

Message from the Administrator



I often say to people that you can't tell the story of Australia without telling the story of country Australia. I always have this in my mind when Australia Day comes around when as Australians we collectively take some time to celebrate who we are and what makes Australia so special.

It's impossible this year as we celebrate Australia to not reflect on the incredible stories of heartbreak from the bushfires. For us, we particularly feel for our friends and family in East Gippsland who have been in many cases so devastatingly impacted.

The incredible stories of courage in the face of the ferocious fires and the commitment of our firefighters, emergency personnel and local community organisations have been truly inspiring.

Seeing ordinary people standing together and helping each other deal with the terrible impacts of these fires is perhaps the very essence of what being Australian truly is.

As a Council, we have this year supported volunteer groups across the Shire to conduct Australia Day events including Australia Day breakfasts, community barbeques, afternoon teas, awards ceremonies and more. Our community is enriched by the work of these great local volunteers and we are proud to support them.

At the Citizenship Ceremony conducted on Australia Day my colleague Administrator Julie Eisenbise welcomed 17 new Australian Citizens into our local community. Having had the privilege of attending many of these citizenship ceremonies over the years – and actually presiding at one – I know that this day will be one of the biggest days in the lives of those new citizens and their families. The stories of our new citizens are often amazing; their positive outlook and preparedness to contribute to local organisations and add to our community is refreshing.

I join with all Administrators in very warmly welcoming these new citizens to our community and thanking all of those locally who contribute so much through volunteering to organisations that genuinely help other people, especially those in need. You all represent something that as Australians we have every reason to celebrate.

Christian Zahra AM
Administrator