

## Chair Report

On Australia Day we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. In the Northern Territory these celebrations take on many forms, from a Black Tie Ball, to fun runs, flag raising ceremonies, multi-cultural events and a network of community and family fun days held across the Territory.

No matter how and where the day is celebrated, be that in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine or on the remote communities of Barunga, Milikapiti or Tennant Creek, at its core Australia Day is a day driven by community participation, the foundation of its ongoing success.



### Awards

Our awards section continues to grow with more Territorians being honoured for their outstanding contribution to the community.

- One hundred and seventy six students received Student Citizen Awards.
- Twenty one communities participated in the Local Government Awards with sixty one individuals and organisations being recognised for their service to the community.
- Four outstanding Territorians were honoured as recipients in the 2016 NT Australian of the Year Awards.
  - David Taylor, Australia's Local Hero
  - Benjamin Masters, Young Australian of the Year
  - Bob Shewring, Senior Australian of the Year
  - Will MacGregor, Australian of the Year



### Events

Three hundred and fifty people attended the Australia Day Black Tie Ball held on 23 January at the Darwin Convention Centre. Highlights included a special performance by Australian Rock Legend, founder and front man of Daddy Cool and Mondo Rock, Ross Wilson and Band, who kept the guests rocking the night away. Special guest, key note speaker was one of Australia's most prominent and successful media and publishing identities, Peter FitzSimons.



The Australia Day Fun Run continues to be our largest event with over 4,000 people participating including professional runners and family groups. Our thanks go to event partners Athletics NT and Darwin Waterfront who ensure the run is a successful community event enjoyed by all.

Oz Fusion show cases Darwin's cultural diversity through an exciting program of multicultural performances, through song and dance. This year we had a new venue at the Palmerston YMCA with thanks to Palmerston City Council for allowing the event to follow on from their Australia Day celebrations, which assisted with reducing event costs for the day. Over two hundred people attended and eighteen performances participating in the celebrations. Our thanks again go to event partners Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory, Multicultural Youth of the Northern Territory and Melaleuca Refugee Centre for their continued support and innovation.

### **Programs**

The Australia Day Sports Carnival contributed a further thirty three events to our program. Sporting clubs and associations from across the Northern Territory participated in celebrations by hosting a competition or event on or around Australia Day.

We received extra funding from the National Australia Day Council to take both Northern Territory Australia's Local Hero David Taylor and Young Australians of the Year, Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett on a Tour of Honour. The tour commenced in Darwin and finished in Alice Springs, visiting communities and towns along the way. Nic, Lucas and David attended many events including a welcome reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Darwin, BBQ's and community events in Darwin, Katherine and Ti Tree, along with a visit to Bush Mob in Alice Springs, hosted by NT Australian of the Year Will MacGregor. The tour concluded with a sit down dinner for 70 pax to raise money and awareness for the CEO sleep out, hosted by St Vinnies.

As part of our Ambassadors program, five inspirational Australians travelled to the Territory and attended Australia Day events, Paula Duncan in Darwin, Amy Hetherington in Nhulunbuy, Simon Westaway in Katherine, Corey Payne in Tennant Creek and Emma Rossi in Alice Springs.

We continue to receive strong support from our sponsors and supporters; Northern Territory Government, National Australia Day Council, Australia Post, Woolworths, SUNBUILD, Shorelands, Hardy Aviation, INPEX, Commonwealth Bank, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Darwin Convention Centre, Airnorth, Darwin International Airport, Creative Jewellers, beverage sponsors Lion, Thomas Chin Wines, NT Beverages and media partners Territory FM.

### **Staff**

Sandy Thorne continues to assist with office management, finance and events along with recently completing her Certificate III in Business Administration. Sandy is a huge asset to the team and we look forward to her continued support over the next year.

Zaranne Gill and Sharon Hardy continue to assist the office during our busy events period. Their enthusiasm is infectious and we appreciate their attention to detail and willingness to jump in at a minute's notice to ensure the successful delivery of our programs.

We were fortunate to create a new position and recruit Leanne Scott-Toms to the role of Event Coordinator for a 12 month period. Leanne has been a great addition to the team and we look forward to continue to work with her as our programs and events role out in the lead up to Australia Day. Leanne also stepped up into the Acting Executive Director Role while Kiya was on maternity leave and we thank her for her leadership and assistance during that period.

Our Executive Director, Kiya went on maternity leave and welcomed a beautiful little boy Henley into the family. Kiya continues to work towards making sure that Australia Day will be the best that Territorians have celebrated to date. Her enthusiasm is catching and her networking skills are excellent. Her ability to seek out and liaise with potential sponsors, coupled with her understanding of what sponsors want and need for their support, will hold our Council in good stead.

### **Board**

Unfortunately we had to farewell Board member Christine Gray after serving two terms and six years of wonderful service. Christine's contribution and enthusiasm will be greatly missed and the position will remain unfilled until next year when advertised.

Vice Chair Jeannette Button, Treasurer Robyn Cahill and board members John Obolevics, Maxine Dowley, Melissa Royle, Sarah Price, Jenna Wallace and Nathan Fanning continue to serve on the Board and have been instrumental in implementing policies and procedures to ensure the success of Australia Day activities throughout the Northern Territory.

### **Condolences**

It's with great sadness that we farewell two Australia Day champions this year, Trish Creedon and Bev Johnson. Trish and her partner John co-founded the iconic Australia Day Ute Run along with serving on the Australia Day Council Board for six years. Bev and her husband Maurie co-founded the Palmerston Australia Day Committee which organise the great Australia Day Pool Party in Palmerston. Both ladies gave a tremendous amount to our organisation to ensure the spirit of Australia Day is celebrated throughout the Northern Territory and we will miss them both very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dary Manzie'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

The Hon Dary Manzie  
**CHAIR**