



**FEDERATION  
COUNCIL**

# Australia Day

**AWARDS & CEREMONY**



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2024**

**PARADISE PALLADIUM THEATRE  
BROWLEY STREET, MORUNDAH**

# PROGRAM

Welcome to Country  
Aunty Bonita Byrnes

Opening of Official Proceedings  
General Manager, Adrian Butler

Mayor's Welcome Address  
Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke

Guest Speaker, Australia Day Ambassador  
Mr Anupam Sharma

Acknowledgement of Medal of the Order of Australia Recipients  
Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke

Presentation of Australia Day Awards  
Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke and Ambassador,  
Mr Anupam Sharma

Presentation of Student Achiever Awards  
Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke  
and Deputy Youth Mayor, Dayna Carter

Citizenship Ceremony  
Presiding Officer, Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke

Australia Day Affirmation  
Led by Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke

Australian National Anthem  
Supported by Dylan Forge

# AMBASSADOR

**Anupam Sharma** is a filmmaker, speaker and author with a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Films and Theatre, and a post-graduate thesis on cinema from University of NSW. Named as one of the fifty most powerful & influential Australian film professionals by Encore magazine, he is the founding head of films & casting TEMPLE, one of the most prolific and award winning international production & consultancy firm based out of Fox Studios – Sydney.

Anupam has led a team of film professionals, line producing, co producing, and executive producing international films, festivals, TV, and and TVCs in Australia, mainly from India and few from China, USA, and Denmark on over 290 projects in the last 21 years.

He returned to directing after winning a commission round by Australian National Maritime Museum, directing a short documentary for them. Anupam then directed and produced one of the biggest ad campaigns for Destination NSW for the Asian market, directed the anti-piracy campaign for Intellectual Property Awareness Foundation and recently directed the launch TV ad for T20 2020 World Cup for International Cricket Council.

With feature films as his forte, Anupam directed multimillion dollar indie Australian romantic comedy unINDIAN starring Australian cricketer Brett Lee and internationally acclaimed actress Tannishtha Chatterjee. David Stratton, one of Australia's most respected film critics said "The film is engaging in its cheerful celebration of community".

Anupam also directed feature length award winning documentary The Run (Best Documentary Newcastle Film Festival 2018) which follows the journey of ultra-marathoner runner and ex-member of Parliament, Pat Farmer.

# AMBASSADOR

In 2011 Anupam launched the Australian Film Initiative to market and promote Australian screen culture in non-traditional markets, resulting in India's first annual Australian Film Festival with support from Hugh Jackman in 2011, a Baz Luhrmann retrospective in 2012/2013, and a Phillip Noyce retrospective in 2014/2015.

Anupam has advised many government and private bodies in relation to Indian films, including Baz Luhrman's Moulin Rouge, Channel Seven, the Department of Foreign Affairs (Australia), and World Movies among others. In 2012 he was the chief judge and advisor to the first India centric Australian reality television show on SBS - Bollywood Star.

With development investment assistance from Screen Australia and Screen NSW, Anupam is also developing a slate of high profile Australian film projects with major Australian film makers including Bill Bennett and John Winter.

With a high social media following, Anupam is a respected commentator and frequent speaker at various conferences and on television programs including the ABC, NINE Network, SBS TV, SPAA, Art Gallery of NSW, and the POWERHOUSE Museum. Anupam Sharma was honoured to be an Australia Day Ambassador five years in a row, and was one of the thirteen young professionals shortlisted in the prestigious 'Face To Watch' series by The (SYDNEY) Magazine.

# MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Council would like to acknowledge the following recipients of the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2023.

Mr Keith Duggan  
Howlong NSW 2643  
For service to the community in a range of roles

Mrs Sheryl Pitman  
Howlong NSW 2643  
For service to the community of Howlong

# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

## **LEO ANIC | Nominated for Citizen of the Year & Local Achiever for Corowa**

Leo Anic has been pivotal in the establishment of two initiatives, Friday Night @The Station and The Men's Table. He has also provided emergency and crisis support through his work as the first Amaranth Ambassador. Leo exemplifies community pride through promoting local businesses. Leo and his camera can always be found at community events, recording them for posterity and posting them on various social media platforms to showcase the wonderful community we live in.

Earlier this year Leo travelled to Snowy Valleys bushfire recovery area with Amaranth Foundation to film the efforts of a Corowa NFP working in bushfire recovery remotely. Leo's video resulted in Amaranth Foundation being nominated for the MPHN 2023 Primary Healthcare Awards under the 'Promoting Healthy Communities' category. Leo recently took on the role of Town Crier as part of festive season celebrations.

## **MARJ SAINES | Nominated for Citizen of the Year & Local Achiever for Corowa**

Marj Saines was an avid volunteer for the community right up until her passing in September of 2023. A much loved and hardworking volunteer, Marj was a founding member of the Corowa Federation Art Show, Corowa Festival of Dance, Corowa Curlew Arts Council, as well as several Anglican Church activities. In 2009 Marj was a founding member of Corowa Sing Australia and Coordinator for the Anglican Presentation Balls. Marj was the 2012 Corowa Shire Citizen of the Year.

Marj volunteered weekly at the Corowa Tourist information Centre for several years, which she continued right up until she became unwell. For many years Marj coordinated a pool of over 30 volunteers to assist with facilitating local art exhibitions. Despite being unable to be on the ground for the 2023 Bald Archy Prize exhibition due to illness, Marj still proceeded to give helpful advice and assistance from afar.

# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

**SAM O'DONOGHUE | Nominated for Citizen of the Year & Local Achiever for Corowa** Midwife Sam O'Donoghue volunteers her time to run and moderate the Corowa Playgroup Facebook page and the Corowa Pram Jam Facebook group, keeping hundreds of parents and their families up to date with events and opportunities in the region.

Sam co-facilitates several play group sessions per week, and promotes a welcoming and friendly space for parents to be a part of. Sam's hard work and problem solving kept the vital group going through the Corowa floods and COVID-19. Sam has facilitated community events such as a children's disco, children's emergency services week and first aid sessions for parents.

Sam has been integral in the ongoing shade sale project for the Corowa Rutherglen Football Club and is President of the Corowa Preschool Committee.

**DYLAN FORGE | Nominated for Young Citizen of the Year & Local Achiever for Corowa** Performer Dylan Forge was the Inaugural Federation Council Youth Mayor which led him to oversee several community projects including the Memorial Plaza Interactive Mural, Colour Run, Howlong Lowe's Square ping pong table and the Sanger Street Piano.

Dylan has represented our region overseas in Scotland, Ireland, Malaysia and Singapore with Bagpipe playing. Dylan was successful in 2023 in becoming a world champion bagpipe player with his former school, The Scots School Albury Pipe Band. They were the aggregate winner of the competition in Grade 4B, receiving the title "Champion of Champions". Dylan was a bagpiper in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo this year, which involved him playing 25 shows in front of 9,000 people each night.

# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

Other committees and groups Dylan has been involved in include the Skate Park Advisory Committee, Corowa Pool Advisory Committee, Corowa Leos and St. Mary's Corowa Altar Servers.

**COROWA COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION | Nominated for Community Group of the Year** In its 95th anniversary year, the Corowa CWA has continued to be a group of like-minded women who support the women and children of Corowa and surrounding areas.

The CWA regularly cater for funerals and weddings in Corowa. They have participated in Orange Day where participants were educated on the violence against women in the Federation Council area. They also participated in the Federation Weekend in January with a cake stall and Devonshire Tea for the community after the Parade in Sanger Street. For the last two years the CWA have run the sausage sizzles and tea and coffee for the Corowa Show. Every Christmas the CWA donate food hampers to St Vincent's and the Food Bank. The CWA donated 25 blankets to Mercy Hospital for the patients to use. They have also collected and donated nearly 200kg of clothing to Boroolola Community Op Shops in the NT for needy families.

The rooms of the CWA are open to the community, with the Red Cross, She Shed, Australian Unity, Corowa LHAC and card groups using them on a regular basis.

**COROWA RESCUE SQUAD - VRA NSW | Nominated for Community Group of the Year** The Corowa Rescue Squad, a vital community organisation, emerged from a series of tragic incidents in 1975 that exposed the need for a dedicated rescue unit in the township of Corowa. The group has evolved in the years since being established in 1978, currently comprising of a team of approximately 14 skilled and committed individuals.



# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

The Squad regularly organises and promotes public awareness campaigns related to safety issues at schools and for the general public. The core function of the Corowa Rescue Squad is to provide immediate assistance in emergency situations. This includes responding to car accidents, storms, floods, and other crises. The squad is equipped with specialised training and equipment to extricate individuals from vehicles, provide first aid, and collaborate seamlessly with other emergency services.

The Corowa Rescue Squad played a crucial role during the devastating 2022/23 riverine floods. As floodwaters threatened the Corowa community, squad members actively engaged in sandbagging operations to protect vulnerable areas. Their tireless efforts in deploying sandbags helped mitigate potential damage, safeguarding homes, infrastructure, and ensuring the safety of residents. The squad were praised by local emergency crews and the community following their tremendous efforts to assist at the scene of the Redlands Road crash.

**COROWA SING AUSTRALIA GROUP | Nominated for Community Group of the Year** Established in 2008, Sing Australia Corowa are part of a national choir group, who sing together on a weekly basis and at Community Events, giving the local community an opportunity to gather together and experience the joy of singing.

The group has 24 active members and have sung, mostly by invitation, at the ANZAC ceremonies in Corowa and Wahgunyah, local nursing homes and various community music events. In 2023 the group provided performances at the Corowa Conference 130th anniversary celebration in July, the Federation Community Expo, Winter and Spring Concerts at the Oddfellows Hall as well as the Car Club's Show & Shine.

# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

## **COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NSW OAKLANDS BRANCH**

**| Nominated for Community Group of the Year** The Oaklands branch of the CWA was formed in 1949. They currently have ten members who help in all community events and projects, catering events at their rooms, hosting the Women's Dinner and working with Oaklands Central School.

One of their key initiatives has been the preservation and protection of the endangered Oaklands Diuris orchid. In 2012 they instigated the building and erection of a steel sculpture in the gardens of the CWA Rooms in the town centre to highlight the endangered species. Over many months, assisted by the 'save and protect' team, many tasks towards the preservation of the orchid were achieved. Many hours of work went into updating information on signage to promote the orchid, providing the latest progress in planting thousands of orchids in the Southern Riverina.

On the 12th October 2023, the Oaklands Branch's efforts were rewarded in NSW Parliament by the Legislative Assembly Hansard. They were thanked for their dedication and efforts to save the Oaklands Diuris orchid.

## **FRIENDS OF THE RIVER STREET WETLANDS | Nominated for Community Group of the Year**

Friends of the River Street Wetlands is a volunteer group which remove post-flood rubbish, weeds and introduced species, and plants new native vegetation in the River Street Wetlands, improving habitat conditions for frogs and birds.

Established January 2022, this dedicated group organises regular working bees at the site, ensuring a sense of ownership and effective ongoing management. The fortnightly Working bees have resulted in approximately 700 volunteer hours being spent on remediation works at the River Street Wetlands site.

# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

To date over 1,500 native plants have been planted including grasses, herbs, shrubs and a range of wattles. The group is aiming to make the River Street Wetlands a site of high ecological significance and a valuable destination which will offer opportunities for people to explore and learn about the local environment and wildlife.

**HOWLONG COMMUNITY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC | Nominated for Community Group of the Year** The HCPA has been in existence for three and half years. All projects undertaken are for the benefit of the Howlong community.

The development of a Community Emergency Response Team instigated by the HCPA was a significant development for the community. A number of volunteers rostered on 24/7, addressing the need for quick response to health emergencies. This response time has now been significantly reduced from over 25 minutes to under 10 minutes.

HCPA has a volunteer committee which meets monthly to deliver a wide range of outcomes. The HCPA has undertaken the following activities: Annual Cleanup Australia Day, functions with a BBQ, have been guest speakers at public meetings which have included Greg Page the founder of Heart of the Nation. Their short-term goals are to assist with the Christmas Festival, light up the Main Street for Christmas and fundraising to build a toilet facility at the Howlong Cemetery.

**HOWLONG PLAYGROUP | Nominated for Community Group of the Year** The Howlong Playgroup which has ran for over 35 years is 100% volunteer run and managed, and funded completely by the \$2 weekly donations from participating families.

# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINEES

They provide a weekly playgroup session to children from birth to 5 years and their parents, connect families, provide opportunities for social engagement, skill development, exploration through play and early education. The Playgroup is often a recommended group by maternal and child health services. The Howlong Playgroup considers itself an Inclusive Playgroup, catering to all families and all children. Their committee members complete Playgroup NSW's Inclusive training, but more importantly, are parents of children from diverse backgrounds.

Despite facing low membership, the playgroup managed to revive itself and maintain a strong and consistent membership, even during the challenging times of COVID-19, when parents relied on it the most.

**TUNZAFUN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUP | Nominated for Community Group of the Year** The Tunzafun Community Volunteer Group is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation supported by Mulwala Progress Association which operates the Tunzafun business for the benefit and entertainment of locals and tourists. The groups efforts cover all aspects of operation from customer service, ride and grounds maintenance, finances and administration.

Funds raised are put back into the community through Tunzafun facility upgrades and new projects. Many organisations have also benefitted from donations Tunzafun has made to contribute to their commitments. With the support of local businesses, the Tunzafun volunteers recently re-launched a 50-year-old miniature railway, providing another attraction for the local community.

They are working on many short-term plans and long-term goals to continue to benefit the Mulwala community.

# STUDENT ACHIEVER AWARD RECIPIENTS

## **BOREE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Cooper Patey  
Geoffrey Strong

## **COROWA HIGH SCHOOL**

James Frazer  
Tamir Richardson

## **COROWA SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Ashton Powzyk  
Stella Patten

## **HOWLONG PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Kylah Matthews  
Kai Mount

## **MULWALA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Finn Angwin  
Nevaeh Rosmulder

## **OAKLANDS CENTRAL SCHOOL**

Aurora Butler  
Melissa Smith

## **RAND PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Cooper Kuhne  
Lexi McCall

## **ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Oliver Mathews  
Cienna Dickins

## **URANA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Alexis Finch  
Max Fealy

# CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

As 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of Australian citizenship, Federation Council congratulates and welcomes its newest citizens.

## AFFIRMATION

Australia Day, 26 January, is our national day of celebration. It is the day we come together as a nation to celebrate Australia and being Australian. All new citizens make a pledge of commitment to Australia and a shared common future.

Based on the Australian Citizenship Pledge made by new citizens, the Australian citizenship affirmation gives us an opportunity on Australia Day to express our shared commitment to Australia and its people.

Making the affirmation is voluntary and everyone is welcome to join in.

**As an Australian Citizen,  
\*I affirm my loyalty to  
Australia and its people,  
Whose democratic beliefs I share,  
Whose rights and liberties I respect,  
And whose laws I uphold and obey.**

*\* Non-Australian citizens can join the affirmation at this line.*

# 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.

*Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients.*

*Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients.*

Federation Council would like to thank:  
Aunty Bonita Byrnes of Sandhills Artefacts  
Mr Anupam Sharma  
Morundah Bush Entertainment Committee Inc.  
Moodemere String Quartet  
Dylan Forge

Photographs were taken by Jake Semmler of  
Jake Film & Photography.

*Today's Australia Day Awards and Ceremony were assisted by the National Australia Day Council.*

*Council hopes you have a safe and happy 2024 Australia Day.*

*Reflect, respect, and celebrate Australia Day.*