

Chair's Report

12 November 2018



Australia Day
Australia Day Council
Northern Territory

I'm honoured to have been appointed to the role of Chair by the Chief Minister for another two years and thank my fellow Board members for their ongoing support in developing and evolving our organisation as community expectations and economic conditions in the Northern Territory change.

This has been a big year in reviewing our constitution, strategic plan and financial management to ensure that we are operating effectively and developing activities which reflect our values and objectives while remaining relevant to the broader community as we aim to inspire Territorians to recognise and celebrate the diversity, achievements and lifestyle that makes Australia great.

A highlight of 2018 was the opportunity for 2017 Senior Australian of the Year, Sister Anne Gardiner AM to travel to Italy to speak at the Australian Embassy to the Holy See on International Women's Day. As we are all well aware, Sister Anne has the effect of leaving a lasting impression on people she meets and Rome was no exception. It was wonderful to see first-hand the genuine interest she created for the work she has done on the Tiwi Islands and the importance of the Australian of the Year Awards in highlighting the work of leaders in our communities who are willing to go beyond the call of duty and work tirelessly to achieve great things for the people around them.

I am also grateful to the 2018 recipients of the NT Australian of the Year Award who also demonstrated great tenacity and talent in their specific fields while highlighting significant issues not only for the Territory but the national as a whole.

May I pass on my sincere gratitude to outgoing Board members Robyn Cahill, Melissa Royal, Connie Jape and Rose Watts. Rose, who moved to Melbourne this year, resigned from the Board but continued to assist us in a volunteer capacity and was instrumental in the updating our constitution.

Welcome to Robert Annis-Brown, Nicole Brown, Nitesh Pant and Shipra Soni as new board members for a three-year term.

Board members Monica Bugno, Nathan Fanning, Edwin Joseph, Bob Shewring and David Taylor continue to serve on the Board. All members have been instrumental in implementing policies and procedures to ensure the success of Australia Day activities throughout the Northern Territory.

Special thanks also to our Administration team of Kiya Gill and Anna McDonald, who we would not be able to function without.

Our Executive Director Kiya Gill, continues to work towards making sure that Australia Day is a celebration that all Territorians would be proud of. Her network extends across the Territory, ensuring that as many community groups as possible have the opportunity to participate in and learn from Australia Day activities.

Both Kiya and Anna continuously strive to deliver a service of the highest standard, no task is too hard or budget too small. The success and diversity of our program is a credit to this small but highly functional team who remain enthusiastic and dedicated to the Australia Day values – thank you.

As we look forward to the year ahead it is timely to be reminded of all that has been achieved over the last twelve months and thank the broader community, our President the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory The Honorable Michael Gunner MLA and our Patron, Her Honour The Honorable Vicki O’Halloran AM Administrator of the Northern Territory for their support.

The following is a snap shot of our achievements over the past twelve months:

Awards

- 154 students were recognised through the Australia Day Student Citizen Awards, sponsored by the Department of Education.
- 23 communities participated in the Australia Day Local Government Awards recognising 42 individuals and 20 community groups who have made an outstanding contribution to their community across three award categories; Citizen, Young Citizen and Community Event.
- 16 extraordinary individuals including 4 award recipients were selected for the 2018 Northern Territory Australian of the Year Awards.

Events

- 200 people attended An Evening with Samuel Johnson held on 27 January at the Darwin Convention Centre.
- 3,000 people participated in the Australia Day Fun Run on the morning of Australia Day.
- 100 people attended a special event OZ Forum in June during World Refugee Week with 2018 NT Young Australian of the Year Kevin Kadirgamar and 2017 NSW Australian of the Year Deng Adut to discuss social inclusion and the enrichment of our communities through engaging in cultural diversity.
- 50 people attend a special Territory Day event which celebrated 40 years of self-government and discussed what ‘Makes the Territory Great’ with a panel of four well loved Territorians.

Programs

- 59 people from across 11 Northern Territory Regional Councils attended the Australia Day networking forum and Keep Australia Beautiful Conference held in Alice Spring in October.
- 15 communities received grants totaling \$34,000.00 to ensure the spirit of Australia Day is enjoyed by all Territorians.
- 38 organisations registered to participate in the Australia Day Sports Carnival with an array of sporting events held throughout January.
- More than 400 people attended 8 community events as part of our Tour of Honour with 2018 NT Australian of the Year Dr Bo Remenyi.

Ambassadors

- 5 high achieving and proud Australians travelled to communities across the Northern Territory to inspire and unite communities on Australia Day

Australian of the Year Awards

Each year our nation celebrates the achievements and contribution of eminent Australians through the

Australian of the Year Awards. This year we celebrated 16 extraordinary individuals and four award recipients who are leaders of our community and are changing the conversation in their communities, industries and across the nation.

Thank you to our 2018 Award recipients:

- Bettina Danganbarr NT Australia's Local Hero
- Kevin Kadirgamar NT Young Australian of the Year
- Kathy Guthadjaka Senior Australian of the Year
- Dr Bo Remenyi NT Australian of the Year

Sponsorship

The Australia Day Council NT would not be able to deliver this level of activity without the generous support of our sponsors and supporters. Thank you to the Northern Territory Government, National Australia Day Council, Australia Post, Zip Print, Ness Cotton Designs, Hardy Aviation, Commonwealth Bank, Sun Build, Northwest Construction, beverage sponsors Lion and Thomas Chin Wines, and media partners Territory FM.

I look further to ongoing activity, of evolving our program to ensure that it remains inclusive and relevant and further building our relationships.



Jeannette Button
Chair
Australia Day Council Northern Territory