

MAYOR ROBERT BRIA
AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION & CITIZENSHIP
CEREMONY

9:30am – 11am

Sunday, 26 January 2020

St Peters Street, St Peters

RUN ORDER

9.30am Mayor's Welcome Speech

9.40am Australia Day Awards

9.55am Australia Day Ambassador Speech

10.00am Australian Girl's Choir

10.10am commence Citizenship Ceremony

10.12am Speeches from MPs

10.20am Oath and Affirmation of Citizenship

10.45am National Anthem

10.50am Closing remarks

Good morning and welcome to the City of Norwood
Payneham & St Peters Australia Day Celebration and
Citizenship Ceremony.

My name is Robert Bria. I am the Mayor of the City of
Norwood Payneham & St Peters and it is my very great
pleasure to welcome you all here this morning to celebrate
our national holiday.

*I would firstly like to acknowledge this land that we meet on
today is the traditional land of the Kurna people and that
we respect their spiritual connection with their country.*

*We also acknowledge the Kurna People as the custodians
of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and
heritage beliefs are still important to the living Kurna
people today.*

I am delighted to welcome our distinguished guests:

- **Hon Steven Marshall MP**, Premier of South Australia.
- **Hon Vickie Chapman MP**, Deputy Premier of South Australia
- **Michele Lally**, Australia Day Ambassador
- **Michelle** from the Australian Electoral Commission

Welcome to my fellow Elected Members:

- Carlo Dottore
- Kevin Duke
- Kester Moorhouse
- Garry Knoblauch
- John Callisto
- John Minney
- Evonne Moore
- Christel Mex
- Scott Sims

- Sue Whittington
- Fay Patterson, and their partners.

A warm welcome also to council staff here this morning, in particular the Council's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mario Barone PSM.

Apologies from:

- **James Stevens MP**, Federal Member for Sturt.
- Cr Mike Stock
- Cr Connie Granozio
-

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the 38 people who this morning will become Australian Citizens and of course, their families and friends who are here to witness this solemn ceremony.

Today is a day when Australians stop to celebrate our country.

It is a time to pause and think about our past, present and future.

But, let's pause for a moment and think about the society we live in and who we are as a people.

Today, we honour four Australians who were presented with Australia Day Awards by the Prime Minister in Canberra last night:

- Australian of the Year - Dr James Muecke
- Senior Australian of the Year – Professor John Newnham, AM
- Local Hero of the Year - Bernie Shakeshaft
- Young Australian of the Year – Ash Barty

We honour them as Australians who represent the best in us and our values as a nation.

We also honour and celebrate the hundreds of Australians from all walks of life, who were appointed with Australia Day Honours.

We thank them for their outstanding service to the local and wider community.

We also thank and honour the countless other Australians who have not been recognised with Honours today; everyday Australians - our neighbours and friends - whose name we will not read in the newspaper or online, but who day-in and day-out, quietly go about their business serving others without fuss or fanfare, seeking neither recognition nor reward, offering help with humility.

It is on their shoulders that we stand today.

It is their legacy of service we inherit.

It is the fruits of their labour that we benefit from.

They should serve as an inspiration to all of us about the virtues of volunteering, of service to others, and making a positive difference to our country.

It is not by the example of their power but by the power of their example that shows us that a better Australia starts with all of us being better Australians.

Today is also a day for all of us to stop and think about the bushfires that have ravaged so many parts of rural Australia.

It is difficult to fully to comprehend the damage to the land and the impact on the lives of our fellow Australians.

Across the country, more than at least 26 people have lost their lives, more than 11 million hectares have burned and approximately one billion animals killed, including tens of thousands of native fauna.

In large towns and small, the fires indiscriminately burned, forcing thousands to seek shelter elsewhere.

Here in South Australia, we felt the enormity of the blazes at Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island and mourned the loss of Dick Lang and his son, Dr Clayton Lang.

In Mallacoota, Victoria, the density of the ash and smoke turned day into night and the flames turned night into day,

The town's beach, so often the meeting place for local families to enjoy the summer, literally became the last refuge and final hope for survival.

It is no exaggeration that some newspapers describe the conditions of the fires raged across our country as 'hell on earth.'

But in the middle of the fires, were the angels in yellow; career and volunteer fire fighters and emergency services personnel – men and women, who day after day, week after week and in some cases month after month, have worked to exhaustion to save the lives of people, animals, homes and businesses.

We are in awe of their courage, humbled by their sacrifice and inspired by their determination to bring an end to the devastation of so many communities - in some cases

working to exhaustion to save other people's homes after they had lost their own.

Today, on Australia Day, our flag flies high and proud because of them – they are the wind beneath our wings.

We can also be proud that we Australians are a caring and compassionate people.

From the famous to the anonymous, people at both ends of the economic spectrum and everyone in between,

Australians – both at home and abroad - have not only opened their wallets and purses donating tens of millions to help those who have experienced the fires, they have also opened their hearts, with messages of hope.

That is the spirit of Australia.

Today is also a day to be thankful for the peaceful, harmonious and culturally diverse society we live in compared to other parts of the world.

For more than 60,000 years this country has been enriched by the wonderful diversity of cultures that has enriched our society.

First by Aboriginal people during the 'Dream Time' 60,000 years ago, and in the last 232 years by people from all corners of the earth.

Australia's story – its great unfinished story - is a story of migration.

It is our story.

All of us here are today are either migrants or descendants of migrants.

More than in four Australians was born overseas and nearly one in two Australians have at least one parent born overseas.

That this country is home to people who have settled here from all over the world from different races, practising different faiths, and so generously willing to share their unique traditions, customs and culture is quite unique from the experience of many other countries.

As the song goes, *“We are one, but we are many. And from all the lands on earth we come.”*

Since the end of the Second World War nearly 8 and a half million people, 800,000 of whom were refugees and humanitarian entrants, have made their way to Australia.

Every one of them has come to Australia not with the expectation of living the high life but rather, with the hope of living a full life; a life of dignity, a life with meaning, a life of happiness.

For all these arrivals, Australia has not only opened its doors, it also opened its arms and its heart to provide the opportunity for a new home.

True to the lyrics of our national anthem, they came “across the seas” and “toiled with hearts and hands” to turn a country with plenty of land into a land of plenty.

To the candidates for citizenship, Australia's migrant history should be a source of inspiration to you that race, ethnicity and cultural background should not be a barrier to fulfilling your dreams and aspirations.

Here in South Australia, you don't have to look very far for inspiration.

Presentation of Citizen of the Year Award

I now invite Cr Kevin Duke to present our Citizen of the Year.

Citation read by Cr Kevin Duke

Leslie Dennis, or 'Les' as he's known, is like no other.

Since 2008, Les has been making PK Mentoring Camps a reality, positively impacting the lives of hundreds of South Australian young people with a parent in prison.

Les generously and tirelessly volunteers his time, energy and heart into these camps as PK Mentoring Camps liaison for Second Chances SA, coordinating up to ten each year.

Les has overseen an impressive 93 camps spanning 11 years' service in this role.

As volunteer PK Mentoring Camps liaison, he is the vital link between the children and young people participating in the camps and the camping leadership teams.

Les also plays a key role in liaising and working alongside PK Family Care, who follow-up with the participants between camps.

Les' commitment to PK Mentoring Camps is driven by his passion to support and encourage young people in need of a positive male influence in their lives. Under Les' guidance, many campers have now transitioned into fully fledged camp leaders - inspiring and mentoring the next generation of PK campers.

Outside of camps, Les is a consistent friend and mentor, taking campers to football games and even training one camper how to navigate a Corolla Capers course.

Ryan, a camper who has now become a volunteer camp leader says, "The other major positive influence in my life has been Les, who I met at the very first PK Mentoring Camp. I could have gone down a completely different road and even ended up in prison, without having met him. He is a great man and has taught me to believe in myself."

With his compassion, understanding and empathy, these camps and their impact will have a resonating impact in the lives of some of this state's most valuable young people.

Les is a much loved legend, an endless source of joy and enthusiasm and a positive example to all around him.

(present award and invite Les Dennis to speak)

Presentation of Community Event of the Year

I will now invite Cr Garry Knoblauch to present our
Community Event of the year

Citation read by Cr Garry Knoblauch

Over the past 4 years, the Payneham RSL has expanded and encouraged the local and wider community to be involved with the dawn service as well as other activities back at the club rooms.

The number of members has risen from approximately 300 to well over 2000 in this timeframe.

As part of the ANZAC Day commemorations, the Payneham RSL instigated a march from the club rooms to the Cross of

Sacrifice, which included police escort, pipes and drums and marching of the club members and wider community.

The march has been noted by the former Defence Minister, The Honourable Christopher Pyne, the Honorable Steven Marshall, Premier of SA, Mr Terry Stevens and the current federal member for Sturt, Mr James Stevens MP.

It has helped grow the sense of community in the Payneham area and will become bigger and better each year!

Through the creation of the Payneham RSL Veterans Well-Being Centre the younger veterans and their families are once again becoming involved with the RSL.

It is activities such as the ANZAC Day commemorations which brings people together and gets them talking, which

strengthens social inclusion and builds positive mental health.

(present award and invite Scott Jeffery to speak)

These awards are something to be proud of and we are very lucky to have you all in our community.

Ambassador Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to introduce Michele Lally, one of many Australia Day Ambassadors attending Australia Day celebration in our state.

Michele is an award-winning entrepreneur, passionate agricultural advocate, and an Australia Day ambassador.

Michele grew up in the beautiful Adelaide Hills, she's studied food, wine and marketing, she's travelled the world following her passion for snowboarding, worked in Melbourne and Sydney in IT and business consulting, and returned to Adelaide to introduce business process management systems and software to the South Australian market.

It was after she returned to Adelaide that Michele began her award-winning, paddock-to-plate business, Savannah Farm, which produces ethical and organic meat products and is built around true and transparent animal welfare, and organic, regenerative farming. As a result, it produces some of the best quality meat available in the Australian market.

Michele has also started up Australian Meat Innovators, another business built around animal welfare as well as supporting farmers. This venture gives farmers the opportunity to create their own supply chain by building on-site abattoirs, resulting in greater profits at the farm gate.

Michele has won awards for innovation; 3 consecutive sustainability awards at the SA Food Awards, and her businesses have been inducted into the Brand SA hall of fame.

She speaks regularly at agriculture forums, specialising in how farmers can take back control of their supply chain.

Michele is extremely active in the agricultural community, at events and as a board member. She also actively volunteers and fundraises for disaster and bushfire relief responses.

We know that food brings people together, sparks conversations and unites communities. In South Australia, we're lucky to have an abundance of good food, good wine and good people. Michele Lally is one of these good people, whose work reflects this sense of community and certainly inspires.

Now without further ado, please welcome Michele.

[Ambassador comes to the stage and speech – 3 mins]

(Present with flowers and badge)

Australian Girls' Choir

I would now like to introduce the Australian Girls' Choir who will perform three songs for us.

- **'I am Australian'**
- **'You're the Voice'**
- **'I still call Australia home'**

Citizenship Ceremony

We now come to a very important part of today's proceedings – the Citizenship Ceremony.

Can those candidates who will be receiving their Citizenship, move to the area to my left before we commence the Ceremony.

Today is the celebration of a significant milestone for all Australians – the 71st anniversary of Australian Citizenship.

On this day in 1949, the new citizenship legislation automatically conferred Australian citizenship to the majority of Australia's population.

It introduced a unique national identity for Australians, in addition to their existing British subject status.

One week later, the first Australian citizenship ceremony was held at the Albert Hall in Canberra where seven European men became Australian citizens.

To the candidates for citizenship here today, this ceremony marks the beginning of a new chapter your own life.

Citizenship is more than just rights and responsibilities, as important as they are.

It is more than being able to apply for a position in the Commonwealth Public Service or to apply for an Australian passport.

Citizenship is not a spectator sport, but rather a life-long invitation to participate in the community life of Australia.

Parliamentarian's Presentations

I would like to invite our Parliamentarians to come up and speak.

Before I call upon candidates for Citizenship to take the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance, it is my duty to read to you Schedule 1 of the *Australian Citizenship Ceremony Regulations 2007*.

Australian Citizenship represents full and formal membership of the community of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Australian citizenship is a common bond, involving reciprocal rights and obligations, uniting all Australians, while respecting their diversity. Persons on whom Australian citizenship is conferred enjoy these rights and undertake to accept these obligations:

- (a) By pledging loyalty to Australia and its people;*
- (b) By sharing their democratic beliefs;*
- (c) By respecting their rights and liberties; and*
- (d) By upholding and obeying the laws of Australia.*

I would also like to read a message from Hon David Coleman MP, Federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs:

Today, you become an Australian citizen.

We are immensely proud of what we have achieved as a nation, and we welcome you in joining us.

Our history and culture has been forged over thousands of years, first through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and more recently with people from all corners of the earth.

Australia has succeeded as a nation by embracing – and defending – our national values.

We believe in freedom, in the rule of law, in democracy.

We believe that all people are equal, regardless of their cultural background, gender, race or religion.

We are a resilient nation. We have overcome world wars, depression, drought and flood.

We stand with other strong democracies in helping to defend and protect hard fought freedoms.

By committing yourself to Australia today, you have chosen to embrace our nation and its values.

Like so many millions of people throughout our history, you have decided to take on the rights – and responsibilities – of Australian citizenship.

On behalf of the Australian Government, I congratulate you on reaching this very special day.

It's now your responsibility to join all of us in building an even stronger nation.

I would now like to ask those candidates for Citizenship who will be taking the Oath of Allegiance to please repeat after me:

From this time forward, under God

I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people

Whose democratic beliefs I share

Whose rights and liberties I respect, and

Whose laws I will uphold and obey.

Thank you.

I would now like to ask those candidates for citizenship who will be taking the Affirmation of Allegiance, to please stand and repeat after me:

From this time forward

I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people

Whose democratic beliefs I share

Whose rights and liberties I respect, and

Whose laws I will uphold and obey.

Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in congratulating our newest Australian citizens.

Presentation of Citizenship Certificates

As I call your name, will you please come forward to receive your Certificate of Citizenship and a gift from the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and return to your seats.

Families will be called up together.

Mayor to read list – alphabetical by surname:

Red = families / (D) = child

Sanja Bulat

Mihaela Bulat (D)

Zarko Bulat

Archana Bala-muthu-krishnan

Kanchna Bala-muthu-krishnan (D)

Yashna Bala-muthu-krishnan (D)

Dacil Ana Cabrera Manrique

Valerio Getuli

Ruth Gabriela Gonzalez Perez

Jing Guo

Chao Huang

Lucie Jaku-bikova

Kien Sen Lim

Samuel Carl Manning

Mahesh Mathew

Gaurav Munjal

Geetika Munjal

Aanya Munjal (D)

Kinjal Tushar Patel

Anuradha Pati

Purendra Kumar Pati

Arvind Kumar Pati (D)

Jeyamani Ramachandran

Fadi Sufian Radi Qaddoumi

Prabhu Rajendran

Magalakshmi Ramamurthy

Siddharth Prabhu (D)

Rohit Kumar

Jennifer Jean Rose

Rochelle Cervera Sergio

Dana Louise Cervera Sergio (D)

Michael Servidad Sergio

Ying Ying So

Chao Pan

Lien Sea Tee

Eng Lee Ooi

Molly Rose Worthington

Jack Robert Lumb

As Australian citizens, you now have the right to vote, to stand for public office, and to travel on an Australian passport as ambassadors for Australia.

Your right to participate in the political process enables you to make a greater contribution to the social and economic life of this country.

You are encouraged to seize the opportunity to fully participate in the direction Australia takes through participating in the democratic process.

If you haven't done so, I encourage you to see Michelle from the Australian Electoral Commission before you leave today to pick up an Enrolment Form.

I am sure you will all give much to Australia and to your community and that you will all help to ensure that our nation's freedom and independence is preserved for future generations.

On behalf of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, I again congratulate you on becoming Australian Citizens and extend my best wishes to you and your families for a healthy, happy and prosperous future.

National Anthem of Australia

I now invite you – if you are able – to stand for the National Anthem of Australia to be sung by Mr Lou Pisaniello.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes today's formalities.

Thank you all for being a part of this special Australia Day Celebration.

Before we break, I ask you to please show your appreciate to the wonderful efforts by Council staff to put on today's event.

Please also thank Holly's Catering, Chez Coffee and the College Park Scouts for providing the breakfast today.

If I can just ask the new citizens to join me up here for a group photo before you leave.

Thank you and good morning.

ENDS