



Australia Day



**Wentworth
Shire Council**

AUSTRALIA DAY 2018

**PROGRAM
BURONGA, WENTWORTH
AND DARETON**

AUSTRALIA DAY PROGRAM

BURONGA WETLANDS

- 7.30 am Breakfast provided by the Lions Club of Buronga Gol Gol at a cost of \$5 per head per adult and a gold coin donation for children under 10
- 7.45 am Address by Peter Kozlowski, General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council
- Raising of the flag and singing of Advance Australia Fair
- 8.00 am Address by Mayor Councillor Melisa Hederics and introduction of Australia Day Ambassador, Mr Allan Sparkes CV, OAM, VA

CIVIC CENTRE, WENTWORTH

- 11.00am Address by Peter Kozlowski, General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council
- Raising of the flag and singing of Advance Australia Fair
- 11.15am Address by Mayor Councillor Melisa Hederics and introduction of Australia Day Ambassador, Mr Allan Sparkes CV, OAM, VA
- Australia Day Awards Ceremony commences
- 12.00 Lunch commences – provided by Wentworth Public School at a cost of \$5 per adult and a gold coin donation for children under 10

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUBROOMS, DARETON

- 3.00pm Welcome by Marion Waters
- Address by Mayor Councillor Melisa Hederics and announcement of Australia Day Award winners and introduction of Australia Day Ambassador, Mr Allan Sparkes CV, OAM, VA
- 3.30pm Community singing and celebration

AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADOR

Wentworth Shire Council is honoured to welcome Allan Sparkes, CV, OAM, VA as our Australia Day Ambassador for 2018.

Allan is a Deputy Commissioner of the Mental Health Commission of NSW. He is also one of Australia's most highly decorated citizens. One of only five Australians in the past 42 years to receive Australia's highest bravery decoration and civilian award, the Cross of Valour, Allan has also been awarded Australia's fourth highest bravery decoration, the Commendation for Brave Conduct.

On Australia Day in 2017 Allan was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to Mental Health Support organisations and the community. Allan is one of only 10 Australians to receive the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Allan is the Patron of the Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation, and apart from being an Australia Day Ambassador, is an Ambassador for Beyondblue, Soldier On, and Kookaburra Kids. He is also a proud supporter of Tribal Warrior Indigenous Youth program and the Indigenous Never Going Back Program at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence at Redfern and a mentor for the Indigenous Police recruiting program, IPROWD. He is a member of the Mental Health Commission Suicide Prevention Advisory Panel and a member of the NSW Police Mental Health Intervention Team.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

NOMINEES FOR SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

MIKAELA FRASER

Mikaela's achievements show her to be an outstanding athlete, excelling in a variety of sports, particularly netball. She was a member of the 2016 SFNL A grade Team of the Year; the 2016 SFNL A-grade Premiership team and in 2017 she took out the SFNL A-grade netball best and fairest for the league. Other accolades include the Age Champion at Coomealla High School's swimming, cross-country and athletics carnivals and the prestigious Australian Olympic Committee 'Pierre de Coubertin' Award.

NOMINEES FOR YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

WILLEM ALLEN

Willem's abilities have seen him represent Gol Gol School with distinction in a number of sports including athletics, cross country and swimming. He has taken out the Murray Darling and Barrier Boys Champion in athletics, cross country and swimming and has represented the state. Named captain of the AFL Barrier team, he qualified to swim in the PAN PACS in Adelaide last December, following his gold medal performance in the 2016 PAN PACS. In 2017 Willem was a finalist in the Literacy Planet Legends Award in the sporting category for his swimming performances.

LAURA HANCOCK

Laura has successfully represented Wentworth Public School in athletics, swimming and cross country and is viewed as a team player who always practices sportsmanship. She is the current Sports Captain of Darling House, and over the past year has taken out many firsts amongst the varied sports and athletics carnivals and tennis tournaments she has attended. Laura has also represented the Murray-Darling Region and the Barrier Region in all her sporting disciplines and has excelled in each.

OLIVIA BAIRD

Olivia is an active member of the sporting community and also a busy contributor to community organisations. Wentworth Public School Vice-Captain in 2017, Olivia has represented the school in cross country, swimming and athletics at Murray Darling and Barrier PSSA level in 2016 and 2017. This year she was school age champion in swimming and athletics. She has competed in athletics carnivals, swim squads, plays netball and still finds time to dance tap and jazz. Her community activities include assisting the local Op Shop, Meals on Wheels, visiting Murray House and the Wentworth Community Christmas Eve Street Party.

ZANNAH HARMER

Zannah has represented Wentworth Public School in athletics, swimming and cross-country, and is seen as a great team member who conducts herself in a sportsmanlike manner. Zannah has represented the school in cross country, swimming and athletics at Murray Darling and Barrier PSSA level in 2016 and 2017. This year, she was school age champion in cross country - runner up in athletics and swimming and Age high jump champion at Barrier level. She competed at the NSW PSSA Athletics Carnival in high jump and relay in 2017; is a member of the Murray Darling Swim Squad and plays Netball for the Wenty Roos.

NOMINEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

HOWARD JONES

Howard has the reputation of being an innovative leader in natural resource management; recognised and respected across the Murray-Darling Basin as well as at the local, state national and international level. Howard had 22 years as chair of the community-based and not-for-profit Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group, where he has oversaw the rehabilitation and protection of hundreds of wetlands covering thousands of hectares along the Murray, Edward and Darling Rivers. Under his leadership, the Wetlands Working Group has received Landcare awards, the National Riverprize in 2007 and the Banksia Award in 2017.

IAN AND BARBARA LAW

Ian and Barbara have spent the last 17 years preserving the history, flora and fauna of 104 acres of land on the Darling River including the Avoca Homestead (built in 1871), to ensure that the unique natural surrounds are preserved for future generations. Through Heritage Homestead, Ian and Barb promote an appreciation of the environment, including Darling River red gums - some of which are 300 years old and which are protected through heritage listing.

NOMINEES FOR YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

JANE CULLINAN

Jane has a selfless approach to life; whether representing her school or contributing to her community. School Captain at Wentworth Public School, Jane was the representative at Mungo Youth Conference, ANZAC Day March, City-country Alliance and attended the Student Leaders' Summit (Sydney). Jane's sporting achievements centre around her tennis success, where she represented Wentworth and Mildura in the Riverland Challenge. A keen volunteer, she assisted the school with catering activities, performed in the school band at the Wentworth Show and participated as a model in the Wentworth Tennis Club's "Wedding Gowns over the Years" Fashion Parade.

MAHKAILA SANSOM

Mahkaila's passion to serve community and country and can be seen in her four years as an Australian Army cadet. She has just completed the 75th Anniversary Trek of Kokoda in PNG as part of the Australian Army Cadet contingent. In 2015 she was awarded Cadet of the Year out of 150 other cadets. Planning to undergo an Australian Defence Force gap year at the end of the Year 12, she completed a five month cultural exchange program in Texas, USA. A top academic through all her travels, she is currently planning a community aid programme in Vietnam. A community volunteer, Mahkaila also plays Roller Derby in a senior league and represents regional Victoria.

JESSE JACKSON

Jesse is Coomealla High School's School Captain, Sports Captain and member of the School Representative Council (SRC). A very active member of the school community, Jesse has organised fundraising activities and events, represented the school at official functions and is fundamental in organising sporting events such as swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals. Jesse has received a scholarship for "Indigenous Leadership Program", and has travelled to Sydney to participate in the 3 Art Camps. A member of the Midway Dance Group, Jesse is an indigenous spokesperson and an outstanding mentor and role model for her peers.

NOMINEES FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

JOHN WATERS

John was involved in the establishment of the Men's Shed in Dareton, of which he is a life member, and is known for his generous spirit when helping out others and giving back to the community. His involvement with many local associations include the Dareton/Coomealla 90 Year Celebrations, the Wentworth Aero Club, the Vintage Car Club, the Ulysses Motorcycle Club and is a member of the Uniting Church, in all of which he is a valued and dedicated member.

TROY WITTE

Troy is a resident who has a long history of affiliation with many local sporting and community organisations which have contributed to enriching the lives of many residents. Troy's loyalty and commitment to the Wentworth Tennis Club, the Curlwaa Cricket Club and the Wentworth APEX Club is evident in not only in the

many years' service he has provided but also the many important projects he has assisted with, and which have contributed to creating opportunities and amenities for the community.

JENNY McLEOD

Jenny is known as a tireless worker in her capacity as a volunteer for Wentworth Historical Society and that her knowledge and passion to retain our past is overwhelming and without her the Society would be far poorer. Jenny has a wealth of knowledge on local families and their histories across the Wentworth Shire Council area and she is always working to update genealogical services and records at Wentworth Historical Society by putting in numerous hours in working bees and research.

ROYCE CLARKE

Royce has long been a volunteer for many organisations in Wentworth and has spent countless hours actively helping various groups, including the Wentworth Hospital Auxiliary, of which she is the President. Her involvement with other organisations which benefit others include the Darling Junction branch of the Country Women's Association, the RSL Auxiliary, the Senior Citizens Club and the Wentworth Christmas Eve Street Party Committee. Royce is known for her constant fundraising efforts.

BARBARA BONE

Barbara has a dedication and passion for Tai Chi, evident in the classes she started 10 years ago; combined with her love of art and her volunteering role with Murray House shows her to be someone who gives back to her community every day. In the past Barbara has received acknowledgement in the NSW Premiers Recognition Program in 2016 and was a Regional finalist in the 2017 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award. Barbara shares her skills in her volunteer capacity and brings joy through her art sessions with the residents at Murray House.

ILKER DELI

Ilker was able to achieve his dream of working with and supporting youth in our community through hard work, dedication and passion. Determined to make a difference in the lives of young people who struggle, Ilker studied hard to attain a Diploma in Community Services from Coomealla TAFE, and with the support of the Uniting Church, the Youth Centre saw a rapid increase demand for the services that Iker provides in the way of a supportive, safe and welcoming environment for our youth.

ANDREW MURDOCH

Andrew has been an active contributor to the Wentworth Shire Community through his active involvement in cricket, football, the George Gordon Oval user Group and the Coomealla High School Council amongst other various community projects. An enthusiastic pursuer of grants, Andrew has been successful in securing funding for local sporting infrastructure upgrading whilst supporting local groups to raise funding of their own.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.



**Thank you for choosing to
celebrate all or part of
Australia Day 2018 within
Wentworth Shire Council**