



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



**Maroondah**  
City Council

# Australia Day Awards & Australian Citizenship Ceremony

Thursday 26 January  
2023

## Maroondah City Council



### **Barneong Ward**

Cr Marijke Graham  
0418 109 015



### **Bungalook Ward**

Cr Tony Dib OAM JP  
0438 515 089



### **Jubilee Ward**

Cr Mike Symon  
0436 002 080



### **McAlpin Ward**

Cr Suzy Stojanovic  
0429 916 094



### **Tarralla Ward**

Cr Paul Macdonald  
0436 001 760



### **Wicklow Ward**

Cr Tasa Damante  
(Deputy Mayor)  
0438 704 819



### **Wombolano Ward**

Cr Kylie Spears  
0436 003 660



### **Wonga Ward**

Cr Linda Hancock  
0473 194 871



### **Yarrunga Ward**

Cr Rob Steane (Mayor)  
0407 519 986

## Welcome

Thank you for joining us today at Maroondah City Council's Australia Day event at Ringwood Lake Park.

Today is a free community event and an opportunity to celebrate our great city and nation in an inclusive and positive way.

As Mayor, and for everyone attending the day, the Citizenship Ceremony will be a wonderful moment as we get to witness people from so many different countries embrace Australia, and Maroondah, as their new home.

Citizenship is a representation of your commitment to the ideals and values of your adopted country, Australia. Becoming an Australian Citizen today indicates that you have chosen to take a significant step to be a full member of Australian society. Maroondah City Council is especially proud that you have taken this step with us.

On behalf of Council I also wish to congratulate all nominees in the Maroondah Australia Day Awards. I hope each nominee is proud of the contribution they make to our community. We appreciate your time and effort to make Maroondah a great place to live.

While you're here, please take the time to discover this wonderful park and the facilities it offers, including the popular all-abilities playspace and the historical mining site (at the rear of the park) that provides an insight into the history of antimony mining in Ringwood in the 1870's.

We hope you will enjoy the day with your family and friends.

**Cr Rob Steane  
Mayor**

## Order of proceedings

- 1 Raising the Australian National Flag
- 2 Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome - Cr Rob Steane, Mayor
- 3 Australia Day Ambassador
- 4 Presentation of our Maroondah's Australia Day Awards
- 5 Australian Citizenship & Affirmation Address  
- the Hon. Michael Sukkar, Federal Member for Deakin
- 6 Australian Citizenship & Affirmation Ceremonies
- 7 Australian National Anthem - Advance Australia Fair

## Australia Day Ambassador



**Mohammed Alam**

**Diversity champion and dedicated volunteer**

**2018 VIC Local Hero Finalist**

**2011 Vic Young Australian of the Year Finalist**

Mohammed Alam has been of continuous service to the community since arriving in Australia from Bangladesh in 2004. He has volunteered with the Australian Red Cross, St John Ambulance Victoria, the Victorian State Emergency Service and Ambulance Victoria, serving some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Mohammed is no stranger to floods, fires and pandemic emergencies and has travelled across the country through his relief, recovery and response work.

Some of his other volunteering work includes administering first aid, providing personal support, driving elderly people to their appointments, driving ambulances to support paramedics and responding to COVID-19 call-outs.

The Australia Day Ambassador Program provides a unique opportunity for Victorians to hear from inspirational Australian achievers.

He also supports the Australian Red Cross with blood donations.

Now a Protective Services Officer sergeant with Victoria Police Transit Safety Division, Mohammed has been actively involved in breaking down barriers in the culturally and linguistically diverse community through his influence, advocacy and engagement. Mohammed is also currently a serving member of the Australian Army Reserve in the Military Police.

Mohammed understands that the uniform he wears comes with responsibilities and, by helping others and giving everyone a fair go, he embodies the very best of what it means to be Australian.



## Maroondah Australia Day Awards 2023

## Community Event of the Year

### Chin National Day Festival

20 February 2022

Croydon Main Street

The Chin National Day Festival was the first Chin event held outdoors in Maroondah, attracting around 4000 members of the community in celebration of the 74th Chin National Day.

The Chin people all over the world celebrate this auspicious day in their own way.

The festival, held on 20 February 2022 at Croydon Main Street, provided the opportunity for other cultures to witness and have a better understanding of Chin culture. Cultural troupes from various tribes were brought together on this special occasion to promote understanding, a sense of identity and unity.

The event was greatly received by many people from different cultures, with many keen to learn more.

### Jazz at The Lake

6 March 2022

Ringwood Lake Soundshell

Jazz at the Lake was a free community event arranged by Jazz Notes, a group of local musicians and residents of Maroondah.

The event provided the opportunity for people to come out and enjoy

#### Criteria

- Events must have taken place in Maroondah between 1 January & 31 December 2022
- Groups may nominate their own event.

live music, free of charge, in a family and child safe environment.

With live music heavily impacted by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions for the best part of two years, this event provided a chance for bands and musicians to play to live audiences which was very much appreciated by both the musicians and the crowds that attended the event.

The beautiful tree and grass surroundings provided the perfect setting in which to conduct such an event with amenities and facilities being accessed with ease.

### Maroondah Volleyball Tournament

16-18 September 2022

Maroondah Nets and The Rings

The Maroondah Volleyball Association's annual Maroondah Volleyball Tournament returned in September 2022 after a two-year

hiatus due to COVID-19 lockdowns. The event, inaugurated in 2016, is a popular fixture on the Victorian volleyball calendar.

The Maroondah Volleyball Tournament is the largest metropolitan tournament hosted outside Volleyball Victoria, attracting over 70 teams and spectators to the City of Maroondah for the two-day weekend competition. The 2022 competition saw many visitors stay overnight within Maroondah and support local businesses which were promoted in the tournament booklet.

In addition to the weekend competition, the event catered for a Spikezone competition (for primary school-aged participants) and a 12-team Juniors (for secondary school-aged participants) competition on the Friday evening. The focus of the Spikezone events was to introduce participants to team competition and the fun of playing volleyball.

In total, Maroondah Volleyball hosted 213 matches including finals, in what was a busy weekend of volleyball action.



### Ringwood State School Centenary Celebration

12 November 2022

Maroondah Federation Estate

This centenary celebration event attracted over 500 visitors and was hugely successful in bringing together the community, both past and present.

A range of community groups were involved in the event, and in attendance, including Heathmont History Group, Ringwood Field Naturalists Club, Ringwood Baseball Club, Ringwood Technical School, Ringwood & District Historical Society, Croydon Historical Society, Croydon Conservation Society, New Community Church, Ringwood Arts Society, Ringwood Caledonian Dancers, and Maroondah Art Gallery. All contributed to the event and the historical and relevant displays to celebrate 100 years of the former school building. Maroondah City Council was represented by the Mayor and Councillors, with the Mayor unveiling a plaque to be located next to the Foundation plaque.

Other activities held on the day included school history, old-style game monitors and classrooms from 100 years ago, class photos and school registers, live music and tours of the gardens and surrounds.

The event was broadcast live on local radio station ECB-FM 98.1 and Channel 31/44 also created a half-hour program on the event. The event included the launch of 'Reflections of Ringwood State School', a new book containing over 25 recollections of former pupils, and a set of 6 pastels which were commissioned especially for the event depicting heritage buildings in Ringwood.

## Young Citizen of the Year

### Sang Peng Lian Cinzah

Sang currently volunteers with the Australia Chin Community (Eastern Melbourne) as Youth Director and is also a Music Group Leader at the Local Chin Church. He is a wonderful role model as a youth leader and has significant impact and influence on other young people in the community.

He is friendly, easy-going and is very determined with whatever he sets his mind to. He likes listening to others and has good experience supporting others to navigate career pathways. He also works with the Migrant Information Centre in Youth Programs and hopes this project will bring positive impacts for other young people.

Sang does all of this volunteer work alongside working full-time in a role that supports parents to engage in education and employment.

Sang enjoys playing soccer, going to the gym and singing. He holds a Bachelor of Youth Work.

### Criteria

- Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to the community of Maroondah during 2022.
- Nominees must be between 16 to 25 years of age as at 26 January 2022.

### Jackson Smith

Jackson is an exceptional leader in the community. Over the past 12 months Jackson has worked alongside his peer Alyssa to develop a Student Representative Council at their school, which he and Alyssa currently run. Through the SRC Jackson inspires and supports his peers to make a difference to the school community and to create positive change.

Together, Jackson and Alyssa designed, proposed and delivered an interactive workshop about student voice for a group of local grade 5 students and are preparing to deliver this again in the future.

Jackson is a member of the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocate program - a program that advocates for the inclusion of young people's voices through various projects and initiatives in Maroondah.

As a Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocate, Jackson assisted in planning Maroondah's first Student Voice Forum, during which he was co-MC and also co-facilitated workshops at the forum.

Jackson is currently the performing arts captain for his year level and has been successful in the role of performing arts prefect for his final year of secondary school in 2023.

Jackson supports all aspects of his school's productions and was recently nominated for a Lyrebird Award and a Music Theatre Guild of Victoria award for outstanding performance.

### Alyssa Solidaga

Alyssa has displayed exceptional leadership skills through her various youth-led work in the community.

During 2022, Alyssa has worked alongside her peer Jackson to develop a Student Representative Council at their school, which she and Jackson currently run. Through the SRC Alyssa leads by example in supporting her peers to make a difference to their school community and to create positive change.

Together, Alyssa and Jackson also designed, proposed and delivered an interactive workshop about student voice for a group of local grade 5 students and are preparing to deliver this again in the future.

Alyssa is a member of the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocate program - a program that advocates for the inclusion of young people's voices through various projects and initiatives in Maroondah.

As a Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocate, Alyssa assisted in planning Maroondah's first Student Voice Forum during which she was co-MC and also co-facilitated workshops at the forum.

Alyssa is currently philanthropy captain for her year level and has been successful in the role of philanthropy prefect for her final year of school in 2023. Through her work as philanthropy captain, Alyssa has led the running of multiple charity events raising money for FightMND and Teach Us Consent.

## Citizen of the Year

### Ivy Dods

Ivy Dods has been a long-time supporter of the Sacred Heart Croydon Primary School.

In addition to running the school's tuck shop and second-hand school uniform shop, Ivy provides ongoing daily support to the school's community activities including its annual Father's Day and Mother's Day stalls and assists with daily parent queries related to school matters.

Ivy has continued to do this even though her children no longer attend the school, and she manages to fit all of this with a busy family life and her work commitments.

### Catherine Gordon

Catherine Gordon has been a keen, dedicated and tireless volunteer for the Maroondah Volleyball Association (MVA) and wider community, and is a driving force in the growth of volleyball participation at all levels within Maroondah Volleyball.

Catherine has been involved in many activities and programs, many of which she has initiated, while others she has managed and/or coordinated since she became secretary in 2011. These include Spikezone, Maroondah Eastern Institute of Volleyball, Maroondah

#### Criteria

- Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to the community of Maroondah during 2022.
- Nominees must be 26 years or older as at 26 January 2022.

Cobras, and the Maroondah Volleyball Tournament. Many of the programs have also formed pathways for players to advance their skills and progress through to local leagues, as well as state and national competition.

Catherine strongly supports inclusiveness within Maroondah Volleyball and its activities and has implemented initiatives to increase access and participation in the sport for diverse communities.

In 2022 Catherine received both the Deakin Community Award and the Volleyball Victoria Volunteer Achievement Award. She was recently made a life member of Maroondah Volleyball.

### Dennis Johnston

For more than a decade, Dennis Johnston has been a regular Thursday helper at Biala Ringwood, an organisation dedicated to providing support and care for special-needs children.

Joining Biala's Committee of Management and serving in the role of Vice-Chair and then Chairman, Dennis has provided leadership in all aspects of the organisation at board and operational levels, while continuing his voluntary work every Thursday.

Nobody could have anticipated the difficulty of managing the roles of Chairman and Coordinator for Biala's respite program when the COVID-19 pandemic changed how the organisation functioned. Families were cut off from the support they relied on, and the committee had to work out how best to provide help for the children who would normally attend Biala sessions once a week. Working with Biala's Coordinator, Dennis helped to establish and lead 'Biala in the Home'. This initiative ensured that as many families as possible could continue receiving the support they needed.

Dennis has been actively involved in updating the Biala Ringwood Constitution to reflect changes within the organisation and has proactively applied for grants and donations to ensure Biala can continue to operate its much-needed respite service.

### Edith Martin

Edith Martin joined the Life Activities Club Croydon in May 2003 and continues to be an active and energetic member, holding many positions as convenor or organiser.

Edith is involved in many of the club's calendar of social activities, including weekend 'dine out' for the past 18 years; 'out and about' for 10 years with frequent outings to places of interest; monthly 'Morning melodies' for 10 years; and Scrabble and arts and crafts circle.

Edith has twice served as the Club Committee President, between 2011-2014 and from 2017-2020. She currently serves as the club's Vice President, a position she has held for the past two years. For the past two and three years, respectively, she has held the role of both Secretary and Membership Secretary.

Edith has been involved in other community organisations including T.O.W.N Club Croydon, Maroondah Healthy Ageing Network, and the Australian Multicultural Education Service.

# Australian Citizenship Ceremony



## Australian Government

### The Hon. Andrew Giles MP Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs

Thank you for deciding to become an Australian citizen.

Today you join a nation that is one of the world's most successful multicultural societies, with around half of all Australians either born overseas, or with at least one parent born overseas.

In Australia, everyone can be proud of who they are – and everyone should be respected, valued and feel a sense of belonging.

We are privileged to share this beautiful country with the world's oldest continuing culture. This is a fundamental part of who we are.

For more than 60,000 years First Nations peoples have cared for country.

Appreciating and understanding this truth, is a vital part of what it means to be Australian.

Australians are united by our shared commitment to democracy and the rule of law, and to freedom of speech, religion and association.

Our diversity is our greatest strength, and we prosper by embracing this.

We believe in a society in which everyone is equal, regardless of their gender, faith, sexual orientation, age, ability, race, national or ethnic origin. Ours is the land of the fair go, in which respect and compassion underpin our care for each other and our willingness to reach out to those around us in times of need.

By becoming an Australian citizen, you make a commitment to these values, and to contribute to our evolving Australian story.

On behalf of the Australian Government, heartfelt congratulations on becoming an Australian citizen.

## 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.

## Sound Shell Program

### 9am to 11am

Australia Day Awards  
Citizenship Ceremony

### 11.10am to 11.50am

Animals of the Magical Kingdom

### 12 noon to 12.45pm

Bethany Fisher

### 12.55pm to 1.40pm

Jetty Road

### 1.50pm to 2.30pm

The Mik Maks

### 2.30pm

Stage program closes

### Family entertainment 10.30am to 2.30pm

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





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