



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**15 January 2018**

### **Let's celebrate what's great on Australia Day**

Australia Day will be here next week with an action-packed program of official and fun-fuelled celebrations.

The day kicks off early with the Triathlon at the Tennant Creek Swimming Pool with a 200m swim, followed by a 2km bike ride and 2km run along Ambrose St, Stuart St, Perry Drive and Peko Road.

Participants need to be at the pool entrance no later than 6am on Friday, 26 January and are asked to adhere to the traffic management plans to keep everyone safe.

The outback breakfast and official celebrations will still be at Battery Hill from 8am and the family fun afternoon will remain out at Lake Mary Ann Dam from 12.30pm onwards.

Afternoon games include tug of war, egg relay, the raft race, pie eating contest, leaky bucket race, the best dressed competition and a free community BBQ.

Hosted by Barkly Regional Council, Mayor Steve Edgington said Australia Day was the one day of the year where locals let their hair down, had fun and joined in a spirit of camaraderie that is unique to the region.

"The celebrations in Tennant Creek, Elliott and many of the communities reflect the diverse society and landscape of the Barkly and mark what's great about this region. It's a remarkable day, with many different activities on offer," he said.

"Whether you want to take part in the Triathlon, join a team of mates to play the leaky bucket race or know someone nominated for an Australia Day Award, there's something for everyone."

This year's Australia Day Ambassador for Tennant Creek is Sarah Garnett. She is the founder and volunteer Managing Director of The Footpath Library, a truly unique library that gives away books to homeless people.

"Ms Garnett is such an inspirational woman," said Mayor Edgington. "She is passionate about encouraging literacy from an early age and making books accessible to everyone who loves reading. Now her organisation provides books to homeless people in four cities."

Mayor Edgington also extended Council's warmest appreciation to all those volunteers, local businesses and sponsors who are contributing time, money, services or prizes to make Australia Day such a special event.

Registration for the Triathlon needs to be done before Australia Day. Forms, rules and information available on the Council website <https://www.barkly.nt.gov.au/news-events/australia-day-2018> and remember to like Council's Facebook page <https://facebook.com/barklyregionalcouncil/>

**For more information call the PR Officer Ktima Heathcote on 08 8962 0027.**