



Media Release

Australia Day 2024 Program – “Top Picks”

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

Dawn Reflection - Sydney Opera House (5:20am-5:50am)

Start the day with a reflective moment as the sun rises over Sydney Harbour on Gadigal land to honour the nation's Traditional Custodians. At dawn, the sails of the Sydney Opera House will be illuminated with an artwork that represents and honours Aboriginal history, culture and people. The Australian National Flag and Aboriginal Flag will also be raised in unison on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, in a symbol of unity, recognition and inclusion.



WugulOra Morning Ceremony - Walumil Lawns Barangaroo Reserve (7:30am-8:30am)

The WugulOra Morning Ceremony at Barangaroo Reserve is a reminder that Aboriginal people are the foundation of Australia's story and caretakers of the world's oldest continuous living culture. It is held on Gadigal land year on January 26 and celebrates Aboriginal culture, with special performances by dancers and singers. Addresses will be given by dignitaries and the Australian National Anthem will be sung in English and Eora, the local Aboriginal language.



Harbourfest – an exciting line-up of free and fun events and activities taking place on sea, shore and sky around Sydney Harbour and Circular Quay, and includes:

Middy Salute – Sydney Harbour/Circular Quay (11:55am–12:05pm)

A unique combination of meaningful events that weaves together cultural traditions and military displays in a tribute to our nation. Be awe-inspired by a ceremonial showcase from the Australian Defence Force, including a 21-Gun Salute resonating from North Sydney, followed by an aerial flypast courtesy of The Roulettes. Keep your eyes peeled for the Australian Navy Seahawk Helicopter soaring along the harbour, displaying the Australian flag. The Wirawi, part of the Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation fleet, will conduct a serene on-water smoking ceremony, cleansing all who gather. Everyone is encouraged to join in singing the National Anthem in English and Eora.



The Roulettes – Sydney Harbour (12pm-12.10pm) – RETURNING

For 10 thrilling minutes, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) elite aerobatic display team, composed of some of the nation's most skilled pilots, will showcase their awe-inspiring flying prowess over Sydney Harbour. Watch in amazement as the daredevil aviators push their aircraft to the limits, executing jaw-dropping loops, rolls, and high-G turns. Flying at astonishing speeds of up to 685km/h and as low as 200 feet, the Roulette flyers can endure up to six times the force of gravity, delivering an adrenaline-pumping experience for onlookers. This special Australia Day display marks the squad's return to the skies above Sydney Harbour on January 26 after more than a decade, promising an exhilarating and unmissable show.



Ferrython – Sydney Harbour (12:05pm-12:30pm) – FASTER THAN EVER

Ferrython is back for another Australia Day – and this year, the ferries will be racing faster than ever! An annual crowd favourite, cheer on four of the city's iconic Emerald Class ferries *May Gibbs*, *Catherine Hamlin*, *Bungaree* and *Fred Hollows*. For 2024, there's an all-new race route, with the ferries completing two laps from Fort Denison to the finish line beside the Sydney Harbour Bridge, allowing the vessels to reach speeds unparalleled since the inception of Ferrython on Australia Day in 1977. While you can't buy tickets to board a ferry for the big race, you can be part of the excitement with a limited number of free tickets available to win.



Great Aussie BBQ – Hickson Road Reserve (10am-2pm) - NEW

Aussies love nothing better than a cracking good BBQ and let's face it there is no better day to grab the snags, slice up the onions and get out the tongs this Australia Day at the Great Aussie BBQ. Head down to one of the most picturesque Harbour spots, purchase a sausage sizzle and help raise money for Rural Aid. The Great Aussie BBQ ain't no ordinary sausage sizzle though as we throw down the gauntlet to our multicultural community asking them to put their spin on our very own Aussie classic!



Maritime Mayhem - Sydney Cove (12:15pm – 12:25pm)

Like a Monster Truck show - but on water! If you've never seen a tugboat do a burn-out, head down to Circular Quay and witness the action. Maritime Mayhem is a must-see event on Australia Day. Get ready for a high-octane, exhilarating display of fast and furious jet ski performances, daredevil flyboard tricks and crazy tugboat displays. Watch the mayhem unfold as vessels of all shapes and sizes battle it out on water, synchronised to a rockin' soundtrack with beats that will make your heart race and feet tap.



Mega Kidz Zone – Overseas Passenger Terminal – (10.30am-4pm)

The arrivals hall of the Overseas Passenger Terminal will be transformed into a massive interactive arcade perfect for kids of all ages. Entry is free and families are set to be entertained with hours of fun on Australia Day. Get lost in the massive Maze, bounce through the enormous inflatable obstacle course, or satisfy your inner kid on one of the arcade games. Dance to the beats of the silent disco, a space for kids of all abilities to experience one big party they'll never forget.



In the evening:

Australia Day Live – Sydney Opera House Forecourt and Circular Quay (7:30pm-9:30pm) (Pre-show entertainment starts at 6.30pm)

As the sun sets on our national day, the Sydney Opera House forecourt and Circular Quay come alive for the unmissable Australia Day Live concert. This unique event features live musical performances choreographed to a flotilla of yachts, projections on the Sydney Opera House sails, and stunning pyrotechnic displays over Sydney Harbour. A stellar line-up of true blue Australian musical acts will take the stage to belt out beloved hits, accompanied by a full orchestra. The full line-up of performers will be announced in January.



Everyone is welcome to gather around Circular Quay for the harbour show and artists performances can also be seen on the large screens in Circular Quay. Limited free tickets will be available at australiaday.com.au from Thursday, 18 January 2024 for the Sydney Opera House forecourt.

Australia Day Live at Sydney Opera House is brought to you by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW.

For ALL the event program visit australiaday.com.au

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Sydney Splash – Rose Bay (6am–11am)

The Sydney Harbour Splash, one of Sydney's most iconic swims, is back for its 8th year. This annual event held every January 26 is the perfect way to dive into the excitement of our national day.

OZ DAY 10K – The Rocks (8:30am–10am)

Head to The Rocks and watch on in awe as some of the world's best wheelchair track and road athletes battle it out in the GIO Oz Day 10k. Celebrating a remarkable 35 years this year and regarded as the best wheelchair race in the world, spectators can cheer on both the inspirational Paralympians and also the juniors who are taking part in the event for the first time.

Fun in the Sun with Surf Life Saving NSW – The Rocks (8:30am–10am)

Head to the red and yellow flags of Surf Life Saving NSW, to beat the heat.

Vintage Buses – Macquarie Street/ North Sydney (10:30am–5:30pm)

Step back in time by riding on a double-decker vintage bus over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and back again on Australia Day.

Harbour Parade – Sydney Harbour (12.45pm–2pm)

The Harbour Parade is 'fashions on the field', but for boats and their crews as they don their finest and most-flamboyant Australia Day-themed decorations and parade through the waves in a dazzling display of national spirit.

Tall Ships Race – Sydney Harbour (1pm–1.30pm)

Watch as an impressive fleet of historic vessels compete for line honours in a race to the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

188th Regatta – Sydney Harbour (12.45pm–2pm)

First held in 1837, the Regatta is the oldest continuously run annual sailing event in the world.

Working Harbour Display – Sydney Harbour (2pm–4pm)

Enjoy live entertainment and check out the working vessels that make Sydney Harbour tick.

The Rocks Markets (11am–5pm)

Nestled amid historic laneways with their harbour views, this January 26 there will be a special The Australian Edition of the markets.

AustraliaDay @ the House (12pm- 6pm)

Grab your picnic basket, bring a blanket and bask in the splendour of Government House, the official residence of the Governor of New South Wales.

Yabun Festival (10am–7pm)

Yabun (meaning 'music to a beat' in Gadigal language) is a free event in Victoria Park with loads of live music, bustling market stalls, panel discussions and community forums on Aboriginal issues, plus children's activities, and traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural performances.

For ALL the event program visit australiaday.com.au