



Media Release

Australia Day Ambassadors Announced

6 November 2018

Buloke Shire will have three Australia Day Ambassadors appear across 4 towns over two days to help celebrate Australia Day 2019. Tonia Todman, Professor Greg Sassella and Lawrence Money will visit Buloke as part of the Australia Day Ambassador Program.

Tonia Todman has extensive editorial and journalism experience, and was in-house author and Editor with J.B. Fairfax Press. She has written 28 books on cooking, craft, home decorating and DIY.

Tonia spent 10 years at Australian Vogue, working with designing, marketing, product development, teaching, and styling for fashion, craft and home interiors.

She spent eight years at Network Ten's Healthy, Wealthy and Wise program as a lifestyle, DIY and travel presenter, concurrent with 19 years at Good Morning Australia as a craft, cooking, travel and lifestyle presenter.

Tonia will speak at the inaugural Buloke Shire Council Australia Day Eve event on January 25 in Wycheproof as well as in Sea Lake on Australia Day.

Professor Greg Sassella served as a paramedic for many years prior to becoming an Intensive Care Flight Paramedic in ambulance helicopter operations and private international medical retrievals. He then progressed to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Metropolitan Ambulance Service (MAS) in 2002, a position he held until 2008.

In 2008, the incumbent government created Ambulance Victoria (AV) and Greg was appointed by the Governor-In-Council as the inaugural CEO. He was responsible for merging the existing Victorian services into the current single service of AV.

Greg became known for the development of patient medical outcome measures with significant improvements to survival rates and quality of life outcomes for cardiac arrest, severe trauma, stroke and paediatric patients.

Greg will appear at Birchip and Donald community celebrations on Australia Day.

Lawrence Money was a newspaper columnist for 37 years before leaving The Age in 2016 after 50 years in journalism. He was twice named Victoria's best columnist by the Melbourne Press Club. Lawrence is the son of the late Doris van der Hagen who wrote the Weekly Times' Miranda column for country readers for 20 years. He has written six books, appeared on ABC and commercial radio and, in a busy retirement, has become a stand-up comedian with a show scheduled in the 2019 Melbourne International Comedy Festival called 'Loose Change'.

Lawrence will appear at the Wycheproof community celebrations on Australia Day.



Left to Right: Tonia Todman, Professor Greg Sassella and Lawrence Money.

“We are very excited to have three exceptional Australians coming to Buloke as part of the Ambassador Program to help celebrate Australia Day in 2019. The program sends around 300 proud Australians in towns all around the country and I am sure that Tonia, Greg and Lawrence will add so much to the festivities in our towns”, said Mayor Cr Carolyn Stewart.

Council will work with the local Australia Day Committees and communities to ensure the success of the Australia Day Ambassador Program for 2019.

End release

For further information contact Manager Customer Engagement, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au