



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



**Maroondah**  
City Council

# Australia Day Awards & Australian Citizenship Ceremony

Sunday 26 January 2025

## Official proceedings

- 1 Raising the Australian National Flag
- 2 Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome
- 3 Presentation of our Maroondah Australia Day Awards
- 4 Australian Citizenship Address and Minister's Message
- 5 Australian Citizenship and Affirmation Ceremonies
- 6 Australian National Anthem – Advance Australia Fair



## Maroondah Australia Day Awards 2025

## Community Event of the Year

### The Maroondah Rotary Club Gala Night

The Maroondah Rotary Club Gala Night, held on 15 June 2024 at Karralyka in Ringwood East, was a key fundraising event aimed at supporting mental health initiatives in Maroondah and beyond.

In partnership with Eastland and Orion International Group, the event raised over \$30,000 to benefit local mental health programs, including the 'Employ Your Mind' initiative. The evening featured powerful speeches from mental health experts, including Eastern Health

## Young Citizen of the Year

### Shannon Freeman

Shannon is a young volunteer whose passion for helping others has made a tangible difference in the lives of those in need across Maroondah. For the past three years, Shannon has been a familiar face at Meals on Wheels, delivering essential meals and brightening the day of residents. Shannon also plays an integral role in the home library service, ensuring that those who are housebound can still enjoy access to books and resources. She also lends her time to the Bayswater Salvos two days a week, offering practical support and a warm presence.

### Criteria

- Events must have taken place in Maroondah between 1 January and 31 December 2024.
- Groups may nominate their own event.

CEO David Plunkett, and a special address by Samuel Johnson, co-founder of the 'Love Your Sister' campaign. His advocacy for mental health, cancer research, and precision medicine was inspiring. With over 50 years of community service, Maroondah Rotary continues to drive change and support mental health services in the region.

### Criteria

- Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to the community of Maroondah during 2024.
- Nominees must be between 16 to 25 years of age as at 26 January 2025.

Additionally, Shannon dedicates her time to Elderly Rights Advocacy, visiting nursing homes to provide companionship and comfort to residents. Shannon's volunteer work is a testament to her unwavering dedication to making her community a better place, and she continues to inspire those around her.

## Citizen of the Year

### Kathy Adams

Kathy is a passionate advocate for inclusivity in sports, having founded the All-Abilities Team at Maroondah United Football Club in 2023. Starting with 15 players, the program has more than doubled in size, offering children with developmental delays or disabilities the opportunity to play soccer, build skills, and enjoy team camaraderie. A highlight for the program was their participation in the Football Victoria Gala Day at The Home of the Matildas in 2024, a memorable event for players and families. Kathy goes beyond the field, organising social activities that help families connect and build community. As a full-time physiotherapist, she balances her practice with volunteer work, dedicating her time and energy to the program's success. Kathy has been a valued member of Maroondah United Football Club since 2005, serving as vice-president from 2012-2022. Her dedication has enriched the club and community by championing inclusion and creating opportunities for children of all abilities.

### Ian Barnes

Ian "Barney" Barnes has been a familiar and trusted figure within the local sporting community for over 56 years.

### Criteria

- Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to the community of Maroondah during 2024.
- Nominees must be 26 years or older as at 26 January 2025.

His involvement with the Ringwood Football Netball Club (RFNC) began in 1969 as a junior player, and following a knee injury that curtailed his playing career, he transitioned to the role of trainer in 1977, marking the beginning of a decades-long commitment to the club. Barney is a constant presence at RFNC, taking care of countless tasks, from maintaining facilities and preparing for game day to washing the players' jumpers each week. He is often the first to arrive and the last to leave, always ensuring Jubilee Park is ready for players and supporters alike. Barney also mentors new trainers at the Ringwood Junior Football Club, sharing his practical, hands-on approach, and has a long association with the Ringwood Spiders Football Club, including supporting the All-Abilities team. His service has earned him life memberships and multiple awards, including being named Maroondah Citizen of the Year in 2019.

## Andrew Brownlie

Andrew has been an integral member of Maroondah Rotary for more than two decades, holding key roles such as Club President, Secretary, and International Chair. His dedication to Rotary's mission has been recognised with multiple Paul Harris Fellowships, Rotary's highest honour, and the Club's Trevor Smith Memorial Award for Outstanding Club Involvement. Andrew's efforts have driven meaningful projects, including the delivery of 100,000 meal packs to Sri Lanka through Rotary's FORaMEAL program, where he managed everything from fundraising to logistics. He also leads Rotary's key fundraisers, the Christmas Trailer Raffle and Golf Day, which raise thousands of dollars annually for local charities. In addition, Andrew helps ensure the success of local community-led events, including Eastern Palliative Care's Pound the Pavement and Anglicare's Easter event in support of foster families. Andrew is an active member of Croydon Hills Men's Shed, while also supporting RYDA Driver Awareness Days for local secondary students.

## Heidi Butler-Moore

Heidi's transformative leadership as CEO of Glen Park Community Centre over the past 12 years has been pivotal in creating a stronger, more inclusive Maroondah community.

Under her guidance, the centre has become a vital hub, offering essential services such as food relief, pre-employment pathways, health programs, and creative workshops. Heidi has led innovative social enterprises like Café on the Park and Hungry 4 Success, both of which provide employment opportunities for disengaged youth and long-term unemployed residents; with Hungry 4 Success earning the 2023 Victorian Government Learn Local Awards for Partnerships. A passionate advocate for social justice, Heidi fosters inclusion through LGBTIQ+ awareness seminars, community events, and initiatives such as the Proud Houses Project. She has also driven partnerships with organisations like Eastland, Centrelink and EACH, enabling the delivery of essential services. Heidi's efforts have positioned Glen Park Community Centre as a benchmark for neighbourhood houses across the region.

## Robin Carter

Robin has been a key member of the Ringwood & District Historical Society for over 12 years. As Chief Archivist, he volunteers up to 25 hours each week managing the society's archives, including photographs, documents, and other significant historical records. Robin has introduced the practice of video recording key community events, ensuring these important moments are captured in time.

He also oversees the editing and distribution of these recordings, making them accessible to the wider community. Methodical in his approach, Robin's advanced editing techniques have also facilitated broader accessibility of historical records through the State Library of Victoria. Robin's contributions have made him an invaluable asset to the Ringwood & District Historical Society, with his dedication ensuring the ongoing preservation of Maroondah's history for years to come.

## Nicole Fernley

Nicole has been the driving force behind Buy Nothing Croydon for the past four years, a community group that connects people across Maroondah through social media to share and gift items instead of buying new. With over 2,000 members, Nicole has created a supportive network where residents can give and receive items for free, reducing waste and fostering a spirit of community. She also initiated a monthly Community Day at the Ringwood Central Community Centre, featuring a clothing share, crop swap, and other activities aimed at promoting local connections. Nicole's work has made a significant impact, especially in post-COVID times, providing support and connection for many who feel isolated.

She fosters a positive environment focused on mental health, wellness, and sustainability, ensuring members feel valued. Nicole's ongoing dedication to Buy Nothing Croydon, along with her compassionate and inclusive approach, embodies the spirit of volunteerism and community building.

## Marriane Fry

Marriane has been a dedicated volunteer with the 1st Maroondah Scout Group for 60 years, currently serving as Joey Scout Leader. Over her years in Scouting, she has held leadership roles in the Cub and Venturer Scout sections and has attended numerous Jamborees, Ventures, and Kangarees both locally and abroad. Marriane has always focused on empowering young people to become confident, active contributors to their community, ensuring they feel valued and heard.

Her involvement has had a lasting impact, with many of the youth she has mentored going on to become leaders in the Scouting movement. Marriane is the recipient of a Silver Kangaroo, a prestigious award recognising her exceptional and long-standing dedication to Scouting. Additionally, Marriane served 21 years as treasurer of the Ringwood Swimming Club, contributing to its operations, and is proud to hold a life membership.

## Peter Rogers

Peter is a pillar of the Maroondah community, having dedicated over five decades to volunteering across multiple organisations. A founding member of the Ringwood Saints Baseball Club, Peter has spent 56 years supporting the club, including 16 years as secretary, 34 years on the general committee, and reaching the milestone of 1,000 senior games played. His involvement spans coaching junior and senior teams, umpiring, and mentoring players, with his efforts recognised through multiple awards, including the prestigious 50-Year Service Award and Life Membership. Beyond baseball, Peter has dedicated 28 years to the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club, sharing his passion for nature by organising guest speakers and educational outings. As Secretary of the Australian Plants Society Maroondah for 11 years, Peter has inspired interest in native plants, hosting talks and events that foster community connections. He is also a valued member of the Friends of FJC Rogers Reserve.

## Wendy Scott

Wendy has been a dedicated volunteer with Maroondah United Football Club for 19 years, including 11 years as President. Her leadership and commitment have been instrumental in creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for players of all ages and abilities.

Under Wendy's guidance, the club introduced an All-Abilities program, providing children with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy soccer in a supportive setting. Recognising the importance of affordability, Wendy has worked tirelessly to keep fees low, ensuring the club remains accessible to families across the community, including many from refugee backgrounds.

By offering a space for teenagers and children to engage in sport, the club helps foster a sense of purpose, belonging, and connection. In her ongoing role as Club Registrar, Wendy continues to contribute to the club's success. Her dedication to Maroondah United reflects her passion for supporting young people and strengthening the local community.

## Jonathon Tan

Jonathon's approach to volunteerism is all about making others feel seen and supported. For six years, he has been a dedicated Peer Support Volunteer at Different Journeys, offering guidance and connection to those navigating the autism spectrum.

Drawing from his lived experience, Jonathon shares valuable insights that help others feel understood and empowered. He also contributes to the Maroondah Festival by volunteering with the Information Hub, where his calm and supportive presence ensures people of all abilities feel welcome.

Whether working one-on-one with peers or helping at community events, Jonathon's passion for fostering inclusivity shines through in everything he does. By educating the community and challenging stereotypes, Jonathon has been instrumental in building empathy and understanding. Jonathon embodies the ethos of Different Journeys—celebration, connection and creating community. Through his ongoing work, Jonathon is helping to shape a community that values acceptance, mutual respect and belonging.

## Heather Telford

Heather has made a significant impact on the Maroondah community through her dedication and selfless contributions. In 2024, she hand-sewed over 160 quilts from unwanted library uniforms, which were gifted to people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage through relief organisations Holy Fools, Champion Community Hub, and Winter Shelter. Each quilt carried a handwritten message of hope, with Heather generously funding the extra material and dedicating six months of her time to the project. As a volunteer, Heather has made thousands of head caps for cancer patients, hundreds of quilts for local charities, and countless handmade dolls for emergency services to comfort children in times of need. Each year, Heather also helps prepare Christmas care packages for active serving military personnel.

A long-time carer and lifelong volunteer, Heather's selfless commitment continues to strengthen and inspire those around her.

## Ken Weller

Ken has been a passionate volunteer in the Maroondah community for over 24 years, contributing to Croydon Hills Community Care, Croydon Hills Baptist Church, and Kids Hope.

As Lead Venue Coordinator for the Winter Shelter program, Ken provides essential support to those experiencing homelessness. Whether it's serving a hot meal, arranging transport or providing a listening ear, he is a reliable and caring presence for those seeking refuge. A notable contribution is Ken's creation of the Winter Shelter mobile food trailer, which has enabled the program to expand its reach by providing meals to those in need across Maroondah.

His positive impact is also evident through his work with young people, providing guidance and mentorship, and his ongoing involvement in community-building initiatives and outreach programs that promote inclusion and foster lasting connections. Ken not only inspires those he works with but sets a powerful example of how volunteerism can transform lives and build stronger communities.

# Australian Citizenship Ceremony



## Australian Government

### The Hon. Tony Burke MP

**Minister for Home Affairs  
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs  
Minister for Cyber Security  
Minister for the Arts  
Leader of the House**

In a few moments time, Australia becomes an even better nation.

When you make the citizenship pledge you take on the privileges and responsibilities of Australian citizenship. From that moment your journey and heritage will become part of our shared Australian story.

We are privileged to share this beautiful country with First Nations Australians, the custodians of the world's oldest continuing culture. Appreciating and understanding this truth is a vital part of what it means to be Australian.

Australia welcomes you as a full member of one of the most diverse nations on earth where our citizenship is a bond which unites us all.

Australia welcomes you and everything you bring to Australia.

Today your new nation says to you "welcome home".

**The Hon. Tony Burke MP**

## Australian Citizenship Affirmation

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.

## National Anthem

### Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one 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.

## Stage Program

### 9am to 11am

Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony

### 11am to 11.40am

The Animals of the  
Magical Mountains

### 11.50am to 12.20pm

TopDeck

### 12.30pm to 1pm

Groovy Face

### 1.10pm 1.40pm

Magic Show

### 1.50pm to 2.20pm

The Gramophonie Brothers

### Family entertainment

#### 11am to 2.30pm

- Roaming performers
- Face painting
- Free rides including the trackless train
- Sausage sizzle
- Kid's craft



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