

MAYOR ROBERT BRIA

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION & CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Saturday, 26 January 2019

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:

- **Hon Vickie Chapman MP**, Deputy Premier of South Australia
- **The Hon Kate Ellis MP**, Federal Member for Adelaide
- **Mr Bill Denny**, Australia Day Ambassador
- **Christine** and **Tung** from the Australian Electoral Commission

We have an apology from **Hon Steven Marshall MP**, Premier of South Australia and **Hon Christopher Pyne MP**, Minister for Defence and Federal Member for Sturt.

Welcome to my fellow Elected Members:

- Carlo Dottore
- Kevin Duke
- Kester Moorhouse
- Connie Granozio
- Garry Knoblauch
- Mike Stock
- 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.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the 63 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 us to take an Oath of Affirmation of Allegiance to Australia and pledge their commitment to its people, democratic beliefs and laws.

Ladies and gentlemen. 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. Like every nation, Australia's history is imperfect and 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, but also, I ask you to think about the societies that lived here before us.

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

- Australian of the Year -
- Senior Australian of the Year –
- Local Hero of the Year -
- Young Australian of the Year –

We honour them, as we do the hundreds of Australians from all walks of life, who were appointed with Australia Day Honours.

I would particularly like to congratulate:

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for their appointment to this year's Australia Day Honours list.

We thank them for their outstanding service to their 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 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, 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.

We all have a responsibility to bring hope where 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. There are many parts of the world that are not so fortunate.

For more than 40,000 years this country has been enriched by the wonderful diversity of cultures that complement our society.

First by Aboriginal people during the 'Dream Time' 40,000 years ago, and in the last 231 years by people from all corners of the earth.

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

The majority, if not all of us, here today are either migrants or descendants of migrants.

More than one in four Australians were 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.”*

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 opened its arms and its heart to provide the opportunity for a new home.

And in return, these migrants got to work; on the Snowy Mountain Scheme, in mines, in car and white goods factories like my father, or as my late father-in-law did, in the cane fields of Queensland, in market gardens, on building sites and setting up 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 to you in that race, ethnicity and cultural background should not be a barrier to fulfilling your dreams and aspirations.

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

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

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to introduce Mr Bill Denny, one of many Australia Day Ambassadors attending Australia Day celebrations in our state.

Bill has spent more than 21 years in the military, and he has served in South Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, as Aide de Camp to the Governor General and on exchange duty with the British Army in Germany.

He left the Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Post his military service, Bill was employed in management positions in manufacturing, retirement housing and transport industries, and in the real estate sector.

He studied at Flinders University as a mature student and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (Honours) in 2007.

He has been admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor in the Supreme Court of South Australia.

In 2006 Bill joined the state public service and was appointed the inaugural Director of Veterans SA.

In this position he oversaw the establishment of the veterans' affairs portfolio in our state, retiring in 2014.

Bill's deep and long-standing commitment to the ex-service community has been demonstrated through his many roles and as founder of the ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil, Patron of the National Servicemen's Association and also the Military Vehicle Preservation Society.

In 2006, Bill was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to the community, particularly veterans and their families through the expansion of ANZAC Day commemorative events in South Australia.

In 2014 he was awarded the Bravery Medal (BM) for his actions at a fatal traffic accident. He has also received an award for his service to the Vietnamese Veteran's community of South Australia.

Ongoing community appreciation for Bill's service to the veteran community was shown in 2014 when he was a state finalist in the

"Australian of the Year" awards, and in 2015 when he was named an RSL "ANZAC of the Year".

Since 2008 Bill has co-hosted "Veteran of the Month," a monthly segment on ABC Radio "Evenings with Peter Goers" where he has co-hosted and interviewed over 200 veterans and members of the ex-service community.

He maintains a direct link with ANZAC Day as a co-compere of the Adelaide ANZAC Day Commemorative March for the ABC.

Bill is married to Clare, and they have two adult children, three grandchildren and a number of rescue dogs.

Please welcome Bill.

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

We now come to the presentation of the local Australia Day Awards.

Presentation of Local Citizen of the Year Award to Mr Colin Abel

Citation read by Cr John Minney

Since settling in South Australia, Colin has been heavily involved with many local clubs and organisations, including the St Morris RSL, Kensington Park RSL, SA Scouting and the Caledonian Band Society.

A trained army caterer, Colin has volunteered to give his time, as well as his planning, cooking and catering skills, to serve his community since he retired.

Colin's achievements as a volunteer include planning and leading a team to feed lunch to over 200 of the Royal South Australia Regiment at the Edinburgh RAAF base; organising the annual Legacy appeal, including the ongoing welfare of veterans partners and children; And he was also in charge of catering for the 2019 Scout jamboree, which supported eight thousand children.

Colin is described as a man with “high morals and a willingness to serve his country and community” who “can lift the spirits of human beings during trying times”.

The service that Colin gives to his community is invaluable, and I am honoured to present to him this award.

Presentation of Local Citizen of the Year Award to Mr Ryan

Sumner- Knowles

Citation read by Cr Scott Sims

Ryan’s journey is one we are proud to acknowledge today. With the support of Second Chances SA, a non-profit volunteer organisation committed to restoring hope to children, families and communities in difficult circumstances, Ryan has been faced with challenges, but he has also been given opportunities that he has taken and in which he has flourished. After attending the Second Chances SA camps from a young age Ryan showed great leadership skills and at the age of 15, was asked by the camp provider to become a mentor leader to a group of children and teenagers.

He is now a volunteer camp leader showing what has been described as an ‘uncanny ability to encourage teens’ to participate in the camp activities.

He has continued to assist children who struggle with school and help them to grow in confidence.

Ryan has completed his certificate in Community Services to develop his career path, focusing on helping disadvantaged and troubled young people.

I am exceptionally proud that there are young people like Ryan in our city, and pleased that his service to the community is being recognised today.

Presentation of Local Community Event of the Year is ‘Cultures of Kensington’

Citation read by Cr Christel Mex

In 2017, the Kensington Residents Association celebrated its 40th anniversary by hosting a long-lunch festival called ‘Cultures of

Kensington', an opportunity for residents and newcomers to the area, to meet their neighbours.

Kensington is a wonderfully cultural diverse area, and the event was organised in recognition of this. 'Cultures of Kensington' was a chance for new migrants and residents from a number of different cultural backgrounds, to meet new people and make new friends, as well as share their culture and traditions with others.

All Kensington residents were invited and encouraged to attend wearing their traditional dress if they wished, as well as to bring a plate of food from the traditions of their cultural background, and pinpoint their family origins on a communal map. There were plenty of talking points for everybody! Around 200 people from more than 20 different cultural backgrounds attended the event, made new friends and tried delicious cuisines from around the world.

The event was planned in collaboration with Hopes Café, an initiative that helps new migrants and refugees to settle into Australian life, and was the perfect way to connect new migrants in Kensington to the support offered by the initiative.

A number of people that attended the event have become actively involved in the residents association. It's clear that the benefits of the 'Cultures of Kensington' event stretched beyond the long-lunch. This event has broken down barriers, helped residents to understand and appreciate the cultures of their neighbours, empowered residents to become actively involved in their community and consequently, reduced loneliness and isolation.

It can be daunting for anyone, in any setting, to be the 'new person', let alone find a way to fit into a whole new culture. Cultures of Kensington recognised this and helped to make this easier for residents, and I am very honoured to present to them this award.

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 70th 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 sincere 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:

- Hon Vickie Chapman MP, Deputy Premier of South Australia and Member for Bragg
- Hon Kate Ellis MP, Federal Member for Adelaide
- Hon Christopher Pyne, Minister for Defence and Federal Member for Sturt

As Christopher can't be with us today, I've been asked to read a few words on his behalf:

"I regret that I am unable to be with you on this important day. I am currently in China representing the Australian Government in my role as Minister for Defence.

I wish to congratulate and thank all who are to become new citizens today. Your commitment to building an even stronger society by being an active and positive participant in Australian life is appreciated and welcomed not only by me, but by all Australians.

I also wish to congratulate all award recipients. Your service to our community is valued by us all."

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.

David Coleman.

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.

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. Then wait on the stage for a group photo.

Presentation of Citizenship Certificates

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

Mayor to read list – alphabetical by surname:

Red = families / (D) = child

Mrs Surangika Shiromali Abewickrama

Mrs Smita Adhikary

Mr Rashid Akhtar

Amanpreet Kaur (D)

Mr Manjeet

Mr Sukhdev Singh (D)

Mr Moe Azizan

Miss Poorani Balasundaram

Mrs Baljit Kaur

Mr Rachhpal Singh

Mr Richard Barthes

Mrs Janette Sneddon Miller Bertram

Ms Kama Bharatbhai Brahmbhatt

Mrs Jagruti Viral Dhanani

Mr Pingchuan Fan

Mr Antonio Finocchio

Mrs Vincenza Finocchio

Mr David Allan Fourmy

Mrs Clare Sian Goodson

Mr Trevor Colin Goodson

Archie Thomas Goodson (D)

Isla Jane Goodson (D)

Mr Jerson Arturo Guzman Ospina

Mrs Alifiya Mustafa Haidermota

Mr Sang Jin Han

Ms Shaheen Harith

Ms Hueman Huynh

Mr Jatinder Singh

Mr Anuj K C

Doctor Patricia Kaazan

Ms Nattha Kaeokanha

Miss Saowalak Kaeokanha (D)

Mr Kasipillai Kandiah

Ms Loreline Inger Kerlidou

Ms Masooma Khanum

Miss Sungyeon Kim

Mrs Xuehui Li

Ms Pei Lim

Mr Matthew Francis Mccabe

Ms Nikoleta Millja

Mr Hong Phuc Alexandre Nguyen

Mrs Olaitan Olubukola Olalekan

Mr Shamusideen Ayodeji Olalekan

Adedamola Sadiq Olalekan (D)

Damilare Aishah Olalekan (D)

Damilola Aliyah Olalekan (D)

Sanvi Pathak (D)

Mr Bhumi Raj Pathak

Mrs Stuti Upadhyaya Pathak

Mr Shaanpreet Singh Sandhu

Mrs Bridgit Mathew Karamel

Mr Sabu Sebastian

Jiya Maria Sebastian (D)

Joel Sebastian (D)

Ms Pawandeep Kaur Shergill

Ms. Neetu Singh

Mr Chaminda Sampath Sooriyaarachchi

Akila Randika Sooriyaarachchi (D)

Mithila Ranmika Sooriyaarachchi (D)

Mr Sean Charles Sounes

Mr Pak Lim Jimmy Tse

Ms Ting Yan Leung

Miss Maria Theresa Casabar Vinuya

[Pause for audience applause and GROUP PHOTO]

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 Christine and Tung 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.

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 College Park Scouts for putting on the barbecue breakfast today.

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

ENDS