



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Significant Dates

Mildura Rural City Council's Aboriginal Action Committee has identified the following Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Significant Dates for Council. These dates are significant to the local Aboriginal community in many ways. By sharing these dates we hope to increase knowledge, respect and appreciation.

Survival Day-Invasion Day-Australia Day

26 January

Survival Day celebrates the survival of Aboriginal culture in the 21st Century. It is also Australia's official National day.

Anniversary of the Apology

13 February

The Anniversary of the Apology commemorates the formal apology made by the Australian government to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - in particular to the Stolen Generations.

National Close the Gap Day

3rd Thursday in March

National Close the Gap Day is an annual event held to raise awareness of the Indigenous health crisis.

Harmony Day

21 March

Harmony Day has developed into Australia's largest annual multicultural event. It provides an opportunity to celebrate our successes to a culturally diverse society and eliminate racism.

National Sorry Day

26 May

This Australia wide observance day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

National Reconciliation Week

27 May-3 June

The week commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.



Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum

27 May

In 1967 over 90% of Australians voted in a Referendum to remove clauses from the Constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Mabo Day

3 June

The day commemorates Eddie Koiki Mabo, a Torres Strait Islander whose campaign for Indigenous land rights led to a landmark High Court decision on 3 June 1992 which overturned the legal fiction of Terra Nullius.

NAIDOC Week

Annually 1st week July (Sunday to Sunday)

National Aboriginal and Islanders Day

Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week is a celebration of Aboriginal cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Aboriginal Australians in various fields.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

4 August

The day was initiated in 1998 to promote the needs of Indigenous children and to demonstrate the importance of children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

9 August

This day is observed to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. It also recognises the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues.

Indigenous Literacy Day

3 September

Indigenous Literacy Day aims to help raise funds to raise literacy levels and improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions.

Anniversary of the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

13 September

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the UN General Assembly during its 61st session at UN Headquarters, New York on 13 September 2007.

References:

ACT Government http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/atsia/significant_dates 2015

Department of Education and Training, North-Western Victoria Region 2015