

# WOODRIDGE STATE SCHOOL

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## Woodridge State School – Where Diversity meets Harmony

### Queensland's Most Culturally Diverse Primary School Welcomes Australian of the Year on National Harmony Day

On Monday 21 March Woodridge State School is hosting 2016 Australian of the Year, former Chief of the Australian Army, David Morrison AO and 2016 Young Australians of the Year Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett. These national luminaries will be joining local community leaders at the school to celebrate two significant “days” in our country’s calendar - National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence *and* Harmony Day.

“We are delighted to show-case how our school teaches children to respect difference,” said Woodridge State School Principal, Mr Garry Molloy.

Harmony Day celebrates students from the over 30 different nationalities represented at Woodridge State School. Every day, culturally and linguistically diverse students and staff at the school exhibit the strength which comes from an inclusive and respectful community where everybody knows they belong.

“A critical component to our success as a socially cohesive school community,” said Mr Molloy, “is our commitment to nurturing a safe and supportive learning environment free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence.”

Woodridge State School’s guests will be welcomed with a day of concerts, feasting and rich conversation. Students wearing traditional dress will perform musical pieces they have been diligently preparing with their classroom teachers.

The day’s premiere event is a Q & A session with David Morrison, Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett.

“Our students in Years 4 to 6 will pose questions to our guests about what it means to be a brave global citizen,” Mr Molloy said, “and will have the opportunity to learn from their wisdom.”

Guided by their teachers, students have drawn on both their own lived experience and the experiences of inspirational world figures to develop a rich understanding about what it means to stand up for what is right, especially in their daily lives. They are very much looking forward to hearing the perspectives of prominent Australians who have demonstrated acts of physical and moral bravery in national and global contexts. Sharing this encounter with our students will be Members of Parliament, Ms Cheryl Vardon Principal Commissioner at the **Queensland Family and Child Commission**, representatives from the Logan Chamber of Commerce and the community sector, along with local cultural elders.

Another highlight of the Day will be the guard of honour for the school’s guests. Put on by the school’s youngest students from Prep to Year 3, the guard of honour will be a colourful procession of children waving their flags of origin that the school’s guests – and Woodridge’s 694 students – will not forget.

**For More Information contact Mrs Alisa Cleary, Global Citizenship Mentor, Woodridge State School on 0423 556 249**