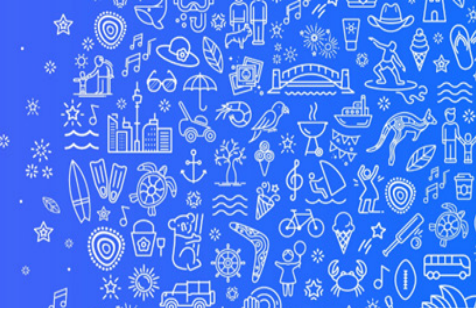


AUSTRALIA DAY Ambassador



Mr Ron Delezio is a respected community leader and advocate whose story of resilience and compassion has inspired Australians for more than two decades. Coming from humble beginnings as the child of Maltese immigrants, Ron learned early the importance of hard work and caring for others. These values have guided his life and career, from running a charity that transformed lives to championing inclusion and accessibility across Australia.

Ron's life changed forever in December 2003 when his daughter Sophie was critically injured in a car accident, followed by a second catastrophic accident in 2005. Sophie endured amputations, extensive burns and countless surgeries, and Ron and his wife Carolyn spent over six months living in hospital, navigating unimaginable decisions and supporting their child through recovery. From this adversity, Ron channelled his experience into action. Together with Carolyn, he founded the Day of Difference Foundation, raising over \$15 million to fund urgently needed medical equipment and provide support for families facing similar trauma in hospitals nationwide. His work has transformed care for children with severe injuries and created a network of hope for families in crisis.

Ron's leadership and advocacy have earned him national recognition. He was named Australian Father of the Year and NSW Citizen of the Year in 2006, received the Sir Roden Cut-

ler Award, and has twice been nominated for Australian of the Year. He has served as an Ambassador for World Youth Day, the Sydney Swans AFL team and RUOK? and is Patron of the Community Disability Rowing Club.

Today, Ron is working to raise \$5 million to build a new rowing clubhouse that will allow people of all abilities to experience rowing and exercise - a project that will change lives for generations.

A sought-after speaker and author, Ron shares powerful insights on resilience, mental health and the strength of community. His message is clear 'no one should face hardship alone'. His lived experience underscores the importance of compassion and collective action in overcoming life's greatest challenges.

As an Australia Day Ambassador, Ron champions unity, empathy and the spirit of mateship that defines our nation. For him, being Australian means standing together in times of adversity and creating a future where care and kindness are at the heart of our communities.

His journey has shown him that while many Australians face unseen struggles, we all have a duty to recognise this and act. "Driving past a hospital, we rarely think about the families inside whose lives are being torn apart. We need to care. That's what being Australian is all about."

Know Your Council



Mayor

Cr Carol Oataway

Deputy Mayor

Cr Martyn Quinn

Councillors

Geoff Chapman

Lionel Garner

Will Miller

John Perry

Paul Porter

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Australia Day @ the Gaol Awards Ceremony & Breakfast

355 Church St - From 8am

Celebration Breakfast
Flag Raising Ceremony
Australia Day Awards Presentation
Australia Day Ambassador Address



2026 Australia Day Ambassador - Ron Delezio

A respected community leader and advocate whose story of resilience and compassion has inspired Australians for more than two decades.

EVENTS

January 2026

23-25 Hay Fishing
26 Australia Day

Extra Ordinary Council Meeting

27th January 2026

1:00pm

RSL Room, Kay Hull
Centre

204 - 216 Lachlan St,
Hay

Hay Shire Snippets

Photos from John Houston Memorial Swimming Pool Grand Opening



Mayor Carol Oatway, Senator Deborah O'Neill, Mrs Helen Dalton & Mr David Houston



Members of the community enjoying the opening of the pool

Australia Day @ the Pool

- 12pm - 5pm
- Inflatable for 50m Pool
- Diving Board
- Children's entertainment
- FREE Sausage Sizzle
- FREE Refreshments + Snacks

Updated Plan of Management (POM)

Council has made minor amendments to the updated Plan of Management (POM) that was placed on Public Exhibition in October 2025. These changes are listed in Appendix C (see tracked changes).

Council will receive submissions/comment up until Friday 23rd February 2026. Hay Shire Council > Inside Hay Shire Council > Your Say

What's on at the Library

Cuppa & a Chat:

Join us every third Monday of the month at 10:30am for a warm and friendly catch-up over morning tea. Each month features a new theme to spark conversation, memories and connection. Everyone is welcome — come along to enjoy good company and a relaxed morning together.

Story Time:

Every Tuesday at 10:30am — a playful mix of stories, songs and hands-on fun to fire up little minds and curious hearts. This month we're diving into "Australia" — meeting marvellous animals, exploring wiggly coastlines and dusty deserts, and uncovering the bright, quirky stories that make our home such a fun place for little explorers.

Library Membership & Facilities:

Membership is free for all residents, giving you access to books, DVDs, digital resources, computers, Wi-Fi, printing, air-conditioned study spaces, children's activities and friendly support from our library team. Follow us on Facebook for updates on events, programs and library news.

