



Media release

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Australia Day celebrations back better than ever

The City of Albany's alcohol and smoke free Australia Day Celebrations will return better than ever this year at Middleton Beach and Eyre Park.

Presented by Act-Belong-Commit and Lotterywest, the day will include a diverse and high-quality program of events at the two iconic spots, kicking off with an Aussie Big Breakfast at the Albany Surf Life Saving Club between 7:30-9:30am.

All proceeds from the breakfast will benefit Albany community groups, including the ASLSC, Rotary, Albany Scout Group and Albany Girl Guides.

Then, for the first time, Albany's Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards will held at the new ASLSC (note: this is not a public event).

Nearly 80 new Australians will take the oath overlooking one of Australia's best sandy spots - Middleton Beach.

The ceremony will be attended by O'Connor MP Rick Wilson and Australia Day Council Ambassador Ashlee Harrison, founder of mental illness prevention organisation zero2hero.

The free Afternoon Festivities will kick off at nearby Eyre Park at 3pm, with a range of family-friendly activities on offer, including three circus challenge activity tents, airborne entertainment Zorb balls and food stalls.

A free shuttle bus will be running from Albany Boat Shed to Eyre Park from 3:00pm to 6:30pm.

Then at 7pm, in a unique twist on the Australia Day theme, iconic Australian film *Muriel's Wedding* will be shown on a large outdoor cinema screen at Eyre Park with families encouraged to bring along a picnic.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the free community celebrations would be the perfect way to celebrate all things Aussie.

"A lot of work has gone into this revamped free event and it's promising to be a fantastic day out," he said.

"It's all part of the City's commitment to improving our Sense of Community, which is one of the key themes of our long-term Community Strategic Plan."

The City of Albany alcohol and smoke free Australia Day Celebrations and are part of the City's **free** Summer Events Program, which also includes the hugely popular Christmas Festival and Pageant and New Year's Eve fireworks.

This event is sponsored by Act-Belong-Commit and Lotterywest.

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