

Friday 12 January 2017

AUSTRALIA DAY CEREMONY TO WELCOME 50 NEW CITIZENS WHO CALL AUSTRALIA HOME

Australia Day Ceremony, 11.00am on Friday 26 January, North Ryde School of Arts Hall, 201 Coxs Road, North Ryde

The City of Ryde will welcome 50 new citizens who will pledge their *“loyalty to Australia and its people”* on Australia Day Friday 26 January.

Australia Day Ambassador, entrepreneur and champion of cultural diversity Sonia Sadiq Gandhi, will join Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, at a special Citizenship Ceremony to welcome the families, couples and individuals from over 20 nations. They include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Colombia, England, France, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ireland, South Korea, Lebanon, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Mayor Laxale said “We are proud to celebrate our diverse community in Ryde and it’s such a privilege to welcome our new citizens and share the moment with their families and friends on Australia Day. This Australia Day, we are also proud to welcome back Indigenous Educator Gumaroy Newman, who will present a special indigenous focus.”

Sonia Gandhi is a proud Australian Indian Muslim who arrived in NSW from India in 1997. Since then she became an elected representative for CAPA (Council of Australian Post Graduate Association) and worked on the International Student Policy and was actively involved in cultural integration of overseas students in Australian Universities. In addition, Sonia established a multi-award winning multicultural marketing company. Her work directly promotes a more diverse Australia by engaging with multicultural communities.

Sonia said “I am blessed to live in Australia, a land of opportunities and will continue to promote intercultural connectivity and community collaborations, working towards a stronger, more unified Australia.”

Ryde’s Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony will take place at the North Ryde School of Arts Hall, 201 Coxs Road, from 11.00am and will see the new citizens sing the national anthem for the first time as Australians. They will then be invited to enjoy a light lunch including traditional lamingtons.

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Photo: Sonia Sadiq Gandhi, Australia Day Ambassador from the Australia Day Council Ambassador Program 2018