



Australian American Association Queensland Division – Brisbane.



News Flash 117 - 28th January 2026

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Qld.



Australia Day 2026 - Celebrating and Honouring the Values That Bring Us Together !



A dozen Members of the Australian American Association – Brisbane [including a delightful little boy named Hugo sitting at the very far right of the above picture] came to Celebrate “Australia Day” at the Parkside Community & Services Club, in the Brisbane suburb of Greenslopes on Monday 26th January 2026.

It’s the beautiful simplicity of “who we are” and the privilege of living in one of the best countries in the world.

Australia Day is a time when all Australians come together to celebrate what makes our nation unique - our shared values, rich history, and the diverse communities that shape who we are. It is a day to welcome new citizens, take part in community events, and reflect on what it truly means to be Australian. Defining the Australian identity is never simple. We are a nation shaped by many influences and contradictions. From our British, Celtic, Indigenous and other foundations to successive waves of migration, Australia has evolved into something distinctive and unmistakably its own. Our identity continues to grow, informed by both our past and our aspirations for the future.

Much of “who we are” stems from - what this country was built upon — the early prosperity of the land and, more importantly, the courage, sacrifice, and mateship forged by Australians on foreign battlefields. Our history defines us not only by what we have achieved, but by how we achieved it. We are proud of our accomplishments, yet mature enough to acknowledge our mistakes and learn from them. That balance reflects a nation comfortable with itself, guided by a clear sense of right and wrong, and a strong belief in fairness.

At heart, Australians are laid-back but principled. We value hard work, community, and opportunity. We admire the “battler” - those who start with little and build something meaningful - far more than “inherited privilege”. Their stories give us hope and reinforce the belief that, in Australia, effort and perseverance still matter.

Our easy-going nature is not apathy; it comes from a quiet confidence in “who we are” and the quality of life we enjoy. Whether by the coast, in the country, or in our cities, Australians can shape a life that reflects their values and aspirations.

In recent years, there has been a renewed appreciation for community. While the bush has always embodied this spirit, it is heartening to see it re-emerging in our suburbs and cities. Australians are reconnecting with neighbours, supporting shared causes, and rediscovering the simple truth that caring for one another is the right thing to do. Above all, fairness remains our defining trait. When fairness, opportunity, or community are threatened, Australians speak up. That instinct strengthens our democracy and guides our nation forward.

That is what it means to be Australian - uncomplicated, fair-minded, and united by conviction - and also, that it is a privilege to live in one of the best countries in the world.

Australia Day is a special occasion when Australians unite to celebrate the qualities that make the nation unique - shared values, a remarkable history, and the diverse communities that form the fabric of the country.

Please refer to pages 3 and 4, for the other pictures taken at our Australia Day Luncheon.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Harris
President & Life Member
Australian American Association, Brisbane.



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Following the dining on a wonderful meal, and presentation of the Australia Day speeches, our Secretary -Teresa Pokoj, organized the Raffle with some great prizes won.



First Prize of a “Lovely Hamper of Goods” won by our Association’s 1st Vice President Tony Chau and his wife Jill McKeon, donated by Councillor Kim Marx of Brisbane City Council’s Runcorn Ward.



Second Prize of a “Bottle of delicious French Pinot Noir Wine” won by our Association’s Member Brien Doyle [a Former US Soldier], donated by our Association’s Member Maurice Hand, who is Husband of our Association’s 2nd Vice President Helen Stanley.



Third Prize of a “Box of Select Exotic Teas” won by our Association’s Member Dr Betty Lee [standing with her Daughter-in-Law Mel and Grandson Hugo], donated by our Association’s Secretary Teresa Pokoj [standing far right].

Expressions of Gratitude and Well Wishes for 2026

Our Association’s Board of Directors, would like to extend its sincere appreciation to our Secretary Teresa Pokoj, for her outstanding dedication in organising and carrying out the Association’s Australia Day Raffle. Her hard work and commitment contributed greatly to the success of this event. Our Board of Directors also expresses its gratitude to everyone who joined us for our Australia Day luncheon, making it a memorable and enjoyable occasion for all involved.

As we are now into 2026, our Board of Directors wishes all Members and Kindred Friends of our Association a wonderful year ahead. May the coming months bring you happiness, prosperity, and the realisation of your dreams and aspirations.



Board of Directors – Australian American Association, Brisbane, from left – Tony Chau [1st Vice President] , Alice Langford [Board Member] Maurice Hand who is representing his wife Helen Stanley [2nd Vice President], Mike Harris [President], Teresa Pokoj [Secretary], and Dr Peter Glazebrook [Legal Advisor].