



FOOTBALL  
FEDERATION  
AUSTRALIA

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
ALL ABILITIES				2 World Autism Day					23 International Day of Sign Languages			3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
BAHA'Í										17 Birth of the Báb & Birth of Bahá'u'lláh		
BUDDHIST				13 Songkran	7 Vesak (Buddha Day)							
CHRISTIAN	6 Armenian Christmas Day 7 Orthodox Christmas	26 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)		10 Good Friday 12 Easter Sunday								25 Christmas Day
GENDER EQUALITY			8 International Women's Day							11 International Day of the Girl Child		
HINDU, JAIN & SIKH	2 Birth of Guru Gobindh Singh, 10th Guru		9 Holi	13 Baisakhi or Vaisakhi						25 Vijay Dashami (Dasera)	14 Deepavali/ Diwali (Festival of Lights) 30 Birth of Guru Nanak	
INDIGENOUS & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS					26 National Sorry Day 27 National Reconciliation Week	1 Reconciliation Day - ACT	5 NAIDOC Week	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples				
ISLAM			22 Isra & Mi'raj	23 Ramadan Start (Begins at sunset)	24 Eid al Fitr (End of Ramadan)		30 Eid al Adha (Begins)	20 Al Hijra/ Muharram (New Year) 28 Ashura (Begins at sunset)				
JEWISH		10 Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day)	9 Purim	8 Pesach/ Passover (Ends nightfall 16)	28 Shavuot				18 Rosh Hashanah/ Jewish New Year 27 Yom Kippur (Begins at sunset)	2 Sukkot (Tabernacles - Begins at sunset)		10 Chanukah Festival of Lights (Begins at sunset)
LGBTIQ+		14 Mardi Gras Festival (begins) 29 Mardi Gras Parade	31 International Transgender Day of Visibility		17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia			30 Wear It Purple Day				
MULTICULTURAL	19 World Religion Day 25 Chinese New Year / Tet (Vietnamese Lunar New Year)	21 International Mother Language Day 21-23 National Multicultural Festival in ACT	15 Harmony Week 20 Norouz 21 Harmony Day / International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21-29 Cultural Diversity Week in VIC	1 Kha b-Nisan	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development 25 Africa Day	14 Refugee Week 20 World Refugee Day						18 International Migrants Day
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS	26 Australia Day		20 International Day of Happiness	6 International Day of Sport for Development & Peace 7 World Health Day 25 ANZAC Day	10 Mother's Day 15 International Day of Families 16 International Boys Day	1 Global Day of Parents 5 World Environment Day	30 International Day of Friendship	12 International Youth Day	21 International Day of Peace	1 International Day of Older Persons	16 International Day for Tolerance 20 World Children's Day	5 International Volunteer Day

Please note that some dates will vary from year to year and some religions work on a lunar calendar (10/11 months) rather than the Gregorian. In addition, some dates can only be confirmed by the sighting of the moon so are sometimes expressed as two or three dates and confirmed nearer the time of the festival. Also Bahá'í, Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown the previous day and end at sundown on the date listed.

Sources: Department of Home Affairs - Calendar of cultural and religious dates <https://www.harmony.gov.au/events/calendar>. UN Observance Days <https://www.unaa.org.au/un-observance-days/>



**AUSTRALIA**  
**IS HOME OF ONE OF**  
**THE MOST CULTURALLY**  
**AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE POPULATIONS IN THE WORLD,**  
**AND THE LATEST CENSUS CONTINUE TO REVEAL A FAST**  
**CHANGING AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE NATION.**



**49%**

**of Australians had either been born overseas  
(first generation Australian)  
or one or both parents had been born overseas  
(second generation Australian)**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2016 Census.



**IN ORDER TO ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT AMONG ALL AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES INCLUDING THE VARIOUS CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC AND MINORITY GROUPS, FFA OFFERS THE FOOTBALL COMMUNITY THIS CALENDAR AS A TOOL TO:**

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**Celebrate diversity and inclusion of all Australian communities;**



**Celebrate National and International Days within your own organisation and club;**



**Provide equal opportunities for all to participate in football;**



**Increase awareness and sensitivity about diverse groups and cultural festivities as well as religious obligations that may affect players, coaches, club staff and administrators.**



**Promote an inclusive environment to our diverse community;**

**DIVERSITY INITIATIVES DO NOT WORK UNLESS AWARENESS AND INCLUSION IS A DAILY PRACTICE, THEREFORE THIS CALENDAR HELPS IDENTIFY SIGNIFICANT DAYS TO CELEBRATE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AND CREATE INCLUSION ALL YEAR ROUND.**

**THIS RESOURCE WILL ASSIST IN PROMOTING AWARENESS AND ACTION, AND PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIA'S MAIN AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS INCLUDING:**

### **1. CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS**

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Including significant cultural and religious observances of the major faiths and ethnic groups represented in Australia. Thus, it can be used as a reference when planning programs, activities and community events.

### **2. NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATIONS**

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It contains important national holidays that are observed in various states and communities throughout the country, as well as international days that are celebrated globally.

These internationally recognised dates are of great importance to all players, volunteers and staff members, and may impact their participation in football activities. Although it is not intended that you avoid or celebrate all these dates, you are encouraged to consult with your local club and communities the most relevant dates in your locality before planning programs and competitions to ensure respectful scheduling and avoid any conflict with your participants or staff obligations.





# EXPLANATION OF KEY OBSERVANCES

## AFRICA DAY | 25 May

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A day to acknowledge the achievements of the people of Africa and to celebrate not only the diverse African-Australian cultures, but also provide various platforms for people of diverse backgrounds to meet, socialise and share experiences.

<http://africadayaustralia.org/>

## AL-HIJRA/MUHARRAM | 20 Aug

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*(the date specified is an estimate due to the lunar calendar)*

Islamic New Year and the first of the month of Muharram, where Muslims celebrate the Prophet Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina. For Shi'as the first ten days are a period of mourning culminating in Ashura Day, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Husayn.

## ANZAC DAY | 25 Apr

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Anzac Day is one of Australia's most important dates of national commemoration. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War (1914-18), at Gallipoli. Dawn services at war memorials honour the sacrifice of those who died in war. Marches and reunions are held during the day.

## ARMENIAN AND ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS (THE HOLY NATIVITY FEAST) | 6 & 7 Jan

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Many Armenian and Orthodox Christians in Australia and around the world celebrate the birth and baptism of Christ on January 6 (Armenian Church) and 7 (Orthodox Churches). The reason for the different date is that it works to the Julian calendar that pre-dates the Gregorian calendar, which is commonly observed.

## AUSTRALIA DAY | 26 JAN

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On Australia Day we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. <https://www.australiaday.org.au/>

## BIRTH OF THE BĀB AND BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH | 17-18 Oct

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On these two days people of Baha'i faith refrain from work and celebrate the birth of the Bab and the birth of Baha'ullah their faith's founder.



## BIRTH OF GURU GOBINDH SINGH, 10TH GURU | 2 Jan

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti marks the auspicious day where Sikhs celebrate the birthday of the 10th Guru - Guru Gobind Singh. People pray for the prosperity and well-being of fellow people, sing devotional songs or recite poems during the procession and share sweets and a cold drink or a sharbat among the adults and children.

### Happy Guru Gobind Singh Gurmurb!

Gurmurb di lakh lakh vidaye! ("Many many good wishes for the gurmurb")

## BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK | 30 Nov

It is the birthday of Guru Nanak founder of Sikh faith and way of life. This is one of the holiest of the Sikhs which is celebrated over a three-day period. Sikhism stresses the importance of doing good deeds rather than merely carrying out rituals.

### Happy Guru Nanak Gurmurb

## BUDDHA DAY (VESAK) | 7 May

Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha. The date varies by region and tradition. Some Countries celebrate Vesak Day 1 or 2 days either side of this date. **Happy Buddha Day**

## CHANUKAH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS | 10 Dec

*(begins at sunset on 10 December and ends on 18 December)*

Chanukah (also known as Hanukkah) commemorates the recapture and rededication by the Jewish people of the Jerusalem Temple. It lasts for eight days and nights, and each night an additional candle is lit.

### Happy Chanukah

## CHINESE NEW YEAR | 25 Jan

The most important day in the traditional Chinese calendar and marks the beginning of the first Lunar month. It celebrates the beginning of a new year and 2020 is the year of the rat which is the first of all zodiac animals.

### Happy Chinese New Year

## CHRISTMAS | 25 Dec

It is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus on December 25th and celebrated by Christians around the world.

### Merry Christmas

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK IN VICTORIA 21-29 March

Coinciding with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Harmony Day held every year on 21 March, Cultural Diversity Week is a fantastic way to celebrate the everyday diversity of Victorians and reflect on what gives us all a sense of belonging in our multicultural community. It is Victoria's largest multicultural celebration, featuring an exciting program of festivals and events across metropolitan and regional areas.

## DEEPAVALI (OR DIWALI) | 14 Nov

Australians of Hindu, Sikh, and Jain faiths celebrate Deepavali (Diwali), or the Festival of Lights. This is a very popular festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

### Happy Diwali and Bandi Chhor





## EASTER SUNDAY | 12 Apr

Easter commemorates the resurrection (return to life) of Jesus Christ following his crucifixion which is also commemorated on Good Friday. It is the most significant event of the Christian calendar.

### Happy Easter

## EID-AL-ADHA | 30 Jul

*(the date specified is an estimate due to the lunar calendar, begins in the evening of 30 July and concludes in the evening 3 August)*

Also known as Festival of the Sacrifice, it marks Day Three of Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) and also commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to sacrifice his only son to prove his faith to Allah (God). It has a special atmosphere of peace, respect, giving and receiving, as well as sharing and caring. It is a special day for children because it is a day to socialise with family, friends and other children in celebrating Eid al-Adha. Many Muslims are united in prayer at mosques and other appropriate venues, and people also exchange gifts with one another and celebrate feasts together. Eid al-Adha is also a time for many Muslims to make donations to the poor and people in need.

### Eid Mubarak

## EID-AL-FITR | 24 May

*(end of Ramadan, the date specified is an estimate due to the lunar calendar)*

Also known as Festival of Breaking the Fast, this day marks the end of the month of fasting for Muslims (Ramadan). A celebratory meal breaks the fast and at this time charity and good deeds have special significance. Eid is also a time of forgiveness and making amends. It is celebrated over 3 days marked with prayers and presents for children. The date varies based on when

the new moon is sighted by local religious authorities, so the day of celebration varies by locality.

### Eid Mubarak

## GLOBAL DAY OF PARENTS | 1 Jun

Global Day of Parents honours parents throughout the world, and it provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.

<https://www.un.org/en/events/parentsday/>

## HARMONY WEEK | 15-21 Mar

Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate our vibrant multicultural country. The week runs from 15–21 March every year and encourages everyone to experience, explore and appreciate Australia's cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic diversity. <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

## HOLI | 9-10 Mar

Holi is a boisterous festival of colours with people smearing each other with coloured water and bright powders. Originally a festival to celebrate good harvests and fertility of the land, and symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Holi also commemorates some key figures in Hindu mythology.

<https://www.holifestival.org/>

### Happy Holi



## INTERNATIONAL BOYS DAY | 16 May

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International Boys Day is about dedicating May 16 to focus on boys and their wellbeing. This includes the things they need in order to be happy, healthy and valued in their family and community. It is also a day to spend special time with your son(s) and grandsons doing things they love.

<https://internationalboysday.org/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA | 17 May

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The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia draws the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexuals, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics. The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. <https://may17.org/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE 16 Nov

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An appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures and a day to strengthen tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples. <https://www.un.org/en/events/toleranceday/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES 15 May

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The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting them. <https://www.un.org/en/events/familyday/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP 30 Jul

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The International Day of Friendship is a day to recognise the relevance and importance of friendship as a noble and valuable sentiment in the lives of human beings around the world. <https://www.un.org/en/events/friendshipday/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS 20 Mar

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A way to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. In 2015, the UN launched the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that seek to end poverty, reduce inequality, and protect our planet – three key aspects that lead to well-being and happiness. <https://www.un.org/en/events/happinessday/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS 1 Oct

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The International Day of Older Persons is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of ageing in today's world. <https://www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/>





## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE | 21 Sep

A globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. <https://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES | 3 Dec

An annual observance to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES | 23 Sep

It is a day to celebrate and support all sign language users. It also recognises the importance of sign language as part of linguistic and cultural diversity and raises awareness of the issues deaf people face in their everyday lives. <https://www.un.org/en/events/signlanguagesday/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE | 6 Apr

Sport is an important enabler of sustainable development and a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and networks. It also promotes ideals of peace, solidarity, tolerance, respect, justice and understanding by bringing people together across boundaries, cultures and religions, and contributing

to the empowerment of women and young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.

This day celebrates the right to physical education and activity, and the positive influence that sport can have on our society and the advancement of human rights, and social and economic development. <https://www.un.org/en/events/sportday/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 11 Oct

The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. <https://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES | 9 Aug

A day to celebrate Indigenous people around the world and raise awareness of their needs, their unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. <https://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/>

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY | 18 Dec

It is a day to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties of international migration, as well as support and recognise the efforts of migrants in our community. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day>



## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY | 21 Feb

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. When languages fade, so does the world's rich tapestry of cultural diversity. For this reason, the International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote the dissemination of mother tongues to encourage linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. <https://www.un.org/en/events/motherlanguageday/>

## INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY | 31 Mar

International Transgender Day of Visibility is honored every year on March 31 and is a time to celebrate transgender people around the globe and the courage it takes to live openly and authentically, while also raising awareness around the discrimination trans people still face. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/international-transgender-day-of-visibility>

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY | 5 Dec

It is a unique chance for volunteers and organisations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to promote their work among their communities. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day>

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY | 8 Mar

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the achievements of women. It is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY | 12 Aug

It is an annual celebration of the potential of youth and the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth. <https://www.un.org/en/events/youthday/>

## ISRA AND MI'RAJ | 22 Mar

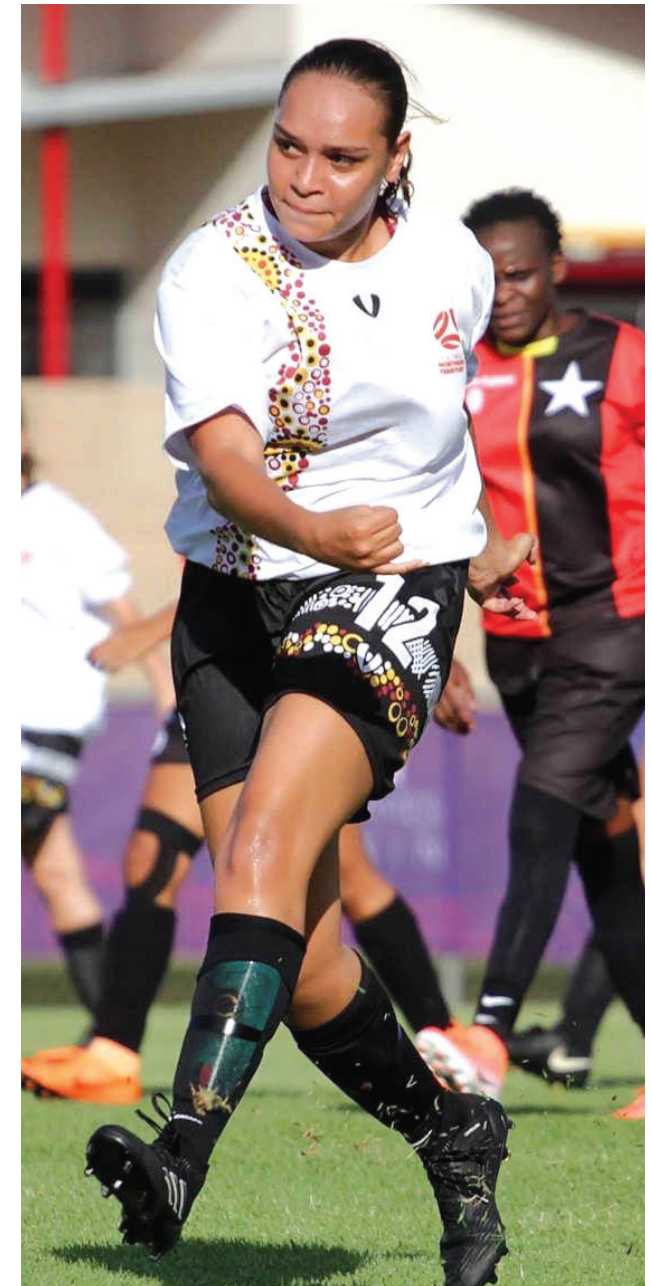
A Muslim Religious Observance that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven. It is observed on the 27th day of Rajab, the seventh month in the Islamic calendar.

## KHA B-NISAN – ASSYRIAN NEW YEAR | 1 Apr

Assyrians are a Semitic ethnic group indigenous to Assyria one of the oldest civilisations in the world and part of present-day northern Iraq, southeastern Turkey, northwestern Iran and northeastern Syria. Assyrians are predominantly Christian, and they celebrate this day as their national festival by holding social events including parades and parties with food, music and dance and wearing traditional costume.

## LENT | 26 Feb

It is traditionally a time of prayer, fasting and reflection lasting six weeks up to Easter Sunday. It begins with Ash Wednesday.





## MARDI GRAS | 14 Feb - 1 Mar

Mardi Gras is an annual LGBTIQ pride parade and festival in Sydney which is attended by hundreds of thousands of people from around Australia and overseas. It is one of the largest such festivals in the world and shines a global spotlight on LGBTIQ lives, culture, communities and creativity. Mardi Gras was built on the foundations laid by early community activists who fought for LGBTIQ rights in a time of wide-spread, institutionalised oppression and discrimination. From these origins, it has evolved to include a strong focus on celebration while maintaining a commitment to social justice for LGBTIQ communities. The parade will be held on Feb 29 and the theme for Mardi Gras 2020 is WHAT MATTERS!

<https://www.mardigras.org.au/2020>

## MOTHER'S DAY | 10 May

Mothers are powerful, and on Mother's Day, we celebrate mums who impact our lives, work tirelessly to change the world and play a crucial role in promoting prosperity, success, and growth in communities around the globe.

## NAIDOC WEEK | 5-12 Jul

NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Activities take place across the nation during NAIDOC Week in the first full week of July. All Australians are encouraged to participate. <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

## NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL – CANBERRA | 21-23 Feb

The National Multicultural Festival is a celebration that promotes equality of opportunity, maintaining social cohesion, building social capital and minimising social exclusion for culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans. It features local, national and international music, dance, food and creative arts.

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK | 27 May

National Reconciliation Week runs annually from 27 May – 3 June. It is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The 2020 NRW theme is 'In This Together' <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/>

## NATIONAL SORRY DAY | 26 May

National Sorry Day is a significant day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly for Stolen Generations survivors. The idea of holding a 'Sorry Day' was first mentioned as one of the 54 recommendations of the Bringing them home report, which was tabled in Parliament on 26 May 1997. This report was the result of a two year National Inquiry into the forcible removal of Indigenous children from their families, communities and cultural identity. On 26 May 1998 the first 'Sorry Day' was held in Sydney, it is now commemorated across Australia, with many thousands of people participating in memorials and commemorative events, in honour of the Stolen Generations.



## NOROUZ | 20 Mar

Norouz means 'new day' in Persian and is a traditional festival of spring that has been celebrated for more than 3000 years. The ancient celebration of Nowruz is shared by many peoples from Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, and others in the Black Sea basin, the Balkans, the Caucasus and western, central and southern Asia. It is also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz).

## PASSOVER | 8 Apr

*(ends nightfall April 16)*

Passover is the first and most significant of the Jewish pilgrim festivals (i.e. festivals which since ancient times have been celebrated by Jews in Israel making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and praying at the site of the Holy Temple). It celebrates the redemption by God of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, and marks the birth of our nation. Many Jews refrain from work during the whole festival and unleavened bread is eaten with a special meal (Seder), with food, prayers, games and song.

## PURIM | 9 Mar

*(begins in the evening of 9 March and concludes the evening of 10 March)*

Purim begins in the evening of 9 March and concludes the evening of 10 March. It commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther and her uncle and adviser, Mordechai.

**Happy Purim**

## RAMADAN | 23 Apr

*(begins at sunset 23 April, the date specified is an estimate due to the lunar calendar)*

Ramadan is the most auspicious month on the Islamic calendar, being the month in which the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During Ramadan Muslims around the world fast from sunrise to sunset, every day, to normally 30 days ending with Eid-Al-Fitr.

**Ramadan Mubarak**

## REFUGEE WEEK | 14-20 Jun

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. <https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/>  
The week concludes with World Refugee Day where people around the globe join together in solidarity with refugees. <https://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/>

## ROSH HASHANAH (JEWISH NEW YEAR) 18 Sep

*(begins sunset on 18 September to sunset on 20 September)*

Rosh Hashanah, two-day religious observance that marks the start of the Jewish New Year, commemorates the creation of the world, the repentance of sins, and the renewal of God's relationship with the Jewish people. It is traditionally announced with a synagogue ritual by blowing of the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet. Apples are dipped in honey as a symbol of the sweet New Year that lies ahead. It is one of the most important holidays on the Jewish calendar, and Jews take off work to attend religious services and see their friends and families at this special time.

**Shana Tova**





## SHAVUOT | 28 Jun

*(begins at sunset on 28 May and concludes on nightfall on 30 May)*

Shavuot is a Jewish celebration Moses's descent from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments. It is the second of the Jewish pilgrim festivals that goes for two days, and some Jews refrain from work on Shavuot.

## SONGKRAN | 13 Apr

Songkran is an important event on the Buddhist calendar, this water festival marks the beginning of the traditional Thai New Year. The name Songkran comes from a Sanskrit word meaning 'passing' or 'approaching'. It takes place from the 13th to the 15th of April, and people roam around throwing buckets of water, using water pistols and just generally soaking anyone in the vicinity. Appreciation of family is another important aspect of the festival, with many Thai people making their way to their hometowns to spend time with older relatives. Buddhists also visit temples throughout Songkran where water is poured on Buddha images and on the hands of Buddhist monks as a mark of respect.

## SUKKOT | 2 Oct

*(begins at sunset on 2 October and ends at sunset on 9 October)*

Sukkot is the third of the 3 pilgrim festivals. It commemorates the faith and trust in God of the people of Israel when they lived precariously in temporary dwellings during their 40 year sojourn in the desert after leaving Egypt. It is also a thanksgiving for the harvest, celebrated with three of the plant species and one type of fruit which are native to the land of Israel. Work is not permitted on the first two days.

## TET (VIETNAMESE LUNAR NEW YEAR) | 25 Jan

Vietnamese people celebrate Tet with family reunions, special foods and gifts. This festival is also an opportunity for Vietnamese Australians to share their cultural heritage with the wider Australian community.

## TU B'SHEVAT (ARBOR DAY) | 10 Feb

Tu B'Shevat (Tu Bishvat) is the 15th day of the Jewish months of Shevat. This festival is also known as the "New Year for Trees" and is observed in Jewish communities in Australia.

## VAISAKHI (BAISAKHI) | 13 Apr

Baisakhi, also known as Vaisakhi, is an ancient harvest festival which marks the beginning of a new solar year and harvest season. Baisakhi also marks the founding of the Khalsa (Sikh) in the 17th century by Guru Gobind Singh, which is the collective body of all baptised Sikhs, and it is celebrated as the birth of the religion itself.

**Happy Vaisakhi**

## VIJAY DASHAMI (DASERA) | 25 Oct

This Hindu festival marks the triumph of good over evil. The festival of Dasera concludes the festival of Navaratri, which extends over a number of days.

## WEAR IT PURPLE | 30 Aug

Wear it Purple Day is an annual LGBTIQA+ awareness day especially for young people, based in Australia. Supporters wear purple to celebrate diversity and young people from the LGBTIQA+ community.  
<https://www.wearitpurple.org/>



## **WORLD AUTISM DAY | 2 Apr**

An internationally recognised day encouraging communities to take measures to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world. It is a day to speak out against discrimination, celebrate diversity and strengthen our commitment to the full inclusion and participation of people with autism. <https://www.un.org/en/events/autismday/>

## **WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY | 20 Nov**

It is a day to show the importance of a healthy childhood, raise awareness of, improve and support children's welfare. It is an opportunity to celebrate and show action for child rights, and to play an important part in making World Children's Day relevant for your community. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day>

## **WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT | 21 May**

The day provides an opportunity to promote social cohesion and deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity. <https://www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversityday/>

## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY | 5 Jun**

Participation in Football is influenced by weather conditions and environmental factors. Climate Change has started to profoundly affect societies around the world and will have an impact on the well-being of peoples, our game and the way we plan and deliver programs in the future. This day

provides individuals, enterprises and communities with an opportunity to broaden their environmental values and knowledge, and work towards an environmentally conscious Australia. <https://www.un.org/en/events/environmentday/>

## **WORLD HEALTH DAY | 7 Apr**

Participating in sport and physical activity helps Australians to enjoy healthier, happier and more productive lives. This day aims to create awareness of the importance of health and to provide an opportunity to engage in physical activity which plays an important role in tackling health issues.

## **WORLD RELIGION DAY | 19 Jan**

It is a day to promote unity in the world and foster interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasising the common elements underlying all religions.

## **WORLD REFUGEE DAY | 20 Jun**

In a world where violence forces thousands of families to flee their homes for their lives each day, this is an occasion to show that the global public and Australians stand together with refugees and to celebrate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of displaced persons by holding an event with your community. <https://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/>

## **YOM KIPPUR | 27 Sep**

*(begins at sunset on 27 September and ends at sunset on 28 September)*

This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with fasting and repentance. Many Jews will refrain from work and attend synagogue services.









