

# Australia Day

# Celebrate what's Great!

[AUSTRALIA DAY](#)[AMBASSADOR PROGRAM](#)[Toolkit](#)[NEWS & MEDIA](#)[PUZZLES & ACTIVITIES](#)

EXPERIENCE > Australia Day

## Australia Day

[Australia Day History](#)[Australia Day Timeline](#)[Australia Day and Reconciliation](#)

On Australia Day we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. It's the day to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can be proud of in our great nation. It's the day for us to re-commit to making Australia an even better place for the future.

Australia Day, 26 January, is the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet of 11 convict ships from Great Britain, and the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove by its commander Captain Arthur Phillip, in 1788 (to read a comprehensive history of the evolution of Australia Day, [click here](#)).

Though 26 January marks this specific event, today Australia Day celebrations reflect contemporary Australia: our diverse society and landscape, our remarkable achievements and our bright future. It also is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, and to consider how we can make Australia an even better place in future.

On Australia Day, over half of the nation's population of 21 million attend either an organised community event, or get together with family and friends with the intention of celebrating our national day. Many more spend the public holiday relaxing with family and friends.

Yet Australia Day is much more than barbecues and fireworks. It is more than another public holiday. It is more than the pride and excitement of new citizens who call themselves Australian for the first time on 26 January after being conferred citizenship.

At its core, Australia Day is a day driven by communities, and the celebrations held in each town, suburb or city – unified by the celebration of what's great about Australia and being Australian – are the foundation of its ongoing success.



Celebrations at the annual Australia Day Live concert in Canberra