



AUSTRALIA DAY 2013

Our true blue way to

Shire events make a splash

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS
By **MATTHEW O'TOOLE**

TEN events across the Southern Grampians Shire will provide plenty of ways to celebrate Australia Day including free entry into the shire's six outdoor pools.

Hamilton's botanic gardens will host the town's Australia Day festivities, kicking off at 10:30am with a flag-raising ceremony, award presentation, citizenship ceremony and addresses by mayor Albert Calvano and Australia Day ambassador John Birt.

There will also be musical entertainment by Hamilton Brass and Hamilton Singers along with Tic Toc Kaboom and a free community barbecue.

Balmoral's Apex Park will host a flag-raising ceremony, free community barbecue, speeches and

live entertainment from 8:30am. There will also be free entry into the Balmoral pool for a pool party.

Branxholme's Old Railway Reserve will host a free barbecue and a speech by councillor Cathy Armstrong from 6pm.

Festivities at Glenthompson will start at noon with a flag raising ceremony, community lunch and an Australia Day ceremony, again featuring an address by ambassador Lawrence Money.

The botanical gardens in Peshurst will host an address by former Essendon champion footballer John Birt and a barbecue breakfast from 8:30am.

Tarrington's brass band will provide entertainment at the recreation reserve from 8:30am along with a flag-raising ceremony, speeches and a free barbecue.

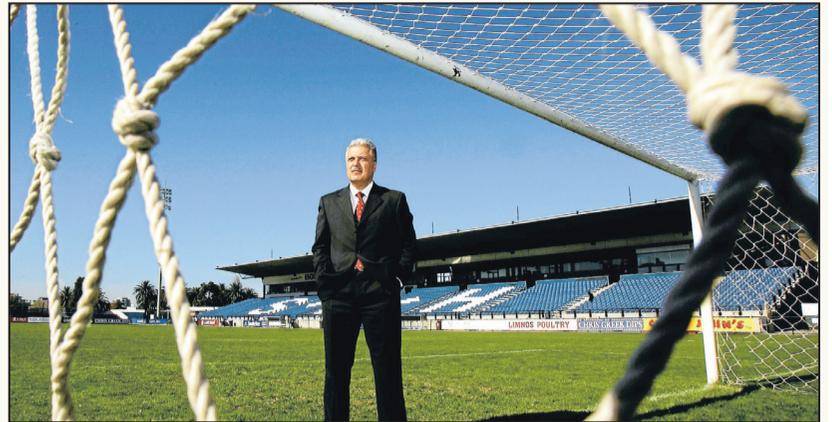
A free sausage sizzle hosted by the Lions club will kick off festivities in Dunkeld from 8am with Australia Day award winners to be announced along with a flag-raising ceremony and speeches throughout the morning.

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OUR AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADORS



TV's George Donikian is Warrnambool's Australia Day ambassador. Picture: FAIRFAX

ALISTAIR MCCOOKE – Hawkesdale: Veteran surf lifesaver and paramedic Alistair McCooke will be the 2013 Australia Day ambassador for Hawkesdale. With over 30 years' experience as a surf lifesaver, Mr McCooke is credited with rescuing dozens of people. In 2004, he was acknowledged as the Victorian and national surf lifesaver of the year for his work in promoting automatic defibrillators as standard equipment in surf lifesaving kits. Mr McCooke worked as a safety supervisor in a United Nations humanitarian mine clearance project in Iraq, where he also trained medics.

EMILY BURKE – Casterton: Talented soprano Emily Burke will swap concert halls for Island Park as the 2013 Australia Day ambassador for Casterton. A music graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts, Burke has also studied language and voice in Italy at the Milan Conservatory including performing in the Milan Conservatory Chorale. Burke was a runner-up in the 2006 ABC TV series, *Operatunity Oz*, which led to her performing in Opera Australia's production of *Rigoletto* at the Sydney Opera House. Since then, Burke has performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic, the Adelaide Art Orchestra and the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra.

GEORGE DONIKIAN – Warrnambool: Veteran radio and television journalist George Donikian started his

career as a radio announcer in Queensland before moving to TV in 1980 as the face of multiculturalism on Australia's Channel O/28, now SBS. Donikian became the founding anchor of the SBS's *World News Service* before joining the Nine Network to work with Graham Kennedy on the *Coast to Coast* program and hosting *Wide World of Sports*. Donikian then joined Network 10 as its main news presenter in Adelaide in 1991 and later Melbourne. Donikian also was an original member of the federal government's Immigration Review Panel in the 1980s.

JOHN BIRT – Hamilton and Peshurst: Former Essendon Football Club best and fairest winner and premiership player, John Birt, will be the 2013 Australia Day ambassador for Hamilton and Peshurst. Birt played 193 games for Essendon including two premierships between 1957 and 1967, winning the clubs best and fairest award three times in that period. Birt is heavily involved in the Collingwood Rotary club.

LAWRENCE MONEY – Coleraine and Glenthompson: Two-time Melbourne Press Club's Quill award winner for Victoria's best columnist Lawrence Money will be the 2013 Australia Day ambassador for Coleraine and Glenthompson. Starting in 1979, Money began his career as a newspaper columnist for the Melbourne *Herald's Black and White* column, going on to

write for the *Sunday Age* *Spy* column and the *Diary* in the *The Age*. He writes *Money's Melbourne* in *The Age*. Money is a regular on ABC and commercial radio, has also written four books and invented the board game *Holiday*.

RUSSELL REES – Noorat: Former Country Fire Authority chief officer and Australian Fire Service Medal award winner Russell Rees joined the CFA at 11. At 22, he became a CFA career officer, rising through the ranks to a number of senior management positions. In 2001, he was appointed chief officer and until July 2010 was responsible for ensuring that Victoria's 59,000 volunteers, 400 career staff, 2000-plus vehicles and 30 aircraft could respond and meet emergency demands. Mr Rees now works for the Municipal Association of Victoria as a risk advisor. Mr Rees is also president at his local netball club, a surf lifesaving club member and was a recipient of the Centenary Medal in 2003.

SHANE HILLS – Portland and Heywood: Shane Hills is the CEO and founder of Melbourne's iconic chocolate saloon Koko Black. After travelling to Germany and Belgium to learn the art of chocolate making in 2001, Mr Hills convinced Belgium chocolatier Dries Cnockaert to return with him to Melbourne to start the now famous chocolate brand in late 2003. The Koko Black brand has grown to include seven Melbourne stores and two interstate with more than 250 employees.

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Time to celebrate

GLENELG
By **MATTHEW O'TOOLE**

VISITORS and shire residents are being encouraged to join Glenelg Shire's Australia Day celebrations.

Portland's celebrations kick off at 8am with a free barbecue breakfast, face-painting and live music at the Memorial Triangle with a flag-raising ceremony at 9am which will include an Australia Day Aboriginal address.

Australia Day award winners will be announced as well as poetry reading and an address from Australia Day ambassador Shane Hills.

Casterton's celebrations start at 8am with a free breakfast, face-painting and live music at Island Park, followed by a flag-raising ceremony featuring Australia Day ambassador Emily Burke singing the national anthem and the announcement of award winners.

Heywood will kick off its celebrations at 11:30am on the banks of the Fitzroy River with live entertainment and a flag-raising ceremony.

It will be followed by the announcement of the Heywood citizen of the year and a free lunch at 12:30pm.

Documentary launch

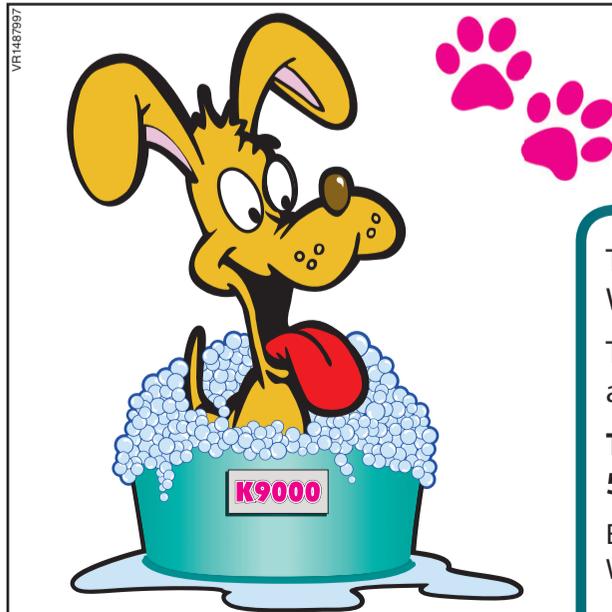
CROSSLEY

A SURVIVAL day event will be held on Australia Day by the Tarerer Gunditj which will feature the official launch of the documentary film *Yarnin*.

The day will start at 3pm with children's

activities including didgeridoo workshops, traditional weaving lessons and dancing. Local bands will perform till late.

The event will run from 3pm till 10pm at St Brigid's Church, Crossley. Entry is by gold coin donation.



Want to spoil your best mate? Why not take them to The Pet Laundrette

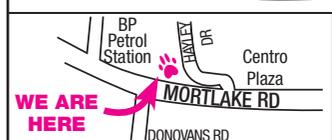
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