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Letter to the Editor

This year, like all those before, we gather to celebrate and reflect on this wonderful country that we live in.

It is also a time to congratulate those making a difference in our community – particularly our volunteers – and to celebrate what it means to be Australian.

The men and women of the SES and CFA, as well as those at the heart of our community including surf life savers and meals on wheels volunteers, to name but a few, deserve our most gracious thanks and Australia Day is the perfect time to honour them.

From joining in the celebrations held across the municipalities of Knox and Maroondah, to celebrating at home with family barbecues in the backyard or a game of beach cricket, Australia Day is the time for each of us to celebrate in our own way. I look forward to joining many of you at local functions including the 2014 Australia Day awards at Knox Civic Centre, the citizenship ceremony or the Maroondah celebrations at Ringwood Lake.

Each year, we welcome new Australians to our community, mark the contributions of immigrants and, importantly, take the time on Australia Day to acknowledge the traditional owners of our land and their elders, past and present.

I wish everyone a happy and safe Australia Day however you choose to celebrate it.

Heidi Victoria MP
State Member for Bayswater District

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