

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, January 25, 2019

Waratah-Wynyard welcomes new citizens this Australia Day

Five new citizens will officially become Australian citizens at a citizenship ceremony hosted by the Council in Gutteridge Gardens on Saturday.

Mr Denys Ririka (originally from Papua New Guinea), along with Stephen and Vanessa Elson and their children Riley and Caitlin (United Kingdom) will take the Australian Citizenship Pledge with Waratah Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh.

Mayor Walsh said Australia Day was a significant day to reflect on the privilege of Australian citizenship and what it means to be Australian.

“Australia Day is a time for us to give a warm welcome to our newest citizens and acknowledge the importance of what it means to become a member of the Australian community,” Mayor Walsh said.

“This year marks 70 years since Australian citizenship was introduced into law, creating for the first time a legal status of being uniquely Australian.

“I congratulate those becoming Australian citizens on making their commitment to Australia and encourage everyone to come and join in the local celebrations this Australia Day.”

The Citizenship Ceremonies will be held during the Australia Day Breakfast in Gutteridge Gardens.

The breakfast starts at 8am, followed by the Australia Day Awards and Citizenship ceremonies from 9am.

The event will also include an address from Waratah-Wynyard’s Australia Day Ambassador Mary Kay. Mary Kay was born in Yorkshire in 1936 before moving to Australia after the second World War.

She became a naturalised Australian Citizen in 1988 and has lived in the Circular Head area where she has been a volunteer for many years.

She is also a charter member of the Soroptimist Club and writes local history books – three so far, as well as being a gardener.

Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Friday, January 25, 2019.

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