



2014 CALENDAR OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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JANUARY

Survival Day

The 26 January marks an important time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it was the day that the British founded Australia in 1788. Survival Day is when they honour the survival of their culture, reflect on the struggles of their people and remember their ancestors. It has become one of the biggest Aboriginal cultural events throughout Australia. The first Survival Day concert was held in 1992 in Sydney and commemorations are now held in many Australian cities.



Photo By Renee Ashmore

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		CIRCUMCISION (Christian) NEW YEAR'S DAY (Secular) OSHOGATSU (Shinto) FESTIVAL OF ST BASIL THE GREAT (Christian) 10TH TEVET (Jewish) SUDANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY 1	2	3	4	BIRTHDAY OF GURU GOBIND SINGH - NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh) 5
EPIPHANY (Christian) CHRISTMAS DAY - ARMENIAN ORTHODOX (Christian) THEOPHANY - ORTHODOX (Christian) 6	CHRISTMAS DAY - ORTHODOX (Christian) CHRISTMAS DAY - ETHIOPIAN (Rastafari) 7	8	9	10	11	BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Christian) 12
ST HILARY'S DAY (Christian) MILAD UN NABI - BIRTHDAY OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (Muslim) 13	MAKAR SANKRANTI (Hindu) 14	SEJIN SHIKI - ADULTS' DAY (Shinto) 15	TU B'SHEVAT (Jewish) 16	17	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY STARTS (Christian) MILAD UN NABI - SHIA (Muslim) 18	19
20	ST AGNES (Christian) 21	22	23	24	ST PAUL'S DAY (Christian) 25	AUSTRALIA DAY SURVIVAL DAY (Aboriginal) 26
AUSTRALIA DAY (PUBLIC HOLIDAY) 27	ST THOMAS AQUINAS (Christian) 28	29	30	BIRTHDAY OF GURU HAR RAI - NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh) CHINESE NEW YEAR (Chinese) 31		

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FEBRUARY

Candlemas

Candlemas is a Christian, including the Lutheran community, holiday celebrated annually on February 2 to celebrate the presentation of the child Jesus, Jesus' first entry into the temple and the Virgin Mary's purification (mainly in Catholic churches). Many Christians consider Jesus as the "light of the world" and use candles that are blessed on this day and used in a candlelit procession before the mass. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate this event by bringing beeswax candles to their local church and requesting for these candles to be blessed to be used in the church or at home. Some Christians observe the practice of leaving Christmas decorations up until Candlemas.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2 CANDLEMAS (Christian) IMBOLC (Pagan)
RISSUN – SETSUBUN (Shinto)	VASANT PANCHAMI (Hindu)				PARINIRVANA – NIRVANA DAY (Buddhist)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Christian)	12	NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY (Aboriginal)	ST VALENTINE'S DAY (Christian)	NIRVANA DAY (ALTERNATIVE DAY) (Buddhist)	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH

Harmony Day

21 March is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Harmony Day began in 1999 as a way to promote a tolerant and culturally diverse society and is an opportunity for everyone to come together and participate in local activities. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day, wearing orange clothing and/or the distinctive orange ribbon is a great way to show support for cultural diversity within the community and Australia.



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UGADI (Hindu) 31					ST DAVID'S DAY (Christian) 1	NINETEEN DAY FAST STARTS (Bahai) 2
HINA MATSURI – FESTIVAL OF DOLLS (Shinto) CLEAN MONDAY –BEGINNING OF LENT – ORTHODOX (Christian) FAST OF ESTHER – TAANIT ESTHER (Jewish) 3	SHROVE TUESDAY (Christian) 4	ASH WEDNESDAY (Christian) ST PIRAN'S DAY (Christian) 5	6	7	8	9
LABOUR DAY (VIC) (Public Holiday) 10	11	12	13	14	CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK 15	PURIM (Jewish) MAGHA PUJA (Buddhist) 16
ST PATRICK'S DAY (Christian) SHUSHAN PURIM (Jewish) HOLA MOHALLA – LUNAR CALENDAR (Sikh) 17	18	ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Christian) 19	AUTUMNAL EQUINOX – EOSTER (Pagan) NATIONAL CLOSING THE GAP DAY 20	NAW – RUZ (Bahai) JAMSHEDI NORUZ (Fasli) (Zoroastrian) SHUBUN SAI – EQUINOX DAY (Shinto) HARMONY DAY 21	22	CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK ENDS 23
24	ANNUNCIATION (Christian) KHORDAD SAL (Fasli) (Zoroastrian) 25	26	27	28	29	MOTHERING SUNDAY (Christian) 30

APRIL

Theravada New Year

Buddhists of the Theravada tradition celebrate the New Year with symbolic elements often found at the beach. Laity will bathe Buddha images and sprinkle water on monks and elders, while Buddhists in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia add to the ritual by building sand mounds at monasteries or on river banks. Each grain of sand is representative of a wrongdoing (or, in Buddhist terms, a bad “mark” on one’s karma), and when the sand is washed away by the river or by other means, that bad deed is “washed away.” Dates vary by region, but generally, Theravada Buddhists reflect on their karma and wish others well during the next two or three days, or the first days after the full moon in April. In Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Laos - as well as any other place where Theravada Buddhists have a presence - devotees usually spend the New Year festival days in concentrated thought about the Buddha’s birth, enlightenment and death.



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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 VAISAKHI (Sikh) PALM SUNDAY (Christian)
14 FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN (Jewish) BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK – NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh) HOLA MOHALLA – NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh)	15 PASSOVER – 1 ST DAY (Jewish) THERAVADA NEW YEAR (Buddhist)	16	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY (Christian)	18 GOOD FRIDAY (Christian) (Public Holiday) BIRTHDAY OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR AND GURU ANGAD DEV – NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh)	19 HOLY SATURDAY (Christian) SWAMINARAYAN JAYANTI (Hindu)	20 EASTER SUNDAY (Christian) EASTER – ORTHODOX (Christian)
21 EASTER MONDAY (Christian) (Public Holiday) RIDVAN – FIRST DAY (Bahai) ANNIVERSARY OF HAILE SELASSIE’S VISIT TO JAMAICA (Rastafari)	22	23 PASSOVER – FINAL DAY (Jewish) ST GEORGE’S DAY (Christian)	24	25 ANZAC DAY (Public Holiday)	26	27 YOM HASHOAH (Jewish)
28	29 RIDVAN – NINTH DAY (Bahai)	30 BELTANE (Pagan)				



MAY

Baltane

Baltane is a festival most commonly held on 30 April and 1 May. It is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals along with Samhain, Imbolc and Lughnasadh. It marked the beginning of summer and was when cattle were moved into summer pastures. Holy wells were often visited at Beltane, and at the other Gaelic festivals of Imbolc and Lughnasadh. Rituals were performed to protect the cattle, crops and people and to encourage growth. Special bonfires were lit and their flames, smoke and ashes were deemed to have protective powers. Holy wells were visited to pray for health while walking “sunwise” (moving from east to west) around the well. They would then leave offerings of coins or clooties – a small cloth, rag or piece of fabric.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			BELTANE (Pagan) 1	RIDVAN – TWELFTH DAY (Bahai) BIRTHDAY OF GURU ARJAN DEV – NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh) 2		YOM HAZIKARON (Jewish) 4
YOM HA'ATZMAUT (Jewish) 5						MOTHER'S DAY 11
		WESAK OR BUDDHA DAY (Buddhist) 7	8	9	10	NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK ENDS LAG B' OMER (Jewish) 18
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	DECLARATION OF THE BAB (Bahai) BIRTHDAY OF GURU AMAR DAS – NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh) 23		ST BEDE THE VENERABLE (Christian) 25
NATIONAL SORRY DAY (Aboriginal) 26	NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK (Aboriginal) 27	YOM YERUSHALAYIM (Jewish) 28	ASCENSION OF BAHU'ULLAH (Bahai) ASCENSION DAY (Christian) 29			
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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JUNE

Refugee Week

Refugee Week is always held from Sunday to Saturday of the week which includes the 20 of June (World Refugee Day). Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and to celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
CONGOLESE INDEPENDENCE DAY 30						ASCENSION DAY – CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLAND AND WALES (Christian) 1
	NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK ENDS MABO DAY (Aboriginal)	SHAVUOT – 1 ST DAY (Jewish)			PENTECOST – WHITSUN (Christian)	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY (Public Holiday)			PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY			TRINITY SUNDAY (Christian) ALL SAINTS' DAY- ORTHODOX (Christian) REFUGEE WEEK
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
MARTYRDOM OF GURU ARJAN DEV-NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh)		CORPUS CHRISTI (Christian)		WORLD REFUGEE DAY	WINTER SOLSTICE- YULE (Pagan) REFUGEE WEEK ENDS	CORPUS CHRISTI- CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLAND AND WALES (Christian)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					RAMADAN STARTS (Muslim)	ST PETER & ST PAUL'S DAY (Christian)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

JULY

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC week is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Indigenous Australians for improving the lives of their communities and beyond, the promotion of indigenous issues to a wider community or the excellence they've shown in their chosen field. It is held in July each year and is not just celebrated by indigenous communities but also throughout many communities in Australia including government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces.



Photo By Renee Ashmore

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	COMING OF THE LIGHT (Aboriginal) 1	2	3	4	BIRTHDAY OF GURU HARGOBIND-NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh)	NAIDOC WEEK COMMENCES (Aboriginal)
7	MARTYRDOM OF THE BAB (Bahai)	SOUTH SUDANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY	10	11	ASALA-DHARMA DAY (Buddhist)	NAIDOC WEEK ENDS
14	ST SWITHIN'S DAY (Christian)	16	17	18	JAMSHEDI NORUZ-QADIMI (Zoroastrian)	20
21	ST MARY MAGDALENE (Christian)	BIRTHDAY OF GURU HAR KRISHEN-NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh) BIRTHDAY OF HAILE SELASSIE I (Rastafari)	PIONEER DAY (Mormon) KHORDAD SAL-QADIMI (Zoroastrian) LAILAT AL QADR (Muslim)	25	26	27
EID-UL-FITR (Muslim)	29	30	31			
28						

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AUGUST

Khordad Sal

Khordad Sal is the birth anniversary (or birthdate) of Zoroaster. Zoroastrians celebrate the day in a great glamour with parties and ghambars which entail eating and sharing of six seasonal festivals, or high feasts, communally. Special prayers and jashans are also held throughout the entire day. Children wear vermilion spots on their foreheads; new clothes, fragrant flowers and delicious meals all form part of the rituals. Since the Parsi community is especially tight-knit, its celebrations bring kith and kin together and is also an opportunity for the review of their lives and actions and then make resolutions for the future.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				LUGHNASADH-LAMMAS (Pagan)		
				1	2	3
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY (Aboriginal)	TISHA B'AV (Jewish)	TRANSFIGURATION (Christian)			INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (Aboriginal)	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS (Christian) ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Christian)		BIRTHDAY OF MARCUS GARVEY (Rastafari)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
JAMSHEDI NORUZ (Shenshai) (Zoroastrian)	AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE DAY				KHORDAD SAL (Shenshai) (Zoroastrian)	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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SEPTEMBER

Ethiopian New Year

The story for Enkutatash (Ethiopian New Year) dates back almost 3,000 years to the Queen of Sheba who returned from a trip to visit King Solomon of Israel. She had gifted the king with 4.5 tons of gold as well as unique spices. Upon the Queen's return her chiefs welcomed her with jewels to replenish her treasury. The day celebrates both religious and secular significances and begins with church services followed by a family meal. Families visit friends and young children will receive small gifts of money or bread once the girls have gathered flowers and sung and the boys will paint pictures of saints.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						FATHER'S DAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (Christian) BIRTHDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Christian)			ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR (Rastafan)			THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS (Christian)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	SPRING EQUINOX (Pagan) SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA (Catholic)		NAVARATRI (START) (Hindu) ROSH HASHANAH-1 ST DAY (Jewish)		FAST OF GEDALLIAH (Jewish)	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
MICHAELMAS/ST MICHAEL, ST GABRIEL AND ST RAPHAEL'S DAY (Christian)						
29	30					

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OCTOBER

Dussehra

Dussehra is a Hindu festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil and originated from battles of the past including Lord Rama's fight for his wife Sita, only to have her carried off by Ravana the demon king of Lanka. Many people of the Hindu faith observe Dussehra through special prayer meetings and food offerings to the gods at home or in temples throughout India. They also hold outdoor fairs (melas) and large parades with effigies of Ravana (a mythical king of ancient Sri Lanka). The effigies are burnt on bonfires in the evening. Dussehra is the conclusion of the Navaratri festival.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS (Christian) 2	3	YOM KIPPUR (Jewish) DUSSEHRA (Hindu) EID AL ADHA (Muslim) 4	5
6	7	SUKKOT (Jewish) BIRTHDAY OF GURU RAM DAS-NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh) 8	9	10	11	12
ST EDWARD'S DAY (Christian) 13	14	HOSHANAH RABBAH (Jewish) AL-HIJRA (Muslim) 15	SHEMINI ATZERET (Jewish) 16	SIMCHAT TORAH (Jewish) 17	18	19
BIRTH OF THE BAB (Bahai) 20	21	22	DIWALI (Hindu) (Jain) (Sikh) 23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	SAMHAIN-HALLOWE'EN (Pagan) HALLOWE'EN-ALL HALLOWS' EVE (Christian) 31		

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NOVEMBER

Ashura

The day of Ashura is marked by Muslims as a whole, but for Shia Muslims it is a major religious commemoration of the death of Karbala of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. It is marked by Muslims with a voluntary day of fasting which commemorates the day Noah left the Ark, and the day that Moses was saved from the Egyptians by God. Shia men and women dress in black and parade through the streets slapping their chests and chanting. Some Shia men seek to emulate the suffering of Hussein by flagellating themselves with chains or cutting their foreheads until blood streams from their bodies.



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					ALL SAINTS' DAY (HALLOWMAS, ALL HALLOWS') (Christian)	CORONATION OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE I (Rastafari) ALL SOULS' DAY (Christian) ALL SAINTS' DAY (Catholic Church in England and Wales)(Christian)
					1	2
ASHURA (Muslim)	MELBOURNE CUP DAY (Public Holiday)		BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK-LUNAR CALENDAR (Sikh)			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH (Bahai)			SHICHIGOSAN-7.5.3 FESTIVAL (Shinto)	ST HILDA (Christian)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						NIINAMESEI (Shinto)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MARTYRDOM OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR-NANAKSHAHI CALENDAR (Sikh)		DAY OF THE COVENANT (Bahai)		ASCENSION OF ABDU'L-BAHA (Bahai)		ST ANDREW'S DAY (Christian) ADVENT SUNDAY (Christian)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER

Hanukkah

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt. Hanukkah is carried out over eight nights and days and starts on the 25th day of Kislev. Hanukkah is celebrated with a series of rituals that are performed every day throughout the eight day holiday, some are family-based and others communal. There are special additions to the daily prayer service and a section is added to the blessing after meals. A Candle is lit on the candelabrum, which is referred to as wither Menorah or Hanukiah, each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. The typical Menorah consists of eight branches with an additional raised branch. The extra light is called a *shamash* and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest. The purpose of the *shamash* is to have a light available for practical use, as using the Hanukkah lights themselves for purposes other than publicising and meditating on the Hanukkah is forbidden.



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Catholic) BODHI DAY (Buddhist)				OUR LADY OF GUADELOUPE (Catholic)	ST LUCY'S DAY (Christian)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		HANUKKAH (Jewish)				SUMMER SOLSTICE- LITHA (Pagan)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		CHRISTMAS EVE (Christian)	CHRISTMAS DAY (Christian) (Public Holiday)	ST STEPHEN'S DAY (Christian) BOXING DAY (Secular) (Public Holiday)		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				