

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the first edition of the Community Catch Up for 2018.

During December Council was pleased to be able to bring you the inaugural Festival of Lights, a three week festival celebrating Christmas. More than 600 people took part in the free bus tours with close to 50 homes registering their lights. Hoards of other people took the opportunity to use the interactive map and take a self tour. We had the opportunity to partner with Griffith Real Estate who hosted an incredible street party for the residents of Wood Road, winners of the Best Street award.

I had the pleasure of selecting the Mayor's Choice Award which was particularly difficult! In the end I couldn't go past the Macedone's in Murphy Crescent. Every year this house is turned into a Christmas wonderland and this year was no exception.

People's Choice went to Roy Marando in Holmes Crescent - always extremely popular, Roy goes to incredible lengths to bring joy to the Griffith community.

Other events held throughout December included the very first Moonlight Movie, the return of Carols by Candlelight and the Carevan Pioneer Christmas Party. December was certainly jam packed!

Congratulations to all involved and I look forward to seeing what the next Christmas season will bring.

2018 is gearing up to be another big year for Griffith and surrounds. We have several major projects underway including the next stages of the Southern Industrial Link Road, Griffith CBD Upgrades (Yambil Street), Village Sewer Scheme, and the Hanwood - Griffith Shared Pathway, among many other projects. Council is committed to continuing to deliver infrastructure and programs to our community in a timely and efficient manner.



Many of these projects would not be possible without additional funding from the State and Federal Government - a lot of time is spent lobbying our representatives to ensure an equitable amount of funding comes to Griffith to continue to provide the community with these essential services.

Over the next two weeks there are two major events coming to Griffith. The first being the Australia Day Awards which are held on 26 January 2018. These awards are a great way to show those members of the community who go above and beyond how much their work is appreciated. I would encourage you to come along to the Ceremony at 9.30am, Griffith Regional Theatre to help celebrate their efforts and achievements.

January 28 will see the Queen's Baton arrive in Griffith as part of the Relay for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. This is a particularly exciting event for Griffith, with 20 locals selected to take part in the 2km relay. You can come along and cheer them on from 4pm at Griffith Exies Sports Club or line the route which extends down Wakaden Street, Kookora Street and ends at the Burley Griffin Community Gardens. Each batonbearer will carry the Baton for around 200m - be sure to support them and offer your encouragement! Join us for an after celebration from 4.30pm - 7pm where you can see the Queen's Baton, enjoy live entertainment, food and drinks. It is sure to be an incredible afternoon for the entire family.

Congratulations to those locals who were nominated and selected to be part of this historical event.

Regards,
Cr. John Dal Broi
Emeritus Mayor



Australia Day Ambassador announced for 2018

Griffith City Council will be welcoming Chelsea Bonner, founder of Bella Models and daughter of Australian model Nola Clark and well known actor, Tony Bonner to Griffith as part of the Australia Day celebrations on January 26.

Chelsea started her career as a junior agent when she was just a teen, moving on to work for a top model agency in Melbourne and managing creative agencies in Sydney and Melbourne. Chelsea has launched and guided the careers of some of Australia's most well-known fashion and advertising photographers, hair and makeup artists and stylists throughout the 90s.

In 2002 Chelsea founded Bella Models, an agency focused on health and changing the perception of size and beauty, with the goal of redefining boundaries of fashion and model sizes. BELLA is now known all over the world and her models have appeared on 'World First' covers and in the fashion editorials of Sports Illustrated, Vogue, ELLE, Cos-

mopolitan and Marie Claire.

In 2013 Chelsea launched the talent division of her business which represents young actors, fitness and advertising entities and in 2015 she launched her full service agency, BELLA Management.

Chelsea said "I've long been a passionate advocate for a more realistic portrayal of women in the media. It gives me enormous satisfaction to see these gorgeous women starting to get the appreciation they deserve."

Chairperson of the Australia Day Working Party, Councillor Christine Stead welcomed the announcement and said it is extremely exciting to have such a high profile and passionate Ambassador.

"We are thrilled to welcome someone of this caliber, Chelsea Bonner to be our official ambassador at our 2018 Australia Day celebrations," said Councillor Stead.

"Chelsea is dedicated to changing how women are perceived which can be seen through her incredible ca-

reer," said Councillor Stead.

"In addition to BELLA Management, Chelsea is set to launch her book in 2019 - part memoir, part manifesto, the book will show what she has had to go through in order to build her business and turn her life around. Chelsea is inspirational, passionate and she is paving the way for future generations. We are so excited to be able to have her in Griffith this year."

Griffith's Australia Day Celebrations will kick off with the annual Australia Day Breakfast at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum, followed by the Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at Griffith Regional Theatre from 9.30am.

For more information about Griffith's Australia Day celebrations contact Tanya Aramini Community Development Officer at Griffith City Council on 6962 8100 or email Tanya.Aramini@griffith.nsw.gov.au.

What's on?

Every Sunday, 7am

Griffith Rotary Markets
15 Collier Street

Every Tuesday, 10am

Baby Bounce, Griffith City Library

Third Thursday of Each Month

Movie Club, Griffith City Library

Every Friday, 11am

Toddler Time, Griffith City Library

Every weekday through the school holidays

Lego Club

Griffith City Library

Wednesday January 17, 10am

Bath bomb workshop

Griffith City Library

Tuesday January 23, 10am

Electronic music production workshop

Griffith Regional Theatre

Tuesday January 23, 7.30pm

The Ironing Maidens Laundromat Tour

Griffith Regional Theatre

Friday January 26, 7am

Australia Day Breakfast at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum

Friday January 26, 9.30am

Australia Day Ceremony

Griffith Regional Theatre

Sunday January 28, 4pm

The Queen's Baton Relay

Queen's Baton Relay: Starting at the Exies Sports Club at 4.30pm, the baton will travel along Banna Avenue and conclude in Community Garden for a celebration from 5pm.

Friday February 23, 11am

Don't Shoot Me, I'm STILL Only the Piano Player

Griffith Regional Theatre

Sunday February 25, 8pm

Elvis: An American Trilogy

Griffith Regional Theatre

Saturday March 10

Sunday March 11

Australian Formula Powerboat Grand Prix

Lake Wyangan

See the latest event listings online at visitgriffith.com.au

Congratulations to our 2018 nominees

Citizen of the Year:

- Toni Howard
- Ross Catanzariti
- Margaret Gandy
- Dr Narayanan Jayachandran
- Dr Peter Calaizis

Young Citizen of the Year:

- Daniella Collison

Junior Citizen of the Year:

- Jade Earl

Community Project of the Year:

- Griffith's Biggest Lap
- Yambil Hub

Club Person of the Year:

- Gordon Brown, Cricket
- Veronica Cudmore, Little Athletics
- Ben Pawson, Archery

Junior Sportsperson of the Year:

- Alex Robinson, Soccer
- Claire Murray, Cricket
- Isaac Testoni, Basketball
- Mitch Landini, Futsal
- Wil Donaldson, Swimming
- Carla Vonnida, Multiple Sports
- Blake Argus, AFL
- William Charles, Rugby League

- Jenna Richards, AFL
- Abby Favell, AFL
- Blake Wood, Rugby League
- Apenisa Driti, Rugby League
- Lawrence Salvestro, Archery
- Callan Butcher, Dirttrack Motorbike
- Dean Bennett, Cricket

Senior Sportsperson of the Year:

- Dean Gorman, Jiu-Jitsu
- Elizabeth Heffer, Jiu-Jitsu
- Jenny Massey, Cycling

Sports Team of the Year:

- Girls Under 12 Demons Representative Basketball

- Griffith Under 15 Representative Netball
- Griffith Masters Women's Hockey Team
- Griffith Under 16 Representative Cricket

The winner of each category will be announced at the official ceremony which commences at 9.30am on Friday January 26, 2017 at the Griffith Regional Theatre.

The Griffith City Band and Sing Australia Griffith will provide entertainment while the Griffith Branch of Soroptimist International will serve a morning tea to welcome Griffith's newest Australian Citizens and Award Nominees and Winners.