

Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



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United Nations (UN) observances 2026

The United Nations observes designated international days, weeks, years, and decades, each with a theme, or topic. These observances contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the UN Charter and promote awareness of and action on important political, social, cultural, humanitarian or human rights issues. They provide a useful means for the promotion of international and national action and stimulate interest in United Nations activities and programs. Many of the themes are relevant to the school curriculum and community and can be observed at school and/or used as focal points in lesson planning.

There is a special category of international days that celebrate the UN's official languages. They recognise the multilingualism and multiculturalism of the UN and promote equal use of all six languages. The days are as follows:

20 March: French | 20 April: Chinese | 23 April: English | 23 April: Spanish | 6 June: Russian | 18 December: Arabic

2026

International Year of the Woman Farmer

The International Year of the Woman Farmer is a global initiative by the UN to focus attention on the crucial contributions of women in agriculture and their role in food security.

International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development

The International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development aims to recognise and enhance the vital contributions of volunteers to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists focuses on raising public awareness of the value to society of rangelands (the 'outback') and pastoralists, and on recognising and supporting pastoralists' livelihoods, rights and cultural values.

There are 14 International Decades being observed by the United Nations around 2026 including:

2025 – 2034 United Nations Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences	2025 – 2034 United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms	2022 – 2032 International Decade of Indigenous Languages	2021 – 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
2021 – 2030 Second Decade of Action for Road Safety	2019 – 2028 United Nations Decade of Family Farming	2018 – 2027 Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty	

The Lunar Calendar and the Year of the Horse and the Kookaburra

Lunar new year celebrations are based on traditional agricultural calendars which are lunisolar, primarily lunar but partially solar, guided by the movement of the moon, as well as the sun, and commonly called lunar calendars.

The Lunar New Year 4723 will be celebrated on 17 February 2026, the second new moon after the December solstice. It celebrates Xin Nian, the Chinese New Year, Solnal, the Korean New Year, Tsagaan Sar, the Mongolian New Year and Têt, the Vietnamese New Year. Traditionally Shōgatsu, the Japanese New Year was also celebrated on this date but since 1873, the official Japanese New Year has been celebrated according to the Gregorian calendar, on January 1 of each year. Losar, the Tibetan New Year will be celebrated between 18 – 20 February in Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sikkim and Tibet. In most of these nations the Gregorian calendar is used for civil purposes, but the lunar calendar is used to determine festivals and auspicious dates such as weddings and moving house.

The Chinese lunar calendar is associated with the Chinese zodiac, Shengxiao ('born resembling'), which has 12 animal signs: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. Each animal represents a year in a 12 year cycle, beginning on Lunar New Year's Day. There are many legends concerning the choice and order of the animals and their characteristics which are said to be imparted to people born in their year.

One such legend says that the Lord Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from earth. Only twelve came to bid him farewell and as a reward he named a year after each one in the order they arrived. The year 2026, Chinese year 4723, is a Year of the Horse.

The City of Sydney Lunar Festival celebrates the Lunar New Year each year with the 2026 festival celebrating the Year of the Horse. The Sydney festival is one of the largest Lunar New Year celebrations outside of Asia and includes parades, street parties, cultural performances, delicious food, lion dances, dragon boats and art and light installations.

The Australian Chinese Zodiac was developed by the Chinese Precinct Chamber of Commerce in Australia to promote understanding between Chinese and Australian cultures. Animals from the traditional zodiac have been matched to native animals according to their perceived similar characteristics.

This year the Horse is matched to the Kookaburra. For the complete Australian Chinese Zodiac visit <http://www.australianchinesezodiac.com.au/>

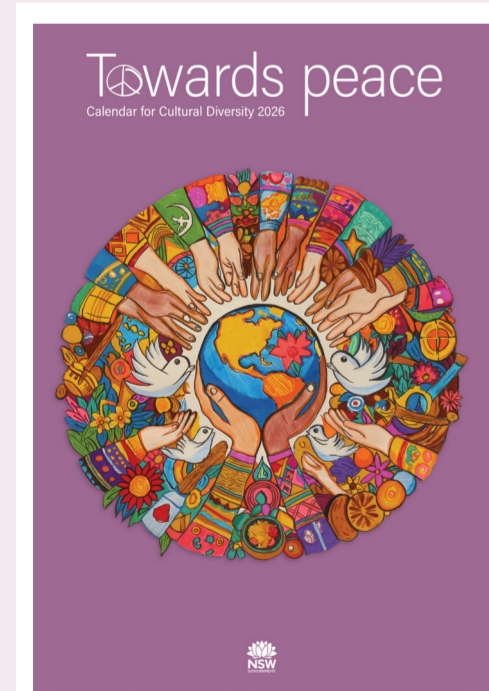


Deanie Feng – Schofields Public School

The horse is noted for being popular, cheerful, perceptive and resourceful. 备受欢迎，深得人心，开朗乐观，善于解决问题，并具有非凡洞察力。



The Kookaburra is noted for its popularity and its cheerful, vibrant and extremely resourceful character. 同样深受人们欢迎，个性开朗热情，并且足智多谋。



Front Cover

Towards Peace - A Journey Through Culture and Unity
Lakshika Sai – Year 9 – Arthur Phillip High School – Darug Country

This artwork celebrates the 2026 theme "Towards Peace" by illustrating unity through cultural diversity. Hands from around the world encircle the Earth, symbolising care, connection, and harmony. Peaceful doves and vibrant cultural elements reflect a shared commitment to understanding, inclusion, and building a more peaceful future together.

Inside Cover

Horse Dancing
Deanie Feng – Year 6 – Schofields Public School – Darug Country

Each year for Lunar New Year the Dragon Dances. This year, to celebrate the Lunar Year of the Horse, the horse is dancing.

Everyone Belongs
Whole School Harmony Day art collaboration, 2025 - K-6 - Wallsend South Public School – Awabakal country

We are all beautiful individuals, but when we come together we can be spectacular.

Languages for 2026

January – Armenian

Armenian (Հայերեն) is an Indo-European language spoken by about 5 million people mainly in Armenia (Հայաստան [Hayastan]) and Azerbaijan. There is also a wide diaspora of Armenian speakers. Armenian is not closely related to any other language and belongs to its own independent branch of the Indo-European language family.

There are two main varieties of Armenian. Eastern Armenian (արևելահայերեն) and Western Armenian (արևմտահայերեն) emerged during the 19th century when the traditional Armenian homeland was divided between the Russian and Ottoman Empires. To educated speakers of either variety the other is more or less mutually intelligible.

About 3.8 million people speak Eastern Armenian with 2.9 million speakers in Armenia, where it is the official and most commonly-spoken language. There are also about 660,000 speakers of Eastern Armenian in the Dagestan Republic of the Russian Federation, 120,000 in Azerbaijan, and 100,000 in Iran. About 12 million people speak Western Armenian with some 300,000 speakers in Lebanon and 240,000 in the USA. There are also significant numbers in Georgia, Armenia, France, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. Armenian is written from left to right in horizontal lines using the Armenian alphabet (Հայերէն գրեր / Հայերէն այբուբեն) which was adopted in the 5th century CE.

There are approximately 160 students from Armenian speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

February – Maltese

Maltese (Malti) is a Central Semitic language spoken by about 570,000 people on the Mediterranean islands of Malta, Gozo (Ghawdex) and Comino (Kemmuna). The Maltese language developed from Sicilian Arabic between the 9th and 14th centuries. The first reference to Malta having a distinct language dates from 1364.

Malta was occupied by the Arabs from 870 CE, Normans from 1090, and between 1530 and 1798, by the Knights Hospitaller of St John who spoke French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Latin and German. In 1800 Malta became a British colony and the British tried to replace Italian with English as the local language. As a result, about half of the vocabulary of Maltese comes from Sicilian and Italian, and a fifth comes from English. Maltese also contains vocabulary from Norman and French.

Maltese was recognised as an official language of Malta in 1934. After independence in 1964, both English and Maltese were given official status with Maltese becoming the national language. Today, Maltese is used in most sectors of public life, including parliament, the church, the press and other media, and in general conversation. English is generally the preferred medium of instruction.

The earliest known literary text in Maltese, Il-Kantilena, was written during the late 15th century and the first Maltese dictionary was published in 1649. There have been various ways to write Maltese using the Latin alphabet with small modifications. The current writing system was introduced in 1924 and updated in 1992.

There are approximately 70 students from Maltese speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

March – Oromo

Oromo (Afaan Oromo) is a Cushitic language spoken by about 45.5 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Egypt. It is the third most spoken language in Africa. The Oromo people are the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia and account for more than 40% of the population. Oromo is one of the official working languages of Ethiopia.

Until the 1970s, Oromo was written using either the Ge'ez (ግዕዝ) script or the Latin alphabet. Then during the early 1970s, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) chose the Latin alphabet as the official alphabet to write Oromo. Between 1974 and 1991, under the Mengistu regime, the writing of Oromo in any script was forbidden, except for a very limited usage of the Ge'ez script. In areas with Oromo-speaking Muslim populations the Arabic script is sometimes used. Another script for Oromo, the Sapalo Script (ገጽ ገጽ ገጽ) was created in 1956 by the Oromo scholar, poet and religious teacher, Sheikh Bakri Sapalo. It is only used to a limited extent. In 1991, a meeting of over 1,000 Oromo intellectuals decided unanimously to adopt the Latin alphabet (Qubee Afaan Oromoo) which is written from left to right in horizontal lines.

According to the 2021 Australian Census, there were 4,310 people from Oromo speaking backgrounds in Australia. There are approximately 30 students in NSW public schools.

April – Nauruan

Nauruan (Dorerin Naero) is a distinct Pacific Island language belonging to the Austronesian family. It is the official language of the people of Nauru spoken by most ethnic Nauruans. English is also widely spoken and is the language of government and commerce. Nauruan uses the Latin alphabet written horizontally from left to right.

Nauru is situated 42 kilometres south of the equator, has a population of about 13,000 and is the smallest state in the South Pacific and the third smallest state by area in the world, behind only the Vatican City and Monaco. Nauruan could become an endangered language with many of the younger people of Nauru speaking only English. Nauruan is written using the Latin script.

There are some students from a Nauruan speaking background in NSW public schools.

May – Welsh

Welsh (Cymraeg) is the oldest language in Britain, possibly dating back 4,000 years. It is spoken by around 830,000 people or approximately 27% of the population of Wales. It is also spoken by about 5,000 people in the Patagonia region of Argentina, where Welsh immigrants settled in the 19th century. There are also around 110,000 speakers in England, 4,000 in Canada, 2,000 in the USA and 1,800 in Australia.

The majority of European languages, including Welsh, evolved from a language now called Indo-European, which developed into nine different language groups, one of which was Celtic. In turn, Celtic developed its own family of languages. Before the coming of the Roman empire, Celtic languages were spoken across Europe. The Celtic languages that survived are those that migrated from mainland Europe to the western islands of Britain and Ireland.

These western island languages developed into two branches. In Ireland, Goidelic became the dominant language and gave rise to Irish, Scots Gaelic and Manx Brittonic gave rise to Welsh, Cornish and Breton. At the beginning of the 20th century, about half the population of Wales spoke Welsh as an everyday language.

The east coast of Australia reminded Captain Cook of the coast of south Wales and so he named it New South Wales. The history of Welsh settlement in Australia goes back to the First Fleet with four men and two women arriving in 1788. By 1852, there were around 1,800 Welsh convicts living in New South Wales. They were joined by many free settlers drawn by opportunities for farm land and the discovery of copper and gold. In the 2021 Australian census 156,108 people indicated Welsh heritage with 29,250 being born in Wales.

There are approximately 15 students from Welsh speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

June – Solomon Islands Pijin

Solomon Islands Pijin (Solomon Aelan Pijin) is spoken in the Solomon Islands, a country of nearly 1,000 islands and over 725,000 people. The Solomon Islands is made up of very diverse cultures, languages and customs. There are around 70 distinct languages in the country, with numerous local dialects. Although many people still speak their own indigenous languages, Solomon Islands Pijin is the language common to most Solomon Islanders. English is the official language while Solomon Islands Pijin is the lingua franca and an important unifying language. It is predominately a spoken language but is used in various domains of public life, including the media, government, and education.

Solomon Islands Pijin evolved during the 19th century in the sugarcane and copra plantations of Australia, Samoa and Fiji, where Melanesian indentured labourers were taken by various colonial powers. In order to communicate with each other, Melanesians from the various nations started to adopt and adapt English, German, French and Portuguese, thereby giving rise to a pidgin creole language. Various versions of this pidgin creole were then taken back to the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea, where they continued to evolve independently to become what we know today as Solomon Islands Pijin, Bislama (Vanuatu) and Tok Pisin (Papua New Guinea). Because of this origin, all three pidgin languages have many similarities and can be understood to various levels by all speakers of those languages.

There are approximately 10 students from Solomon Islands Pijin speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

Whole School – Wallsend South Public School

July – Wiradjuri

July's language is Wiradjuri, one of approximately 35 Pama-Nyungan languages once spoken in the area now known as New South Wales. During the 1800s, Aboriginal peoples across the state bore the brunt of European invasion and their languages were an early casualty with active suppression and the emergence of English as the common language between the different language groups.

The Wiradjuri are one of the largest Aboriginal groups in Australia, both in population and area of country. Their land covers a vast area across the central west slopes and plains of NSW, from Nyngan to Albury, and Bathurst to Hay. The Wiradjuri lived along three rivers, the Murrumbidgee, the Gulari (Lachlan River) and the Womboy (Macquarie River) and their country was known as the land of three rivers. Their language is the most commonly spoken Aboriginal language in NSW.

The 2021 census reported 1479 native speakers of Wiradjuri primarily in NSW. Ngurumbi is one of six seasons observed by the Wiradjuri, the cold season, when the people pulled their possum skin cloaks close around them, showing the patterns etched into the hide with hot sticks. This was the time of cold rains and snow on the mountains. The rivers were low in water but they were rising. The west wind came. It was the hardest time to obtain food, so the time to dig out animals hibernating underground. People moved camp away from the cold and frost of the river. The Southern Cross was high in the sky. Based on its position, the people knew what season it was and when it was the time to collect emu eggs. The Wiradjuri people did not name the days of the week, but worked in cycles of the sun, the moon and the stars.

Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests aim to revitalise, reclaim, and maintain traditional Aboriginal languages and cultural knowledge in NSW schools. The North West Wiradjuri Language and Culture Nest has established strong links in communities in Dubbo, Narromine, Peak Hill, Trangie, Gilgandra, Wellington and Mudgee and government schools located within these communities.

Over 2,000 students from the area are involved in Wiradjuri language and culture programs.

August – Gujarati

Gujarati (ગુજરાતી) is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by about 65 million people in the Indian states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, and also in many other countries including Bangladesh, Fiji, Pakistan, Uganda, Australia and the United Kingdom.

The Gujarati script (ગુજરાતી લિપિ) was adapted from the Devanāgarī script. The earliest known document in the Gujarati script is a manuscript dating from 1592, and the script first appeared in print in an advertisement in 1797. Until the 19th century, the Gujarati script was used mainly for writing letters and keeping accounts, while the Devanāgarī script was used for literature and academic writings. Both scripts are written left to right in horizontal lines.

Mahatma Gandhi, who in a 2000 BBC poll was voted as the greatest man of the millennium, was born in Gujarat. He mostly used Gujarati as the language for his writings about non-violence and self-rule for India.

There are approximately 3,000 students from Gujarati speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

September – Slovak

Slovak (slovenčina) is a Western Slavonic language spoken by about 5.6 million people in Slovakia and also in Canada, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the USA. Slovak is closely related to Czech, Polish, and Sorbian. It is the official language of Slovakia and one of the 24 official languages of the European Union.

Documents in Slovak started to appear in the 15th century, however a widely accepted literary standard for Slovak did not emerge until the 19th century. Slovak literature flourished between 1918 and 1938 when the Slovak-speaking area became part of Czechoslovakia, although the Czech majority did not all recognise the separate status of the Slovak language. Slovak uses the Latin script with small modifications and is written horizontally from left to right.

Since the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993, Slovakia has been an independent country and the Slovak and Czech languages have started to drift away from each other, though they are still more or less mutually intelligible.

There are approximately 120 students from Slovak speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

October – Vietnamese

Vietnamese (tiếng Việt) is an Austroasiatic language spoken by about 97 million people mainly in Vietnam. The large Vietnamese diaspora includes over 15 million Vietnamese speaking people in the USA, 820,000 in Cambodia, 332,000 in France, 321,000 in Australia, 303,000 in China and 240,000 in Canada. Vietnamese has been the official language of Vietnam since the country gained independence from France in 1954.

From about the 13th century, Vietnamese was written with a script adapted from Chinese known as Chữ nôm (字喃). From the 17th century, Roman Catholic missionaries introduced a Latin-based alphabet, Quốc Ngữ (national language), which has been used ever since. The alphabet uses 29 letters, with each letter assigned to different sounds and tones. It includes diacritics to indicate tones and vowel qualities and is written from left to right in horizontal lines.

There are approximately 10,000 students from Vietnamese speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

November – Malayalam

Malayalam (മലയാളം) is a Southern Dravidian language spoken mainly in the state of Kerala in southern India, but also in other Indian states. There are about 38 million speakers of Malayalam in India. There are also many speakers of Malayalam in other countries including around 1 million in the United Arab Emirates, 740,000 in Sri Lanka, 350,000 in Malaysia, 210,000 in Oman, 150,000 in the USA and 54,000 in Australia.

The name Malayalam means 'mountain region', and comes from mala (mountain) and alam (region). Originally the name referred to the land but was later used to refer to the language. The current Malayalam alphabet has evolved from the Grantha alphabet (ഗ്രന്ഥ ലിപി), brought to the southwest of India in the 8th or 9th century, to a systemised Malayalam alphabet in the early 13th century. With some changes the Malayalam alphabet attained its current form by the 19th century. It is written from left to right in horizontal lines.

Malayalam is also regularly written with a version of the Arabic script by Muslims in Singapore and Malaysia, and occasionally by Muslims in Kerala. Saint Thomas Christians in Kerala used to write Malayalam with the Syriac script and use a variety of Malayalam known as Suriyani Malayalam in their liturgy. The oldest known writing in Malayalam is known as the Edakal-5 inscription and dates from the late 4th century or early 5th century CE.

There are approximately 2,000 students from Malayalam speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

December – Karenni

Karenni (ကရင်ဘာသာ) or Red Karen, known in Burmese as Kayah, is a Karen language spoken by over half a million people mainly in Myanmar and Thailand. The Karenni are a branch of the Karen ethnic group. Their name means the Red Karens. They live in Karenni (Kayah) state, one of the least developed areas of Myanmar. Like other minorities, the Karenni have suffered continual attacks by the military and many have been forcibly removed from their land. Since 2021, more than 40% of the Karenni population, mostly women and children, have been forcibly displaced.

There are two varieties of Karenni which are sometimes classified as separate languages. Eastern Karenni is spoken by about 260,000 people in north eastern Myanmar and around 100,000 in Thailand. Western Karenni is spoken by about 210,000 people in Karenni. There are several ways to write Karenni, including the Latin and Burmese alphabets and also with Kayah Li (ကရင်ဘာသာ) an alphabet invented in 1962, which is written from left to right in horizontal lines.

There are approximately 160 students from Karenni speaking backgrounds in NSW public schools.

Acknowledgements

NSW Department of Education advisors from the Multicultural Education Unit, Equity, Multicultural and Inclusive Education Directorate, co-ordinate the annual development of the calendar and related information.

The department acknowledges the work of students, teachers and schools in contributing a high standard of artwork for selection in this year's calendar.

Many government departments, religious, community and ethno specific organisations, local authorities and community members have provided advice and information.

A poster is attached to the calendar. It displays the word 'Welcome' in our many community languages. It is designed for display in the classroom and around the school to help promote an inclusive anti-racism ethos in the school community.

2027 Calendar contributions

Schools are invited to submit student artwork celebrating cultural diversity for the 2027 calendar by Friday 11 September 2026. 2027 is the year of the Goat and, according to the Australian Chinese Zodiac, the Koala.

Information regarding the submission of artwork is available via the Department of Education website <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/multicultural-education/culture-and-diversity/calendar-for-cultural-diversity> or email: culturaldiversitycalendar@det.nsw.edu.au

Teaching and learning activities

Information to support intercultural understanding and build knowledge about cultural diversity is available via the Department of Education website <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/multicultural-education>

For additional resources teachers may visit:

www.roads-to-refuge.com.au www.racismnoway.com.au <https://alltogether.org.au/>

For more information about Wiradjuri language resources teachers may visit:

Wiradjuri Workbooks: Volume 1 Ngumbay, Volume 2 Bula. Diane Riley-McNaboe, Lynette Riley <https://www.sbs.com.au/learn/resources/learn-wiradjuri-volume-1-ngumbay/>

Wiradjuri dictionary WCC language program <https://wiradjuri.wccpl.com.au/>

Land of the Wiradjuri Paul Greenwood https://riverina-e.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doi/svs/schools/riverina-e/localcontent/wiradjuri_book_pdf.pdf

Traditional Wiradjuri Culture Elizabeth Shenstone & Paul Greenwood <https://books.apple.com/au/book/traditional-wiradjuri-culture/id987810429?mt=13>

Note

Dates and events printed in the calendar are confirmed at the time of press. *Dates marked with an asterisk indicate that the date may be subject to change; or that there may be regional and/or denominational differences in when the event is observed.

Design by Thommen Design

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Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



January

The Handsome Kookaburra Greet the Early Morning Sunrise
 Winter Chap - Year 4 - Excelsior Public School - Darug Country
 This handsome kookaburra calmly perches on a branch, peacefully overlooking the beautiful scene. Very tranquil, it gazes up at the sky as sun slowly flows up, making bright colours splash everywhere.

This month's community language is Armenian

Յունուար

Monday Երկուշաբթի	Tuesday Երեքշաբթի	Wednesday Չորեքշաբթի	Thursday Հինգշաբթի	Friday Ուրբաթ	Saturday Շաբաթ	Sunday Կիրակի
			1 Public holiday New Year's Day Ganjitsu (Japan)	2	3	4 World Braille Day (UN) Independence Day - Republic of the Union of Myanmar
5 Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji (Sikh)	6 Armenian Orthodox Christmas Day (Christian)	7 Orthodox Christmas Day (Christian)	8	9	10	11
12	13 Maghi* (Sikh cultural festival)	14 Orthodox New Year (Christian)	15	16 Isra and Mi'raj / Night Journey* (Muslim)	17	18 World Religion Day
19 Martin Luther King Day - USA	20	21	22	23 Vasant Panchami* (Hindu)	24 International Day of Education (UN)	25 Robert Burns Day (Scotland)
26 Public Holiday Australia Day Survival Day	27 School Development Day (Eastern Division) International Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)	28 School Development Day (Eastern Division)	29 School Development Day (Eastern Division)	30 School Development Day (Eastern Division)	31 National Day - Nauru	

Other events

- 1 January: Liberation Day - Cuba; Independence Day - Haiti; National Day - Sudan
- 1 Jan - 31 Dec*: Badu Gili Sydney Opera House
- 6 January: Epiphany (Christian); Twelfth Night (Christian); Three Kings Day (Christian); Nollaig na mBan (Little Women's Christmas - Ireland)
- 8 - 25 January: Sydney Festival
- 10 - 11 January: Bowral Show
- 16 - 18 January: 37th Illawarra Folk Festival
- 16 - 25 January: Country Music Festival, Tamworth
- 23 - 24 January: Kiama Show
- 26 January: International Day of Clean Energy (UN)
- 30 - 31 January: Berry Show
- 30 Jan - 1 Feb: Bundarra Show and Rodeo

Milestones

- 1 January: Federation of Australia formed 1901; Australian national anthem lyrics modified to "for we are one and free" 2021
- 9 January: Final convict transportation to Australia (Western Australia) 1868
- 16 January: First group of free settlers arrived at Port Jackson 1793
- 22 January: Australia signed the United Nations Convention on Refugees 1954
- 26 January: Nationality and Citizens Act created status of 'Australian Citizen' 1948



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February

Peace Surrounds Us
 Year 9 and 10 Painting – Coffs Harbour High School – Gumbaynggirr Country
 Our class of 24 from 9 nationalities collaborated to create these horses, inspired by the 2026 Chinese Zodiac and the work of Franz Marc. Students co-ordinated with the artists of neighbouring panels, aligning and colour matching to achieve the final composition. The work represents diversity working in harmony. The horses reflect the year of the horse; strength, freedom and vitality, while the colour scheme represents the richness in cultural diversity in our community and the beauty in working together to achieve peace.

This month's community language is Maltese

Frar

	Monday it-Tnejn	Tuesday it-Tlieta	Wednesday l-Erbgħa	Thursday il-Ħamis	Friday il-Ġimgħa	Saturday is-Sibt	Sunday il-Ħadd
Week 1							1
2	2 Term 1 begins for students (Eastern Division) Groundhog Day (USA) World Wetlands Day (UN)	3 School Development Day (Western Division) Lalat Al Bara'ah* (Muslim)	4 School Development Day (Western Division) Parinirvana Day (Buddhist - Vajrayana tradition)	5 School Development Day (Western Division)	6 School Development Day (Western Division) Waitangi Day - Aotearoa/New Zealand	7 Independence Day - Grenada	8
3	9 Term 1 begins for students (Western division) St Maroun's Feast Day (Maronite Christian)	10 Safer Internet Day	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science (UN)	12 St Vartan's Day (Armenian Christian)	13 World Radio Day (UN)	14 St Valentine's Day	15 Maha Shivaratri* (Hindu) National Day - Serbia
4	16 Independence Day - Lithuania	17 Discovery Day - Lord Howe Island (1788) Banjo Patersons' Birthday Lunar New Year - Year of the Horse	18 First day of Ramadan (Muslim) Ash Wednesday - Lent begins (Christian) Independence Day - The Gambia	19	20 World Day of Social Justice (UN)	21 International Mother Language Day (UN)	22 National Day - Saint Lucia
5	23 National Day - Brunei Darussalam National Day - Guyana Emperor's Birthday (Japan)	24 Independence Day - Estonia	25 National Day - Kuwait	26	27 Schools Clean Up Day Independence Day - Dominican Republic	28 Sydney Mardi Gras Parade	

Other events

- 1 - 7 February World Interfaith Harmony Week (UN)
- 4 February Independence Commemoration Day - Sri Lanka
- 6 - 7 February Nowra Show
- 6 - 8 February National Multicultural Festival, Canberra
- 7 February Bankstown Lunar New Year celebrations
- 7 - 8 February Crookwell Show
- 12 February Anniversary of the 1967 Freedom Ride
- 12 February - 1 March City of Sydney Lunar Festival
- 14 February Dunedoo Show
- 17 February Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day (Christian)
- Lunar New Year (Buddhist - Mahayana tradition)
- Xin Nian (China) Solnal (Korea)
- Tsagaan Sar (Mongolia) Tét (Vietnam), Losar (Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan)
- 17 February Independence Day - Kosovo
- 18 February - 18 March Ramadan (Muslim)* begins sunset 17 February
- 18 February - 2 April Lent (Christian)
- 19 Feb - 15 March Lakemba Nights Ramadan - Thurs to Sun each week
- 20 - 22 February Canberra Royal Show
- 20 - 22 February Gundagai Show
- 23 February Magha Puja Day (Buddhist - Theravada tradition)
- Clean Monday - Orthodox (Christian)
- 23 February - 12 April Orthodox Great Lent (Christian)
- 27 February - 1 March Cobargo Folk Festival
- 28 February - 8 March SeaWeek

Milestones

- 7 February Colony of New South Wales formally proclaimed 1788
- 13 February Australian Government apology to Indigenous Australians 2008
- 15 February Current NSW state flag adopted 1876
- 18 February First school in the NSW Colony opened 1793



*Events marked with an asterisk indicate that the date may be subject to change; or that there may be regional and/or denominational differences in when the event is observed.

**Regional customs or moon sightings may cause a variation of the date for Islamic holidays such as Ramadan. In some lunar calendars the day begins at sunset, so there may be a one-day error depending on when the New Moon is first seen.

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Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



Recipes for Peace
 Emily He, Amani Warida, Eva Yuceturk, Yara Shostak, Dorothy Cha, Emily Munkbayar, Jenny Li, Caroline Zhu - Year 7 - Wentworth Point High School - Lands of the Wangal People
 "Recipes for Peace" presents Year 7 students' drawings and paintings of special cultural dishes on paper plates, each titled in their first language. Plants from each country adorn plate edges. Arranged on a picnic-style tablecloth, the collaborative work celebrates diversity, connection and shared traditions as pathways towards peace.

This month's community language is Oromo
Bitootessa

March

	Monday Wiixata	Tuesday Kibxata	Wednesday Roobii	Thursday Kamisa	Friday Jimaata	Saturday Sanbata	Sunday Dilbata
Week 5	30 International Day of Zero Waste (UN)	31					1 First day of autumn St David's Day (Wales)
6	2	3 Purim/Festival of Lots (Jewish) begins at sunset 2 March World Wildlife Day (UN) National Day - Bulgaria	4 Holi* (Hindu)	5 Foundation Day - Norfolk Island World Day of Prayer (Christian) Independence Day - Ghana	6	7	8 International Women's Day (UN)
7	9 Canberra Day Commonwealth Day	10	11 National Assessment Program (NAPLAN) commences	12 National Day - Mauritius	13	14 Nanakshahi New Year Day (Sikh) Pi Day (Mathematics)	15 Ides of March International Day to Combat Islamophobia (UN)
8	16 Laylatul Al Qadr/Night of Destiny* (Muslim)	17 St Patrick's Day (Ireland)	18	19 National Close the Gap Day St Joseph's Feast Day (Maronite Christian)	20 Eid Al Fitr* (Muslim) French Language Day (UN) International Day of Happiness (UN)	21 Autumn equinox Harmony Day Naw-Rúz (New Year Bahá'í) Independence Day - Namibia	22 World Water Day (UN)
9	23 World Meteorological Day (UN) National Day - Pakistan	24 World Tuberculosis Day (WHO)	25 Independence Day - Greece	26 Independence Day - Bangladesh	27 Rama Navami* (Hindu)	28	29 Palm Sunday (Christian) Neighbour Day

Other events

- 1 March Clean Up Australia Day
- 2 - 15 March NSW Seniors Festival: Live life in colour!
- 3 March Yuan Xiao/Lantern Festival (Chinese cultural festival)
Campsie Lantern Festival*
Hola Mohalla (Sikh cultural festival)
Boorowa Show
Blacktown City Show
Deniliquin Show
NAPLAN test window
13 - 17 March Parwonaya (Mandaean)
14 March Binda Picnic Races
14 March International Day of Mathematics (UNESCO)
16 - 22 March Harmony Week: Everyone belongs
20 March National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Tunisia - Tunisia
Camden Show - Still a Country Show!
Yass Show
20 - 21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN)
21 March International Day of Nowruz (UN)
21 March International Day of Forests (UN)
21 March World Poetry Day (UNESCO)
21 - 27 March Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination (UN)
26 - 28 March Toowoomba Royal Show
27 - 29 March Newcastle Writers Festival
29 March - 5 April Holy Week (Christian)

Milestones

- 25 March Indigenous ex-servicemen granted voting rights 1949



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Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



April

Harmony in Flight
 Years 3 – 6 – Eleebana Public School – Awabakal Country
 This kookaburra, formed with painted leaves, represents the Lunar Year of the Kookaburra. It reflects harmony between people, cultures, and the natural world, guiding us towards peace.

This month's community language is Nauruan

April

	Monday Mondak	Tuesday Rindak	Wednesday Mittwok	Thursday Donerrtak	Friday Preidak	Saturday Tarere	Sunday Tondak
Week 10			1 April Fools' Day	2 Term 1 ends Maundy Thursday (Christian) First day of Passover/Pesach (Jewish)	3 Public holiday Good Friday (Christian)	4 Easter Saturday (Christian) Daylight saving time ends Independence Day – Senegal	5 Easter Sunday (Christian) Orthodox Palm Sunday (Christian) International Day of Conscience (UN)
	6 Public holiday Easter Monday (Christian) International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (UN)	7 World Health Day (WHO)	8 Hana Matsuri (Buddhist - Japanese cultural festival)	9	10 Orthodox Good/Holy Friday (Christian)	11 Orthodox Holy Saturday (Christian)	12 Orthodox Easter Sunday / Pascha (Christian) International Day of Human Space Flight (UN)
	13 Orthodox Easter Monday (Christian) International Turban Day	14 Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day Hindu Solar New Year* (Hindu) Khalsa Day - Vaisakhi (Sikh)	15 Ser Sal / Yazidi New Year (Yazidi)	16	17 Independence Day – Syrian Arab Republic	18 World Heritage Day National Day – Zimbabwe	19
Week 1	20 School Development Day Chinese Language Day (UN)	21 School Development Day First day of Ridvan (Bahá'í)	22 Term 2 begins for students International Mother Earth Day (UN)	23 English Language Day (UN) Spanish Language Day (UN) St George's Day	24	25 ANZAC Day	26 Yom Haatzmaut/National Day - Israel Union Day - United Republic of Tanzania
2	27 King's Day - Netherlands	28	29 Ninth day of Ridvan (Bahá'í)	30 International Jazz Day (UNESCO)			

Other events

- 1 April – 30 June Red Shield Appeal
- 2 April International Children's Book Day
- 2 – 6 April National Folk Festival, Canberra
- 2 – 9 April Pesach (Jewish) begins at sunset April 1
- 2 – 13 April Sydney Royal Easter Show
- 3 – 4 April The 121st Maclean Highland Gathering
- 5 April Qingming/Tomb Sweeping Festival (Chinese cultural festival)
- 5 April Blessing of the Fleet, Ulladulla Harbour
- 5 – 11 April Orthodox Holy Week (Christian)
- 13/14 – 15/16 April Solar New Year Festivals (Buddhist - Theravada tradition)
Choul Chnam Thmey (Cambodia)
Pi Mai Lao (Laos)
Thingya (Myanmar)
Aluth Awurudda (Sri Lanka)
Songkran (Thailand)
- 14 – 15 April Kempsey Show
- 16 – 26 April National Youth Week
- 18 April Bundanoon is Brigadoon
- 18 – 19 April Hunter Valley Steamfest, Maitland
- 18 April – 18 May Australian Heritage NSW Festival: Symphony of Stories
- 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day (Turkey)
- 24 – 30 April World Immunisation Week (WHO)
- 27 April Independence Day – Sierra Leone
Freedom Day – South Africa
Togolais National Day – Togo
Australian Celtic Festival: Year of Scotland

Milestones

- 3 April UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People endorsed by Australia 2009
- 25 April The ANZACs landed at Gallipoli 1915
- 29 April Captain Cook landed at Botany Bay 1770



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Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



May

Acknowledgement of Country
 3/4L – Russell Vale Public School – Dharawal Country
 This artwork is a representation of Russell Vale Public School's Acknowledgement of Country, honouring the Elders and traditional custodians of the Five Islands and Dharawal People, symbolising unity and a shared journey towards peace.

This month's community language is Welsh

Mai

	Monday dydd Llun	Tuesday dydd Mawrth	Wednesday dydd Mercher	Thursday dydd Iau	Friday dydd Gwener	Saturday dydd Sadwrn	Sunday dydd Sul
Week 2					1 May Day Stewart House Day International Labour Day National Day - Marshall Islands	2 Twelfth day of Ridvan (Bahá'í)	3 World Press Freedom Day (UNESCO) National Day - Poland
3	4 Vesak/Buddha Day* (Buddhist - all traditions) International Firefighters' Day	5 World Portuguese Language Day UNESCO Kodomo no Hi/Children's Day (Japan and Korea)	6	7	8 World Red Crescent Day World Red Cross Day	9 Europe Day (European Union)	10 Mother's Day
4	11	12 International Nurses Day United Nations Day of Vesak (UN)	13	14 Ascension Day (Christian) National Day - Paraguay	15 National Walk Safely to School Day* International Day of Families (UN)	16 International Day of Living Together in Peace (UN)	17 Dehwa Daymaneh (Mandaean) International Day Against Homophobia Constitution Day - Norway
5	18 International Museum Day: Museums, Education and Research	19	20 World Bee Day (UN) National Day - Cameroon Restoration of Independence - Timor-Leste	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (UN)	22 First day of Shavuot/Feast of Weeks (Jewish) Unification Day - Yemen	23	24 Declaration of the Báb (Bahá'í) Pentecost/Whitsunday (Christian) Independence Day - Eritrea
6	25 World Football Day (UN) Africa Day (African Union) National Day - Argentina Independence Day - Jordan	26 National Sorry Day King's Birthday - Denmark National Day - Georgia	27 First day of Eid Al Adha (Muslim)	28 Republic Day - Azerbaijan National Day - Ethiopia National Day - Nepal	29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (UN)	30 International Day of Potato (UN)	31 World No Tobacco Day (WHO)

Other events

- 1 - 3 May: Selective High School Placement Test
- 1 - 3 May: Opportunity Class (OC) Placement Test
- 1 - 3 May: Bathurst Royal Show
- 3 May: Macarthur Multicultural Children's Festival, Koshigaya Park, Campbelltown
- 7 - 10 May: Warialda Show
- 9 May: Bourke Show
- 9 - 10 May: Bellingen Show
- 11 - 17 May: National Families Week*
- 11 - 17 May: National Careers Week: Connect Create Thrive
- 14 May: Saga Dawa (Buddhist - Vajrayana tradition)
- 16 May: Blacktown City Medieval Fayre, Knox Road Doonside
- 16 - 17 May: Thirlmere Festival of Steam
- 18 - 24 May: National Volunteer Week
- 18 - 24 May: Sydney Writers Festival
- 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity (UN)
- 22 - 23 May: Shavuot (Jewish) begins at sunset 21 May
- 22 May - 13 June: Vivid Sydney
- 23 - 24 May: Red Shield Doorknock Appeal* (The Salvation Army)
- 26 May - 12 July: Gai-Mariagal Festival (Northern Sydney region)
- 27 - 30 May: Eid Al Adha* (Muslim) begins at sunset 26 May
- 27 May - 3 June: National Reconciliation Week
- 30 May: Gulargambone Show

Milestones

- 6 May: The Commonwealth Migration Act 1958 was amended, effectively dismantling the White Australia Policy 1966
- 22 May: Convict transportation to NSW ended 1840
- 27 May: The 1967 referendum amended the Constitution to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the population



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Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



June

Resting Places
 Year 10 – Visual Arts – Sylvania High School – Land of the Dharawal people
 "Resting Places" is a series of lino prints exploring organic and natural forms layered with found objects and mixed media, reflecting the delicate balance of the natural world. The imagery shows our student's interpretation of a peaceful place. This series suggests that peace is not a fixed state, but a process of joining, mending, and attuning ourselves to the natural rhythms that sustain us.

This month's community language is Solomon Islands Pijin

Jun

	Monday Mande	Tuesday Tiusde	Wednesday Wenesde	Thursday Tosde	Friday Fraide	Saturday Sarere	Sunday Sande
Week 7	1 First day of winter Global Day of Parents (UN) Independence Day – Samoa	2 Foundation of the Republic – Italy	3 Mabo Day World Bicycle Day (UN)	4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (UN)	5 World Environment Day (UN) Constitution Day – Denmark	6 Russian Language Day (UN) National Day – Sweden	7
8	8 Public Holiday King's birthday holiday (NSW) World Oceans Day (UN) Bounty Day – Norfolk Island	9	10 Portugal Day, Camões Day and Day of Portuguese Communities – Portugal	11 International Day of Play (UN)	12 Independence Day – Philippines National Day – Russian Federation	13	14 World Blood Donor Day (WHO)
9	15 Global Wind Day	16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji (Sikh) Hijra/Islamic New Year* (Muslim)	17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (UN) National Day – Iceland	18 International Day for Countering Hate Speech (UN)	19 Tuen Ng/ Dragon Boat Festival (Chinese cultural festival)	20 World Refugee Day (UN)	21 Winter Solstice
10	22	23 International Olympic Day National Day and Official Birthday of HRH the Grand Duke – Luxembourg	24	25 Day of the Seafarer (UN)	26 Ashura* (Muslim) National Day – Madagascar	27 Independence Day – Djibouti	28
11	29 International Day of the Tropics (UN) National Day – Seychelles	30 Independence Day – Democratic Republic of the Congo					

Other events

3 – 29* June	Sydney Sick Kids Appeal, Children's Hospital at Westmead
6 June	Warren Show
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour (UN)
14 – 20 June	National Refugee Week
16 June	International Day of the African Child (WHO)
25 June	National Day – Croatia Independence Day – Mozambique National Day – Slovenia
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (UN) International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (UN)
30 June	International Day of Parliamentarism (UN)

Milestones

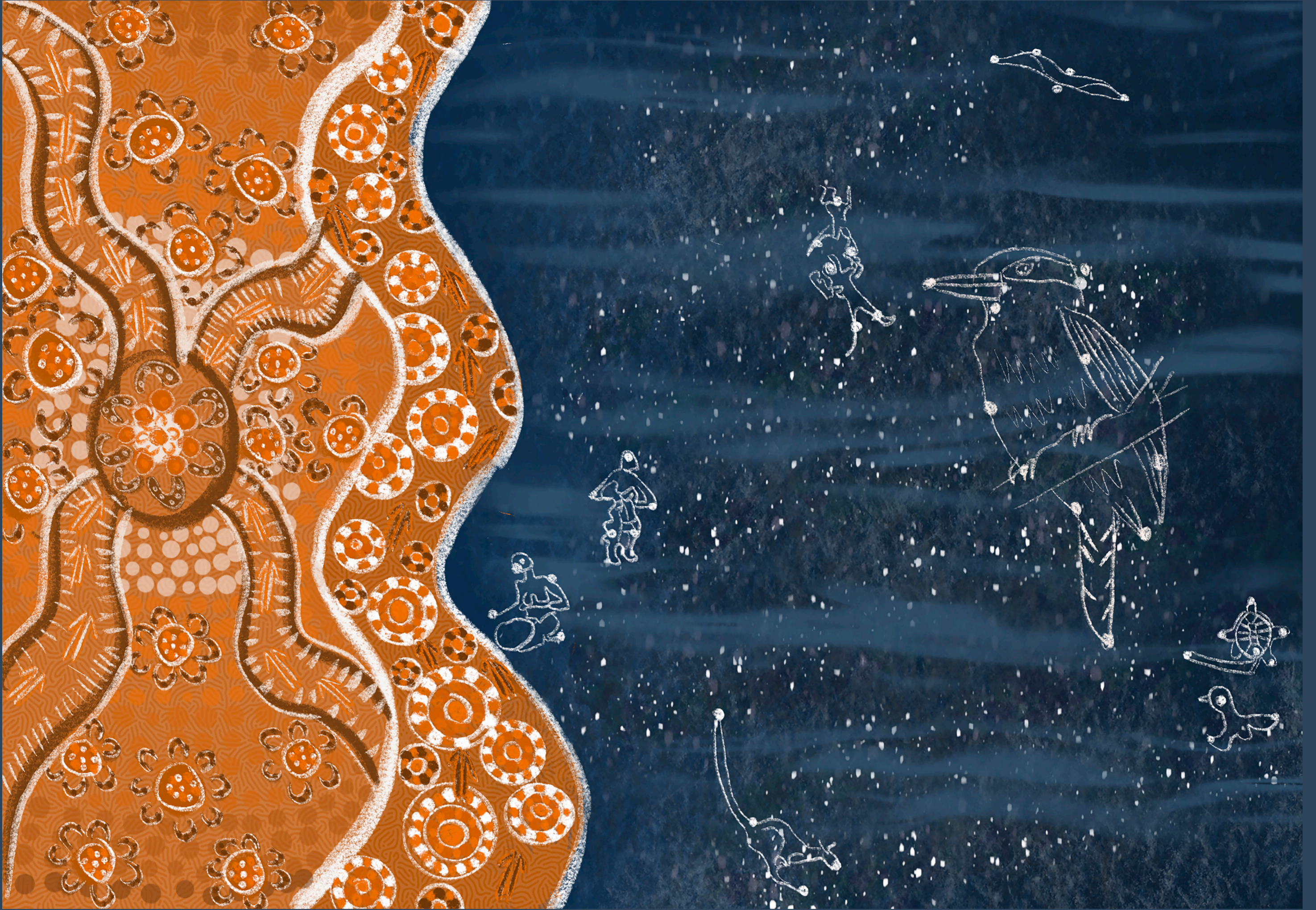
1 June	NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
3 June	Mabo Native Title High Court Decision 1992
11 June	Commonwealth of Australia Racial Discrimination Act 1975
26 June	Australia joined the United Nations 1945



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Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



July

Living Star

Lynne Yang - Year 5 - Matthew Pearce Public School - Darug Country
My artwork shows the theme, 'Towards Peace' in the sand, because the emu tracks and paths lead to a meeting place (in Aboriginal symbols). The constellations reflected in the water include many from Aboriginal astronomy (except for the kookaburra), and are meant to show how we all share one sky.

This month's community language is Wiradjuri

Ngurumbi

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	The Wiradjuri people did not name the days of the week, instead acknowledging cycles of the sun, the moon and the stars.						
Week 11			1 International Tartan Day (Australia) Asalha Puja - Dharma Day (Buddhist - Theravada tradition)	2 Salvation Army Founders' Day (Christian)	3 Term 2 ends National Day - Belarus	4 Liberation Day - Rwanda Independence Day - USA	5 National Day - Cape Verde National Day - Venezuela
	6 Dalai Lama's birthday National Day - Comoros National Day - Malawi	7 National Day - Solomon Islands	8	9 Independence Day - South Sudan	10 Martyrdom of the Bab (Bahá'í) Independence Day - Bahamas	11 World Population Day (UN) Anniversary of Mongolian People's Revolution - Mongolia	12 National Day - Kiribati National Day - Sao Tome and Principe
	13 National Day - Montenegro	14 Bastille Day - France	15 Kanshuzahly (Mandaean) World Youth Skills Day (UN)	16 Dehba ad Raba (Mandaean)	17	18 Nelson Mandela International Day (UN)	19 St Charbel's Feast (Maronite Christian)
Week 1	20 School Development Day World Chess Day (UN) National Day - Colombia	21 Term 3 begins for students Accession of King Leopold I (1831) - Belgium	22	23 Anniversary of Revolution of 23 July - Egypt	24 National Tree Day for schools	25 World Drowning Prevention Day (UN)	26 National Tree Day National Day - Liberia National Day - Maldives
2	27	28 The Kings birthday - Thailand Independence Day - Peru	29 National Out of School Care Educators Day Guru Purnima (Hindu)	30 Throne Day - Morocco Independence Day - Vanuatu	31		

Other events

- 1 July National Day - Burundi
Canada Day - Canada
National Day - Somalia
- 5 - 12 July NAIDOC Week
- 21 - 22 July Dehwa Sheshyan (Mandaean)
- 25 July Bankstown Bites festival
- 26 July - 1 August Superhero Week: Children's Hospital at Westmead
- 30 July International Day of Friendship (UN)

Milestones

- 17 July UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability ratified by Australia 2008

An Acknowledgement of Wiradjuri Country

Yuwin-dhu _____
I'm named _____

Ngadhu banhi-gu gulbarra
I'd like to acknowledge one

Wiradjuri mayiny-galang ngan.gu
Wiradjuri people whose

Ngurambang-ga nginha ngan.girra
Traditional country this meeting

Dhurinya gayi-dhi.
is being held-on

Mandaang guwu ngaanha-gu!
Thank you for listening!

Diane Riley-McNaboe - Auntie Di
Wiradjuri Workbooks: Volume 1 Ngumbaay



Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



August

Woven Together

Elina Anwar, Cloud Calumpang, Alessio Dore, Manaia Evans-Young, Maiyah Lagarde, Juliana Lopez Garcia, Lola Muscat, Phaedra Spiegelman Scholtz

Year 2 Daintree - Plunkett Street Public School - Gadigal Country

Our class art piece is a vibrant woven tapestry of our many cultures. Each part represents our unique backgrounds, yet together we create a strong, colourful whole. By learning side-by-side we build trust, celebrate differences, and show that peace grows when everyone feels valued, safe and united.

This month's community language is Gujarati

ગસ્ટ

	Monday સોમવાર	Tuesday મન્ગલવાર	Wednesday બુન્વાર	Thursday ગુરુવાર	Friday શુક્રવાર	Saturday શનિવાર	Sunday રવિવાર
Week 2	31 National Day - Kyrgyz Republic National Day - Malaysia National Day - Trinidad and Tobago					1 Horses' birthday National Day - Benin Foundation of the Swiss Confederation Day - Switzerland	2
3	3 Public Education Day	4 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day Constitution Day - Cook Islands	5	6 Hiroshima Peace Day Independence Day - Bolivia National Day - Jamaica	7 National Day - Cote d'Ivoire	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People (UN) National Day - Singapore
4	10 National Day - Ecuador	11 National Day - Chad	12 International Youth Day (UN)	13 Obon (Buddhist - Japan) International Left-Handers Day	14	15 Independence Day - Republic of Congo Independence Day - India National Day - Liechtenstein	16
5	17 National Day - Gabon Proclamation of Independence - Indonesia	18	19	20	21	22	23
6	24 National Day - Ukraine	25 Milad Al Nabi/Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) birthday* (Muslim) Independence Day - Uruguay	26 Meals on Wheels Day	27 National Day - Republic of Moldova	28 Raksha Bandhan* (Hindu) Wear it Purple Day	29 International Day against Nuclear Tests (UN)	30

Other events

- 3 - 7 August Education Week - Public Schools NSW
- 7 - 9 August Mungindi Show
- 14 - 15 August Wee Waa Show
- 15 August Ullambana - Hungry Ghost Festival (Buddhist - Mahayana tradition)
- 15 - 16 August International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
- 15 - 23 August National Science Week: Seeds of Science: Nurturing Knowledge for All
- 16 August Weethalle Show
- 17 - 21 August Bullying No Way Week
- 22 - 28 August Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week: Book an Adventure
- 24 - 30 August National Skills Week
- 29 August Barellan Show
- 30 Aug - 5 Sept Legacy Week

Milestones

- 1 August First sitting of the New South Wales Legislative Council 1843
- 1 August Snowy Mountains Authority established 1949
- 11 August New South Wales constituted a Crown Colony 1824
- 17 August First NSW welfare institution, the Female Orphan School, opened 1801
- 27 August NSW Women's Franchise Act 1902



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Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



September

Towards Peace: Respectful and Shared Learning on Awabakal Country
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Group: Maalaa Gundhi - K - 6 - Tighes Hill Public School - Awabakal Country
 This artwork was created in our cultural group, Maalaa Gundhi (meaning 'tree house'—a safe and welcoming space), where students decorated handprints using traditional Aboriginal techniques to represent what is important to them and their culture. Set within the peace sign, it embodies their journey toward peace through pride, connection, and heritage.

This month's community language is Slovak

september

	Monday pondelok	Tuesday utorok	Wednesday streda	Thursday štvrtok	Friday piatok	Saturday sobota	Sunday nedel'a
Week 7		1 First day of Spring National Wattle Day First Parkash of Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh)	2 Indigenous Literacy Day National Day - Vietnam	3 Australia National Flag Day National Foundation Day - San Marino	4 Legacy Badge Day	5 Krishna Janmashtami* (Hindu) International Day of Charity (UN)	6 Father's Day Independence Day - Eswatini
8	7 National Threatened Species Day Independence Day - Brazil	8 International Literacy Day (UNESCO) Independence Day - Republic of North Macedonia	9 National Day - Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) National Day - Tajikistan	10 R U OK? Day	11 Students artwork due for 2027 Calendar for Cultural Diversity	12 First day of Rosh Hashanah/ New Year (Jewish) World First Aid Day	13 National Bilby Day
9	14	15 Ganesha Chaturthi* (Hindu) International Day of Democracy (UN)	16 Proclamation of Independence Day - Mexico Independence Day - Papua New Guinea	17 Australian Citizenship Day	18 National Day - Chile	19 Constitution Day - Nepal Independence Day - Saint Kitts and Nevis	20 World Cleanup Day (UN)
10	21 Yom Kippur (Jewish) begins at sunset 20 September International Day of Peace (UN)	22 Proclamation of Independence Day - Mali	23 Spring Equinox International Day of Sign Languages (UN) National Day - Saudi Arabia	24 Pavarana - End of the Rains Retreat (Buddhist Theravada tradition)	25 Term 3 ends Independence Day - Guinea- Bissau	26 Save the Koala Day First day of Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles (Jewish)	27 World Tourism Day (UN)
	28 Confucius' birthday	29 National Police Remembrance Day	30 International Translation Day (UN) National Day - Botswana				

Other events

- 1 September Constitution Day - Slovak Republic
National Day - Uzbekistan
- 5 - 13 September History Week (NSW)
- 6 September Finley Show
- 6 - 12 September National Child Protection Week
- 11 - 12 September Hay Show
- 11 Sept - 5 Oct* Tulip Time Festival, Bowral
- 12 - 13 September Forbes Show
- 12 - 13 September Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) begins at sunset 11 September
- 12 Sep - 11 Oct Floriade, Canberra
- 13* September Festival of the Winds, Bondi
- 15 September Independence Day - Costa Rica
Independence Day - El Salvador
Independence Day - Guatemala
Independence Day - Honduras
Independence Day - Nicaragua
- 16 September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (UN)
- 18 - 20 September Merriwa Show
- 21 September National Day - Armenia
National Day - Belize
Independence Day - Malta
- 24 - 26 September Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Festival)
- 25 September Zhong Qiu Jie/Mid-Autumn/Mooncake Festival (Chinese cultural festival)
- 26 - 27 September Sukkot (Jewish) begins at sunset 25 September

Milestones

- 13 September UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007
- 16 September Television in Australia launched 1956



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Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



The Winding River
 Hunter Kelly - Year 6 - Blue Haven Public School - Darkinjung Land
 "The Winding River" is a vibrant painting that symbolises peace through the gentle flow of a purple river. The winding path represents life's journey, guiding communities towards unity, balance, and healing, while the surrounding dots reflect harmony with Country and each other.



Equality
 Piper Lee - Year 6 - Blue Haven Public School - Darkinjung Land
 This artwork beautifully conveys a journey toward peace. Through harmonious colours and flowing patterns, it reflects unity, respect for Country, and the importance of coming together as one community to heal, share, and create a future built on balance and understanding.



Native Land
 Mia Puglisi - Year 6 - Blue Haven Public School - Darkinjung Land
 "Native Land" is a striking painting that carries a message of peace. Its intricate patterns and earthy tones reflect the deep connection to Country, symbolising harmony, unity, and the healing power of community coming together in respect and balance with the land.

October

This month's community language is Vietnamese
tháng mười

	Monday thứ hai	Tuesday thứ ba	Wednesday thứ tư	Thursday thứ năm	Friday thứ sáu	Saturday thứ bảy	Sunday chủ nhật
				1 International Day of Older Persons (UN)	2 International Day of Non-Violence (UN) Mahatma Gandhi's birthday Independence Day - Guinea	3 Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) begins at sunset 2 October National Foundation Day - Republic of Korea (South Korea)	4 Daylight saving time begins Simchat Torah (Jewish) begins at sunset 3 October Independence Day - Lesotho
	5 NSW Public Holiday Labour Day World Teachers Day (UNESCO)	6 World Habitat Day (UN)	7	8 Kathina (Buddhist - Theravada tradition)	9 Peter Norman Day World Post Day (UN) Hangeul Day (South Korea) Independence Day - Uganda	10 National Day - Fiji National Day or Double Tenth Day - Republic of China (Taiwan)	11 International Day of the Girl Child (UN)
Week 1	12 School Development Day	13 Term 4 begins for students	14 Ead Fel (Mandaean)	15	16 World Food Day (UN)(FAO)	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (UN)	18 Chung Yeung/Double Ninth Festival (Chinese cultural festival)
2	19 National Day - Niue	20 Gurgaddi (Installation) Day of Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh)	21 Dussehra* (Hindu)	22	23	24 United Nations Day (UN) Independence Day - Zambia	25 Grandparents Day - NSW
3	26 National Day - Austria	27 National Day - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Day - Turkmenistan	28 World Children's Day National Day - Czech Republic	29 National Day - Turkey	30 Teacher's Day - Australia	31 National Mosque Open Day* All Hallows Eve (Christian) Hallowe'en Dehwa Honina (Mandaean)	

Other events

1 October	National Day - China National Day - Cyprus National Day - Nigeria National Day - Palau Independence Day - Tuvalu
1 - 31 October	International School Libraries Month
3 October	Day of German Unity - Germany
4 October	World Animal Day
4 - 10 October	World Space Week (UN)
6 - 13 October	Jamayi /Feast of the Assembly (Yazidi)
10 October	Harden Kite Festival*
10 October	World Mental Health Day (WHO)
10 - 11 October	Taree Show
11 October	Navratri begins* (Hindu)
11 - 17 October	Anti-Poverty Week
12 October	Norfolk Island Royal Show
12 October	Independence Day - Equatorial Guinea National Day - Spain
	Thanksgiving Day - Canada
16 - 17 October	Cootamundra Show
17 October*	Ryde Granny Smith Festival
18 - 25 October	NSW Aboriginal Languages Week
19 - 25 October	National Water Week
23 Oct - 1 Nov	Jacaranda Festival, Grafton
24 October	June Show
24 - 30 October	Disarmament Week (UN)
25 - 31 October	National Children's Week
29 Oct - 8 Nov	Festival of Fisher's Ghost, Campbelltown
31 October	World Cities Day (UN)

Milestones

11 October	Coat of Arms of New South Wales granted by Royal Warrant 1906
26 October	Uluru handed back to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara People 1985



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Towards peace

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November

Our Peace Birds
 Alycia Parkinson (l) and Mikey Reitano (r) - Kindergarten - Malabar Public School - Land of the Bidjigal and Gadigal Clans
 Rainbow Lorikeets represent birds of peace to us. We see them in the trees in our school, near our homes and in our local Malabar area, our Country. Their vibrant colours are so beautiful and remind us to embrace our true colours, celebrate individuality, and find peace within ourselves.

This month's community language is Malayalam

നവംബർ

	Monday തിങ്കളാഴ്ച	Tuesday ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച	Wednesday ബുധനാഴ്ച	Thursday വ്യാഴാഴ്ച	Friday വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച	Saturday ശനിയാഴ്ച	Sunday ഞായറാഴ്ച
Week 3	30 Independence Day - Barbados St Andrew's Day - Scotland						1 All Saints' Day (Christian)
4	2 All Souls' Day (Christian)	3 Melbourne Cup Day	4 National Day - Tonga	5 Guy Fawkes' Day (UK)	6 Kindness Day (Australia)	7	8 Diwali* (Hindu) Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikh cultural festival)
5	9 World Freedom Day Independence Day - Cambodia	10 Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í)	11 Remembrance/Armistice Day (1918) Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) National Day - Angola	12	13 World Kindness Day	14	15
6	16 International Day for Tolerance (UNESCO)	17 International Students Day	18 Proclamation of Independence Day - Latvia National Day - Oman	19 International Men's Day World Philosophy Day (UNESCO) National Day - Monaco	20 World Children's Day (UN)	21 World Philosophy Day (UN) World Television Day (UN)	22 Independence Day - Lebanon
7	23	24 Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji (Sikh) Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Sikh)	25 Thanksgiving Day - Norfolk Island	26 Thanksgiving Day - USA	27	28 Ascension of Abd'ul-Bahá (Bahá'í) National Day - Albania National Day - Mauritania	29 Advent Sunday (Christian)

Other events

1 November	Anniversary of the Revolution Day - Algeria
3 November	Independence Day - Antigua and Barbuda Independence Day - Dominica National Day - Federated States of Micronesia National Day - Panama
9 - 15 November	International Week of Science and Peace (UN)
9 - 15 November	National Recycling Week
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development (UNESCO)
13 - 14 November	Bulahdelah Show
13 - 14 November	Murrumburrah Harden Show
14 November	Stroud Brick and Rolling Pin Throwing Contest, Stroud
24 Nov - 24 Dec	Darling Harbour Christmas, Darling Harbour
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (UN)
25 November	Statehood Day - Bosnia and Herzegovina Independence Day - Suriname
27 - 28 November	Schools Spectacular, Qudos Bank Arena, Sydney Olympic Park
29 Nov - 24 Dec	Advent

Milestones

8 November	First Indigenous High Court Case 1934
16 November	Australian Government apology to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants 2009
30 November	First performance of Advance Australia Fair 1878



*Events marked with an asterisk indicate that the date may be subject to change; or that there may be regional and/or denominational differences in when the event is observed.

Towards peace

Calendar for Cultural Diversity 2026



December

The Colours of Peace
 Stage 1 (1/2D) – Wee Waa Public School – Gamilaroi Nation
 Stage 1 students have recently read the books, 'Out' and 'Two Blankets'. These stories show the journey that some people have to take to find peace. Students looked at the illustrations in these books and how colour was used to evoke mood and emotions. When they were asked what they thought peace would look like they all believed it would be beautiful and colourful.

This month's community language is Karenni

အနုပညာ

	Monday မဟုတ်ပေမယ့်	Tuesday မဟုတ်ပေမယ့်	Wednesday မဟုတ်ပေမယ့်	Thursday မဟုတ်ပေမယ့်	Friday မဟုတ်ပေမယ့်	Saturday မဟုတ်ပေမယ့်	Sunday မဟုတ်ပေမယ့်
Week 8		1 First day of summer National Day - Central African Republic National Day - Romania	2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)	3 International Day of People with Disabilities (UN)	4	5 First day of Chanukah/Festival of Lights (Jewish)	6 St Nicholas' Day Independence Day - Finland
Week 9	7	8 Bodhi Day* (Buddhist - Mahayana tradition)	9	10 Human Rights Day (UN)	11 International Mountain Day (UN) National Day - Burkina Faso	12 Jamhuri Day - Kenya	13 Ashoriya - Abu Al Haris (Mandaean)
Week 10	14	15	16 National Day - Bahrain Independence Day - Kazakhstan	17 Term 4 ends National Day - Bhutan	18 Roji and Eda Rojjet Ezi / Fasting and Feast of Ezi (Yazidi) International Migrants Day (UN) Arabic Language Day (UN)	19	20
	21 World Basketball Day (UN)	22 Summer Solstice	23	24 Christmas Eve (Christian)	25 Christmas Day (Christian)	26 Boxing Day	27
	28 Public Holiday	29	30 Batzmi (Yazidi)	31 New Year's Eve Hogmanay (Scotland)			

Other events

- 2 December: National Day - Lao People's Democratic Republic
- National Day - United Arab Emirates
- 4 - 6 December: Cherry Festival, Young
- 5 December: International Volunteer Day (UN)
World Soil Day (UN)
- 5 - 12 December: Chanukah (Jewish) begins at sunset
- 4 December: National Day - Niger
- 18 December: National Day - Qatar
- 20 December: International Human Solidarity Day (UN)
- 21 December: Martyrdom of Baba Ajit Singh and Baba Jujhar Singh (2 older sons of Guru Gobind Singh)
- National Day - Libya
- 24 December: Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race begins
- 26 December: Martyrdom of Baba Fateh Singh and Baba Zorawar Singh (2 younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh)
- 31 December: New Year's Eve celebrations

Milestones

- 10 December: Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 1948



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