netball with her mother Ruth Kent who was a life member of Wyong District Netball Association and for the love of netball this carried over to her three daughters.

In 2004, Ms Shaw started Central Coast Pelicans Netball Club and since this day she still holds her passion as president to encourage Indigenous and non-Indigenous women and girls to play together in support of Reconciliation.

Ms Shaw promotes respect, trust, and positive relationships among the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Over the years Ms Shaw has supported local families by paying the registration fees and uniform costs out of her own pocket, she also coaches, manages, applies for grants, manages social media and everything in between.

In 2016, she brought netball to life with the first Indigenous competition in NSW. The annual competition Ruth Kent Indigenous Round celebrates the understanding and respect of Aboriginal culture which has brought more females together.

All Local Women of the Year will be recognised during the 2026 NSW Women of the Year Awards ceremony, held at the International Convention Centre in Sydney on Thursday 5 March.

Women who volunteer and reside in regional, rural, and remote areas of NSW will also be honoured through inclusion in the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll - a public tribute acknowledging the countless women who generously give their time and energy to support others.

Learn more about the Women of the Year Awards and watch the livestream by visiting www.nsw.gov.au/wotya26.

For more information about the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll, visit www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/women-nsw/rural-womens-network/hidden-treasures-honour-roll.

Jodie Harrison Minister for Women said, “The Local Woman of the Year 2026 recognises and honours the contributions of everyday women and girls across New South Wales who are making a difference in their communities.

“Local MPs have nominated exceptional women whose efforts inspire us all.

“Congratulations and thank you to every Local Woman of the Year - this recognition is truly well deserved.”

The Hon. David Harris Member for Wyong, “It’s wonderful to see Mandy Shaw being recognised as a role model in our community. Congratulations to her dedication to improving life in the Wyong electorate and empowering women is truly admirable and inspiring, serving as a shining example for others to follow.”

Image: The Hon. David Harris Member for Wyong and Mandy Shaw

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