

What does it mean to be Australian?

Meet two people who have become Australian citizens.

Australian Citizenship Day provides an opportunity for all Australians to reflect on the meaning and importance of Australian citizenship. Have you ever thought about what being Australian means to you? Here's what two new citizens have to say about being Australian:

Australian Idol calls Australia home



Damien Leith, who was born in Ireland, won the hearts of Australian television viewers and was voted winner of Australian Idol 2006.

As part of Australia Day 2007 celebrations in Canberra, Damien performed his hit single 'Night of my Life' for a crowd of 35,000 people at Parliament House and a television audience of more than one million - but they were in for one more special treat, when Damien became an Australian citizen.

"I'm extremely proud and, to be honest, also extremely humbled. It's a bit overwhelming to come here from Ireland and to be taken in so kindly by Australia," Damien said.

"I am absolutely honoured and privileged to become an Australian citizen."

American actress becomes an Australian

Kimberly Anderson was born in 1963, in Washington State in the USA, where she grew up with dreams of becoming an actress. By 1989, her acting dreams had been fulfilled and she was appearing in a famous musical, but after meeting and falling in love with Anthony Griffiths, an Australian who was visiting America, she found a new dream. Kimberley hopped on a plane to Melbourne, where she and Anthony were married.

On Australian Citizenship Day, 17 September 2006, Kimberly Anderson officially became an Australian citizen. *"Australia is my country and I want to have a voice in the way my country is run,"* Kimberly said. She now lives and works as a teacher of drama and Australian history in Melbourne, and often discusses with her students what it means to them to be Australian.



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