

First Nations calendar of significant dates 2026

JANUARY

- 1: Native Title proclaimed (1993)
- 26: Australia Day, Invasion Day, Survival Day, Tent Embassy established in Canberra (1972)

APRIL

- 1: Resistance leader Jandamarra killed in WA (1897)
- 15: Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission Report (1991)

JULY

- 1: Coming of the Light - Torres Strait Islands
- 2: Evonne Coolagong-Cawley wins Wimbledon (1971)
- 5 - 12: NAIDOC Week 2026
- 8: Discriminatory Native Title amendments passed (1998)
- 12: Aboriginal flag first flown (1971)
- 14: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags proclaimed as Flags of Australia (1996)
- 23: Walk for Reconciliation, Hobart (2000)

OCTOBER

- 12: First Sea of Hands, Canberra (1997)
- 26: Uluru returned to Traditional Owners (1985)
- 28: Pinjarra Massacre, WA (1834)

FEBRUARY

- 6: Tent Embassy Petition to Parliament (1972)
- 8: Woodward Land Rights Inquiry (1973)
- 12: Freedom Ride bus left Sydney (1965)
- 13: Anniversary of the National Apology (2008)

MAY

- 1: Pilbara Aboriginal Stockmen's Strike (1946)
- 8: Wik 10-Point-Plan announced (1997)
- 26: National Sorry Day/Uluru Statement from the Heart made by First Nations leaders (2017)
- 27: 1967 Referendum/National Reconciliation Convention (1997)
- 27 - 3 Jun: National Reconciliation Week
- 28: Walk for Reconciliation, Sydney (2000)
- 29: Torres Strait Islander flag launched (1992)
- 30: Tiwi people receive title to Tiwi Islands (1980)

AUGUST

- 4: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Childrens' Day
- 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 14: Bark Petition from Yirrkala to Parliament (1963)
- 15 - 31: Coniston Massacre, NT (1928)
- 16: Return of Land to Gurindji, NT (1975)
- 18: Tiwi Land Council established (1978)
- 23: Gurindji walk-off, NT (1966)

NOVEMBER

- 19: Palm Island death in custody event (2004)
- 29: Pope John Paul II addresses Aboriginal people in Alice Springs (1986)

MARCH

- 5: ATSIC established (1990)
- 19: Close the Gap Day 2026
- 20: Anniversary of Close the Gap Statement of Intent on Indigenous Health Equality signing (2008)
- 24: ATSIC abolished (2005)

JUNE

- 3: High Court Mabo decision (1992)
- 4: Walk for Reconciliation, Brisbane (2000)
- 10: Myall Creek Massacre, NSW (1838)/Palm Island Strike (1957)
- 11: Racial Discrimination Act Takes effect (1975)/Barunga statement presented to Prime Minister Hawke (1988)

SEPTEMBER

- 1: Sea of Hands, Uluru (1998)
- 2: Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation est. (1991)/Indigenous Literacy Day 2026
- 13: Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2007)
- 25: Cathy Freeman's Olympic Gold Medal (2000)
- 28: John Pat dies in police custody (1983)

DECEMBER

- 3: Walk for Reconciliation in Melbourne and Perth (2000)
- 4: Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Final Report (2000)
- 16: Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act passed (1976)
- 23: High Court Wik Native Title decision (1996)

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Artwork: Taleah Stirling-Gutt
IEU-QNT 2017 Indigenous Art Design Highly Commended Award

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