

15 December 2020

## Australia Day Ambassadors 2021

Two extraordinary Australians will be visiting the Warrumbungle Shire as part of the 2021 Australia Day celebrations and Ambassador Program.

“It is terrific news that not only is the Ambassador program continuing in 2021 but also that Matt Hall will be visiting Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran, while Sonia Ghandi will be visiting Coonabarabran, Baradine and Binnaway,” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan.

Matt Hall is a retired Wing Commander Fighter Pilot in the RAAF, a combat veteran of Iraq, with USAF medals for heroism under fire in his F-15E, supporting troops on the ground. In 2009, following his decorated career in the RAAF, Australia's very own top gun pilot became the first Australian ever to compete in the Red Bull Air Race World Championships becoming the first rookie in history to end his debut season on the podium.

Last year he became Australia's first and only Red Bull Air Race World Champion. While he is taking a break from racing, he has started a Corporate Aviation business, and an Aircraft Maintenance business. He's also the author of the biography *The Sky Is Not The Limit, Ladies and Gentlemen*.

Sonia Sadiq Gandhi M. Com is a serial entrepreneur and a champion of diversity and inclusion. A Master of Commerce with Major in Human Resources from the Western Sydney University, Sonia is the founder and CEO of a multi-award-winning social enterprise, Gandhi Creations Pty Ltd. As a social enterprise Gandhi Creations serves to create high-impact experiences that positively benefit the wider society and actively work to service and support Australia's creative and business sector by providing opportunities for indigenous, migrant, refugee, and cultural and linguistically diverse groups which directly promotes a more diverse Australia by engaging with multicultural communities.

Sonia was appointed to the board of the Multicultural NSW in 2017, an Australia Day Ambassador in 2018, an ICC T20 World Cup Australia 2020 Brand Ambassador and was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in 2014. She is also founder of the India Australia Business & Community Awards (IABCA).

“I look forward to welcoming both Sonia Ghandi and Matt Hall to our Shire and to sharing Australia Day with them and our local communities, concluded Cr Doolan.

**Media: Kim Parker | (02) 6849 2000**

## **Warrumbungle Shire Council Australia Day 2021 – Local Events**

7:00am Binnaway Ceremony, Len Guy Park

7.30am Mendooran Ceremony, Mendooran Mechanics Institute

10.00am Baradine Ceremony, Baradine Memorial Hall

12.00pm Dunedoo Ceremony, Dunedoo Sports Club

6.00pm Coolah Ceremony, Coolah Sporting Club

6.00pm Coonabarabran Ceremony, Coonabarabran Golf Club



*Image Above: Sonia Sadiq Gandhi M. Com*



*Image Above: Matt Hall*

