to celebrate our day of Aussie pride

Record of new citizens

COMMUNITY REPORTER
Sarah Rohweder

A RECORD number of people will be granted national citizenship at the Alice Springs Town Council Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony on Sunday.

This year, 120 individuals will officially become Australian citizens in Alice Springs, beating last year’s record of 106 people.

Mayor Damien Ryan said the continuous increase in numbers was a good reflection of positive attitudes towards the Australian culture and lifestyle.

“The record number is definitely an indication that people are prepared to make a commitment to not only the country, but also the community, and it’s fantastic that they come to Alice Springs to do that,” he said.

“Numbers are increasing each year which is a great thing because these people don’t just come here to be granted citizenship. They stay here for a long time and they commit themselves to working in this community by taking responsibilities and embracing Australian values and institutions.”

Mr Ryan said there were other activities taking place at the event which would be held on the council lawns.

“This ceremony is also particularly special because we give all of our new citizens a plant as a small gift which they can plant in their own backyard and watch grow just the same as they watch their new life as an Australian grow.”

“It’s very much a celebration of being Australian.”

“We also name our Centralian of the Year, Young Centralian of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Event of the Year award recipients which is a fantastic way to recognise the efforts these people have done throughout the year.”

“We will be having a barbecue to feed people after the ceremony with sausages and wonderful lamb burgers in the shape of Australia, which is a great way to come together.”

“I also highly recommend the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club’s Australia Day 5km walk and run for anyone who wants to start the day in a great and healthy way.”

Minister for Central Australia Matt Conlan said it was a perfect way to celebrate the nation’s multicultural identity.

“I think it’s really terrific that Alice Springs is a melting pot of different cultures,” he said.

“I would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to all the new citizens who will be bringing unique skills and culture to our Aussie way of life, which is definitely something something to celebrate.”

The Northern Territory Australia Day Council has been involved in the holiday’s activities across the Territory for years, providing support to local authorities for several events.

“We work with local government, businesses, not for profit, community groups and individual to encourage support and facilitate these activities not just on Australia Day, but all year round,” executive director Riya Gill said.

“From Alice Springs to the Tiwi Islands, community groups, families and friends have organised everything from flag-raising ceremonies to special events.”

The Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony will start with a flag-raising ceremony on the council lawns on Todd Street, Alice Springs at 8am on Sunday.

For more information phone 8950 0500.

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