



MAYORAL MEMO - 17 APRIL 2024

This week I again have the opportunity to perform my favourite official duty: a citizenship ceremony. The ceremony will literally create new Australian citizens from people that are already living with us. This particular event will see people from nine different countries embrace what Australia has to offer. Individuals from: Nepal; India; the Philippines; Iran; New Zealand; Macau Special Administrative Region; Russian Federation; the UK and Vietnam will pledge their commitment to Australia, enriching our society with their diverse cultures and perspectives.

The percentage of Dubbo residents that were born outside Australia currently sits at 18.5 per cent. This rich diversity is not merely a statistic; it is a profound source of strength and vibrancy that contributes to the dynamic character of our city. Each immigrant brings a culture of different traditions, festivals, and stories that enhance our collective experience and understanding.

Just last Sunday I attended a Bangladeshi New Year dinner and several events over the weekend recognised the celebration of Eid al-Fitr at the conclusion of Ramadan. These celebrations are examples of how our local cultural landscape is continually being enriched. Such events not

only offer an opportunity for the respective communities to celebrate their heritage but also open doors for all residents of Dubbo to learn about and participate in these rich traditions.

Building a multicultural community is about more than just recognising and celebrating diversity; it is about weaving these diverse threads into the fabric of our everyday lives. It's about creating a place where everyone feels valued and where our differences are seen as our greatest strengths. Through various multicultural events and initiatives, we continue to foster inclusivity and mutual respect. These activities allow everyone to experience and appreciate the global village we inhabit.

Our commitment to multiculturalism also extends into the realms of education and community engagement. Schools in Dubbo incorporate multicultural principles into their curricula, teaching students not only about Australian culture but also about the cultures of their classmates. This education helps cultivate a generation that respects and embraces diversity as a norm rather than an exception.

The economic impact of multiculturalism in Dubbo is equally significant. Our diverse population drives entrepreneurship. New businesses inspired by different global traditions contribute not only to our economy, but also to our cultural enrichment, creating jobs and services that cater to a wide range of needs and tastes.

Our community thrives on inclusivity and respect for all cultures. This ongoing effort not only enriches our own lives but also sends a powerful message of unity and understanding across the world.

Let us continue to embrace and celebrate every culture in Dubbo, for in diversity there is beauty and strength. Together, we are building a community that stands as a beacon of multicultural harmony and resilience. Every story adds to the rich mosaic that is Dubbo.

Councillor Mathew Dickerson
Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council

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