

2018 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS & CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Ngadjuri & Kaurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which we come together today. I pay respect to their Elders both past and present and to their culture – Our first Australians have lived on this land and cared for it for over forty thousand years being the oldest continuous human living culture on earth.

The Member for Schubert Stephan Knoll MP, distinguished guests, fellow Councilors, ladies and gentlemen and to all those young people present today. Good morning and a very warm welcome to the 2018 Australia Day Awards, Citizenship Ceremony and breakfast. It is indeed an honour to address you this morning and to make these presentations on Australia's National Day. It's great to be back at Roseworthy and certainly very pleasing to see so many of our citizens present at this excellent venue owned and managed by the Roseworthy Community.

Important community events such as this don't just happen and I would take this opportunity to acknowledge all those volunteers and in particular, our hosts the Roseworthy Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee. The Hall has a wonderful history and is certainly well maintained and a credit to all concerned. On behalf of Council I sincerely thank you for your considerable efforts in organising this special celebration.

We are here today to celebrate the spirit of the Nation but for all of us it is also an occasion to remind us and give thanks for our good fortune - for the unique beauty of our land, diversity of its wildlife and natural riches on this, our National Day. We will also conduct a Citizenship Ceremony during which 4 of our residents will make a pledge and be welcomed as new Australian Citizens. I am pleased to say Australia is a proud multicultural nation and has immigrants from more than 200 countries bringing to our great southern land their cultures, knowledge, skills and strong work ethic for which we are grateful and which has been to Australia's great benefit.

In addition, as part of the Australia Day Awards Ceremony Council will recognise and reward our Young Citizen of the Year, the Community Event of the Year, Citizen of the Year and Community Project of the Year. I would take this opportunity to sincerely thank those caring people who provided the submissions for Council to consider in making these Awards which will be presented a little later.

Before I continue, it may be appropriate to take a moment to reflect on the past year, in a fast moving world that continues to beset by turbulence and anxiety, religious and racial conflict, economic upheaval, the ever present threat of terrorism and the uncertainties of climate change.

We should however, never lose sight of the many wonderful things that take place around Australia and among great nations of the world that stand united and continue a 'steely resolve' to stand strong against evil and do so much to protect our environment and the planet.

It's an appropriate time also spare a thought for those members of the Australian Defense Forces and others currently serving our nation overseas in the endeavor to bring peace and understanding in war torn countries. The selfless sacrifice of the diggers a century ago and the courage of their descendants continues in the Middle East and other places today.

Australians come from over 200 countries, of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds. And yet in a world where conflict and intolerance seems more intractable than ever, we live together in peace and harmony in the midst of extraordinary diversity. Gratefully, in our country Australians live together as one people in a nation blessed by political stability and a strong sense of goodwill and social harmony.

Australia Day is a time to celebrate so many good things which have come our way. It is also a time to reflect on the past and realise that we can only be rewarded by our own efforts. Many wonderful events took place in our region and around Australia during the past year and we have a lot to be thankful for. We are indeed in many ways the 'Lucky Country'.

As Aussies looking to the future, we need to think of how we contribute as citizens within our community and society. It's not good enough to take no responsibility and just say 'who cares', 'blame others' or simply take what's good on offer and put nothing back. This is just not the 'Australian' way. Our strong sense of justice springs from the solidarity, mutual respect, and mateship that transcends and binds us together in our diversity. That is always when we are at our best and most Australian - Volunteers fighting fires and floods is a classic example. May I remind you of the courage and selfless and ongoing efforts of our own CFS, MFS, SA Police & other Emergency Services - they are outstanding. Thank you all for your service and underlying commitment. Together we have created a remarkable nation. I am confident the Australian spirit of mateship, giving people a fair go and lending a hand to others a little less fortunate than ourselves remains in the forefront of our minds and defines the spirit of our nation. This practice is very much alive in our region and there is considerable evidence and there will certainly be examples of this presented today.

It would be remiss of me to not also recognise the excellent schools we have in our region all producing outstanding results educating students to the highest standards who will soon be our next leaders. To acknowledge this, I am honoured to present Mayoral Awards at both senior schools and Kapunda Rotary Club continue to present Rotary achievers Awards at two primary schools

Australia is a vast nation and during the last year, wide areas of our great southern land continued to endure some extraordinary weather conditions from drought to flooding rain. Thinking of these amazingly resilient Australians living in outback towns or on cattle stations and farms and their strong connection to and love of the land, they can only be admired and truly epitomizes the true 'Aussie spirit'.

Australia Day is our National Day and a celebration of what makes this nation great. Thinking of this my mind turned to the words of that great Australian anthem "I Am Australian" written by Songwriters: Bruce Woodley / Dobe Newton and recorded by The Seekers. I will narrate the words and try to do this justice as I am sure you will agree the words accurately reflect who we are and where we came from. Please join in the chorus if you like.

I am Australian

I came from the dream-time
From the dusty red-soil plains
I am the ancient heart
The keeper of the flame
I stood upon the rocky shores
I watched the tall ships come
For forty thousand years I've been
The first Australian

I came upon the prison ship
Bowed down by iron chains
I bought the land, endured the lash
And waited for the rains
I'm a settler, I'm a farmer's wife
On a dry and barren run
A convict, then a free man
I became Australian

I'm the daughter of a digger
Who sought the mother lode
The girl became a woman
On the long and dusty road
I'm a child of the Depression
I saw the good times come
I'm a bushie, I'm a battler
I am Australian

*Chorus: We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We'll share a dream and sing with one voice
I am, you are, we are Australian*

I'm a teller of stories
I'm a singer of songs
I am Albert Namatjira
And I paint the ghostly gums
I'm Clancy on his horse
I'm Ned Kelly on the run
I'm the one who waltzed Matilda
I am Australian

I'm the hot wind from the desert

I'm the black soil of the plains

I'm the mountains and the valleys

I'm the drought and flooding rains

I am the rock, I am the sky

The rivers when they run

The spirit of this great land

I am Australian

Chorus: We are one, but we are many

And from all the lands on earth we come

We'll share a dream and sing with one voice

I am, you are, we are Australian

Thank you everybody for allowing me to narrate (albeit not so very well) these profound words that to me typify who we are.

As we head into a the new year we all may need to 'tighten our seat belts' as I am confident we will enjoy the ride as your Council is in delivery mode undertaking its Accelerated Infrastructure Program with many roads and footpaths being constructed along with major storm water management schemes being introduced and other significant projects and activities being rolled out across our region.

Where we stand today and after a ten year long journey the Roseworthy Expansion Program is also in its 'delivery phase' This expansion effects 525 hectares of land to the south of the existing Roseworthy township which was rezoned in 2016 to accommodate up to 2500 new homes over the next 30 years.

It is certainly going to be an exciting journey and a great time to live in and enjoy all that our region has to offer.

For the future, I wish you and your families a healthy and prosperous New Year and a through enjoyment of all that life can offer. I am honoured and proud to be your Mayor and thank you for listening.

Congratulations to all taking part in today's Citizenship Ceremony. Australians have created a dynamic society in which each citizen can live a rich and meaningful life. In addition, Australians created a democracy that welcomes others to its shores, that awards each citizen the right to vote in open and free elections and is committed to equality of treatment before the law, and respects individual privacy so we can each live the life we value.

Australia Day Awards are designed to acknowledge those people and that have made a positive difference in our region, and the special events and projects that have made a significant contribution to our communities, social well-being and lifestyle. Without committed community minded people who volunteer and organisations prepared to organise and promote special events, our communities would be a poorer place. As a result of this combined contribution the very features of Australian life we celebrate today are greatly enhanced. I thank you one and all for your contribution and look forward to announcing the recipients of these Awards this morning.