Australia Day Ends With A Bang

Jan. 28, 2016

A series of breathtaking fireworks signaled the end of the Australia Day festivities at 9pm on Tuesday, after a range of fun events, competitions, activities, and entertainment.

The day kicked off with the Whyalla Harriers and Beyond Bank Fun Run, which saw over 400 participants gather in the Ada Ryan Gardens to run for charity.

Morning entertainment included the Whyalla Singers and Community Brass Band came out to provide the community with classic tunes.

During the afternoon kids were kept busy with a whole range of fun amusement rides available including the ever-popular jumping castle, along with face painting, temporary tattoos, D'Faces circus and air brushing.

The popular sandcastle and thong-throwing competitions also provided entertainment in the afternoon, along with a local band.

The opening ceremony began at 4:30pm, with acting mayor Tom Antonio delivering an inspiring speech to the crowd.

"I have been touched deeply by the burden of Whyalla's hardships over the past 12 months and the grief we are all enduring,"Cr Antonio said.

"But I must stress that with strong leadership, pure determination and hard work, this city will succeed and prosper as it always has in the past."

Cr Antonio said that many opportunities are available for young people in Whyalla, and encouraged locals to embrace future challenges.

 "We are a very strong-minded city with exceptional people, exceptional businesses and exceptional depth of young, talented people," Cr Antonio said.

"Which have a lot to offer if given the opportunities, and when those opportunities are put forward, we must embrace them with passion, commitment, and to overachieve and over-deliver on those opportunities."

"That is the only way we will stand out in the state and also in Australia as the city of Whyalla."

Following Cr Antonio's speech, the Australian National Anthem was sung by the Stormfront Students Sing! Choir, which was made up of 12 performers.

Presentations were then made to the Australia Day award winners: Neva Green (citizen of the year), Amber Gentle (young citizen), Trudy McLauchlan (sports contribution), and the Australia Day Fun Run (Event – accepted by Eddie Wake).

Community service awards were presented to Peter Atkinson, Yvonne Atkinson, Leanne Simpfendorfer, Pauline Moore (on behalf of Colin Moore) Robert Golding and Mercedes Dawe.

May Beare was the senior citizen of the year, but was not present at the ceremony.