

Australia Day Ceremony
Saturday 26 January 2019



Citizenship Ceremony
and
Community Citizen of the Year Awards 2019



MAYOR HOWLETT □ **DEPUTY MAYOR SMITH** □

1 INTRODUCTION (By Deputy Mayor Lee-Anne Smith)

Please could we give a round of applause for David Pigram (Applause) <Ask guests to be seated>

Good morning everyone and welcome to the City of Cockburn Australia Day Celebrations for 2019. My name is Lee-Anne Smith; I am Deputy Mayor of the City of Cockburn.

I would now like to call upon Marie Taylor to deliver a traditional Nyungar Welcome to Country.

2 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Welcome to Country to be conducted by Marie Taylor (3 minutes)

Thank you Marie.

Australia Day is a special day in the calendar of events at the City of Cockburn, which includes a Citizenship Ceremony and presentation of the

Australia Day WA Community Citizen of the Year Awards for 2019.

At the conclusion of formal proceedings, a light lunch will be served in the dining area to which you are all most welcome to attend.

<Deputy Mayor to Introduce His Worship the Mayor, Logan Howlett>

I would now like to call upon his Worship the Mayor, Mr Logan Howlett to present his welcome address.

3 MAYORAL AUSTRALIA DAY WELCOME

Thank you Deputy Mayor Lee-Ann Smith.

Kya, wongu, wonju – Beeliar Boodgar

Hello and welcome to the land of the Beeliar People.

On behalf of the Elected Members and our special guests I welcome you to today's Citizenship

Ceremony noting that this year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the introduction of Australian citizenship into law.

Australia Day 2019 will see a record number of people become Australian citizens, with 16,212 individuals, made up of 146 nationalities, scheduled to attend one of the 365 ceremonies being held across the country.

All Australians are encouraged to participate in community activities that celebrate our national day and to share this special day with family and friends.

Don't forget to use the hashtag #AustralianCitizenship or #AusCitz70.

I thank your family and friends for being here today to celebrate the occasion on which you become Australian citizens. For many of you it has been an amazing journey and a time to reflect on what has occurred since your arrival in Australia and to realise your dreams and aspirations as you continue to plan your life going forward.

I also welcome other members of our community who have been nominated for the Australia Day WA Community Citizen of the Year Awards for 2019. Those Awards will be announced following today's Citizenship Ceremony.

I also thank Marie Taylor for her meaningful Welcome to Country knowing the dream time stories you share with all of us brings us all closer

to Mother Earth and all it has to offer provided we respect its beauty, its strength and importance to our lives going forward.

Marie also delivered the 'Welcome to Country' at the City's Coogee Beach Festival earlier today where thousands of people have gathered to enjoy the atmosphere with family and friends.

Thank you once again Marie for being present today and for all the good work you do in Cockburn and the wider community.

I also thank David Pigram for entertaining us leading up to today's citizenship ceremony.

David is an amazing performer, who together with his family inspire all who hear their performances.

Thank you David.

I acknowledge the Whadjup People of the Nyungar Nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today. I pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians present today.

The City of Cockburn has had a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) since 2011.

As part of our Reconciliation Action Plan we focus on Respect for the local Nyungar people and for an understanding of the culture and history of the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Today, Australia Day, we acknowledge that some people have mixed feelings about celebrating this day.

January 26th has different meanings for people – for some it is a day of celebrating being Australian, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders it can be a painful reminder of the day that European people arrived on this land and began the process of colonisation and the resulting negative impact on their culture, language, family and community.

The National Australia Day Council has stated that our national day can be a time where we ‘celebrate and mourn at the same time and we can honour all that is great about Australia and being Australian, remember the sufferings and our shortcomings;

and commit to build a more cohesive and inclusive nation’.

The City of Cockburn also commits to this on this day.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Mr Josh Wilson MP, Federal Member for Fremantle;
- The Honourable Peter Tinley AM, MLA Member for Willagee; and Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth; Asian Engagement;
- Nyungar Elder, Marie Taylor;
- Mr Troy Webb, Department of Home Affairs ;
- Deputy Mayor – Lee Anne Smith, OAM; and her guest, Tracey Lewis-Price
- Councillor Philip Eva JP and his wife Michele
- My wife, Patricia

- City of Cockburn CEO, Stephen Cain;
- Ron Bradfield, Reconciliation & Cultural Projects Officer who will be available to provide information on the City's Aboriginal Reference Group; Reconciliation Action Plan, NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, & other activities conducted throughout the year;
- Valerie Anderton, Wayne Pickersgill and Ann Stedul, Australian Electoral Commission.

And the City of Cockburn staff that have coordinated today's ceremony – Ray Dorey, Phil Baker, Ann Fitzpatrick, Vanda Bacich and Melody Waerea.

Would you please join me in thanking them.

(Applause)

Today 97 new Australian citizens will pledge their commitment to our country.

They have come from far and wide, representing 34 different countries. They are:

Canada	Philippines	India	Indonesia	New Zealand
Croatia	Bangladesh	China	France	United Kingdom
Ireland	Germany	Chile	Iran	Cape Verde
Poland	Trinidad & Tobago	Thailand	Kenya	Vietnam
Ukraine	Taiwan	Northern Ireland	Mexico	Malawi
Russia	Estonia	South Africa	Czechoslovakia	Scotland
United States	Brazil	Korea	Northern Ireland	

I'm delighted that you have chosen to join the wonderful Cockburn community. It makes it all the more special that your citizenship ceremony

happens on Australia Day and the 70th anniversary of Australian Citizenship.

Congratulations on your decision to become Australian citizens and thank you for choosing Cockburn as your place to live and, in some cases, to work.

For all the existing Australians present today, you will have the opportunity to affirm your loyalty to Australia and its people when we host an Australian citizenship affirmation ceremony a little later in the program.

The affirmation is based on the pledge the new citizens will make and it is increasingly becoming an integral part of Australia Day celebrations for Australians new and old.

I encourage you to participate and reflect on what it means to be an Australian citizen.

To today's new citizens – we welcome you; we offer you a share in Australia's bright future; and we thank you for choosing to call Australia home.

Welcoming you to your new status as Australian citizens is a great privilege for me as Mayor and for our special guests in attendance today.

4 MAYOR INTRODUCES TROY WEBB

On behalf of the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable David Coleman MP, I invite Mr Troy Webb from the Department of Home Affairs to read the following message from the Minister to you: -

<TROY WEBB READS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE>

Today, you become an Australian citizen.

We are immensely proud of what we have achieved as a nation, and we welcome you in joining us.

Our history and culture has been forged over thousands of years, first through Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander people and more recently with people from all corners of the earth.

Australia has succeeded as a nation by embracing – and defending – our national values. We believe in freedom, in the rule of law, in democracy. We believe that all people are equal, regardless of their cultural background, gender, race or religion.

We are a resilient nation. We have overcome world wars, depression, drought and flood. We stand with other strong democracies in helping to defend and protect hard fought freedoms.

By committing yourself to Australia today, you have chosen to embrace our nation and its values. Like so many millions of people throughout our history, you have decided to take on the rights – and responsibilities – of Australian citizenship.

On behalf of the Australian Government, I congratulate you on reaching this very special day.

It's now your responsibility to join all of us in building an even stronger nation.

DAVID COLEMAN –

<MAYOR THANKS TROY WEBB>

Again that was a message from the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable David Coleman MP.

5 PRESENTATION OF CITIZENSHIP
CERTIFICATES BY MAYOR

[LEGAL REQUIREMENTS – AUSTRALIAN
CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY]

We now turn to the formal part of the ceremony, which is conducted in accordance with the Australian Citizenship Act 2007.

As part of the legal requirements for today's citizenship ceremony, I will read the Preamble from Schedule 1 of the Australian Citizenship Regulation 2016.

[NOTE: THE PREAMBLE MUST BE READ VERBATIM AS REQUIRED BY LEGISLATION]

“Australian citizenship represents full and formal membership of the community of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Australian citizenship is a common bond, involving reciprocal rights and obligations, uniting all Australians, while respecting their diversity.

Persons on whom Australian citizenship is conferred enjoy these rights and undertake to accept these obligations:

- (a) by pledging loyalty to Australia and its people;
- (b) by sharing their democratic beliefs;
- (c) by respecting their rights and liberties; and
- (d) by upholding and obeying the laws of Australia.”

I will now call on Mr Deputy Mayor Smith to explain the next phase of today’s ceremony.

DEPUTY MAYOR LEE-ANNE SMITH

I will read out your name in the same order that you are seated.

Please come forward and stand in front of this table in the same order as called and face the audience.

If you have children that wish to participate, they may come forward and stand with you.

The Mayor will then ask each of you to say your full name and to repeat the Oath or Affirmation after him. Please speak in a loud voice so that all the guests can hear you.

You will then be presented with an envelope containing your certificate, a commemorative 70th anniversary coin from the Department of Home Affairs and a gift from the City.

Please return to your seat and the next group will be called. I would ask that you remain quiet and respectful as each group comes up to make the

pledge. Please feel free to come forward to take photographs and the Mayor will be available after the ceremony in the gallery for photos.

When everyone has made the pledge, the Mayor will ask you to stand and join us in singing the national anthem.

I will now call the first group of candidates to the front of the room to make the pledge. When I call you name please come forward... (call first group)

MAYOR CONFIRMS CITIZENSHIP ON APPLICANTS
BY EITHER

PLEDGE No 1 (OATH)

From this time forward, under God,

I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,

whose democratic beliefs I share,

whose rights and liberties I respect, and

whose laws I will uphold and obey.

OR

PLEDGE No 2 (AFFIRMATION)

From this time forward,

I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,

whose democratic beliefs I share,

whose rights and liberties I respect, and

whose laws I will uphold and obey.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you as citizens of Australia, and as citizens you are now fully identified with this country, its people and its governments.

This act of law is now complete and, on behalf of all Australians, and in particular, the citizens of Cockburn, I congratulate you and wish you a happy and successful future as citizens of Australia.

6 AFFIRMATION BY AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE MAYOR

Now that we have all witnessed Australia's newest citizens make their public pledge of commitment, I would like to invite everyone to participate in an Australian citizenship affirmation ceremony.

The Australian citizenship affirmation was introduced in 1999 and is becoming an integral part of Australia Day celebrations.

The words of the affirmation are based on the pledge we have just witnessed our new citizens make. Participation is voluntary and carries no legal status.

Participating in an affirmation ceremony is a means of expressing our pride in being Australian, and provides an opportunity to affirm our loyalty to Australia and its people.

Everyone is welcome to participate. Non-citizens are invited to join in the affirmation at the second line. The words of the Affirmation for Australian

citizens have been included on your program for those who wish to participate.

So, if you would like to take part, I invite you to stand now and repeat after me:

AS AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN

I AFFIRM MY LOYALTY TO AUSTRALIA AND IT'S PEOPLE

WHOSE DEMOCRATIC BELIEFS I SHARE

WHOSE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES I RESPECT

AND WHOSE LAWS I WILL UPHOLD AND OBEY

AFTER EVERYONE HAS MADE PLEDGE

I now ask you all to remain upstanding as we sing the Australian National Anthem.

ANN TO PLAY ANTHEM ON IPAD (EVERYONE SINGS ANTHEM)

<Please be seated.>

<Invite Josh Wilson MP to come forward and say a few words.>

7 PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR 2019

Today, councils throughout Australia will present the Community Citizen of the Year Awards for 2019 to local citizens in recognition of active citizenship and outstanding contribution to the community.

These local government based awards are a means of recognising the individuals and groups that make a difference to our local community through their inspiring actions and dedicated service. The recognition of these people, who reflect positive Australian characteristics, is integral to fostering community pride and an important thread in the fabric of the Australian story, and particularly our local one, here in Cockburn.

There are four categories in the Awards -

Community Citizen of the Year

Community Citizen of the Year – Youth (under 25 years of age)

Community Citizen of the Year – Senior (over 65 years of age); and

Active Citizenship – Group or Event

Today's Community Citizen of the Year awardees have brought about positive change. They have demonstrated leadership, initiative and active citizenship, which has significantly contributed to the value of community life in the City of Cockburn.

It is my privilege to announce the awardee in the category of Community Citizen of the Year Award for 2019:

CHRISTINE DUCKHAM

<Ask Christine to come forward>

Christine has worked tirelessly on many projects, however I would like to commend her for all her efforts on establishing the Hamilton Hill Hub, the first community run community centre in the City of Cockburn. Christine has created a place where community can come together to learn, celebrate and form new friendships. The Hub had its official opening in November last year and has been in operation for about 6 months. The workshops and classes the Hub offers are well attended. Christine volunteers hours of her time to ensure the Hub operates seamlessly, is clean and well organised and on top of that Christine makes everyone feel welcome. She has planted flowers and shrubs and arranged signage. Christine has done an incredible job and our community is benefitting greatly as a result.

It is my great pleasure to now present Christine with the Community Citizen of the Year Award for 2019.

<Congratulate Christine and ask if she wishes to say a few words before returning to her seat>

It is my privilege to announce the awardee of the Community Citizen of the Year Award - Youth for 2019:

ELIZA BLIGHT

<Ask Eliza to come forward>

Eliza is an outstanding young citizen and shares her passion for the community of Cockburn where she studies and lives, particularly through the Cockburn Youth Advisory Collective, Lakeland Senior High School and her extensive volunteer work in the community. Eliza has fundraised for Native ARC, a local non-profit organisation that provides medical care and rehabilitation services for hundreds of injured, sick or orphaned native wildlife each year. She also helps organise local

youth events including Battle of the Bands, FROSH Festival and the Youth ANZAC Parade and Service. Since joining the Cockburn Youth Advisory Collective a year ago, she has been an energetic and decisive member in developing this volunteer group of young people aged 12-24 years who live, work or study in the City of Cockburn.

She has turned her awareness of the challenges young people face into opportunities and is sharing her volunteering passion with the community. Eliza's unique passion and great skills as a leader are inspirational to her peers.

<Congratulate Eliza and ask if she wishes to say a few words before returning to her seat>

It is my privilege to announce the awardee of the Community Citizen of the Year Award - Senior for 2019:

GEOFF WEBB

<Ask Geoff to come forward>

Geoff has been instrumental in the realisation of the Cockburn Community Men's Shed. Geoff's involvement began on a steering committee in 2011 and the purpose built shed officially opened on 13 June 2018. The planning, designing, financing, building and commissioning of the shed has been a huge task over 7 years in which Geoff has acted as a constant contributor, consultant, communicator and mediator. Geoff has a long history of active citizenship and volunteering in the community. His energy, commitment and tenacity to see the realisation of this project is inspiring. Geoff had many things on his plate over this period but always found the energy to step up when needed. He had a deep commitment to meeting the community's need for a Men's shed and would not allow the many inevitable obstacles of such projects deter the realisation of this vision. Filling the need for his was his sole motivation

<Congratulate Geoff and ask if he wishes to say a few words before returning to his seat>

It is my privilege to announce the awardee of the Active Citizenship – Group or Event for 2019:

BEELIAR COMMUNITY VOICE INC

<Ask Wendy Campbell, President and Leah Bruce, Vice President to come forward as representatives of Beelias Community Voice>

Beelias Community Voice is a residents group whose purpose is to make Beelias an exceptional community focused suburb and to foster pride in their community. Their Committee works to build local participation and create a stronger sense of community inclusiveness and wellbeing. They endeavour to make the suburb safer and collaborate to promote a healthier environment. The group strives to build relationships with

businesses, the City of Cockburn, Government Agencies and other community groups in the area.

Along with community meetings the community events they have organised included a Twilight market, Seniors Morning Tea, clean-up day and a community coffee and crime and safety forum. The most recent event, the Beeliar Big Birthday Bash was an amazing event which attracted hundreds of people. This event celebrated Beeliar's 25th year anniversary as a named suburb. The group had local artist Jack Bromell paint a unique mural on the community centre wall, contributing to the revitalisation of the centre and improving the heart of this suburb. They organised a variety of entertainment and the event presented a great opportunity for community to come together, celebrate together and make new connections. This group should be commended for all the hard work they put into their events

which enrich the local community greatly.

<Congratulate WINNER and ask if they wish to say a few words before returning to their seat>

Let's give a final round of applause for the very deserving award winners today and I like to ask the winners to please join me for official photographs in the Courtyard in a few moments time.

(Applause)

8 CONCLUSION OF FORMALITIES (BY MAYOR)

Ladies and gentlemen may I remind you to see the Australian Electoral Commission representatives here today to complete your forms.

Enrolment and voting are compulsory for all Australian citizens. Even if you have previously voted you must now re-enroll as an Australian Citizen.

On behalf of the City of Cockburn I wish to thank you all for your attendance at today's Australia Day

celebrations and I invite you to join us for a light lunch and drinks in the dining room. If you are having alcohol please be aware of the drink drive safety laws.

Thank you – I hope you enjoy the remainder of Australia Day.
