

MAYOR ROBERT BRIA

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION & CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Friday, 26 January 2018

St Peters Street, St Peters

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:

- **Mr Steven Marshall MP**, Member for Dunstan
- **Ms Vickie Chapman MP**, Member for Bragg
- **Mr Matthew Loader**, Labor candidate for Dunstan representing **The Hon Kate Ellis MP**, Federal Member for Adelaide

Welcome to my fellow Elected Members:

- Carlo Dottore
- Kevin Duke
- John Frogley
- Connie Granozio
- Garry Knoblauch
- Mike Stock
- Lucy Marcuccitti
- John Minney
- Evonne Moore
- Christel Mex
- Kevin Shepherdson
- Sue Whittington
- Paul Wormald, and their partners.

A warm welcome also to council staff here this morning.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the 58 people who this morning will become Australian Citizens and of course, their families and friends who are here to witness this solemn ceremony.

Shortly, today's candidates for Citizenship will stand before to take an Oath of Affirmation of Allegiance to Australia us and pledge their commitment its people, democratic beliefs and laws.

Ladies and gentlemen.

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

It is a time when all of us can take the time to pause and think about our past, present and future.

Like every nation, Australia is history is imperfect complex.

But I ask you to 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 - Professor Michelle Simmons
- Senior Australian of the Year – Dr Graham Farquahr
- Local Hero of the Year - Mr Eddie Woo
- Young Australian of the Year – Ms Samantha Kerr

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

I would particularly like to congratulate Dr Sharrad Kumar AO, of Joslin, on his appointment to this year's Australia Day Honours list.

We thank him and nearly 900 other Australians for their outstanding service to their community.

But we also thank and honour countless other Australians who have not been recognised with Honours today; everyday Australians - our neighbours and friends - whose name you will not see in the newspaper but who quietly go about their business, serving their community 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 our country a better place.

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

As citizens it is up to us to bring hope with there is despair, reconciliation where there is division, healing where there is hurt, and understanding where there is ignorance.

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 40,000 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' 40,000 years ago, and in the last 230 years by people from all corners of the earth.

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

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

Today, one 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 religions, 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.”*

Indeed, in only a handful of countries in the world is this possible and fortunately Australia – our home - is one of them.

That in itself is worth of celebration.

Since the end of the Second World War nearly 8 million people, 800,000 of whom were refugees and humanitarian entrants, have made their way to Australia – each one of them with their own unique story to tell.

Each 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 of peace, a life of happiness.

For all these arrivals, Australia not only opened its doors, it also offered its heart and provided the opportunity of a home.

And in return, these migrants got to work; on the Snowy Mountain Scheme, in mines, in car and white goods factories, or as my late father-in-law did, in the cane fields of Queensland, in market gardens, on building sites and setting up small businesses.

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 in that race, ethnicity and cultural background are not barriers to fulfilling your dreams and aspirations.

In every part of Australian society, migrants and refugees, and their children, have succeeded and become leaders and pioneers in their chosen field.

In doing so they have not only realised their own potential as individual, but have also come to symbolise the potential and promise of our nation as a land where hard work, sacrifice and loyalty is rewarded.

Here in South Australia, we don’t have to look very far for inspiration.

Which other state in the Commonwealth can claim to have a refugee from Vietnam as its Governor and the son of Greek migrants as its Chief Justice?

Presentation by Australia Day Ambassador by Mr Michael O’Connell.

Presentation of Local Citizen of the Year Award to Mr Ian Rhode

Citation read by Cr Kevin Duke

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 left of the hall before we commence the Ceremony.

Today is the celebration of a significant milestone for all Australians – the 69th 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.

What's more, it's an invitation with no RSVP.

I am sure that many of you are already making a contribution to your community, but for others there is a place for you in a local sporting or service club.

There is a place for you on the School Board or Governing Council.

There is a place for you on council, or in the state and federal parliament.

Indeed, it is my since hope is that one day I will be sitting out there watching one of you standing in this very spot welcoming candidates for Australian Citizenship.

Parliamentarian's Presentations:

- **Mr Steven Marshall MP, Member for Dunstan**
- **Ms Vickie Chapman MP, Member for Bragg**
- **Mr Vincent Tarzia MP, Member for Hartley**
- **Hon Christopher Pyne, Member for Sturt and Minister for Defence Industries**
- **Ms Kate Ellis MP, Federal Member for Adelaide**

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 Peter Dutton MP, Federal Minister for Immigration & Border Protection:

Minister Dutton's Message

I would now like to ask those candidates for Citizenship who will be taking the Oath of Allegiance to please stand and 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. Would you please be seated.

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. Will you please be seated.

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.

Presentation of Citizenship Certificates

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

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.

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.

Australian Girls' Choir:

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

- **'I am Australian'**
- **'My Island Home'**
- **'I still call Australia home'**

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 **'People versus Coffee'**, Holly's Catering and the **St Peters Scouts** for putting on the barbecue breakfast today.

Please enjoy the rest of the Australia Day long weekend. Thank you and good morning.

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