

Centre Support's 2020 Calendar of Events



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January

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Call 1800 440 102



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		New Year's Day 1 Feast of St Basil Gantan Sai New year's day (Shinto) Japan	2	3 ☉	4	5
Epiphany (Christian Feast Day) 6	The Holy Nativity Feast Eastern Orthodox 7	Tara Day (Buddhist) 8	9	10	11 ○	12
13	Orthodox New Year 14	15	16	17 ☉	18	World Religion Day 19
20	21	22	23	24	Chinese New Year Vietnamese Lunar New Year 25 ●	Australia Day 26
International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust 27	28	Vasant Panchami also Basant Panchami (Hindu) 29	30	31		

“Only those who look with the eyes of children can lose themselves in the object of their wonder.” — Eberhard Arnold



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		Sunday
					1	World Wetlands Day 2 ●
Setsuban Sai is a Shinto 3	4	5	Waitangi Day (NZ) 6	7	Tara Day (Buddhist) 8	Magha Puja Day (Buddhism) 9 Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day – Jewish 9th evening - 10th) ○
10	Safer Internet Day 11	International Darwin Day 12	National Apology Day (Australia) 13	International Book Giving Day 14 Valentine's Day	Nirvana Day (Buddhism) 15	16 ●
17	18	19	World Social Justice Day (UN) 20	International Mother Language Day 21 Maha Shivaratri Rio Carnivale 21st - 29th National Multicultural Festival (Canberra) 21st - 23rd	22	23
Tibetan New Year (Losar) 24tn - 26th ●	Shrove Tuesday (Christian) 25	Ash Wednesday 26	27	28	29	

“The true teacher defends his pupils against his own personal influence.” — Amos Bronson Alcott



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
						Australian Women's History Month 1 First Day of Autumn St David's Day (UK) World Compliment Day Clean Up Australia Day	
National Hearing Awareness Week 1st - 7th 2	World Wildlife Day 3 Hina Matsuri Girls' Day (Japan) ●	4	5	6	7	International Women's Day 8 Tara Day (Buddhist)	
Commonwealth Day 9	Holi, festival of colours (Hindu) 10 ○	Red Nose Safe Sleep Week 11th - 17th 11	12	13	14	15	
16 ●	St Patrick's Day (Ireland) 17	18	National Close the Gap Day 19 Naw-Ruz Baha'i Iranian New Year 19th - 20th	20	National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence 20 International Day of Happiness (UN) International Storytelling Day	Harmony Day 21 World Poetry Day International Day of Forests World Down Syndrome Day International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	World Water Day 22
23	24 ●	25	26	27	Earth Hour 8:30PM to 9:30PM 28	National Neighbour Day 29	
30	31	<p>“We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own.”— Ben Sweetland</p>					



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 ☾	World Autism Day (Go Blue for Autism) International Children's Book Day Rama Navami (Hindu) 2	3	World Stray Animal Day 4	Palm Sunday (Christian) 5
Tartan Day (Scotland) 6	World Health Day 7	Tara Day (Buddhist) Pesach – Passover (Jewish) 8th - 16th 8 ○	9	Good Friday (Christian) 10	11	Easter Sunday (Christian) International Day of Human Space Flight 12
Baisakhi (Sikh) Easter Monday 13	14	World Creativity and Innovation Week 15th - 21st 15 ☾	16	Holy Friday (Orthodox) 17	World Heritage Day 18	Easter Sunday (Orthodox) 19
20	21	Earth Day International Mother Earth Day 22	St George's Day (UK) World Book and Copyright Day 23 ●	Start of Ramadan (Islam) 24	ANZAC Day 25	26
27	World Day for Safety and Health at Work Pay it Forward Day National Fire Prevention Week 28th Apr - 5th May 28	World Dance Day 29	International Jazz Day 30			

“Our children are only as brilliant as we allow them to be.” — Eric Micha'el Leventhal



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month Beltane (Gaelic festival) 1 ☾	2	International Composting Awareness Week 3rd to 9th National Road Safety Week 3rd to 9th 3
International Respect for Chickens Day International Screen-Free Week 4th to 10th 4	World Asthma Day 5	World No Diet Day 6	Vesak Day - Festival of Light (Buddhism) 7 ○	World Red Cross Day Tara Day (Buddhist) Time of Remembrance (WWII) 8th to 9th 8	World Migratory Bird Day 9	Mother's Day 10
11	International Nurses Day 12	13	14	Walk Safely to School Day International Day of Families National Families Week 15th - 21st 15 ☾	16	17
18	Laylat-al-Qadr (Muslim) 19	Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW) Day for State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers 20	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development Ascension Day (Christian) 21	International Day for Biological Diversity 22	World Turtle Day End of Ramadan (Eid al-Fitr) (Islam) 23rd - 24th 23 ●	24
25	National Sorry Day 26	National Reconciliation Week 27th May - 3rd June 27	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 28	29	30 ☾	World No Tobacco Day Pentecost (Christian) 31

“The teacher must adopt the role of facilitator not content provider.” — Lev S. Vygotsky



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June

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AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY
Education College

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
National Buddy Day PJ Day (any day in winter) First Day of Winter 1	2	Mabo Day (Australia) 3	4	World Environment Day 5	6 ○	7
World Oceans Day Tara Day (Buddhist) Queen's Birthday (excluding QLD and WA) 8	9	10	Corpus Christi (Catholic) 11	World Day Against Child Labour 12	13 ◐	International Bath Day 14
Global Wind Day 15	International Day of the African Child 16	17	18	19	World Refugee Day (UN) 20	International Day of Yoga 21 ●
22	23	24	Dragon Boat Festival (China) 25	26	27	28 ◑
29	30					

**“Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners,
and the love of bringing the first two loves together.” — Scott Hayden**



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July

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Coming of the Light Festival (Torres Strait Island) 1	2	3	4	NAIDOC Week 5th - 12th Asalha Puja Day (Theravada Buddhist Festival) 5 ○
6	7	Tara Day (Buddhist) 8	9	10	World Population Day 11	International Malala Day 12
13 ●	Bastille Day (France) 14	15	16	National Pyjama Day 17	Nelson Mandela's Birthday / Mandela International Day 18	19
20	21 ●	22	23	Crazy Hair Day National Schools Tree Day 24	25	National Stepfamily Awareness Day 26
27 ●	Hajj (Islam) 28th July - 2nd August 28	Tisha B'Av (Jewish) Day of Arafah (Islam) 29	International Friendship Day (UN) Eid ul Adha 30th (sundown) to 31st 30	School Tree Day 31		

“Talk a little less, listen a little more, and you'll be a lot wiser” — Eric Gibbons



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August

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AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY
Education College

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					World Breastfeeding Week 1st – 7th 1	National Tree Day 2
Dental Health Week 3rd to 9th Raksha Bandhan (Hindu) 3	National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NATICD) 4 ○	5	6	Jeans for Genes Day 7	Tara Day (Buddhist) 8	International Day of the World's Indigenous People (UN) 9
10	11	World Elephant Day 12 ◐	13	Red Nose Day 14	Indian Independence Day 15 National Science Week 15th - 23rd	16
Keep Australia Beautiful Week 17th to 23rd 17	Vietnam Veterans Day (Long Tan Day) 18	World Humanitarian Day International Orangutan Day 19 ●	Islamic New Year 20	21	Children's Book Week Theme: 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds' 22nd to 28th 22	23
24	25	National Meals on Wheels Day 26 ◐	27	28	29	30
31	“One Child, One Teacher, One Book, One Pen Can Change the World – Malala Yousafzai					



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September

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
	Save the Koala Month Biodiversity Month Social September Wattle Day First Day of Spring	1 Early Childhood Educators Day National Health and Physical Education Day Indigenous Literacy Day	2 National Flag Day	3 National Flag Day	4	5 International Day of Charity	6 Father's Day National Child Protection Week 6th - 12th
7 National Threatened Species Day Kids Teaching Kids Week 7th-11th National Landcare Week 7th - 13th	8 International Literacy Day Tara Day (Buddhist)	9	10 National R U OK? Day	11 Coptic New Year	12 Sea Week 12th - 18th	13 National Bilby Day	
14	15	16	17 Australian Citizenship Day Navaratri 17th - 26th (Hindu)	18 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) 18th - 20th	19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day	20	
21 World Gratitude Day International Day of Peace (UN)	22 World Rhino Day	23	24	25	26 European Day of Languages	27 Yom Kippur (Jewish) 27th to 28th	
28 Queens Birthday (WA)	29	30					

What we learn with pleasure we never forget.” – Alfred Mercier



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October

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			Safe Work Month 1 Walktober Month Buy Nothing New Month Community Safety Month Nude Food Day Moon Cake festival (China) Be Kind to Animals Week	World Smile Day 2 ○	3	World Animal Day 4 World Space Week 4th - 10th
World Habitat Day 5 World Teachers Day Queens Birthday (QLD)	6	7	Tara Day (Buddhist) 8	Shemini Atzeret 9 (Jewish) 9th - 11th	World Homeless Day 10 Fiji Day ●	International Day of the Girl Child 11
Canadian Thanksgiving 12	National Nutrition Week 13 National Carers Week	14	Global Hand Washing Day 15 International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day	World Food Day 16	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17 ●	18
Bird Week 19 Aussie Backyard Bird Count 19th – 25th National Water Week 19th – 25th	20	21	22	Loud Shirt Day 23 ●	National Children's Week 24th to 1st Nov 24	National Kidsafe Day 25 National Grandparents Day
26	National Kidsafe Day 27	28	29	30	Halloween Samhain, (Celtic) 31st to 1st Nov 31	

**“The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught,
as that every child should be given the wish to learn.” John Lubbock**



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						Movember All Saints Day Loi Krathong National Adoption Awareness Month National Others Week (NOW)
2	Melbourne Cup 3	4	International Volunteer Managers Day 5	6	7	Tara Day (Buddhist) Australian Pollinator Week 8th to 15th
National Recycling Week 9th to 15th 9	10	Remembrance Day 11	12	World Kindness Day 13	14	Steve Irwin Day 15
International Day of Tolerance (UN) 16	17	18	World Toilet Day 19	Universal Children's Day (UN) 20	21	22
23	24	25	Thanksgiving (USA) 26	International Buy Nothing Day 27	28	Advent (Christian) 29th Nov to 24th Dec 29
St Andrew's Day (Scotland) Birth of Guru Nanak Dev (Sikh)	<p style="text-align: center;">“One mark of a great educator is the ability to lead students out to new places where even the educator has never been.” Thomas Groome</p>					



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December

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	First Day of Summer 1	2	International Day of People with Disabilities (UN) 3	4	5	6
7	Tara Day (Buddhist) 8 ●	9	Human Rights Day (UN) 10 Hanukkah (Jewish) 10th - 18th	International Mountain Day 11	12	13
14	15 ●	16	17	International Migrants Day (UN) 18	19	20
21	22 ●	23	Christmas Eve (Christian) 24	Christmas Day (Christian) 25	Boxing Day 26	27
28	29	30 ○	New Year's Eve 31			

The wider the range of possibilities we offer children, the more intense will be their motivations and the richer their experiences.” – Loris Malaguzzi

Centre Support's 2020 Calendar of Events in detail. Please refer here for more details about the events in our calendar.

January

1st New Year's Day. New Year's Day is the first day of a new year in the Gregorian calendar, which is used in Australia and many other countries. Due to its geographical position close to the International Date Line, Australia is one of the first countries in the world to welcome the New Year.

1st Feast of St Basil St Basil was one of the greatest leaders and thinkers of the Greek Orthodox Christian church. In many Greek homes, a special cake is baked on the eve of St Basil's Day with a gold or silver coin hidden inside.

1st Gantan Sai (Shinto) Gantan -sai the official and cultural New year's day in Japan. The followers of the Shinto religion visit shrines to pray for the renewal of their heart, prosperity and health in the year to come. The Japanese celebrate a 7 day holiday period starting on the 1st by making visits to their friends and family to express their good wishes for the year to come. They also wear their finest clothes on this day.

6th Epiphany (Christian Feast Day) Epiphany commemorates the manifestation of God in human form as Jesus Christ.

7th The Holy Nativity Feast (Nativity of Christ) Eastern Orthodox Churches that use the Julian Calendar celebrate Christmas on this day.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

14th Orthodox New Year Orthodox New Year celebrations include social gatherings and dinners featuring traditional activities and dishes from other parts of the world such as eastern Europe. Many Orthodox Christians also attend special New Year's Day liturgies at their churches.

19th World Religion Day Observed in over 80 countries, the aim of World Religion Day is to foster interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasising the common elements underlying all religions.

25th Chinese New Year The Chinese New Year falls on the first day of the Chinese calendar, and continues for 15 days. During celebrations people clean their houses to drive away the bad luck of the previous year. 2019 is the year of the Pig.

25th Vietnamese Lunar New Year Lunar New Year (Tet Nguyen Dan) Known in Vietnam as Tet Nguyen Dan, or simply Tet, the Lunar New Year is a celebration of spring and the upcoming year. The Tet holiday starts on the beginning of a new year based on the Chinese lunar calendar.

26th Australia Day On Australia Day we come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. It marks the day that the First Fleet landed in Sydney Cove in 1788 and celebrations are held in communities across the country. Order of Australia awards are announced on Australia Day and the Queen's Birthday each year. This day is also an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people to celebrate the survival of their people, their culture and heritage.

27th International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust Acknowledged on the day that the Auschwitz Concentration Camp was liberated at the end of WWII in 1945, this day remembers all those who suffered and lost their lives during the holocaust.

29th Vasant Panchami also Basant Panchami (Hindu) Marks the end of the winter season and ushers in the springtime. Sarasvati is the Hindu goddess of the Vasant Panchami festival. Young girls wear bright yellow dresses and participate in the festivities. The colour yellow holds a special meaning for this celebration as it signifies the brilliance of nature and the vibrancy of life. The whole place bursts with yellow during the festival.

February

2nd World Wetlands Day World Wetlands Day marks the signing of the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty that calls for the member countries to maintain the ecological use of their wetlands. It is a day to remember the importance and fragility of our native wetlands.

3rd Setsubun Sai (Shinto) Setsuban Sai is a Shinto New Year celebration based on Japan's old lunar calendar. It is celebrated as a good luck festival and a celebration of the traditional beginning of Spring.

6th Waitangi Day (NZ) In 1840, representatives of the British Crown and over 500 Maori chiefs signed what is New Zealand's founding document. The day was first officially commemorated in 1934, and it has been a public holiday since 1974.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

9th Magha Puja Day (Buddhism) Magha Puja Day is a Buddhist celebration of the Fourfold Assembly. It is celebrated on the full moon day of March.

9th (evening) - 10th Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day – Jewish) Tu B'Shevat, also known as Tu B'Shevet or Tu Bishvat, is the day that trees come of age according to Jewish law. Jewish people mark this day by eating a symbolic meal of fruit and nuts or planting trees.

11th Safer Internet Day Safer Internet day encourages families, libraries and schools to learn and connect together. Take positive actions and teach each other about staying safe online.

12th International Darwin Day Darwin Day celebrates the anniversary of the birth of the famous evolutionary scientist Charles Darwin.

13th Apology Anniversary On this day in 2008, the Prime Minister apologised to the Stolen Generations. Today serves as a reminder to the broader public, the country's politicians and policy makers, that sorry is more than a word, and that we

must all continue to work together in order to achieve key outcomes for the Stolen Generations.

14th Valentine's Day While Valentine's Day is celebrated in most countries, different cultures have developed their own traditions for this festival. In some parts of the world Valentine's Day is observed as a day for expressing love between family members and friends, rather than that of romantic couples. Some traditions include leaving lollies and gifts for children and others include acts of appreciation between friends.

14th International Book Giving Day International Book Giving Day aims to increase children's access to and enthusiasm for books. People are encouraged to give a book to a child on this day.

15th Nirvana Day (Buddhism) Nirvana Day (or Parinirvana Day) is a Mahayana Buddhist holiday which marks the Buddha's death. His death is celebrated because his followers believe that by dying, Buddha left the world of physical pain and suffering and achieved enlightenment.

20th World Day of Social Justice (UN) Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

21st Maha Shivaratri Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the god Shiva. There is a Shivaratri in every lunar month on its 13th night/14th day, but once a year in late winter (February/March) and before the arrival of spring marks Maha Shivaratri which means "the Great Night of Shiva".

21st - 23rd National Multicultural Festival (Canberra) A 3-day Festival which allows Canberrans, national and international visitors alike to congregate in Canberra over one weekend for what is one of the biggest celebrations of cultural diversity across Australia.

21st - 29th Rio Carnivale The Carnival in Rio de Janeiro (Portuguese: Carnaval) is a festival held before Lent every year and considered the biggest carnival in the world with two

million people per day on the streets. The first festivals of Rio date back to 1723.

24th - 26th Tibetan New Year (Losar) Losar is the most important festival in the Tibetan calendar. Tibetan New Year is said to last 15 days, but the first 3 days are the most important. The celebration of Losar can be traced back to the Tibetan pre-Buddhist period (127 BC – 629 AD). At that time Tibetans were followers of the Bon religion, and held a spiritual ceremony every winter. During the ceremonies, people burnt a large quantity of incense to appease local spirits, deities, and protectors. Later this religious festival developed into an annual Buddhist festival.

25th Shrove Tuesday (Christian) Many Christian observances and traditions such as Shrove Tuesday stem from the UK. Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent, which is a time when people traditionally fasted and avoided food containing eggs and dairy products. Families would have a feast on Shrove Tuesday. It was a time for them to eat meals that contained these ingredients so that food would not be wasted. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday because they were a dish that could use up perishable foodstuffs such as eggs, fats and milk.

26th Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian calendar. It occurs exactly 46 days before Easter (40 fasting days not counting Sundays). Ash Wednesday is named after the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of faithful as a reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.

March

1st – 31st Australian Women's History Month Women's History Month (WHM) is held annually in many parts of the world to acknowledge and document the role women play in making and shaping history.

1st St David's Day (UK) People in Wales and those of Welsh origin celebrate the life of their patron saint, St David, and the Welsh culture on March 1 each year. Many people pin a daffodil or leek to their clothes and some, especially children, wear traditional costumes.

1st World Compliment Day Give someone a genuine compliment!

1st Clean Up Australia Day In the past 26 years, Australians have devoted more than 31 million hours towards the environment through Clean Up Australia Day and collected over 331 thousand tonnes of rubbish.

1st– 7th Hearing Awareness Week Hearing Awareness Week aims to raise community awareness of hearing impairment and how to protect your hearing. For more information visit www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au

3rd World Wildlife Day On 20 December 2013, the Sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day, to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.

3rd Hina Matsuri – Girls Day (Japan) Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival or Girls' Festival), people pray for the happiness and healthy growth of girls. Families with young daughters mark this day by setting up a display of dolls inside the house. They offer rice crackers and other food to the dolls.

8th International Women's Day An equal world is an enabled world. #IWD2020 #EachforEqual Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can actively choose to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, each one of us can help create a gender equal world.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

9th Commonwealth Day Commonwealth Day is the annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations held on the second Monday in March, and marked by a multi-faith service in Westminster Abbey, normally attended by HM Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, with the Commonwealth Secretary-General and Commonwealth High

Commissioners in London. The Queen delivers an address to the Commonwealth, broadcast throughout the world.

10th Holi (Hindu) Holi is an ancient Hindu religious festival, known as the festival of colours or the festival of love. The festival is said to signify the victory of good over evil, and the arrival of spring. It's celebrated all over India and now around the world.

11th-17th Red Nose Safe Sleep Week This Week focuses awareness on the practices that promote safe sleeping for infants and young children.

17th St Patrick's Day (Ireland) Many Australians come together on St Patrick's Day to celebrate Irish culture and remember St Patrick's life and achievements. Some businesses and organisations hold St Patrick's Day breakfasts and lunches where lucky door prizes are given and Irish food and drinks are served. Many pubs, particularly Irish pubs, hold St Patrick's Day parties in the evenings, where local bands play Irish music and green drinks are served. Wear green.

19th National Close the Gap Day Raises awareness of the gap in health outcomes and life expectancy for Indigenous Australians compared to other Australians, and the measures needed to improve health outcomes for Indigenous people.

19th -20th Naw Ruz (New Year) – Baha'i Naw-Ruz is the Baha'i and Iranian new year. It occurs on the date of the vernal equinox and symbolizes the new life of spring.

20th National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence The National Day of Action is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools. To register an event or access resources (such as lesson plans and class activities) visit: bullyingnoway.gov.au/nationalday

20th International Day of Happiness (UN) The International Day of Happiness is a day to be happy! Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the International Day of Happiness as a way to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. The UN has launched 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.

20th International Storytelling Day Celebrates the art of oral storytelling, and aims for as many people as possible to tell and listen to stories on this day.

21st Harmony Day Celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Celebrated on the anniversary of the 1960 shooting of 69 anti-apartheid protestors, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a reminder to continue breaking down all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

21st World Poetry Day Poetry has a unique ability to capture the spirit of the human mind. One of the main objectives of the Day is to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard within their communities.

21st International Day of Forests Despite all of the ecological, economic, social and health benefits we achieve, we're destroying the forests we need to survive. Global deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed annually. Deforestation accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

21st World Down Syndrome Day On this day, people all around the world celebrate the lives and achievements of people with Down syndrome, creating a global voice, advocating for their rights, inclusion and wellbeing.

22nd World Water Day World Water Day is held to focus attention on the need for fresh water, and the importance of the sustainable management of fresh water resources.

28th Earth Hour – 8:30PM to 9:30PM Every year millions of people, businesses and landmarks set aside an hour to host events, switch off their lights and make noise for the Earth Hour movement.

29th Neighbour Day Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community held on the last Sunday in March

every year. Its aim is to encourage closer, friendlier relationships between neighbors and to strengthen communities.

April

2nd International Children's Book Day Since 1967, on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday 2 April, International Children's Book Day is celebrated to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.

2nd World Autism Day (Go Blue for Autism Day) World Autism Day is used to raise awareness about living people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world.

2nd Rama Navami (Hindu) Celebrating the birth of the god Rama to King Dasharatha and Queen Kausalya in Ayodhya. Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu, is one of the oldest avatars of Lord Vishnu having a human form.

4th World Stray Animal Day The Day for Compassion, Care and Action for Stray Animals Worldwide. There are more than 600.000.000 stray animals in the world. Stray animals lead poor and miserable lives on the streets.

5th Palm Sunday (Christian) Palm Sunday is a Christian feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four Gospels.

6th Tartan Day (Scotland) It commemorates the Scottish Declaration of Independence, from which the American Declaration of Independence was modelled. It also recognizes achievements of Americans of Scottish descent.

7th World Health Day A World Health Organisation (WHO) goal is to build a better, healthier future for people all over the world. Working through offices in more than 150 countries, WHO staff work side by side with governments and other partners to ensure the highest attainable level of health for all people. WHO strive to combat diseases – infectious diseases like influenza and HIV and non communicable ones like cancer and heart disease. WHO helps mothers and children survive and thrive so they can look forward to a healthy old age. WHO

ensures the safety of the air people breathe, the food they eat, the water they drink – and the medicines and vaccines they need.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

8th - 16th Pesach – Passover (Jewish) Probably the best known Jewish holiday, Passover commemorates the story of the exodus, where the Israelites were freed from Egyptian slavery.

8th-16th Pesach – Passover (Jewish) Probably the best known Jewish holiday, Passover commemorates the story of the exodus, where the Israelites were freed from Egyptian slavery.

10th Good Friday (Christian) Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and is a day of mourning for Christians. It is a very important day in church calendars, as the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are central events in Christian beliefs.

12th Easter Sunday (Christian) On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion. He was crucified on a Friday and when he died he was laid in a tomb. On the following Sunday, a group of women visited the tomb and found it empty. Jesus had been brought back to life.

12th International Day of Human Space Flight On 12 April 1961 the first human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen. This historic event opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all humanity. The General Assembly expressed its deep conviction of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived there from.

13th Baisakhi (Sikh) This is a harvest festival of North India at the beginning of the solar year. For Sikhs, it represents the founding of the Khalsa, a Sikh brotherhood. Baisakhi always

falls on 13th or 14th April and this is also the Hindu New Year in North India.

15th – 21st World Creativity and Innovation Week Each year International Creativity and Innovation Week is a celebration of new ideas, imagination and anything that has made the world a better place.

17th Holy Friday (Orthodox) Millions of Orthodox Christians commemorate Good Friday, also known as “Great Friday” to remember the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. The Orthodox Easter dates usually differ from the dates used by western churches because most Orthodox churches retained some version of the Julian calendar, which is older than the Gregorian calendar commonly used today.

18th World Heritage Day World Heritage Day is an opportunity to appreciate international heritage monuments and sites. The day offers an opportunity to raise the public's awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as draw attention to its vulnerability.

22nd Earth Day / International Mother Earth Day Earth Day is a celebration of the environment we all share. It also acts as a day of conservation awareness. The proclamation of 22 April as International Mother Earth Day is an acknowledgement that the Earth and its ecosystems provide its inhabitants with life and sustenance. It also recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.

23rd St George's Day (UK) St George's Day in England remembers St George, England's patron saint. The anniversary of his death, which is on April 23, is seen as England's national day. According to legend, he was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess.

23rd World Book and Copyright Day Celebrated on a day when many great authors have died, including Shakespeare, World Book and Copyright Day is a world-wide tribute to books and

authors. It also encourages people to discover or rediscover the pleasure of reading.

23rd Start of Ramadan (Islam) Ramadan (also known as Ramadhan or Ramzan) is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability for Muslims in Australia. The first verses of the Koran (Qu'ran) were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (also written as Mohammad or Muhammed) during the last third of Ramadan, making this an especially holy period.

25th Anzac Day ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember all Australians who served and died in war and on operational service. The spirit of Anzac, with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

28th World Day for Safety and Health at Work The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization since 2003. The 28th April has also for long been associated with the world's trade union movement's commemoration of the victims of occupational accidents and diseases

28th Pay it Forward Day Pay It Forward Day urges people around the world to commit random acts of kindness. It is a day to do good deeds, and instruct the recipient of your good deed to 'pay it forward', and return the good deed to another person.

29th World Dance Day This day was introduced in 1982 by the International Dance Committee of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute. The date was chosen to commemorate the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre born in 1727 who was a French dancer and ballet master and a great reformer of dance. The annually observed World Dance Day aims to increase the awareness of the importance of dance among the general public. It also aims to persuade governments all over the world to provide a proper place for dance in all systems of education.

30th International Jazz Day In November 2011, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed 30 April as "International Jazz Day". The Day is intended to raise awareness in the international community of the virtues of jazz as an educational tool, and a force for peace, unity, dialogue and enhanced cooperation among people.

May

1st - 31st Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is held during May each year to raise community awareness and promote a clear message that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated in our communities.

1st Beltane (Gaelic) Beltane was a traditional Gaelic harvest festival and was popularised as the 'Celtic new year.'

3rd - 9th International Composting Awareness Week A week of activities, events and publicity to improve awareness about the importance of this valuable organic resource and to promote compost use, knowledge and products. We can compost to help scrap carbon pollution by avoiding land filling organic materials and helping to build healthier soils. It promotes and manages the key aspects that lead to community change towards organic products and practices.

3rd -10th National Road Safety Week Particularly targeted at young drivers, Road Safety Week aims to increase awareness of the dangers present on the roads.

4th International Respect for Chickens Day They are the closest living relative of the tyrannosaurus rex and they outnumber humans by more than 6 to 1. Described as inquisitive, intelligent, affectionate and fun loving, these creatures have their special day on May 4th on International Respect for Chickens Day!

4th – 10th International Screen-Free Week An annual, international celebration which encourages families, schools and communities to take a break from digital entertainment to reconnect with the world around them. Instead of watching TV, surfing the web, or playing with apps and video games, they can read, play, think, create, get active, and spend more time with family and friends.

5th World Asthma Day The aim of World Asthma Day is raising awareness of asthma and how it affects sufferers.

6th International No Diet Day International No Diet Day (INDD) celebrates body acceptance and diversity. It encourages everyone to have a healthy and balanced relationship with food, exercise and their body, no matter what size or shape they are.

7th Vesak Day - Festival of Light (Buddhism) A holy day celebrated by Buddhists. It represents the birth, the Nirvana (enlightenment) and the Parinirvana (death) of Gautama Buddha and is the most significant day of the Buddhist calendar.

8th World Red Cross Day Celebrated on the day the Red Cross founder, Henry Dunant (1828-1910), was born. World Red Cross Day celebrates the important work done by the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movements.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

8th – 9th Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost their Lives during the Second World War An international time to remember those all those who lost their lives during the Second World War, regardless of what side they fought on.

9th World Migratory Bird Day World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was initiated in 2006 and is a global awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. On the second weekend each May, people around the world take action and organise public events such as bird festivals, education programs and birdwatching excursions to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and to help raise awareness around a specific theme.

10th Mother's Day Many Australians celebrate Mother's Day by showing their appreciation for the achievements and efforts of mothers and mother figures. It is annually observed in Australia on the second Sunday of May.

12th International Nurses Day Every year International Nurses Day is celebrated on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. It is a day to celebrate the role nurses play in the care of their communities.

15th International Day of Families This Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.

15th – 21st National Families Week National Families Week is a time to celebrate with your immediate family, make contact with your extended family and friends and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. It is a time to celebrate the meaning of family and to make the most of family time.

15th Walk Safely to School Day This event encourages all primary school children to walk and commute safely to school. For more information and printable materials (stickers, posters, certificates and more) visit <http://www.walk.com.au/wstsd/>

19th Laylat-al-Qadr (Muslim) Laylat Al Qadr is considered the holiest night of the year for Muslims, and is traditionally celebrated on the 27th day of Ramadan. It is known as the "Night of Power," and commemorates the night that the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, beginning with the exhortation.

20th Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW) Day A day of recognition and appreciation where the dedicated work of State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers is celebrated across Australia. The focus of WOW Day is to encourage the community to show their support in a very simple but highly visible gesture by wearing the colour orange. This is the colour worn by SES volunteers.

21st World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development An opportunity to help communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony.

21st Ascension Day (Christian) Commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven according to the New Testament of the Bible. Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE.

22nd International Day for Biological Diversity The International Day for Biological Diversity is used to increase understanding and awareness of all biodiversity issues.

23rd World Turtle Day For more than 100 million years, marine turtles have covered vast distances across the world's oceans, and have been an integral part of tropical coastal ecosystems. Over the past 200 years, human activities have tipped the scales against the survival of these ancient mariners.

23rd - 24th End of Ramadan (Islam) (Eid al-Fitr) Ramadan (also known as Ramadhan or Ramzan) is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability for Muslims in Australia. The first verses of the Koran (Qu'ran) were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (also written as Mohammad or Muhammed) during the last third of Ramadan, making this an especially holy period. Also called the "Festival of Breaking the Fast", Eid al-Fitr is a religious holiday that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.

26th National Sorry Day This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

27th – 3rd June National Reconciliation Week National Reconciliation Week is an ideal time for everyone to join the reconciliation conversation and reflect on shared histories, contributions and achievements. It is held annually from 27 May to 3 June and is a time to celebrate and build on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. Preceded by National Sorry Day on 26 May, National Reconciliation Week is framed by two key events in Australia's history, which provide strong symbols for reconciliation: 27 May 1967 – the referendum that saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Indigenous people and recognise them in the census.

28th Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is the largest fundraising event organized by the Cancer Council of Australia. To raise money for cancer support

and research, people at home, school, work and in the community organize tea parties where morning tea is served.

31st World No Tobacco Day World No Tobacco Day aims to increase awareness about the dangers of smoking tobacco products, and the health implications of tobacco usage.

31st Pentecost (Christian) The Christian Pentecost is based on the New Testament, where it refers to descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. It occurs on the 50th day after Easter.

June

Any day in Winter PJ Day PJ Day helps raise awareness about asthma and raises funds for asthma research and education to support Australians living with asthma.

3rd Mabo Day (Indigenous Australia) Commemorates the courageous efforts of Eddie Koiki Mabo to overturn the fiction of terra nullius (land belonging to no-one), the legal concept that Australia and the Torres Strait Islands were not owned by Indigenous peoples because they did not 'use' the land in ways Europeans believed constituted some kind of legal possession. It recognised that Indigenous people have a special relationship with the land. This paved the way for land rights known as native title.

5th World Environment Day Raises global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. It is run by the United Nations Environment Programme. World Environment Day is the United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.

8th World Oceans Day The official designation of World Oceans Day is an opportunity to raise global awareness of the challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans. The lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe, the oceans are also a major source of food and medicines and a critical part of the biosphere.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara

sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

8th Queen's Birthday (excluding QLD and WA) Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the official head of state is the Monarch of the Realms. This is currently Queen Elizabeth II. She is also the head of state of many other countries and territories, including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Canada and New Zealand. She was born on April 21, 1926, although her official birthday is celebrated on a range of dates in the different countries of the Commonwealth of Nations.

11th Corpus Christi (Catholic) Corpus Christi is a festival that has been celebrated by many Christians, particularly the Catholic Church, in honour of the Eucharist since 1246. The name "Corpus Christi" is a Latin phrase that refers to the body of Christ. This event commemorates the Last Supper on the day before Jesus' crucifixion, as described in the Bible. Corpus Christi is primarily celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church but it is also included in the calendar of some Anglican churches.

12th World Day Against Child Labour World Day Against Child Labour aims to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the efforts needed to eliminate it.

14th International Bath Day Observed annually on June 14, International Bath Day roots back to Greek Archimedes who discovered on this day that an object's volume can be measured by submerging it in water. Archimedes discovered this while in the bath! International Bath Day is celebrated by letting children play in the bath enabling them to explore and rejoice over their own new amazing bath time discoveries!

15th Global Wind Day In more than 75 countries around the world, wind farms are in operation, generating energy from a clean and renewable source. Global Wind Day is a worldwide event for discovering wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to change our world.

16th International Day of the African Child The Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the OAU Organisation of African Unity. It honours those who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976 on that day.

20th World Refugee Day (UN) "Our responses to refugees must be grounded in our shared values of responsibility sharing, non-discrimination, and human rights and in international refugee law, including the principle of non-refoulement." — UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

21st International Day of Yoga Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

25th Dragon Boat Festival (China) The Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional holiday that commemorates the life and death of the famous Chinese scholar Qu Yuan. Many believe that the Dragon Boat Festival originated in ancient China based on the suicide of the poet and statesman of the Chu kingdom, Qu Yuan in 278 BCE.

July

1st Coming of the Light Festival (Torres Strait Island) It recognises the adoption of Christianity through island communities during the late nineteenth century.

5th Asalha Puja Day (Theravada Buddhist Festival) Asalha Puja Day is one of the most sacred days in Buddhism. It is observed on the fifteenth day of the waxing moon of the eighth lunar month (July), and is a celebration of the foundation of the Sangha (the community of Buddhist monks).

5th – 12th NAIDOC Week NAIDOC stands for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. It celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

11th World Population Day World Population Day serves to both celebrate humanity itself, and to remind us that we need to look after each other and the planet we live on.

12th Malala Day On this day we remember the millions of children worldwide (mostly girls) who do not go to school and reaffirm our commitment to defend the right to education for all children.

14th Bastille Day (France) Bastille Day is a day of celebrations of French culture. Many large-scale public events are held, including a military parade in Paris, as well as communal meals, dances, parties and fireworks.

17th National Pyjama Day Thousands of schools, businesses and groups will be encouraged to stay in their PJs to show support for The Pyjama Foundation's work with Australian children in foster care.

18th Nelson Mandela's Birthday / Mandela International Day Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist, who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. On this day, it is asked that you devote 67 minutes of your time to helping people – one minute for each year Nelson Mandela devoted his life to serving humanity.

26th National Stepfamily Awareness Day This is a day dedicated to the stepfamily and provides an opportunity to acknowledge, promote and celebrate the great work that stepfamilies do.

28th - 2nd August Hajj (Islam) The Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims, and a mandatory religious duty for all adult Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime if they are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey, and can support their family during their absence.

29th – 30th Tisha B'Av (Jewish) Tisha B'Av (The Ninth of Av) is a day of mourning and fasting. The holiday commemorates various tragedies that befell the Jewish people throughout history.

29th – 30th Day of Arafah (Islam) Arafah was the Day on which Allah perfected His religion, completed His favours upon His

beloved Prophet Muhammad, and approved Islam as a way of life. The Day of Arafah falls on the 9th day of Dhu al-Hijjah of the lunar Islamic Calendar. The Day is the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage.

30th International Friendship Day (UN) The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

30th (sundown) to 31st Eid al-Adha The Eid al-Adha festival has an atmosphere of peace and respect, sharing and caring. People give and receive gifts, and celebrate feasts together. It is a special day for children because it is a day to socialize with family, friends and other children. It is also known as the Feast of Sacrifice or Festival of Sacrifice as it commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son to God. Many Muslims are united in prayer at mosques. Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah of the lunar Islamic Calendar and follows the Day of Arafah.

31st Schools Tree Day Each year around 250,000 Australian school students participate in Schools Tree Day - a special National Tree Day event just for kids. It's a great opportunity for children to learn about nature, get outside and have fun at the same time. This Schools Tree Day, all schools and their students are encouraged get involved and plant some trees for a healthier planet!

August

1st – 7th World Breastfeeding Week World Breastfeeding Week aims to protect, promote and support breastfeeding as the foundation of lifelong good health for babies and mothers.

2nd National Tree Day Planet Ark is calling for people to connect with nature by getting involved in National Tree Day, Australia's largest tree-planting and nature care event. People can participate by becoming National Tree Day site coordinators or attending plantings in their local areas.

3rd Raksha Bandhan (Hindu) A Hindu religious and secular festival. In simple words, Raksha Bandhan means "bond of protection".

3rd - 9th Dental Health Week Held on the first week of August, Dental Health Week raises awareness of how to best look after your and your children's teeth.

4th National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAITCD) National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAITCD) is a celebration of human rights and Indigenous children. Held on 4 August each year, NAITCD was first observed by SNAICC in 1988. It is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child.

7th Jeans for Genes Day Every year on the first Friday of August Australians unite on Jeans for Genes Day by wearing their favourite jeans and donating money and purchasing merchandise to support genetic research to support the 1 in 20 children born with a birth defect or genetic disease.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

9th International Day of the World's Indigenous People (UN) "We will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals if we fail to address the educational needs of indigenous peoples." — Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. Each year, there is a theme. Please check <http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/> for the 2020 theme.

12th World Elephant Day World Elephant Day was launched to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants. The elephant is loved, revered and respected by people and cultures around the world, but is in endangered in many areas.

14th Red Nose Day Red Nose is dedicated to saving the lives of babies and children during pregnancy, birth, infancy and childhood and to supporting bereaved families. With offices throughout Australia and a national office in Melbourne the areas of focus include bereavement support, education, research, national awareness campaigning, advocacy and fundraising.

15th Indian Independence Day Commemorating the nation's independence from the British Empire on 15 August 1947.

15th - 23rd National Science Week National Science Week celebrates the contributions Australian Scientists have made to the world. There are hundreds of activities, events and debates across the country during the week.

17th - 23rd Keep Australia Beautiful Week The aim of the Keep Australia Beautiful campaign is to demonstrate the easy ways people can help the environment and also save money by making a few simple changes around the home and in their daily lives.

18th Vietnam Veterans Day (Long Tan Day) This day is the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, now synonymous with Vietnam Veterans Day. In acknowledging Vietnam Veterans' Day, communities throughout Australia remember the sacrifices made by our young men and women in a conflict that spanned a ten year period, thus making it the longest war in which Australian's participated.

19th World Humanitarian Day World Humanitarian Day is used to increase public awareness about humanitarian assistance activities worldwide and the importance of international cooperation in this regard, as well as to honour all humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel who have worked in the promotion of the humanitarian cause and those who have lost their lives in the cause of duty.

19th International Orangutan Day To recognise the most iconic victim of the palm oil industry, International Orangutan Day has been set for August 19th, every year. This event is to help encourage the public to take action in preserving this amazing species.

20th Islamic New Year The Islamic New Year is on the first day of Muharram, the first month in the lunar Islamic calendar. Different Islamic denominations and cultures do different things to mark Muharram. Fasting varies among different Muslim communities. Some Muslims fast on or around the 10th day of Muharram, also known as the Day of Ashura, to mourn the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Husayn ibn Ali. Some mosques have free meals (nazar) around the ninth to 11th days of Muharram.

22nd - 28th Children's Book Week 2020 Theme: 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'. Each year, across Australia, The Children's Book Council of Australia brings children and books together celebrating Children's Book Week. During this time Schools, Libraries, Booksellers, Authors, Illustrators and children celebrate Australian Children's Literature. You will often see Children's Book Character Parades and talented librarians creating amazing displays.

26th National Meals on Wheels Day National Meals on Wheels Day is an opportunity to celebrate the 78,700 volunteers that contribute to their community, and is celebrated on the last Wednesday in August each year.

September

1st – 30th Save the Koala Month Save the Koala Month aims to raise awareness and funds for the conservation of wild koalas and their habitats.

1st – 30th Biodiversity Month Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world. There are resources and links to information on the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy website.

1st – 30th Social September Social September encourages us all to press pause in September - disconnect from our digital lives and reconnect with each other, and ourselves. The aim is to create spaces for face-to-face social connection, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

1st Wattle Day Wattles have long had special meanings for Australians and in 1988 the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was officially gazetted as Australia's national floral emblem. In 1992, the first day of September each year was officially declared 'National Wattle Day' throughout Australia by the Commonwealth of Australia. It is orientated towards the future, encompassing positive virtues in the celebration of Australia and the Australian spirit.

2nd Early Childhood Educators Day Early Childhood Educators Day recognizes and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services for their wonderful

contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the young children in their care.

2nd National Health and Physical Education Day National Health and Physical Education (HPE) Day has been designed to raise awareness of, and advocate for, a greater focus on health and physical education in our schools. For example, why not take your class outside for a lesson or organise a PE-related excursion?

2nd Indigenous Literacy Day Indigenous Literacy Day (ILD) is the most important fundraising and advocacy day on the ILD calendar. Events and fundraisers are held all across Australia. On ILD we spread the word about improving literacy levels and opportunities for Indigenous children living in some of the most remote and isolated parts of our country. Funds raised on Indigenous Literacy Day buy books and resources for these communities.

3rd National Flag Day Australian National Flag day celebrates the anniversary of the Australian Flag, first flown in 1901.

5th International Day of Charity Charity contributes to the promotion of dialogue, solidarity and mutual understanding among people. The day is commemorated by encouraging charity, including through education and public awareness-raising activities.

6th Father's Day It is a day for people to show their appreciation for fathers and father figures. Father figures may include stepfathers, fathers-in-law, guardians (eg. foster parents), and family friends.

6th – 12th National Child Protection Week National Child Protection Week has been coordinated by NAPCAN, with the support of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs since 1990. The campaign aims to engage and educate all Australians to understand they have a part to play in keeping our children and young people safe from violence, abuse and neglect.

7th – 13th National Landcare Week It's a time for all Australians to acknowledge and reflect on the great work being carried out by over a hundred thousand volunteers who give up their valuable time to care for this great country we call home. Landcarers across Australia grow our food, look after our

environment, care for our coastlines, and protect our native animals. National Landcare Week was created to celebrate our hardworking Landcarers who are fostering a better environmental future for all.

7th National Threatened Species Day National Threatened Species Day is held to encourage the community to help conserve Australia's native fauna and flora. Take action to prevent further extinctions by restoring healthy numbers of endangered species and ecological communities.

7th - 11th Kids Teaching Kids Week Kids Teaching Kids Week is a free, national, inquiry based, peer teaching program that uses the environment as a theme and focus for learning. Students of all ages find solutions to complex environmental problems such as climate change, water, waste, conservation, energy, drought, population and pollution. Students research, develop and then perform songs, comedy, dance routines, poems, plays and experiments for their classmates to deliver their messages about the environment.

8th International Literacy Day Today one in five adults are illiterate, which causes many social and educational issues. International Literacy Day is a reminder of the importance of literacy.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

10th R U OK? Day R U OK? Day is an annual national day of action that aims to get Australians, right across the entire spectrum of society, connecting with friends and loved ones, by reaching out to anyone doing it touch and simply asking: "Are you ok?" Talking about suicide with someone at risk actually reduces the chances of them taking their life. It is the one thing we can all do to make a difference. R U OK? Day is about prevention, preventing little problems turning into big problems.

11th Coptic New Year Nayrouz or Neyrouz is a feast when martyrs and confessors are commemorated within the Coptic Orthodox Church. Celebrated on September 11, the day is also the start of the Coptic New Year and its first month, Thout.

12th – 18th SeaWeek SeaWeek is Australia's major national public awareness campaign to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea. In 2020, the SeaWeek theme explores the ocean's great diversity of life and ecosystems. SeaWeek gives us a fantastic opportunity to promote educational issues of relevance to the marine environment.

13th National Bilby Day The bilby is facing the threat of extinction and we're at risk of losing this Aussie icon forever. Bilbies were once widely distributed across Australia but can now only be found sparsely scattered across 20% of their former range. They face ongoing threats from feral cats, foxes, rabbits and habitat change.

17th Australian Citizenship Day Managed by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Australian Citizenship Day is an opportunity for all Australian citizens, whether by birth or by choice, to reflect on the meaning and importance of their citizenship.

17th - 26th Navaratri Navaratri is the Hindu festival that translates to 'nine nights'. It is a festival for followers to invoke the energy of the Universal Mother.

18th -20th Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) Rosh Hashanah is a Jewish celebration that is commonly referred to as Jewish New Year. It is a time for casting off sins and preparing for a new year. It is also the birthday of the universe, the day God created Adam and Eve.

19th International Talk Like a Pirate Day This links provides all you need to know about Talk Like a Pirate Day! <http://talklikeapirate.com/wordpress/sample-page/the-aftermath/>

21st World Gratitude Day On World Gratitude Day we may focus on what we are grateful for and appreciate what we have, rather than what we want or think we need. It's possible that we can keep our unnecessary and frivolous consumption at bay too.

21st International Day of Peace (UN) "Let us all work together to help all human beings achieve dignity and equality; to build a greener planet; and to make sure no one is left behind." — UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

22nd World Rhino Day World Rhino Day celebrates all five species of rhino: Black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan rhinos.

26th European Day of Languages At the initiative of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001. A range of events are organised across Europe: activities for and with children, television and radio programs, language classes and conferences.

27th - 28th Yom Kippur (Jewish) Yom Kippur is probably the most important holiday of the Jewish year. Many Jews who do not observe any other Jewish custom will refrain from work, fast and/or attend synagogue services on this day.

28th Queens Birthday (WA) Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the official head of state is the Monarch of the Realms. This is currently Queen Elizabeth II. She is also the head of state of many other countries and territories, including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Canada and New Zealand. She was born on April 21, 1926, although her official birthday is celebrated on a range of dates in the different countries of the Commonwealth of Nations.

October

1st – 31st National Safe Work Month National Safe Work Australia Month aims to raise awareness of workplace safety and encourage all working Australians to get involved in and concentrate on safety in their workplace to reduce death, injury and disease.

1st – 31st Walktober Walktober is Australia's walking month and an ideal time to celebrate walking. October is the time of year when you can feel a 'spring' in your step; the weather is warming up and it's a great time to get outside.

1st – 31st Buy Nothing New Month Buy Nothing New Month is the global movement for collective, conscientious consumption. It's about thinking where our stuff comes from (finite resources) and where it goes when we're done (often landfill) and what are the fantastic alternatives out there to extend the life of our 'stuff'.

1st – 31st Community Safety Month Community Safety Month is held every October and reminds us that we all have a role in making our communities safer. Local communities, groups, schools, regional services, businesses, state and local government departments and agencies, are encouraged to build community safety partnerships by organising safety activities with other organisations and groups.

1st – 31st Nude Food Day In 2010 Nude Food Movers created National Nude Food Day, in conjunction with Nutrition Australia, to encourage and educate schools on the importance of packing healthy, rubbish free lunches. Nude Food Day is now a nationwide initiative developed to encourage kids and parents to eat well and live well, and eliminate all unnecessary packaging and wrapping that goes into schools. Nude Food Day can be celebrated any day (or everyday!) in October.

1st Mid-Autumn Festival or Moon Cake festival (China) The festival celebrates three fundamental concepts which are closely tied to one another: Gathering, such as family and friends coming together, or harvesting crops for the festival. It's said the moon is the brightest and roundest on this day which means family reunion. Thanksgiving, to give thanks for the harvest or for harmonious unions. Praying (asking for conceptual or material satisfaction), such as for babies, a spouse, beauty, longevity, or for a good future.

1st to 7th Be Kind to Animals Week. October was chosen for the Week as it takes in several important days for animals, including the birth date of humanitarian and animal advocate Mohandas Gandhi on the 2nd, and World Animal Day along with the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals on the 4th.

2nd World Smile Day World Smile Day is one day each year devoted to smiles and kind acts. Their motto is "Do an act of kindness. Help one person smile!"

4th World Animal Day To raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe. Building the celebration of World Animal Day unites the animal welfare movement, mobilizing it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals. It's celebrated in different ways in every country, irrespective of nationality, religion, faith or political ideology. Through increased awareness and education

we can create a world where animals are always recognised as sentient beings and full regard is always paid to their welfare.

4th – 10th World Space Week This week celebrates the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition as well as every child's imagination.

5th World Teacher's Day This day was started in 1994 by the UN's Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). International teacher's day is celebrated on the first Friday in October, but this is during school holidays in Australia so here it is celebrated on the last Friday in October.

5th World Habitat Day United Nations has designated the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

5th Queens Birthday (QLD) Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the official head of state is the Monarch of the Realms. This is currently Queen Elizabeth II. She is also the head of state of many other countries and territories, including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Canada and New Zealand. She was born on April 21, 1926, although her official birthday is celebrated on a range of dates in the different countries of the Commonwealth of Nations.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

9th - 11th Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) Shemini Atzeret literally means "the assembly of the eighth (day)." Rabbinic literature explains the holiday this way: our Creator is like a host, who invites us as visitors for a limited time, but when the time comes for us to leave, He has enjoyed himself so much that He asks us to stay another day. Another related explanation: Sukkot is a holiday intended for all of mankind, but when Sukkot is over, the Creator invites the Jewish people to stay for an extra day, for a more intimate celebration."
<http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm>

10th World Homeless Day The purpose of World Homeless Day is to draw attention to homeless people's needs locally and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness.

10th Fiji Day The anniversary of Fiji's independence from British colonial rule in 1970. A different theme is chosen every year, but common elements include religious ceremonies and cultural performances.

11th International Day of the Girl Child The Day of the Girl is about highlighting, celebrating, discussing, and advancing girls' lives and opportunities across the globe. When girls come together to talk about what really matters, they can teach other people-grownups, boys, girls all across the world-a new way of thinking about issues like gender stereotypes, discrimination, and opportunity.

12th Canadian Thanksgiving Thanksgiving weekend to visit family or friends who live far away, or to receive them in their own homes. Many people also prepare a special meal to eat at some point during the long weekend. Traditionally, this included roast turkey and seasonal produce, such as pumpkin, corn ears and pecans. Now, the meal may consist of other foods, particularly if the family is of non-European descent.

15th International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day On this day, parents and families across Australia have a special opportunity to honour their babies who passed away from miscarriage, stillbirth or postnatal causes.

15th Global Handwashing Day Global Handwashing Day was originally created for children and schools, but can be celebrated by anyone promoting handwashing with soap. Each year on October 15, over 200 million people are involved in celebrations in over 100 countries around the world.

16th World Food Day The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October to commemorate the founding of the Organization in 1945. Events are organised in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all.

17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty The UN developed this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries - a need that has become a development priority.

19th – 25th Bird Week The celebration of National Bird Week has its origins back in the early 1900s when 28 October was first designated by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union as the first 'Bird Day'. BirdLife Australia organises and promotes Bird Week with the goal of inspiring Australians to take action and get involved in bird conservation efforts. For example: You can celebrate National Bird Week by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores! During Bird Week, thousands of people from across the country head out into their backyards, local parks or favourite open spaces to take part in the third annual Aussie Backyard Bird Count!

19th – 25th National Water Week This Week aims to raise community awareness about current and future water issues and to encourage the community to take action to protect our vital water sources. It's also a celebration of water achievements in painting a sustainable future for generations to come.

23rd Loud Shirt Day Loud Shirt Day is the perfect excuse to wear your brightest clothes and get LOUD and PROUD to raise money to help give the gift of sound and speech to deaf children.

24th - 1st Nov National Children's Week Children's Week is a national celebration of children's rights, talents and citizenship and always celebrated around Universal Children's Day which is held on the fourth Wednesday of October in Australia.

25th National Grandparents Day This Day celebrates the contributions the role grandparents and older people play in our lives and gives us the chance to recognise and thank them for all they do.

27th National Kidsafe Day National Kidsafe Day aims to increase awareness of unintentional childhood injuries and their prevention, as well as the important work of Kidsafe - the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia, in public education, advocacy and research into the causes and prevention of unintentional childhood injury.

31st Halloween Halloween is a time of celebration and superstition. It is thought to have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off roaming ghosts. Halloween evolved into a secular, community-based event characterized by child-friendly activities such as trick-or-treating.

31st – 1st Nov Samhain (Summer's End) Meaning 'summers end', Samhain is an ancient Celt festival marking the beginning of winter/the Celtic new year.

November

1st – 30th Movember Movember is an annual, month-long celebration of the moustache, highlighting men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and depression in men. Mo Bros, supported by their Mo Sistas, start Movember clean shaven and then have the rest of the month to grow and groom their moustache. During Movember, each Mo Bro effectively becomes a walking billboard for men's health and, via their Mo, raises essential funds and awareness for Movember's men's health partners.

1st - 30th National Adoption Awareness Month (NAAM) NAAM exists to raise awareness of adoption and the importance of permanency for children, along with providing education on the support needs of children and families.

1st All Saints Day All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. All Saints' Day is also commemorated by members of the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as some protestant churches, such as Anglican, Lutheran and Anglican churches.

1st Loi Krathong A festival celebrated annually throughout south-western Tai cultures, (Thailand, Laos, Shan, Tanintharyi, Kelantan, Kedah and Xishuangbanna). The name could be translated as "to float a basket", and comes from the tradition of making krathong or buoyant, decorated baskets, which are then floated on a river.

1st – 7th National Others Week (NOW) Held from the first Sunday in November, NOW encourages people to find a way to help someone, whether it's a random act of kindness or a

planned activity. Because as the NOW motto says - life is a team sport!

3rd Melbourne Cup This is Australia's most prestigious annual Thoroughbred horse race. It is a 3,200 metre race for three-year-olds and over. It is the richest "two-mile" handicap in the world, and one of the richest turf races.

5th International Volunteer Managers Day International Volunteer Managers Day is a day to let those volunteer managers know that the spirit of volunteerism is enhanced and enabled by them - and to thank them.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

8th – 15th Australian Pollinator Week Australian Pollinator Week acknowledges our important and unique insect pollinators during spring. It is a designated week when community, business and organisations can come together to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and support their needs.

9th– 15th National Recycling Week In November 1996, Planet Ark founded National Recycling Week to bring a national focus to the environmental benefits of recycling. Now in its 21st year, this established and highly regarded annual campaign continues to educate and stimulate behaviour change, by promoting curbside, industrial and community recycling initiatives and giving people the tools to minimise waste and manage material resources responsibly at home, work and school.

11th Remembrance Day At 11am on 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November, the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western

Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war.

13th World Kindness Day The purpose of World Kindness Day is to look beyond ourselves, beyond the boundaries of our country, beyond our culture, our race, our religion, and realise we are citizens of the world. As world citizens we have a commonality, and must realise that if we are to achieve the goal of peaceful coexistence, we must focus on what we have in common. When we find likenesses we begin to experience empathy, and then we can fully relate to that person or those people. While we may think of people from other cultures as being 'different' when we compare them with our own customs and beliefs, it doesn't mean that we are any better than they are. When we become friends with someone from a different culture we discover that despite some obvious differences, there are many similarities.
<http://www.kindness.com.au/world-kindness-day.html>

15th Steve Irwin Day Steve Irwin Day is an annual international event honouring the life and legacy of the one and only Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin.

16th International Day of Tolerance (UN) The United Nations promotes tolerance as a matter of its fundamental identity. When tolerance is upheld, we encourage the world to emulate those fine examples. When tolerance is threatened, we must speak out." — UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

19th World Toilet Day World Toilet Organisation created World Toilet Day (WTD) to raise global awareness of the struggle 2.6 billion face every day without access to proper, clean sanitation. WTD also brings to the forefront the health, emotional and psychological consequences the poor endure as a result of inadequate sanitation.

20th Universal Children's Day (UN) United Nations Universal Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

26th Thanksgiving (USA) Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal and give thanks for what they have. The meal often includes a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables.

27th International Buy Nothing Day Buy Nothing Day is a global holiday from consumerism - Spend a Day Without Spending.

29th - 24th Dec Advent (Christian) Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

30th St Andrew's Day (Scotland) St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland and is a day to celebrate Scottish culture, food and dance. St Andrew's flag is the flag of Scotland and is in the form of a white X on a blue background and is commonly known as The Saltire.

30th Birth of Guru Nanak Dev (Sikh) Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. His birth is celebrated world-wide as Guru Nanak Gurburab on Kartik Pooranmashi, the full-moon day in the month of Katak.

December

3rd International Day of People with Disabilities (UN) This Day is a United Nations sanctioned day that is celebrated internationally. It aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability and celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disability. The Australian Government has been supporting the Day since 1996 and provides funds to promote and raise awareness of the day around Australia.

8th Tara Day (Buddhism) The eighth day of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer. She is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

10th Human Rights Day (UN) Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights! Disrespect for basic human rights continues to be wide- spread in all parts of the globe. Extremist movements subject people to horrific violence. Messages of intolerance and hatred prey on our fears. Humane values are under attack.

10th - 18th Hanukkah (Jewish) The first day of Hanukkah marks the start of Hanukkah, also known as Chanukah or Festival of Lights. Hanukkah is an eight- day Jewish observance that remembers the Jewish people's struggle for religious freedom. Many Jewish Australians conclude Hanukkah with the last day of Hanukkah, which is the eighth day of the Hanukkah festivities.

11th International Mountain Day International Mountain Day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands.

18th International Migrants Day (UN) "On International Migrants Day, let us commit to coherent, comprehensive and human-rights based responses guided by international law and standards and a shared resolve to leave no one behind." Ban Ki-moon.

24th Christmas Eve (Christian) Many people spend Christmas Eve preparing for Christmas Day celebrations in Australia. Christians in Australia and worldwide celebrate Christmas as the day Jesus was born. They believe that Jesus is the son of God. A Roman almanac confirms that 25 December was used to celebrate Christmas in 336 CE, although it was nearly 600 years later that the churches created a liturgy - a service for public worship - for the occasion. Different denominations have various traditions and church services on Christmas Day.

25th Christmas Day (Christian) On Christmas Day, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Different denominations have a range of traditions and types of Church service around Christmas Day. Catholics often attend midnight mass, which starts at midnight as Christmas Eve leads to Christmas Day. Other denominations attend special church services during the day on December 25.

On Christmas Day, children hope to receive gifts in a stocking or under the Christmas tree from the mythical figure Santa Claus. In the weeks before Christmas, they write letters to him so that he knows what they want. In some stories, Santa Claus wears a thick red, fur-trimmed suit and travels in a sleigh pulled by reindeer.

26th Boxing Day Boxing Day is a holiday in many countries, such as Australia, in the Commonwealth of Nations. It was traditionally a day for employers in England to give bonuses of money, leftover food or old clothing to their employees, or for lords to give agricultural tools and seeds for the coming year to their tenants. These gifts were presented in a box. Some people believe that this is the reason that December 26 is known as Boxing Day.

31st New Year's Eve Many Australians annually celebrate New Year's Eve with parties, music and other forms of entertainment on December 31. New Year's Eve is the day before New Year's Day in the Gregorian calendar, which is used by many Australians. It is important to note that not all cultures in Australia follow the Gregorian calendar in observing New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. For example the New Year in the Hindu, Chinese, Coptic, Jewish and Islamic calendars differ to that of the Gregorian calendar.

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