

Larrikin Ambassador

28 Jan, 2011 01:13 PM

Dr Anthony Pun OAM Australia Day Ambassador Address

Thank you for welcoming me to the Weddin Shire as the Australia Day Ambassador.

I am delighted to return to regional Australia again – this time to Grenfell. I choose the country because Australians who live in regional areas are friendly, genuine and fair dinkum.

Before I proceed further, I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land in Weddin Shire.

I am overwhelmed with the introduction of myself by MC Danny Joyce, but he did not mention one thing, which I have not told him, that I graduated with First Class Honours from the Australian School of Larrikinism.

I have a peculiar sense of humour not often understood by many of my immigrant friends and most of them thought that I am drunk when I speak normally. But in regional Australia, I am in a comfortable zone as most Australians are capable of sharing my humour.

Australia Day is a day for Australians to explore and re-define who we are. Many of us would accept that Australia is a multicultural society, a national united as one nation, and despite the diversity in culture and language, we are living in cohesion and harmony.

This will only work and will be long lasting when all new comers to Australian acknowledge the core Australian values: that is. Parliamentary democracy, rule of law, English as the national and bonding language.

There are also institutions as the law courts, the education system and the sense of mateship. Australians should appreciate the Anzacs who fought for our freedom and our future and can only do so by having knowledge of our Australian History.

I draw comfort from our Prime Minister Julia Gillard who bravely made the following statements:

About Australian History: “This culture has been developed over two centuries of struggles, trials and victories by millions of men and women who have fought for freedom”.

About English Language: “We speak mainly ENGLISH, not Spanish, Lebanese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society – learn the language!”

About Religion: “Most Australians believe in God. This is not some Christian, right wing, political push, but a fact, because Christian men and women, on Christian principals, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented. It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture. We will accept your beliefs, and will not question why. All we ask is that you accept ours, and live in harmony and peaceful enjoyment with us.”

About Loyalty to Australia:” This is OUR COUNTRY, OUR LAND and OUR LIFESTYLE. And we will allow you every opportunity to enjoy this. But once you are done complaining whining, and griping about Our Flag, Our Pledge, Our Christian beliefs or our Way of life, I highly encourage you take advantage of one other great Australian freedom - “THE RIGHT TO LEAVE”.

Unless we embrace those core Australian values, we cannot be cohesive, harmonious or united. Acceptance of the core values is the first step of being an Australian. As an Australian, we can all share the rich culture, traditions and language of those new immigrants coming from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. And most importantly, we show mutual respect to each other.

I now turn to an important aspect of being Australian. In times of need, many Australians donate money to the Queensland’s flood appeal. Australians also donate their time as cleaners to clean flood affected homes. I am also proud to quote Major Jeff Winterburn of the Salvation Army, who said, that the Chinese community in NSW has donated a quarter of a million dollars to the flood appeal. I would like to applaud all these Australians who have assisted other Australians in time of need.

I believe we will continue to re-define what is Australian. As a young nation, we have boundless things to share with new comers. Together, we shall build a prosperous nation, a harmonious nation, a cohesive nation and a peaceful and beautiful land for our descendants.

Fellow Australians, I wish you a Happy Australia Day - Thank you.



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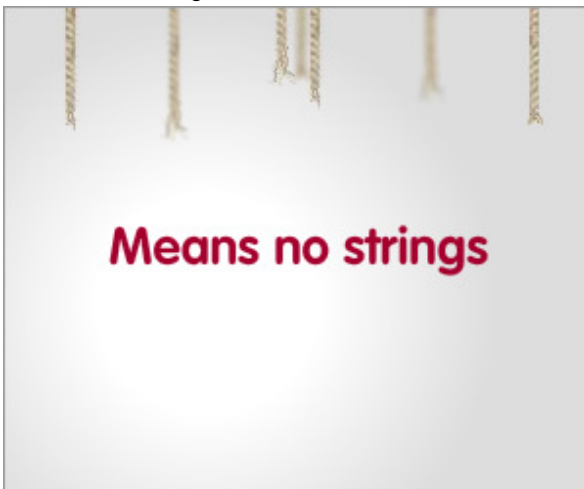
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Dr Anthony Pun OAM presenting the Mayor of Weddin Shire Maurice Simpson with a set of commemorative stamps depicting famous women of Australia and some Australia Day caps as a thank you for his invitation to the shire. In Appreciation, Mayor Maurice in turn presented the Ambassador with a gift on behalf of the residents and the Weddin Shire.



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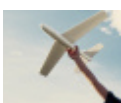
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