



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**Northern  
Territory**

**AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL  
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**2021-2022**

# **ANNUAL REVIEW**



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**20  
22**

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Australia Day 2022

Photo: **OZ FUN RUN**





# 2022

## A word from the Chair

It was an honour to be appointed as Chair of the Australia Day Council NT earlier this year. I've become a witness to the dedicated members of the Australia Day Council Northern Territory who contribute their time and support to our organisation.

The strong desire to help people is a common thread that connects all of our NT Australian of the Year recipients for 2022.

NT Australian of the year, Leanne Liddle works tirelessly to empower Aboriginal Territorians with justice solutions that are realistic and will work where other systems have failed.

NT Young Australian of the Year Sizol Fuyana creates programs across the Territory to support young people coming out of the justice system.

Robyne Burridge OAM, is an advocate for greater equality, accessibility and quality of life for all and Rebecca Forrest is a campaigner for social justice, anti-violence, youth affairs and the vulnerable.

This organisation plays a significant role by providing support, and a platform to those who are doing amazing work within the community.

To everyone who has attended our events, taken part in our programs and supported Australia Day Council NT throughout the year, I thank you, too. I can't wait to see what the next year holds.

*Richard Fejo*

Dr Richard Fejo  
Chair

Australia Day Council Northern Territory



# 2022

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

It is with great pride that I present this year's annual review and I would like to start by thanking all members of the Australia Day Council Northern Territory board for their dedication and support to our organisation. The highlight of our year was making history by hosting the biggest Australia Day event ever held in the Northern Territory!

Continuing with the theme of "The Story of Australia" which encouraged Australians to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate, the "Australia Day NT 2022 major concert and exhibition" held at the Darwin Convention Centre attracted over 1800 people across the day. This event was federally funded through the National Australia Day Council, supported more than 50 local businesses, and created over 60 casual jobs.

In January, an all-female team of Awards recipients headed to Canberra to represent the Northern Territory at the National Australian of the Year Awards in Canberra. Congratulations to Leanne Liddle, Rebecca Forrest, Robyne Burrige OAM and Sizol Fuyana, it has been a pleasure spending the year with you and being part of your 2022 Alumni journey.

We were delighted to welcome our conference delegates from across the

Territory to the Darwin Waterfront once again for our annual regional conference. Delegates participated in speed networking sessions where they discussed Australia Day activities and events in their communities. Delegates also had the opportunity to network and participate in professional development sessions throughout the day.

We thank our Australia Day Ambassadors who generously volunteered their time and energy to visit communities across the Northern Territory to share their personal journeys and inspire others.

On a personal note, the saying that "If you find a job that you love, you'll never have to work another day again" couldn't be truer. It is an absolute privilege to work in an organisation that recognises and celebrates great Australians all year round and I look forward to meeting our next group of finalists for the 2023 Australian of the Year Awards and sharing their stories.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. McDonald".

Anna McDonald  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australia Day Council Northern Territory



# 2022 Australia Day

# Key Highlights

# 2022

## Events

### OZ Run & Australia Day

This year we held the largest Australia Day event in history in the Northern Territory.. Our focus was to present an event that encompassed the theme of Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. as well as showcase the diversity and unique beauty of Darwin and the Northern Territory.

One of the highlights of Darwin's Australia Day events is OZ RUN, (formerly known as the Australia Day Fun Run).

OZ RUN is held on the morning of Australia Day 26 January at the Darwin Waterfront, Participants can choose to run, walk, or jog around a 3km or 5km course.

Our annual OZ Run event went ahead with over 1000 participants despite COVID restrictions.

The day continued with morning activities including a Smoking Ceremony, Citizenship ceremony and multi-cultural fashion show. All activities focused on what unites us as Territorians, including food, dance, cultural performances, live street art painting, kids and family activities.

The day finished with three world-class performance artists and bespoke projections that highlighted our beautiful NT landscapes.

The Australia Day event attracted almost 3,000 people throughout the day.

More than 50 local business were involved directly and more than 60 casual jobs were created.

17 Darwin local business and not-for-profit organisations were involved and 10 multicultural groups performed. These included those with cultural connections to Italy, Colombia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Thailand, PNG and Indonesia.





# Key Highlights

# 2022

## Events

### OZ Sports

Each year community sporting groups and clubs are encouraged to hold a competition or event on Australia Day, 26 January to contribute to Australia Day celebrations throughout the Northern Territory.

The OZ Sports program is free to participate in and offers clubs and organisations an opportunity to promote their programs and encourage new memberships.

This year we received 33 event registrations from across the Territory.

### Annual Conference

Every October, Australia Day Council NT holds a conference for our regional network. The conference is a great opportunity for those working in events and sport and recreation roles to brainstorm and network with those from other NT councils in similar roles.

It also gives those working in the more remote locations an opportunity for

professional development that they may not easily have access to.

The topics covered are relevant to event organisers with a strong focus on Australia Day activities and presenters are usually local business persons.

We also invite the current NT Australian of the Year to inspire delegates and share their story. Australia Day Council NT covers the cost of travel and accommodation for one delegate from each council. Delegates were treated to dinner at the Waterfront the night before, allowing everybody to network and meet beforehand in a relaxed atmosphere. Each year the location of the conference alternates, one year in Darwin and the next in regional NT. This year's conference was held at the Adina Vibe Hotel in Darwin.

One of the highlights this year was the "Speed Networking" session where delegates had one minute each to talk about what happens in their council/community on Australia Day. This was a great way to share ideas within a short time period.



# Key Highlights

# 2022

## Events

### Alumni Activity

#### A Night Under The Stars

Over 110 people attended "A Night Under The Stars with Leanne Liddle" who delivered a powerful and thought provoking speech, sharing her personal journey of experiencing racism. Other alumni were involved including 2022 NT Australia's Local Hero NT recipient, Rebecca Forrest who organised the event and 2019 NT Senior Australian of the Year, Charlie King who was the MC. This event also coincided with National Reconciliation Week.



#### Tour of Honour 2022 with Kate Everett, Bernie Shakeshaft, and Leanne Liddle

Part one of the Tour of Honour began in Nhulunbuy, East Arnhemland where 2019 Australia's Local Hero, Kate Everett (Dolly's Dream) and 2020 Australia's Local Hero, Bernie Shakeshaft (Backtrack Youthworks) spoke with the students at the local primary and high schools about the importance of being kind and open about emotions. They also had an interview with Gove FM before travelling to Darwin for a meet and greet with Australia Day Council NT board and alumni.

Part two of the Tour of Honour saw Bernie travel to Alice Springs with 2022 NT Australian of the year, Leanne Liddle. The time there was spent with two early morning radio interviews with CAAMA Radio and ABC Alice Springs Radio. CAAMA Radio has over 60,000 listeners nation wide and produce 99% of their own content to share with other aboriginal radio stations across Australia.

AMA radio 8 kin fm 100.5 MHz  
Across Outback Australia



AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL  
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# Key Highlights

# 2022

## Events

Bernie and Leanne spoke at the "Lunch with Legends" event held at Saltbush Restaurant. 42 people attended and the Alice Springs Town Council Deputy Mayor, Eli Melky MC'd the event.

The final activity for the Tour of Honour was a visit to the Gap Youth Centre with 2019 NT Australian of the Year nominee Adam Drake. The Gap's organizational goal is to provide a safe place for indigenous youth and their families.

### OZ FORUM

*(Budgeted for June but held in August.)*

Each year Australia Day Council NT hold an OZ Forum event where we invite Australian of the Year Awards alumni and friends of Australia Day Council to participate in a panel discussion.

The discussion topic is a subject that ties all panelists together.

Over 30 attendees came along to the this year's OZ Forum at the NT Library to hear our panel explore the topic "Volunteering: Benefit or Burden?".

Our amazing panel, Malia Ford, Robyne Burrige OAM, Valmai Dempsey, and Yvette Amos equated to 127 years of volunteering experience.

Our panel enlightened us about the benefits and challenges of volunteering, shared their amazing and personal stories, and inspired us to volunteer ourselves. It was a feel good, positive night with attendees ranging in age from young adults to seniors.



LIBRARY & ARCHIVES NT

OZ FORUM



# Key Highlights

# 2022

## Programs

### Australian of the Year Awards

Each year our nation celebrates the achievements and contributions of eminent Australians through the Australian of the Year Awards by profiling leading citizens who are role models for us all. They inspire us through their achievements and challenge us to make our own contribution to creating a better Australia.

The Awards honour an exceptional group of highly respected Australians who ignite discussion and change on issues of national importance.

The Australian of the Year Awards provides everyone with the opportunity to recognise any Australian who makes them proud.

The four finalist nominees by category were:

- **NT Local hero nominees**

Kristy Teunissen, Paul Walker, Shaun Tatipata.

**Rebecca Forrest (Recipient).**

- **NT Senior Australian of the Year nominees**

Kathleen Short OAM, Bilawara Lee, Bishop Daniel Eugene Hurley AM.

**Robyne Burridge OAM (Recipient).**

- **NT Young Australian of the Year Australian of the Year nominees**

Emma Warren, Kyle Bambra, Paige Horrigan.

**Sizolwenkosi Fuyana (Recipient).**

- **NT Australian of the Year nominees**

Dr Joshua Francis, Kwame Selormey, Olga Havnen.

**Leanne Liddle (Recipient).**

Over 300 guests attended the Northern Territory awards presentation event held at the Darwin Convention Centre.

The four recipients then go on to represent the Northern Territory in Canberra for the National Announcement on Australia Day eve.



# 2022 NT Australian of the Year Award Recipients



Leanne Liddle  
Director of the Aboriginal Justice Unit  
2022 NT AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Robyne Burridge OAM  
Disability services advocate and Founder of  
Focus-A-Bility  
2022 NT SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR



Sizolwenkosi Fuyana  
Businesswoman, podcaster and youth  
advocate  
2022 NT YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Rebecca Forrest  
Social Justice Advocate and founder of No  
One Left Behind  
2022 NT LOCAL HERO





# Key Highlights

# 2022 Programs

## Student Citizen of the Year

The Australia Day Student Citizen Award recognises students who show a sense of fair play, generosity of spirit, concern for others, cultural understanding and a positive attitude and involvement within their school and/or wider community.

Every school in the Northern Territory is invited to participate in the program by selecting one student per primary, middle and senior school to receive the Student Citizen Award for their school.

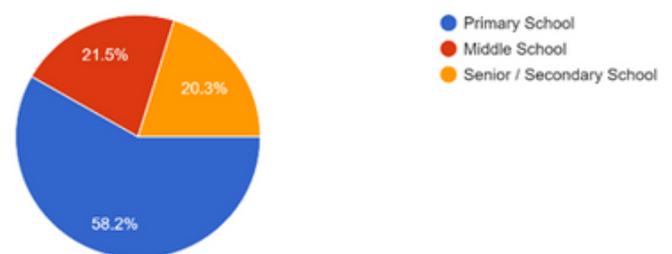
Award recipients receive a specially minted engraved medallion along with a certificate signed by the Administrator, Chief Minister, and Chair of the Australia Day Council.

We encourage presentation of the award to take place at the student's community's flag raising ceremony on Australia Day but understand this is not always possible.

Many schools choose to present the award at their end of year assembly before school breaks for Christmas.

All award recipients are acknowledged in a full page coloured advertisement in the NT News on Australia Day.

- 139 students received Student Citizen of the Year awards in 2022.



## Citizen of the Year

The Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards are proudly presented by the Australia Day Council Northern Territory, supported by the Northern Territory Government.

Citizen of the Year Awards reward and recognise individuals and organisations that have made a noteworthy contribution

# Key Highlights

# 2022

## Programs

during the current year, and/or given outstanding service over several years, to a local community over and above normal employment duties.

Outstanding contribution and community service include areas such as education, health, fundraising, charitable and voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment, or any other area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing of a community.

Categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the year

Some councils choose to create their own awards too, including the "Volunteer of the Year" and "Sportsperson of the Year" category.

- Alice Springs Town Council
- Roper Gulf Regional Council
- Coomalie Community Council
- City of Darwin
- West Arnhem Regional Council
- Katherine

- Litchfield
- Nhulunbuy
- City of Palmerston
- Barkly Regional Council
- Tennant Creek
- Wagait Shire Council
- Victoria Daly Regional Council

## Ambassador Program

The Australia Day Ambassador Program is the cornerstone of local Australia Day celebrations. Each year our ambassadors generously volunteer their time and energy to visit regional and remote areas across the Northern Territory to inspire and unite communities. This year we had 8 ambassadors participate in Australia Day activities across the Territory:

- Sergeant Erica Gibson
- Kwame Selormey
- Paul Walker
- Paige Horrigan
- Kyle Bamba
- Helen Summers
- David Taylor
- Ineke Wallis



# Key Highlights

# 2022

## Programs

Our Ambassadors are high profile, influential and deeply respected community leaders within the Northern Territory. These individuals embrace communities, share insights from their varied lived experiences, reflect on who we are as nation and celebrate our diversity.

When surveyed, here's what our Ambassadors said that they liked best about being part of the programme.

*"The cultural celebration and connection"*

*"Meeting new conferees and their families, asking questions of them and hearing a range of different answers from passionate, good people wanting to make Australia their home and taking up Citizenship"*

*"Meeting new people, witnessing how supportive community members were towards charities, seeing how other Australian's celebrated the day and celebrating the good work of people in the community"..*

*"Meeting active community members and being inspired by their enthusiasm and commitment to bringing diverse groups together in celebration"*

### Australia Day Community Grants programme

Each year Australia Day Council NT invites councils and not-for-profits to apply for up to \$3000 to hold activities or events within two weeks of Australia Day.

These events can be anything from a flag raising and awards ceremony to cane toad racing, lamington eating or a throwing competition.



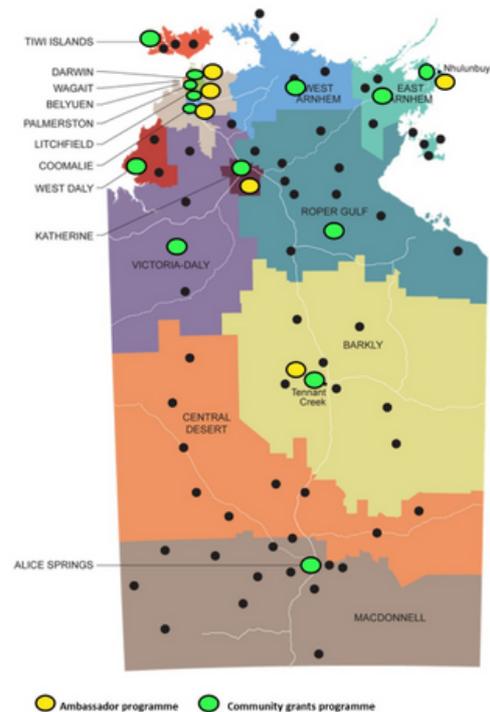
# 2022

# Key Highlights

## Programs

18 organisations received funding through our Community Grants programme for their Australia Day events.

The map pictured right shows the communities/areas of the NT that we engaged with on Australia Day 2022 through our Ambassador and Community Grants programmes.



# Impact at a Glance

## 2021-2022 Snapshot

# 2022

### Awards Programmes

- **139 students** received Student citizen awards

### Citizen of the Year Awards

- **52 people** received Citizen of the Year awards

### Events

- We held the **largest** Australia Day event in NT history.
- The “Australia Day NT 2022 major concert and exhibition” held at the Darwin Convention Centre attracted over **1800 people** across the day.
- Our annual OZ Run event went ahead with over **1000 participants** despite COVID restrictions.

### Programs

- Australia Day Council NT assisted **12 councils** and **6 not-for-profits** through our Community Grants programme with funding for their Australia Day events.
- There were **33 sporting events** from across the Territory registered for our OZ Sports programme on Australia Day.
- **37 community events** across the Territory were registered with Australia Day Council NT.





# Governance

# 2022

## Dr Richard Fejo (Chair)

Richard is a Larrakia man from Darwin from his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather in what culture calls "Grandfather lore". He is also Warumungu from Tennant Creek on his mother's side and holds a great amount of cultural knowledge and experiences from both northern and central Australian across the Northern Territory.

Richie started working as a Cultural Educator with Northern Territory General Practice Education for eleven years resigning from cultural education in 2020 to become the Flinders University Elder on Campus in Darwin. From 2018 Richie became the Chairman of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC) until November 2021. In November 2020 Richie became the Chairman of the Darwin Waterfront Corporation and also has had previous roles with City of Darwin International Relations Committee from 2020 to 2022 standing down to become the current chairman of the Australia Day Council.

## Nigel Browne (Chair) - Resigned 23 February 2022

Nigel is a descendant of the Larrakia and Wulna peoples. In August 2011 Nigel was announced as the National Indigenous Legal Professional of the Year, in recognition of his advocacy, representation, and contribution to Larrakia people.

## Helen Summers

For more than 25 years, optometrist Helen Summers has been devoted to caring for the vision of Top End communities, and helping to prevent blindness through education and employment. Helen also lectures and volunteers in not-for-profit and charities for people with vision loss and learning and neuro-developmental delays.

Helen is an advocate for the goals of Vision 2020 and Close the Gap for Vision – to reduce preventable blindness and provide vision services to regional and remote Australia. As well as active involvement in vision-related national and internal organisations, Helen has served as a non-executive director and committee member on Australian boards across health, social, indigenous and sporting sectors. Helen's passion for life has also seen her join a team to complete a 64km group trek on the Sunshine Coast, raising money for charity. She inspires many with her motivation, commitment and dynamic personality.

## Dr Edwin Joseph

Edwin is passionate about serving the community and being active in public life. He has a multidisciplinary education, including a doctoral degree. His experience includes roles in higher education, project management, research, policy and more. Throughout his life, Edwin has been volunteering for community groups, not-for-profit organizations and professional associations. Currently he serves on eleven boards in the Northern Territory.

## Renae McGarvie APM

Renae McGarvie APM has a passion for working and volunteering at the community level. Renae grew up in Darwin and served across the Territory as a police officer for 24 years before recently becoming Chief of People and Strategy Officer for the West Daly Regional Council. She is currently undertaking an MBA at UniSA while also being involved in a variety of organisations.

Renae has two amazing children who inspire her to be a role model for them and the community. Renae is honoured to be involved with the Australia Day Council NT, recognising people that volunteer their time and dedicate their professional careers for the future generations.

## Malia Ford

Born and bred in the Territory, Malia strives towards empowering the Territories Youth. Set to complete her Master's in Occupational Therapy at the end of 2022, she hopes to improve the lives of many Territorians through empowerment and inclusive practice and uses her own experiences of disadvantage to reduce stigma around homelessness and childhood abuse. She is an alumnus of the Youth Round Table 2016, has previous experience as an executive member of the Young Professionals Network Committee, founding Vice Chair of Two Two One Mental Health Charity and founding President of CDU student club Allied Health Collective.

She can often be found around the community volunteering at various events and is a current Nightcliff Lions Club member as well as a current member of the Volunteering NT committee.

## Katherine Li

Katherine Li is proud to call Australia home after migrating from China around ten years ago. As a fluent and confident communicator in Mandarin and English, Katherine prides herself on building strong relationships with those she meets. As a passionate advocate for multicultural societies, Australia has helped Katherine's passion for supporting others to grow.

In 2018/19, Katherine was the President of the Young Professionals Network NT supporting hundreds of young Territorians to get involved with social and professional development events. With experience in commercial, public sector, not-for-profit and membership organisations, Katherine brings her wealth of experience and knowledge to her work.

## Kym Cairns - Joined 1 October 2021 - Resigned 22 February 2022

# Governance

# 2022

## Shipra Soni

Shipra is currently serving as the Treasurer of the board and works full time serving the Bishop of Darwin working as the Business Manager at Catholic Church Diocese of Darwin. She is passionate towards children's future and has been a Board Member (Treasurer) for Variety the Children's Charity NT.

Shipra is an immensely grounded human being, her heart reaches out for anyone in need, be it family, a friend or stranger. Through her innate skills and formal qualifications, she has accomplished a lot in the last 10 years in Darwin

## Gail Barker- Resigned 30 June 2022

After 10 years at Essington as head teacher, followed by assistant principal, then appointed principle, Gail moved to the Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory as the Educational Support Officer. She has been with AISNT for 22 years and has been in the position of Executive Director for the past 16 years. Gail felt privileged to be accepted and to have served on the Board of the Australia Day Council of the Northern Territory.

## David Taylor - Resigned 24 August 2022

David was named 2016 Australian of the Year NT Local Hero in recognition for his work with disengaged, homeless, and at-risk young people. Using his background as a teaching Chef, he used his culinary knowledge and his passion to effect real change to guide them back into education or into meaningful employment. David facilitates personal growth and wellness sessions in Darwin schools for the GROW Foundation. He believes that until young people can see themselves as useful and worthwhile, they will struggle to have a positive outlook for the future. It is up to each of us to encourage our young people with love, care, and compassion





# Australian of the Year Awards

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



# Australian of the Year Awards

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



# Australia Day

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Northern Territory

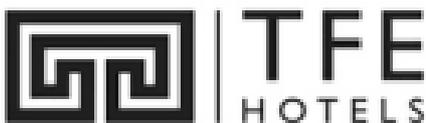
Australia Day Council Northern Territory would like to thank the following sponsors and event partners.

**NADC**

National Australia Day Council



**NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
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We're here for you



Leading volunteering in the Northern Territory

20  
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# Australia Day

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## Northern Territory

