



St James College

First Nations Key Dates of Cultural Significance

May - June 2026

Prepared for the
St James Community

Global Learning,
Achieving Aspiration

National Reconciliation Week 27 May to 3 June

National Reconciliation Week is a moment for all Australians to pause, learn, and reflect on the stories that shape our shared identity. It encourages us to acknowledge our history, celebrate the diversity of our cultures, and consider how each of us can help build a future grounded in respect and understanding. In education, NRW highlights the power of learning to drive change. It invites schools and communities to explore our collective past with honesty, value the many voices that make up Australia, and create classrooms where curiosity, empathy, and inclusion thrive. It reminds students and educators that even small actions can strengthen relationships and support a more connected future.

Ultimately, National Reconciliation Week calls us to learn together, reflect together, and work together toward a more respectful and shared tomorrow.

2026 Theme:

The 2026 National Reconciliation Week theme, **All In**, calls on every Australian to take an active role in reconciliation each day. It reminds us that progress depends on participation and that responsibility for change is shared by all.

Reconciliation will not happen on its own. It grows through collective effort, honesty and commitment. The #NRW2026 campaign, created with First Nations-owned agency Carbon Creative, features artwork by Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung artist Otis Hope Carey, whose vibrant design reflects people from all walks of life coming together to make change.

How to get involved:

Attend and host events:

- Find Events: Use the Reconciliation Australia NRW Events Calendar to find local activities.
- Host an Event: Organise a morning tea, film screening, or discussion with friends, family, or colleagues.
- Join the Choir: Participate in the Voices for Reconciliation 2026 initiative, singing Beds Are Burning.
- Community Activities: Join in on, or host, a "Community Installation" using resources provided by Reconciliation Australia

Learning and education:

- Shared Histories: Learn about local Traditional Owners, cultures, and achievements.
- Read/Listen: Diversify your reading list with First Nations authors and consume media from First Nations creatives.
- Educational Materials: Use the #NRW2026 colouring sheets and learning guides in schools or workplaces.

Action and advocacy:

- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP): Initiate or engage with a RAP in your workplace, school, or organisation.
- Support Businesses: Actively support and engage with First Nations-owned businesses and suppliers.
- Support Advocacy: Sign petitions and support organisations focusing on justice for First Nations people.
- Reflect and Share: Reflect on the history of Australia and share information about the Uluru Statement from the Heart with others

Resources:

- Download and use the #NRW2026 resources at home, work or school and get ready for National Reconciliation Week 2026!

Find out more: [Link](#)



Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum - 27 May

After the 1967 referendum, the Australian Government gained the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and include them in the national census. This change helped the government begin addressing long-standing inequalities and led to the creation of the Council for Aboriginal Affairs and the appointment of the first Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in 1968.

Although the referendum did not end discrimination, it enabled important reforms. These included affirmative action policies, new laws supporting land rights and equality, and a clearer definition of Aboriginal identity based on community and self-identification.

One of the most lasting impacts was the national recognition it provided. The referendum became a powerful symbol of acknowledgement and a significant step towards fairness and inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with ongoing importance for all Australians.



Torres Strait Islander Flag Day - 29 May

Torres Strait Islander Flag Day is celebrated annually on 29 May, marking its presentation to the people on this date in 1992. The flag was proclaimed a "Flag of Australia" on 14 July 1995. Designed by the late Bernard Namok from Thursday Island, it serves as a powerful symbol of unity, identity, and culture for all Torres Strait Islanders.

Key points

- The Torres Strait Islander flag was designed by the late Bernard Namok.
- The colours of the flag represent the Torres Strait Islander people's connection to the land, sea and sky.
- The flag was the winning entry in a design competition in 1992.
- In 1995, the Torres Strait Islander flag was recognised by the Australian Government as an official 'Flag of Australia' under the Flags Act 1953.

Link: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/torres-strait-islander-flag>



Mabo Day - 3 June

Mabo Day, observed each year on 3 June, marks the 1992 High Court decision that recognised Native Title and overturned the idea of terra nullius. It is a significant moment in Australia's history, acknowledging the enduring connection between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their lands.

In 2026, Mabo Day falls on a Wednesday and marks the thirty fourth anniversary of this landmark ruling. Schools, universities and communities often hold events to reflect on its impact, celebrate Eddie Mabo's legacy and deepen understanding of land rights and justice in Australia.

Resources: <https://www.qatsif.org.au/tsi-mabo-day-resources>



For further information or enquiries

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THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting our commitment to reconciliation and for standing in unity with First Nations communities. Your willingness to listen, learn and walk alongside us strengthens the path towards a more respectful and shared future.

Yoonthala: As One in One Place

Speaks to UNITY, belonging, and shared purpose. It reminds us that while we come from many backgrounds, stories, and experiences, we stand together as one community. At St James College, we live unity by encouraging one another, respecting our differences, supporting our community, and celebrating each other. When we live this way, we truly become one in one place.

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