

**ReconciliationWA**

# **Walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on January 26.**

**A ReconciliationWA introduction to the Day of Mourning, Survival Day, Invasion Day.**



# Listen and learn

## Change the date, not the day.

Reconciliation WA recognises that, as with any community, there is a diversity of views amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around January 26. Some view the day as an opportunity to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's survival as the longest continuing culture on Earth within the story of the modern Australian nation.

For many, January 26 is not a day for celebration, and describe it as the Day of Mourning, Survival Day, and Invasion Day. The date marks the beginning of an unlawful invasion with devastating impacts still felt by Aboriginal communities today. Considering the recent referendum, we continue to support #ChangeTheDate. Many First Nation Peoples are afraid they are going to see an increase in emboldened Australians' pushing back on this important movement. Which is why we implore you now, more than ever, to walk alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in solidarity.

By starting conversations and sharing this message, you help to encourage advocacy, encourage wider Australia to reexamine our true history and create a nation that acknowledges its rich Indigenous culture that is unique and sets us apart from other countries.

## Listening to Aboriginal peoples.

January 26 is an opportunity to promote understanding, respect and reconciliation for us all. The movement to change our national day of celebration seeks to bring us closer together.

That's what reconciliation is – recognising and healing the past so that we can build a better and more unified tomorrow. Talk with your local First Nations' peoples to inform yourself on their views of the date.



[Aboriginal People Respond to "Australia Day"](#)

# Resources

## Reconciliation WA

[Learning Hub Topic](#) - January 26

## Reconciliation Australia

[Let's talk January 26](#) - Factsheet

## AIATSIS

[The 1938 Day of Mourning](#) - The history of the Day of Mourning

## Australians Together

[Pride and Pain](#) timeline - Explore the timeline and discover how January 26 is a day of both pride and pain and why, for many, "Australia Day" is a difficult day.

[Australia Day](#) - A deep dive into the history of Australia Day

[Australia Day: Answers to tricky questions](#) - Answers to common questions surrounding January 26

## Articles

[The many days we've celebrated Australia Day](#) - SBS NITV

[We're changing our minds on Australia Day and it's happening rapidly](#) - ABC

[Why Australia Day is really held on 26 January](#) - SBS News

# Share the message

## Advocating for an inclusive future.

We all have a responsibility in progressing reconciliation in Australia, and part of that is recognising our own privilege in starting and engaging in important conversations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make up 3.3% of the total Australian population. It is important for non-Aboriginal people to step-up, to become committed allies, and to help raise the profile on important conversations to advance reconciliation with First Nations people. When you've read up on the history surrounding Australia Day, have a respectful conversation with family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours about what you've learned, and share some information online. Your first step should always be to raise, amplify and highlight the voices and truths of First Nations' peoples.

## Amplifying First Nations' voices.

Remember the importance of positionality (where a person is located in relation to their social identities) when amplifying Indigenous voices. It is a privilege to hear stories and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Especially if it's around our history and might be retraumatising. When you centre Indigenous voices, it is important that they lead and guide the conversations and shape the decisions which impact their lives.

By starting conversations and sharing the message, you help encourage wider Australia to re-examine our true history and work together to create a future which acknowledges the rich Aboriginal culture and knowledge that contributes to this country.

## Resources

Check out our [Learning Hub](#). - A full learning journey featuring many topics including January 26. Offering information for someone just starting their journey or further learning depending on your knowledge.

**Passing the Message Stick Report** - A guide for changing the story of self-determination and justice, a First Nations' led research project.

**IndigenousX** - An online platform which shares Indigenous knowledge, opinions and experiences.

### Australians Together

**Australia Day teacher guide** - A guide for educators including student activities

### Articles

**How to be an ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** - ReachOut

**How to be a good indigenous ally** - SBS NITV

**How to be a good ally to Indigenous Australians** - ABC

# Commit to action

## Moving from safe to brave.

We understand there is going to be inherent resistance when people stand up for what is right. It requires bravery and tenacity. Especially after the year that has been, Indigenous people need your continued support and solidarity now more than ever. There are many ways you can be an upstander and walk alongside and support Indigenous people in solidarity.

### Be vocal

Take the [ANTaR Pledge](#) not to celebrate this Australia Day, and publicly support [#ChangeTheDate](#).

Learn about the [Traditional Owners](#) of the land you live and work on, and share an [Acknowledgement of Country](#) on January 26.

**Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at half mast, or request your local council to do so.**

**Use and engage with social media and share grassroots activists leading change.**

**Create organisation email footers supporting 'Changing the Date'.**

### Be brave

**Help educate around the history of 'Australia Day'. Hold workshops and staff education training**

#### Bust the myths!

As part of our seasonal E-News we now release "Dinner Table Yarns" aimed to provide you with information and resources to challenge family/friends in when having conversations around a variety of topics.

**Attend events like:**

**Birak Concert, presented by the City of Perth** - Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures, the annual Birak Concert in Boorloo/Perth boasts a stellar line up of indigenous entertainment.

### Be educated

**Read books on experiences of First Nations Peoples post colonisation**

**Watch movies, television and interviews around our full history**

**Listen to and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples speaking publicly**



**See the next page for some amazing resources .. read, view and listen**

### Be the change

**Join your workplace's RAP Working Group, or ask your CEO to begin the organisation's RAP journey.**

**Review your organisation's Cultural Leave policy, and develop options for staff to work on January 26.**

Workplaces are encouraged to be more responsive to the needs of its Indigenous staff and have active conversations around staff cultural obligations and leave.

**Join the Change it Ourselves campaign.**

**Write to your local political representative acknowledging your support for [#ChangeTheDate](#).**

# More resources

## Movies & Film

Spear (2015)  
High Ground (2020)  
Charlie's Country (2013)  
YoIngu Boy (2001)  
Samson & Delilah (2001)  
Sweet Country (2017)  
Rabbit Proof Fence (2002)  
The Sapphires (2012)  
Toomelah (2011)  
Bran Nue Dae (2009)  
Top End Wedding (2019)  
Mad Bastards (2011)  
Jedda (1955)  
In My Blood it Runs (2019)  
The Tracker (2002)  
Satellite Boy (2012)  
Ten Canoes (2006)  
Beneath Clouds (2002)  
Storm Boy (2019)  
Where the Green Ants Dream (1984)  
Radiance (1998)  
Walkabout (1971)  
The New Boy (2023)  
Limbo (2023)

## Television

Basically Black (1973)  
Redfern Now (2012-2013)  
Cleverman (2016-2017)  
Mabo (2012)

First Australians – The Untold Story of Australia (2008)  
Black Comedy (2014)  
Blue Water Empire (2019)  
The Australian Dream and the Final Quarter (2019)  
Get Krack!n 2019 Series Finale  
Incarceration Nation ( 2021)  
Kikki and Kitty (2017)  
Mystery Road (2018-present)  
Robbie Hood (2019)  
Total control (2019-Present)  
All my Friends are Racist (2021)  
Bush Mechanics (2021)  
Araatika: Rise Up! (2021)  
Little J & Big Cuz (2017)  
Thou Shalt Not Steal (2024)

## Books

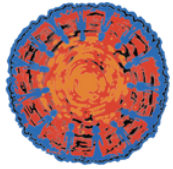
Fight for Liberty and Freedom – John Maynard  
Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence – Doris Pilkington and Nugi Garimara  
Carpenteria – Alexis Wright  
Talking to My County – Stan Grant  
TERRA NULLIUS – Clare G. Coleman  
My Tidda, My Sister – Marlee Silva  
Tell Me Why – Archie Roach  
Fire Country – Victor Steffensen  
Growing Up Aboriginal in Australia – edited by Anita Heiss

The White Girl – Tony Birch  
Truth Telling – Henry Reynolds  
Dark Emu – Bruce Pascoe  
That Deadman Dance – Kim Scott  
Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray – Anita Heiss  
Black Witness - Amy McGuire  
Song of Time - Stan Grant  
Black Duck - Bruce Pascoe

## Children's Literature

Finding our Heart – Thomas Mayo  
Respect Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson  
The First Scientists – Corey Tutt  
Took the Children Away – Archie Roach  
Day Break – Amy McQuire  
Our Home, Our Heartbeat - Briggs  
Ceremony – Welcome to Our Country – Adam Goodes  
Ellie Laing  
Going to the Footy – Debbie Coombes  
Welcome to Country – Joy Murphy  
Wandin  
What do you call a baby? Kamsani Bin Salleh  
My People - Eddie Betts  
Mum's Elephant -Maureen Jipiyiliya  
Nampijinpa O'Keefe  
Brother Moon – Maree McCarthy  
Yoelu  
Born to Run – Cathy Freeman  
On The Way to Nana's - Frances Haji-Ali and Lindsay Haji-Ali  
Somebody's Land – Adam Goodes  
Ellie Laing

Numbers All Around Us – Rachael Sarra  
Alfie's Big Wish – David Hardy  
Come Together – Isaiah Firebrace  
In my Blood it Runs – Dujuan Hoosan, Margaret Anderson, Carol Turner  
Songlines – Margo Neale  
This Book thinks ya Deadly! – Corey Tutt  
Bidhi Galing – Anita Heiss  
NT Mob sharing stories in Language – Bill Forshaw  
My Little Barlaagany (Sunshine) – Melissa Greenwood  
Gurril – Trevor Fournile  
Gurawal the Whale – Max Dulumunmun Harrison  
Mooie's Stories – BurWhela Ros  
Kneebone-Dodson  
Hairy Holes – Brenton E McKenna  
Owl and Star – Helen Milroy  
Back to Country – Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing & Emily Laing  
The Heartbeat of the Land – Cathy Freeman and Coral Vass  
Wylah Series – Jordan Gould & Richard Pritchard  
My Deadly Boots – Carl Merrison & Hakea Hustler  
Ninni Yabini – Cheryl Kickett-Tucker  
Nature All Around Us – Kimberly Engwicht  
Maku – Meyne Wyatt  
We Are Australians – Duncan Smith & Nicole Godwin



# ReconciliationWA

## Ngala kaaditj Whadjuk Noongar moort keyen kaadak nidja boodja.

We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the  
Traditional Custodians of the land on which our office sits.

### Contact:

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[www.recwa.org.au](http://www.recwa.org.au)

*This guide does not replace consultation with the  
Traditional Owners of the land on which you live and work.*