

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURAL DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF CULTURALLY IMPORTANT DATES THAT CELEBRATE OR RECOGNISE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES AND CULTURE.

26 NATIONAL **JAN** SURVIVAL DAY

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the 26th of January represents the lived experiences of oppression and dispossession which began on the 26th of January, 1788 as the British flag was raised at Sydney Cove. It represents the beginning of colonisation and a history of suffering, racism, death, the Stolen Generations, and more.

13 ANNIVERSARY OF **FEB** NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY

On 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered the National Apology to Australia's Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the injustices of past government policies, particularly to the Stolen Generations.

19 NATIONAL **MAR** CLOSE THE GAP DAY

National Close the Gap Day is an annual event that raises awareness and seeks to close the gap with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, educational and employment outcomes between Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and non-Indigenous Australians.

26 **MAY**

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

National Sorry Day provides an opportunity for people to come together and share the journey towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

27 1967 REFERENDUM **MAY**

The 1967 Referendum was a landmark achievement following decades of activism by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people, where more than 90 percent of Australians voted in favour of amending two sections of the Australian Constitution.

27 – 3 **MAY JUNE**

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week celebrations commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo Decision.

3 MABO DAY **JUN**

On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia overturned the principle of "terra nullius" or "nobody's land" as claimed by the British when they first arrived in this country. The decision has paved the way for Native Title legislation.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CULTURAL DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE RAP WORKING GROUP

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1 COMING OF THE LIGHT **JUL** (ZULAI WAN)

The Coming of the Light is celebrated annually by Torres Strait Islander peoples. It marks the adoption of Christianity through island communities during the late nineteenth century.

5 – 12 **JUL** **JUL** NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

4 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY **AUG**

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

9 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S AUG INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On this day, people from around the world are encouraged to spread the United Nation's message on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

4 INDIGENOUS SEP LITERACY DAY

Indigenous Literacy Day is a national celebration of culture, stories, language and literacy. This day raises awareness of the disadvantages experienced in remote communities and advocates for more access to literacy resources.

13 ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF SEP INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007.

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