

**Environmental & Community Services**

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**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

**G.11.1**

**AUSTRALIA DAY CEREMONY 2024**

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** Mathew Pringle - Director Environmental & Community Services

**AUTHOR:** Amanda Catzikiris - Manager Community Services

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to determine the venue for the Australia Day awards and citizenship ceremony in 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council consider the feedback from the committees in regard to a combined location and confirm the location for the 2024 Australia Day Awards for Aberdeen, Murrurundi and Scone.

**BACKGROUND**

The Australia Day Committees are subcommittees of the Community Advisory Committees of Council, established to oversee the planning and provision of Australia Day activities in the Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone & Aberdeen districts. The Committees consist of Councillor and community representatives and are supported by Community Services staff. The subcommittee have responsibility for planning the Australia Day ceremonies including recommendations for award recipients.

**REPORT/PROPOSAL**

A meeting of the Australia Day Subcommittee – Merriwa District was held on 14 November 2023. The Committee planned a ceremony and family fun day activities for Merriwa district and completed judging of the 2024 Australia Day awards. Staff will commence arrangements for this event.

The Australia Day Subcommittee – Murrurundi District met on 20 November 2023 to discuss arrangements for the 2024 Australia Day celebrations including the Australia Day awards, parade and games. There was discussion regarding the benefits of hosting a combined awards ceremony with the Scone and Aberdeen districts to ensure greater recognition of award nominees. The Subcommittee has a preference for a combined awards event, to be held in Murrurundi at Wilson Memorial Oval on 26 January 2024. This information was provided to the Australia Day Subcommittee – Scone and Aberdeen districts for further discussion.

The Australia Day Subcommittee – Scone & Aberdeen District met on 22 November 2023 to discuss the Australia Day ceremonies including recommendations for award recipients. The Subcommittee discussed the proposal for a combined event with Murrurundi district.

The Upper Hunter Shire Australia Day awards ceremony was a combined event for Aberdeen, Murrurundi and Scone in 2023. The event was hosted at the Scone Administration Building. Feedback from this event was discussed at the Australia Day Subcommittee – Scone & Aberdeen District on 28 February 2023. The feedback was positive and the Subcommittee agreed that Scone is a good central venue for the event but it would be good to rotate the event with Murrurundi and consider the Bowling Club or outdoor venue. The Subcommittee also agreed that the goal for Australia Day is to work towards one ceremony for the Shire.

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Based on this feedback, the Australia Day Subcommittee – Scone & Aberdeen District provided their support for the proposal for a combined event in 2024 to be hosted in Murrurundi. Further discussion included consideration of the agenda for the ceremony, an earlier start time, a suitable outdoor setting and a wet weather option.

Details of nominations and recommendations for award recipients will be provided to Councillors under separate confidential cover at the next Council meeting.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Host a combined awards event in Murrurundi at Wilson Memorial Oval on 26 January 2024.
2. Host a combined awards event at the Scone Administration Building on 26 January 2024.
3. Propose alternative arrangements for Australia Day activities for the Aberdeen, Murrurundi and Scone districts.

### **CONSULTATION**

Consultation has occurred with members of the Australia Day Subcommittee – Murrurundi districts Australia Day Subcommittee – Scone and Aberdeen districts.

### **STRATEGIC LINKS**

#### **a. Community Strategic Plan 2032**

This report links to the Community Strategic Plan 2032 as follows:

#### **Connected Community**

Developing and deepening connections of people to each other and their community.

- 1.6 Provide and support a range of community events, festivals and celebrations.

#### **b. Delivery Program**

- The facilitation of cultural partnerships with the community
- Facilitation and management of community cultural events and activities

#### **c. Other Plans**

Nil

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **a. Policy and Procedural Implications**

Nil

#### **b. Financial Implications**

A budget is allocated for Australia Day activities.

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**c. Legislative Implications**

Nil

**d. Risk Implications**

Nil

**e. Sustainability Implications**

Nil

**f. Other Implications**

Nil

***CONCLUSION***

The District Australia Day Subcommittees consider planning for the Australia Day Awards at their meetings, including the ceremony and family fun day activities, and then make recommendations to Council.

***ATTACHMENTS***

There are no enclosures for this report