

# Chair's Report

On Australia Day we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. In the Northern Territory these celebrations take on many forms, from a Black Tie Ball, to fun runs, flag raising ceremonies, multi-cultural events and a network of community and family fun days held across the Territory.



No matter how and where the day is celebrated, be that in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine or on the remote communities of Barunga, Milikapiti or Tennant Creek, at its core Australia Day is a day driven by community participation, the foundation of its ongoing success.

The following is a snap shot of our events over the last year:

## Awards

- 161 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 41 individuals and 20 community groups who have made an outstanding contribution to their community across three award categories; Citizen, Young Citizen and Community Event.
- 17 extraordinary individuals including 4 award recipients were selected for the **2017 Northern Territory Australian of the Year Awards**.
- 1 Northern Territory finalist was recognised as national **2017 Senior Australian of the Year**, Sister Anne Gardiner a 84 year old Catholic Nun and former school principal who has dedication her service to the Tiwi Community. Sister Anne has tirelessly continued to campaign for her cause through the Australia Day Award.

## Events

- 250 people attended the **Australia Day Black Tie Ball** held on 21 January at the Darwin Convention Centre. This year was the first time the Territory's Australian of the Year Award recipients could attend the Ball before they travelled to Canberra for the National Australian of the Year Awards.
- 4,000 people participated in the **Australia Day Fun Run** on the morning of Australia Day.
- 50 people attended a special event **OZ ID** in June with award winning media presenter Ray Martin and an inspiring panel of Australian of the Year Award recipients. This free event was built around the conversation of who we are and what is our Australian identity?
- 18 people from across the Northern Territory travelled to Adelaide for the **2017 Australia Day National Conference** in July.

## Programs

- 38 people from across 14 Northern Territory Regional Councils attended the **Australia Day networking forum** and Keep Australia Beautiful Conference held in Darwin in October.
- 48 communities received **grants** from Australia Day Council NT totaling \$29,000.00 to ensure the spirit of Australia Day is enjoyed by all Territorians.
- 30 organisations registered to participate in the **Australia Day Sports Carnival** with an array of sporting events held throughout January.
- 300 people attended 12 community events as part of our **Tour of Honour** with ACT Australian of the Year Alan Tongue.

## Ambassadors

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

## 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, Woolworths, Hardy Aviation, INPEX, Commonwealth Bank, Airnorth, Creative Jewellers, beverage sponsors Lion, Thomas Chin Wines, NT Beverages and media partners Territory FM.

I look further to ongoing activity and further building our relationships.

## 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 17 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.

Tejinder pal Singh	NT Australia's Local Hero
Bridie Duggan	NT Young Australian of the Year
Sr Anne Gardiner	Senior Australian of the Year
Andrea Mason	NT Australian of the Year

## Senior Australian of the Year

On the eve of Australia Day this year Sister Anne Gardiner a 84 year old Catholic Nun and former school principal was named Senior Australian of the Year after more than six decades of service and dedication to the Tiwi Community. As a champion for maintaining and honoring traditional Tiwi culture and a passionate advocate of the need for community connection and empowerment, Sister Anne's involvement has been far-reaching. She's educated generations of local children and also established a variety of community organisations and initiatives, including the Patakajiyali museum for the preservation of Tiwi history, culture and language.

Sister Anne is an inspiration to us all and has been amazing to work with since receiving her Award. Sister Anne continues to deliver on a program of speaking engagements for which we have been grateful to be part of.

## Board

I'm honoured to have been appointed to the role of Chair by the Chief Minister and extend my heartfelt thanks to the out going Chair Daryl Manzie. It was a pleasure to work with Daryl as his deputy and I hope to continue to keep the NT on the national agenda through out involvement with the National Australia Day Council while delivering a program of events in the NT.

2017 also marks the end of tenure for several of our Board members, but as we say goodbye to some we welcome new members onboard to help us build the spirit of Australia Day.

May I pass on my sincere gratitude to out going Board members Jenna Wallace who moved to QLD and resigned from the Board earlier this year, and John Obolevics, Sarah Price and Maxine Dowley who completed a three-year term on the board in September.

Welcome to Edwin Joseph, Robert Shewring, David Taylor, Monica Bugno and Rose Watts as new board members for a three-year term.

Board members Melissa Royle and Nathan Fanning continue to serve on the Board as does Treasurer Robyn Cahill who is currently filling in a casual vacancy until September 2018. All members have been instrumental in implementing policies and procedures to ensure the success of Australia Day activities throughout the Northern Territory.

## **Administration**

Welcome back to our Executive Director Kiya Gill, who returned from maternity leave this year. Kiya 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. Her program this year is no exception, with a strong contingent to Adelaide for the national conference and our own regional forum planned for Alice Springs.

Thank you to Sandy Thorne and Leanne Scott-Toms who have moved on to other things and welcome to Anna McDonald in the role of Administration Officer for a 12-month period. Anna has been a great addition to the team and we look forward to continuing to work with them as our programs and events roll out in the lead up to Australia Day.