

## Media Release

# NSW Australia Day's nation-leading 2024 program to bring us together and connect our communities

Monday, 11 December 2023

[Link here](#) – [Images](#) and for [B-Roll Footage](#)

The nation's most beautiful harbour city will take centre stage on Australia Day 2024, with NSW staging a line-up of vibrant, thoughtful, and family focused events for everyone to come together, connect our communities to reflect, respect and celebrate.

From the Dawn Reflection Aboriginal illumination on the Sydney Opera House sails, to cultural ceremonies, fireworks, the fastest-ever Ferrython race, RAAF Roulettes in the skies, food aplenty including the new Great Aussie BBQ, plus the amazing concert in the evening - there are plenty of free activities for all to enjoy in Sydney on January 26.

The NSW Government and Australia Day Council of NSW are delighted to unveil an uplifting program for Australia Day 2024 that aims to connect communities, families and friends in Sydney and throughout the state on our national day with a diverse host of inclusive and inspirational events.

All Australians are encouraged to mark the day in a way that's meaningful to them and take this opportunity to connect on the stories of our nation and pay homage to its history. By using this day to contemplate our collective journey, understand the history, we can all share in the rich tapestry of our state, nation and shared future.

**Premier Chris Minns** said NSW, as the First state, leads the conversation in a respectful way around Australia Day. "We know that Australia Day evokes different feelings for different communities across our state, especially for First Nations people. For all of us, this date is an important day of reflection and to recommit ourselves to an inclusive and respectful Australia.

"The Australia Day in NSW program proudly showcases our state, our rich First Nations history, and our vibrant multicultural community."

In Sydney, the day starts with a time to reflect as the sun rises over Sydney Cove (or 'Warrane', the First Peoples' name for Sydney Cove) on Gadigal land in honour of the nation's Traditional Custodians. **Dawn Reflection** sees the Sydney Opera House sails lit with an artwork that represents Aboriginal culture and people, coinciding with the raising of the Australian National Flag and the Australian Aboriginal Flag on the Harbour Bridge as a mark of recognition and unity.

This is followed by the **WugulOra Morning Ceremony**. WugulOra, meaning 'one mob', is a moving event at Barangaroo which has cleansed the way for new beginnings and celebrated the Gadigal people of the Eora nation through music, dance, language, storytelling and ceremony.

**Harbourfest** encapsulates all the favourite Australia Day events staged on the sea, shore and sky throughout the day. This includes the much-loved **Ferrython** with an all-new (and faster) race route in 2024. Look up to see the Royal Australian Air Force Roulettes perform their jaw-dropping aerial aerobatic routine above Sydney on our national day for the first time in more than a decade!

There's also be plenty of family fun and free entertainment around Circular Quay, with the Overseas Passenger Terminal transforming into a **Mega Kidz Zone**. Bring your appetite to the **Great Aussie BBQ** at Hickson Road Reserve, one of the most picturesque Harbour spots, where multicultural foodies will show off their interpretation of the 'best sausage sanga' alongside the 'classic' version. Purchasing a snag will result in a donation to Rural Aid with funds helping our farmers.

As the sun sets, there's the spectacular **Australia Day Live** concert at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt and Circular Quay with great musical performances from Aussie acts, choreographed to a flotilla of yachts, light displays on the Opera House sails and Harbour Bridge, plus dazzling fireworks throughout the show.

This concert, staged on land and water, is the perfect finale to our national day. Free tickets for this not-to-be-missed concert will be available via [australiaday.com.au](https://australiaday.com.au) in mid-January. Australia Day Live will be broadcast live on ABC TV and ABC iview.

The NSW Government and Australia Day Council of NSW are committed to developing and enriching the program in consultation with Aboriginal representatives.

**Yvonne Weldon AM, Deputy Chair of the Australia Day Council of NSW**, said Australia Day is a time to reflect in a respectful, collective and kind way: "This year's hardships call for a renewed commitment to truth telling. Let us draw strength from the wisdom of our ancestors and walk the road together. In reflecting on the past, all Australians gain a richer understanding of our shared story. Our shared history through a truth telling.

"Regardless of varying beliefs, we need a collective approach that transcends divisions. In the spirit of unity, this Australia Day program reflects the ancient and diverse cultures within our nation."

**Australia Day Council of NSW Chair Andrew Parker** said the Australia Day NSW program takes great pride in showcasing the beauty of our multicultural and diverse state.

"The Australia Day in NSW program is designed to respect, reflect but also celebrate and find common ground with a sense of optimism and kindness towards each other, and all Australians. It's a day to acknowledge the cultural richness of NSW and Sydney.

"Up to 100 inspirational Australia Day Ambassadors will travel to every corner of the state from Bourke to Blacktown on 26 January to support local council Australia Day events. The events always encapsulate our diverse and multicultural community," said Mr Parker.

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For the event program visit [australiaday.com.au](https://australiaday.com.au).