



VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENT FRIENDS NETWORK
C/- Victorian National Parks Association, Level 3, 60 Leicester St, Carlton 3053
ABN 83 870 896 171 INC NO A0056495T
BFA inquiries and nominations: vefnbfa@gmail.com (preferred)
Margaret Hunter 0417 323 460

Young Best Friend Award 2021: Selection Criteria and Nomination Form

This marks the 30th anniversary of the VEFN Best Friends Award for excellence and dedication in environmental volunteering. Once again, an independent judging panel will make the decisions on all winners.

The Young Best Friend Award is intended for young people who are “giving it a go” and getting involved with their local environment, so that they make a difference. There are two awards:

- The first is for young volunteers who are 15 to 21 years of age as of June 30th 2021, who are regarded by members of the nominating group as passionate for the environment, volunteer regularly, and have demonstrated that they have learnt environmental skills, such as tree planting, weeding and litter collection, as part of the Friends group activities.
- The second is for children aged 14 or younger, who are regarded by members of the nominating group as passionate for the environment, volunteer regularly, and have demonstrated that they are learning environmental skills, such as tree planting, weeding and litter collection, as part of the Friends group activities.

The judging panel may make a special case for additional awards in the event of many exceptional candidates being nominated. All nominations will be assessed by the judging panel according to the criteria listed below. Nominations should demonstrate that the nominee meets these criteria and/or those they consider make them an exceptional Young Best Friend.

Completing the Form

Please read the criteria carefully to ensure that your application is relevant, and the accompanying notes provide guidance. A cursory response of a few lines with insufficient supporting material to enable a thorough assessment will not be sufficient for the application to be considered. The quality and adequacy of information in the nomination form and attachments will have a bearing on the outcome. That is, it is not just what the nominee has done, but how well understood and presented that information is that will allow the judges to make their decision.

Criteria

The nominee will have made an outstanding contribution under some or all the following five criteria or other areas that the nominating group consider demonstrate their contribution:

1. Show an interest in the environment and attend planting and maintenance activities regularly, and enthusiastically participate.
2. Demonstrate that they have learnt and can practice environmental skills, such as tree planting, weeding, litter collection or other relevant activities as part of the Friends group work.
3. Show leadership, such as bringing their friends or family to the group’s activities or taking the lessons they have learnt back to their school or university.
4. Show personal dedication to environmental volunteering.

5. Communicate the value of the environment and environmental volunteering, including through websites, blogs, videos, and social media.

Number of Nominees

While it is anticipated that there will be only one nominee per group, in some circumstances it is recognised that more than one young volunteer may have made an outstanding contribution to the environment. In this case, more than one nominee per group will be considered. The nominee must be a paid-up member of the nominating group. The nomination form must be completed and signed by an office bearer or recognised representative of the nominating Friends group.

Length of Service

It is expected that all nominees for Young Friends awards will have had regular involvement in the work of the group over a period of at least one year.

Referees

All nominations must include two (2) written references, including from the agency land manager **on their letterhead**, where Friends groups work with an agency or state or local government.

Recent Photograph of the Nominee

A recent photo of the nominee, preferably working in the field, **must** be included with the nomination.

PowerPoint and video presentation for winners

If your nominated person is a winner, we will need to know for the award ceremony if your group will be able to provide a PowerPoint or short 2-minute video to highlight the work undertaken by the winner. **This will be confirmed by the VEFN due to special arrangements for the ceremony in 2021 to recognise the 30th year of the award.**

Successful Nominees

In the event of a nominee receiving a Young Best Friend Award, any money that may be attached to the award will be paid to the nominating Friends group for the group to decide on how the funds will be spent.

Deadline for submission of nominations

Nominations should be sent to: Best Friend Award, VEFN, c/- PO Box 367 Mentone 3194 or email (preferred): vefnbfa@gmail.com, with fully supporting documentation attached.

Nominations with all supporting documentation must be received by 5 pm on 30th June 2021. If posted, please allow time for mail to be received by the closing date.

Late nominations will not be accepted.

Young Best Friend Award 2021 – Nomination Form

Nominee:

Name:	
Address:	

Nominating Friends Group:

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Date of birth:

Is the nominee aware he/she has been nominated?

Yes

No

Group Contact:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Date nominee became active in the group:

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Nominee's involvement in the group: (What role does the nominee fulfil?) **Max 200 words.**

Insert Word count:

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Nominee's contribution to the group: (Describe the nominee's achievements with reference to the selection criteria) **Max 200 words.**

Insert Word count:

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Any special considerations:

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Referees:

All nominations must include two written references, including from the agency land manager, where applicable. Please include contact details for each referee.

Name & Position:	
Phone & Email:	

Name & Position:	
Phone & Email:	

Photo/s attached: **Yes** **No**

Signed:	Date:

Send Young BFA nomination form and all accompanying documentation to:

Email (preferred): vefnbfa@gmail.com

Postal address: VEFN, c/- PO Box 367 Mentone 3194.

For any questions please do not hesitate to contact Margaret Hunter on 0417 323 460, or Kylie Cohen at vefnbfa@gmail.com.

Nominations with all supporting documentation must be received by 5 pm on 30th June 2021. Nominations received by email time stamped after 5pm after the deadline will not be accepted. If posting, please allow for mail to be received by the closing date.

Late nominations will not be accepted.