

Executive Director's Report

30 November 2020

As I write this report, I am reflecting on what an interesting 12 months we have had and the great things that we have achieved despite so much uncertainty during the latter part of the year.

Australia Day Council Northern Territory were proudly the first state / territory to take the Australian of the Year Awards outside of a capital city and it was our pleasure to hold the 2020 Awards in Alice Springs.

We also held our annual regional conference in Alice Springs the day after, giving conference delegates an opportunity to experience the Australian of the Year Awards and hear the inspiring stories of nominees from across the Territory.

This year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we were unable to travel to remote communities as we have done in previous years for the Tour of Honour so we held three individual events in, Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine instead. Events were subject to Covid Safety plans all in compliance with physical distancing requirements.

Annabel and Tom Curtain generously allowed us to host our "Campfire Conversation" event at the stunning Katherine Outback Experience as well as supplying the technical support allowing 2020 Australia's Local hero Bernie Shakeshaft to participate virtually from his own campfire in Armidale, NSW. Campfire Conversation discussed the topic of Youth Wellbeing during Covid-19. The panel was made up of 2019 Australia's Local Heroes Kate and Tick Everett along with 2019 Australian of the Year nominee Adam Drake and was facilitated by Sacha King from Two Two One Mental Health Charity.

We partnered with Story Projects to bring "SPUN: Heart" to the Darwin Festival, showcasing personal journeys from previous Australian of the Year Awards alumni all with the intertwining theme of "heart".

2020 also saw the roll out of a new branding campaign and key messaging of **Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. "We're all part of the story"**, creating a consistent message across the country on Australia Day that we all have a different story, encouraging everybody listen to each other and respect one another's views.

We are very fortunate to have the continued support of the National Australia Day Council and the Northern Territory Government, enabling us to continue to deliver our programmes far and wide across the Territory.

March saw us bid farewell to Jeannette Button who had been a part of the Australia Day Council Northern Territory board since 2012 and held the Chair's position for the past three years. Jeannette brought a wealth of knowledge and board experience to our organisation especially in the areas of media, communications, and public relations. Thank you, Jeannette.

I would like to recognise and thank the Australia Day Council Northern Territory board for their support throughout the year. Thank you to Vice Chair, Dr Edwin Joseph for filling in during the interim whilst we waited for the appointment of Nigel Browne to the Chair position.

I would also like to acknowledge our Patron, Her Honour The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AM Administrator and our President, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for the Australia Day Council Northern Territory programmes.

Lastly, the Australia Day Council Northern Territory would like to thank the following organisations for their support and generosity: Thank you ABC Darwin, Athletics NT, Darwin Waterfront Corporation, Darwin Convention Centre, City of Darwin, Darwin Aviation Museum, Lion Co.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead.



Anna McDonald

Executive Director

Australia Day Council Northern Territory

2019-2020 Snapshot

Awards Programmes

- 139 Students were recognised through the **Student Citizen of the Year Awards**
- 42 individuals and 17 community groups were recognised through the **Australia Day Citizen of the Year awards**
- 16 individuals were recognised through the **2020 NT Australian of the Year Awards**

Events

- 150 guests attended the **2020 NT Australian of the Year Awards** in Alice Springs
- 2500 people participated in **OZ Run** on the morning of Australia Day
- 50 people attended "Campfire Conversation" in Katherine
- 150 people attended "Come Fly with Us" at the Darwin Aviation museum
- 50 people attended an event in Alice Springs to hear the story of 2020 NT Australian of the Year Dr Geoff Thompson
- 35 community events were held across the Territory on Australia Day 2020

Programs

- 32 sporting clubs and associations participated in the Australia Day **OZ Sports** programme
- 18 communities received grants totalling \$44,000 to ensure the spirit of Australia Day was enjoyed by all Territorians
- 21 people from across 12 regional council attended the **Australia Day Regional Conference** in Alice Springs

Ambassadors

Seven high achieving Australians travelled across the Northern Territory to inspire and unite communities on Australia Day. Thank you to: Adam Drake, Bob Shewring, Bridie Duggan, David Taylor, Jane Alia, Helen Summers, and Kevin Kadirgamar.