

'Visionary' Ambassador for 2010 Australia Day



Narrandera's Australia Day Ambassador Prashanth Shanmugan was born in Australia in 1981. He is now based in Europe.

Narrandera's Australia Day Ambassador Prashanth Shanmugan (pictured) has been described as a "fire-bellied visionary who puts his ideals into action" and is recognised as one of Australia's most inspirational and influential leaders in the fields of international humanitarian law and human rights education.

He is an award winning communicator, an experienced policy analyst and a leading advocate of global engagement.

Prashanth is the recipient of numerous honours including the inaugural Human Rights Youth Medal and the Centenary Medal awarded by the Australian Government, which acknowledges the contributions made by individuals to the success of Australia's first hundred years as a federal nation.

On Australia Day 2000 he was named Young Citizen of the Year in recognition of the contributions he has made to the Australian community through his leadership and advocacy as well as countless volunteer hours spent working for a variety of causes and organisations. In 2005 he was awarded the Australian Humanitarian Award for his promotion of humanitarian values.

In the summer of 2008 he was invited by the Government of the United States to participate in its premier exchange program, the International Visitor Leadership Program. He spent several months touring the United States, meeting influential policy makers and visiting think tanks to gain an insight into US foreign

and security policy, human rights issues and the US Government's response to the global energy crisis.

He was the founding president of the University of New South Wales United Nations Society and was vice-president of the NSW Branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Prashanth was the co-producer and presenter of *Perspectives*, a weekly drive time current affairs program on EastSide FM in Sydney. He is actively involved with the Australian Red Cross and has travelled extensively across Australia educating the community on the laws of war and the global role of the International Red Cross.

A tireless advocate of community awareness and a keen social observer Prashanth continually engages in criti-

cal debate and discussion to identify and explore emerging changes, challenges and opportunities facing Australia and the world.

By providing a unique insight into the nexus between global politics and international law, he is able to make complex international political, social and legal issues accessible to a broad audience with varying knowledge and experiences. Though fiercely Australian, Prashanth is a proud internationalist who consciously crosses cultural boundaries to influence social change. A true globe-trotter, he has travelled extensively and currently lives in The Netherlands, but is looking forward to visiting Narrandera.

Narrandera airport not affected

The Government should ensure the recently released Aviation White Paper changes regarding aviation security measures does not affect regional aviation, said the The Nationals Member for Riverina Kay Hull.

Under the current settings, airports which only land jet turbine powered aircraft, as opposed to turbo propeller powered aircraft, are exempt from certain security measures, including compulsory passenger and baggage screening for RPT and open charter

services.

The new rules stipulate that passenger and baggage screening are compulsory for both jet turbine powered aircraft and turbo propeller powered aircraft providing RPT services, as they will now be assessed on their maximum take off

weight, as opposed to the type of aircraft.

Currently, the Wagga, Narrandera and Griffith airports do not have to pass these security measures, as they do not host jet turbine powered aircraft.

"If the Aviation White Paper's changes regarding aviation security measures results in regional airports having to implement security upgrades, I would call on the Government to cover the cost of these security upgrades, just as the previous Howard Government did when they introduced stricter security measures," Mrs Hull said.

"If they do not, regional flight prices will rise dramatically, due to the increased costs to the airlines having to land at these airports."

Summer Bible School

The Summer Bible School, run by the Narrandera CRC in conjunction with Vision International College, is running in Narrandera this week and will finish tomorrow night.

Each of the evening sessions starting at 7.30pm is open to the community.

Lecturers at the January Bible School include Vision International president Dr Stan De Koven, Vision Australia president Dr Ken Chant, Vision Australia principal Denis Plant and CRC International Missions Director Barry Silverback. They will present electives such as Family Life, Mountain Moving Faith, The Bible in Counselling and Church Life.

Sessions cover Your Life, Your Community, Your Region, Your Nation and Your World.



This young trio enjoy the cool waters of the Lake Talbot Pool.

Lake Talbot pool big drawcard for visitors

Lake Talbot Swimming Pool complex proved a big drawcard with visitors, some travelling upwards of 100 kms over the festive period to cool off at Narrandera's premier recreational attraction.

Manager Troy Lee said 80 percent of customers were from a 150km radius of Narrandera and many phoned before leaving their home town to enquire what the weather was like.

Other customers were locals and visitors staying at the Lake Talbot Tourist Park and Narrandera Caravan Park.

"The crowd was down on Boxing Day due to it being a bit cloudy," Mr Lee said.

"On Saturday we had 250 to 300 people and yesterday (Sunday) was a really good day, again with a crowd of 250 to 300.

"On New Year's Day we had Jason Hecken-dorf as DJ and it was another good day.

"For the month of

January we are trying to put on a DJ for one day at the weekend."

Mr Lee said many of the visitors were Wagga and Griffith families, many returning and other first-timers who heard about the pools from friends who had been to the complex.

"One visitor who had not been here before congratulated me on the way the whole complex was run and said 'even with their little kids running on the concrete, you still treat them with respect'," he said.

Mr Lee and his brother Jason, both life-guardians, constantly monitor the pools to ensure children are swimming in the pools which match their capabilities.

On busy days he calls in four extra local life-guardians, school leavers who have been associated with the swim club and have gone on to gain their lifeguard certificates.

Mr Lee said the appeal for visitors from the larger centres was the grassy banks, shady trees and beautiful outdoor

setting with the Lake behind.

The kiosk was doing a brisk trade in drinks and light snacks and the barbecues were also popular.

He said the complex had captured a niche market with regional tourism having a maximum impact on customer numbers.

The festive season trade has been good for Narrandera Caravan Park proprietors Ken and Barb Jones.

"It has been very busy from Boxing Day right through until now with all cabins fully-booked," Mrs Jones said.

She said not all the caravan sites were taken.

A number of guests stayed at the park for four or five days, while visiting family and friends.

Lake Talbot Tourist Park proprietors Tim and Trish Madden were also kept on their toes.

"From Boxing Day right through to Australia Day, it is extremely hectic," Mrs Madden said.

The park has some vacant cabins and caravan sites.

Narrandera

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