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# 2023 KEY ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DATES

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# 2023 Key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dates



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**26 January**

Day of Mourning

.....

**13 February**

Apology Day

.....

**21 February**

International Mother  
Language Day

.....

**17 March**

Close the Gap Day

.....

**26 May**

National Sorry Day

.....

**27 May**

1967 Referendum  
Anniversary

.....

**27 May-3 June**

Reconciliation Week

All dates were correct at the time of creating this guide

# 2023 Key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dates



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## 3 June

Mabo Day

.....

## 3-10 July

NAIDOC Week

.....

## 4 August

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

.....

## 9 August

UN International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples

.....

## 23 August

Anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off

.....

## 7 September

Indigenous Literacy Day

All dates were correct at the time of creating this guide

# 2023 Key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dates



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## 13 September

Anniversary of The UN Declaration On The Rights of Indigenous People



## 26 October

Anniversary of the Uluru Handback



## 10 December

Human Rights Day



## 20 December

Anniversary of the Barunga Statement



## 24 December

Anniversary of the Native Title Act

All dates were correct at the time of creating this guide





# 26 JANUARY DAY OF MOURNING

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel that this day marks the commemoration of a deep loss – loss of their sovereign rights to their land, loss of family, loss of the right to practice their culture. This day is therefore also known as ‘Invasion Day’, ‘Day of Mourning’, ‘Survival Day’ or, since 2006, ‘Aboriginal Sovereignty Day’. The name Survival Day emphasises that Aboriginal culture is still strong and that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ identities are positive and alive, despite all that has happened since colonisation.

I know many educators think that the inclusion of Invasion Day in early childhood programs is too political and pushes adult agendas onto young children. Whilst I understand this view and way of thinking I also believe that by not doing something we are marginalizing Aboriginal people and catering to a mainstream way of thinking and being.



# EDUCATE DON'T CELEBRATE: 26 WAYS AND WHYS TO CHANGE THE DATE

The time to begin critically reflecting on what the 26th of January means and how your team will respond is now.

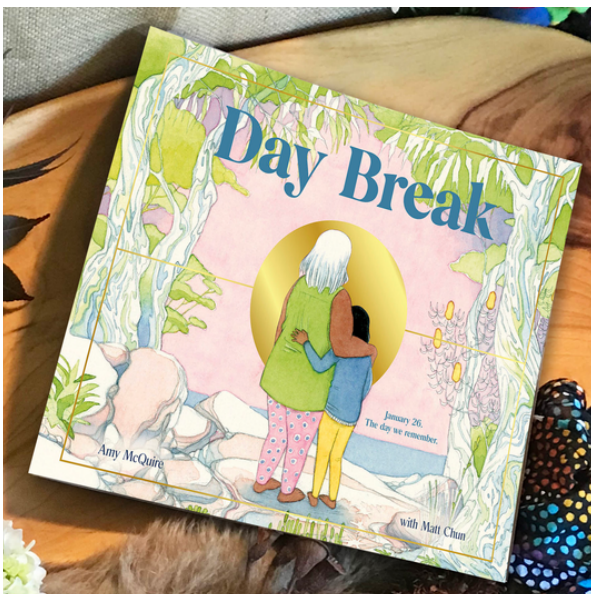
Koori Curriculum has developed free resources and provocations to help aid pedagogical debate and discussion with your colleagues and ignite change.

Scan the QR code to get access to this free series

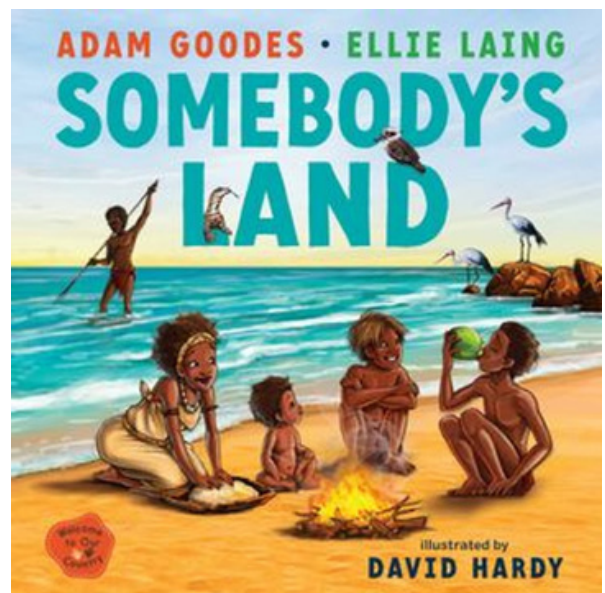


*Visit [kooricurriculum.com](https://kooricurriculum.com) for more resources*

# RESOURCES FOR 26 JANUARY




Day Break by Amy McQuire



Somebody's Land: WELCOME  
TO OUR COUNTRY by Adam  
Goodes & Ellie Laing





# 13 FEBRUARY NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY

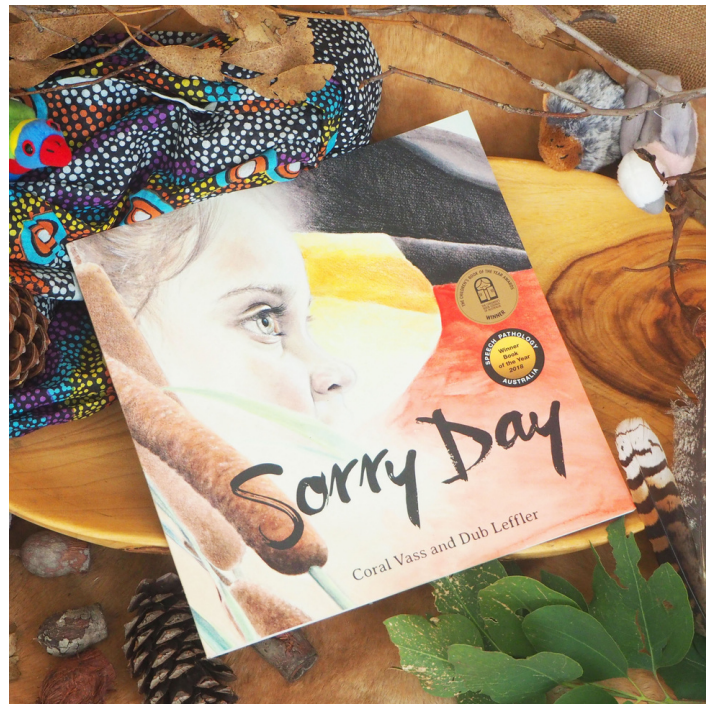
This event marks the anniversary of the Apology in 2008 to Australia's Indigenous peoples in the House of Representatives. The apology was made by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd for past laws, policies and practices that have impacted on Australia's First Nations Peoples, particularly members of the Stolen Generations.

The motion was supported by the Opposition and passed through both houses of Parliament. Many members of the Stolen Generations were present in the Chamber to hear the Apology and thousands more filled the Great Hall of Parliament House and flowed out onto the lawns to watch it on big screens.





# RESOURCE FOR 13 FEBRUARY



**Sorry Day by Coral Vass and  
Dub Leffler**







# 17 MARCH NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY

In 2006, more than 40 national organisations came together to form Close the Gap - Australia's largest ever campaign to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Every year, Australians are encouraged to hold their own event on National Close the Gap Day to raise awareness about the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Since 2006, the Close the Gap campaign has achieved an enormous amount through community support.





# 26 MAY NATIONAL SORRY DAY

This is a significant day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and particularly for Stolen Generations survivors. Commemorating 'Sorry Day' was one of the recommendations of the Bringing Them Home report, which was tabled in Parliament on 26 May 1997. This report was the result of a National Inquiry into the forcible removal of Indigenous children from their families, communities and cultural identity.

The first 'Sorry Day' was held in Sydney in 1998 and is now held nationally with memorials and commemorative events that honour the Stolen Generations.



# RESOURCE FOR 26 MAY



**Found by Bruce Pascoe**





# 27 MAY 1967 REFERENDUM ANNIVERSARY

On 27 May 1967, Australians voted to change the Constitution so that like all other Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples would be counted as part of the population and the Commonwealth would be able to make laws for them. A resounding 90.77 per cent said 'Yes' and every single state and territory had a majority result for the 'Yes' vote. It was one of the most successful national campaigns in Australia's history.

Thousands of people worked on the campaign and achieving the 'yes' was a huge victory, signalling a change in the mindset of Australia's majority. It opened the door to First Nations Australian agency, bringing to light many strong leaders and organisations, and the expectation that things could be different. Change was possible, and they were willing to fight for it. In many ways, that fight continues today




# RESOURCE FOR 27 MAY



**Say Yes: A Story of Friendship,  
Fairness and a Vote for Hope By  
Jennifer Castles**








# 27 MAY–3 JUNE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

This week is an ideal time for everyone to join the reconciliation conversation and reflect on shared histories, contributions and achievements. It is held annually 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 date when more than 90 percent of Australians voted to give the government power to make laws for Indigenous people and recognise them in the census.
- 3 June 1992 – the historic Mabo decision





# 3 JUNE MABO DAY

Mabo Day marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia's judgement in 1992 in the Mabo case. This is a day of particular significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians. Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo's name is synonymous with native title rights. His story began in May 1982 when he and fellow Murray (Mer) Islanders David Passi, Sam Passi, James Rice and Celuia Salee instituted a claim in the High Court for native title to the Murray (Mer) Islands in the Torres Strait.

The decision overturned a legal fiction that Australia was terra nullius (a land belonging to no one) at the time of British colonisation.





# 3-10 JULY NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) week celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognises the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. All Australians are encouraged to participate.

NAIDOC Week 2022 will be held from Sunday 3 July to Sunday 10 July with the theme - **Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!**



# RESOURCE FOR NAIDOC WEEK



**Play School: Acknowledgement of Country**



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*Visit [kooricurriculum.com](http://kooricurriculum.com) for more resources*



# 4 AUGUST NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is a celebration of Indigenous children. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day was first observed by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care in 1988. Each year Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care produces and sends out resources to help celebrations for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.





# RESOURCE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY



**Play School: Yarning and Dreaming**



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# 9 AUGUST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of the World's Indigenous People was first proclaimed by the General Assembly in December 1994 and is observed on 9 August each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.





# **AUGUST 23 ANNIVERSARY OF THE GURINDJI WAVE HILL WALK-OFF**

In August 1966, Vincent Lingiari, a Gurindji spokesman, led a walk-off of 200 Aboriginal stockmen, house servants, and their families from Wave Hill as a protest against the work and pay conditions. The strike was part of a widespread campaign begun by workers on Brunette Downs Station and supported by non-Aboriginal people, including unionists and the author Frank Hardy.

The protesters camped at Wattie Creek (Daguragu) and sought the return of some of their traditional lands to develop a cattle station.





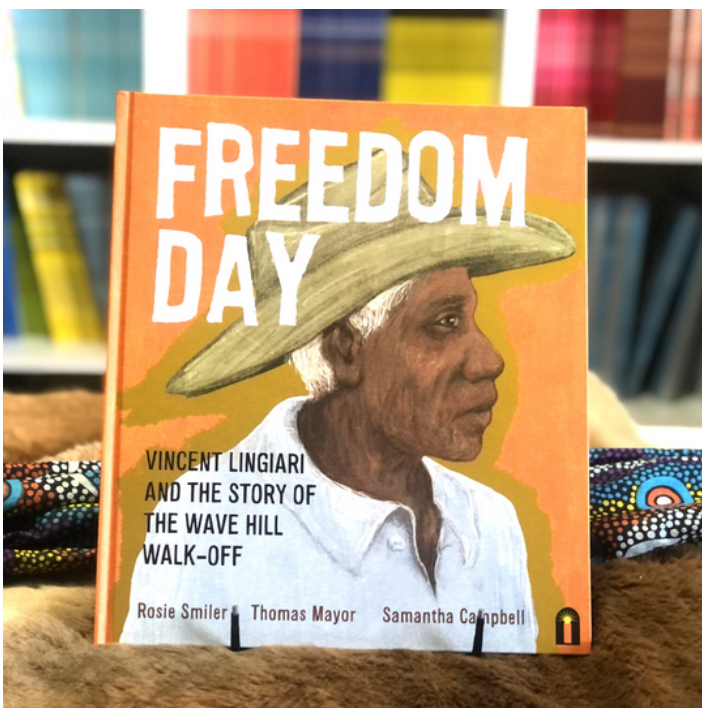
# **AUGUST 23 ANNIVERSARY OF THE GURINDJI WAVE HILL WALK-OFF**

They petitioned the Governor-General in 1967, and leaders toured Australia to raise awareness about their cause. In 1972, Prime Minister Whitlam announced that funds would be made available for the purchase of properties that were not on reserves, and Lord Vestey offered to surrender 90 square kilometres to the Gurindji people.

Daguragu was acquired by the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission and, on 16 August 1975 at Daguragu, Prime Minister Whitlam transferred leasehold title to the Gurindji, symbolically handing soil to Vincent Lingiari.



# RESOURCE FOR GURINDJI WAVE HILL WALK-OFF



Freedom Day by Thomas  
Mayor, Rosie Smiler &  
Samantha Campbell







# 7 SEPTEMBER INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY

Taking place on the first Wednesday of September each year, the event raises awareness of the educational struggles facing many Indigenous groups in Australia, while also serving as a fundraiser to collect literary resources for children living in more isolated areas of the country.

Providing more than just books, Indigenous Literacy Day celebrates Aboriginal culture and the stories and languages that helped to build the country we know today. Indigenous literacy is important not just for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but for everyone who believes in preserving our unique heritage and creating opportunities for fellow Australians.





# 13 SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The Declaration establishes a universal framework of minimum standards of fair treatment of Indigenous peoples as they relate to their vast circumstances.

The UNDRIP was brought to General Assembly on Thursday the 13th of September 2007. It was passed by a majority of 144 states in favour, 4 votes against (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States) and 11 abstentions.





# OCTOBER 26 ANNIVERSARY OF THE ULURU HANDBACK

The ceremony to handback the title took place at the base of Uluru on 26 October 1985. Hundreds of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people looked on as Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen passed over the title deeds to Uluru–Kata Tjuta.

The traditional owners then signed an agreement to lease the park back to the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service for 99 years. A board of management was established with a majority of Anangu members. The park continues to be jointly managed.

The Uluru climb was permanently closed after a ceremony at Uluru on 26 October 2019, exactly 34 years after the government officially returned the lands to the Anangu.





# 10 DECEMBER HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The UDHR is a milestone document, which proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.





# DECEMBER 20 ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARUNGA STATEMENT

The Barunga Statement is one of several significant painted documents that Aboriginal people have presented to the Australian Government.

Painted during the 1988 Barunga Sport and Cultural Festival, it was the culmination of years of engagement and discussion between Aboriginal groups in the Northern Territory and the Australian Government.

The statement combines Aboriginal symbolism from northern and central Australia and a translation of these into English language text, signalling collaboration and communication across cultures and languages.







# 24 DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIVE TITLE ACT

In 1992 the High Court of Australia recognised the common law doctrine of native title that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may continue to hold rights to their land and waters, which come from their traditional laws and customs.

The Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (the Native Title Act) recognises and protects native title in Australia. Native title claimants can make an application to the Federal Court of Australia to have their native title recognised by Australian law.





# 24 DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIVE TITLE ACT

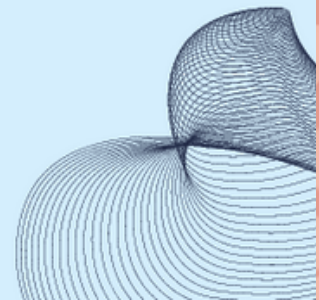
At 30 September 2015, native title has been recognised over approximately 2,469,647 km<sup>2</sup> or about 32% of the Australian land mass.

Native title rights and interests differ from statutory land rights in that the source of statutory land rights is a grant of title from government. The source of native title rights and interests is the system of traditional laws and customs of the native title holders themselves.



# PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING SEMINAR

MULTIPLE DATES & TIMES AVAILABLE  
IN 2022 & 2023 (IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL)



Our Programming & Planning seminar has been designed to be budget friendly professional development for early years educators.

Jessica Staines, Director of the Koori Curriculum will support educators through challenges, provide practical examples and guide reflections to build educators cultural confidence and capability.

The seminar will cover:

- How to get your team on the same page
- Goal Setting
- Revisiting and getting the most out of your RAP
- Accountability and how to share responsibilities
- Programming and planning processes to successfully embed Aboriginal perspectives in your curriculum

TOPIC	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Programming & Planning Sydney	Wesley Conference Centre	19th November 2022	10:00AM - 2:30PM AEST
Programming & Planning Central Coast	Wyoming Community Centre	26th November 2022	10:00AM - 2:30PM AEST
Programming & Planning Virtual (4 x 1 hour)	Online	Friday's 18th Nov, 25th Nov, 2nd Dec & 9th Dec 2022	1:30PM - 2:30PM AEST
Programming & Planning Virtual (All Day)	Online	14th January 2023	10:00AM - 2:30PM AEST
Programming & Planning Virtual (All Day)	Online	25th January 2023	10:00AM - 2:30PM AEST
Programming & Planning Virtual (4 x 1 hour)	Online	Thursday's 2nd Feb, 9th Feb, 16th Feb & 23rd Feb 2023	1:30PM - 2:30PM AEST



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# EXPAND YOUR PROGRAM

When talking about embedding Aboriginal perspectives, it is a multifaceted approach. It is not just about creating a cultural corner but sprinkling Aboriginal artifacts and resources into the curriculum where the children can play and engage.

It's also about using children's interests as the vehicle for learning where you include an Aboriginal perspective in context to that genuine interest.

**[Access the webinar here](#)**





# LOOKING FOR MORE SUPPORT?

In my private membership group, The Koori Curriculum Club, you'll get amazing support to assist in the development of your centres Aboriginal programs, with regular Member mentoring sessions, lesson plans and masterclasses.

- Warm welcoming safe community
- Inspiring and relatable support
- Multiple voices with experts from around Australia
- Downloadable resources.

**Join the waitlist**





# OTHER SIGNIFICANT DATES & CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**1st January:** New Year's Day

**14th February:** Valentine's Day

**3rd March:** World Wildlife Day

**5th March:** Clean Up Australia Day

**8th March:** International Women's Day

**21st March:** Harmony Day

**21st March:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**21st March:** International Day of Forests

**22nd March:** World Water Day

**23rd March:** World Mathematics Day

**7th April:** World Health Day

**22nd April:** World Earth Day

**23rd April:** World Book Day

**25th April:** ANZAC Day

**Please note: care has gone into checking these dates, however, some may change without notice**



# OTHER SIGNIFICANT DATES & CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**2nd May:** Baby Day

**11th May:** Hairy-Nosed Day

**14th May:** Mother's Day

**20th May:** World Bee Day

**23rd May:** Turtle Day

**24th May:** Brothers Day

**5th June:** World Environment Day

**8th June:** Best Friends Day

**8th June:** World Oceans Day

**29th June:** International Day of the Tropics

**7th July:** Tell the Truth Day

**16th July:** World Snake Day

**29th July:** Rain Day

**30th July:** International Friendship Day

**31st July:** National Tree Day

**Please note: care has gone into checking these dates, however, some may change without notice**



# OTHER SIGNIFICANT DATES & CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**August:** Platypus Month

**9th August:** Book Lovers Day

**13th-21st August:** Science Week

**19th to 25th August:** Book Week

**21st August:** Senior Citizens Day

**25th August:** Wear it Purple Day

**3rd September:** Father's Day

**7th September:** Threatened Species Day

**28th September:** World Maritime Day

**2nd October:** World Habitat Day

**4th-8th October:** Australian Wildlife Week

**15th October:** International Day of Rural Women

**16th October:** World Food Day

**17th October:** International Day for the  
Eradication of Poverty

**17th-23rd October:** National Bird Week

**17th-23rd: October:** Aussie Backyard Bird Count

**October (3rd Week):** National Water Week

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# OTHER SIGNIFICANT DATES & CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**November:** Pollinator Week

**November (2nd Week):** National Recycling Week

**10th November:** World Science Day for Peace and Development

**11th November:** Remembrance Day

**13th November:** Kindness Day

**15th November:** Anniversary of Marriage Equality Vote

**20th November:** Universal Children's Day

**1st December:** World AIDS Day

**2nd December:** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

**3rd December:** Let's Hug Day

**5th December:** World Soil Day

**10th December:** International Animal Rights Day

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