



Make your Mark this Australia Day 2012

Sydney, 17 January 2012 – Australia Day 2012 is shaping up to be a sensational family day out with a captivating program featuring events and activities celebrating what makes Australia great. The Australia Day Council of NSW (ADCNSW) is preparing Sydney's CBD and harbour foreshore for a transformation guaranteed to make every Aussie proud.

Returning to the program this year are Australia Day favourites: Sydney's Biggest Backyard featuring well known Australians like actress Kate Ritchie, Sydney Harbour activities will see Jessica Watson judge the Best Dressed Vessels presented by Sydney Ports, NRMA Motorfest® will showcase it's vintage vehicles, Australia Day Regatta, celebrating its 176th anniversary, along with the Woggan-ma-gule Morning Ceremony and the biggest event on the Australia Day calendar the Darling Harbour spectacular.

Check out the full Australia Day program of events at www.australiaday.com.au and start planning your day.

IN THE CITY:

- Woggan-ma-gule Morning Ceremony, the 'meeting of the waters' taking place at an important meeting and ceremonial site, this is a spectacular Indigenous ceremony honouring age-old custodial traditions and ancestral creation spirits while commemorating our past and celebrating our future.

Megamara tells the story of a young Aboriginal woman who lives by the waters of NSW with her people.

'IM GONNA TELL YA A YARN IT'S ABOUT THEM MERMAIDS... REAL PRETTY ONES...BUT THEY TRICKY...YOU MEN DON'T GO DOWN THAT RIVER AT NIGHT...THEY'LL LURE CATCH YA...AND DRAG YOU AWAY IN THAT WATER DEEP DOWN THERE...AT FIRST YOU CAN'T SEE EM...BUT THEY THERE....WAITING...AND THEY SEE YOU'

Time: 8.00am

Location: The Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, Farm Cove

- Sydney's Biggest Backyard – in Hyde Park is the ultimate Australia Day location to soak up the festivities with family and friends. At no other time does Hyde Park attract so many people throughout the day. Typical of most backyards it's the place for kids, youngsters will love the *Have a Go Sports* area with NSW and Australian Rugby, AFL and Diamonds Netball players, the *Kids Playground* with its 'Big Squeeze' obstacle course and 'Circus Playground'.

Kids and adults alike will enjoy the great Main Stage line-up, ABC4KIDS Concert hosted by Jimmy Giggle, Aussie legend John Williamson and the moving Lord Mayor's Citizenship Ceremony at 2.00pm. Come and meet Hank the Hereford Bull and watch Australian cattlemen display their whip cracking skills.



Kate Ritchie will present the finalists and winners of the Reel Australia Short Film Competition at the Big Telly from 3.30pm. There is also the Living Australian Photography Competition finalists outdoor exhibition in Hyde Park. The films and photographs explore the theme 'Make Your Mark Australia' which is a celebration of the many valuable contributions Australians make everyday.

Time: 10:00am – 7:00pm
Location: Hyde Park North

- Running for over 26 years the much loved NRMA Motorfest® is again on the Australia Day calendar. Enough to thrill any car enthusiast, Macquarie Street and College Street will host an impressive display of over 1,000 vintage and classic vehicles, including a special 2012 showcase featuring some of the veteran cars taking part in the 2012 Centenary Expedition.

Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm
Location: Macquarie Street and College Street

ON THE HARBOUR & ALONG THE WATER'S EDGE:

- Hundreds of amateur and professional swimmers including Olympian Ky Hurst and Hawaiian Ironman World Champion Craig Alexander will take the plunge in the Body Science Great Australian Swim Series. The Swim is for all ages and abilities, there is even an anything goes category.

Time: 8.30am
Location: Farm Cove, Sydney Opera House.

- The Best Dressed Vessels Competition presented by Sydney Ports will take place around the harbour. Join in by decorating your vessel and be part of the waves of colour on the harbour. Dressed vessels will be judged by Australia Day Harbour Ambassador Jessica Watson.

Time: 11.00am – 2.00pm
Location: Sydney Harbour

- The Ferrython will once again let loose those four sassy and spirited old gals, the much-cherished little green and yellow Sydney Ferry catamarans, to race up and down Sydney Harbour. As always, they'll be racing at full throttle in a battle for line honours under the Harbour Bridge.

Time: 11.00am
Location: Sydney Harbour

- The F/A-18 Hornet Flyover, Australian Army 21 Gun Salute & RAN Search and Rescue Display are impressive feats above, on and below the water at Sydney Harbour. Watch the Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 Hornets as they zoom over the harbour - be sure to look up when you hear them coming! The Royal Australian Navy's Dive Team will perform a series of search and rescue displays at Farm Cove at 12.15 pm and Athol Bay at 12.45 pm. Don't miss the 21 Gun Salute from Fleet Steps North to commemorate the federation of Australia.

Time: 12:00 - 2.00pm

Location: Sydney



Harbour

- The 176th Australia Day Regatta, the world's oldest continuously conducted annual sailing Regatta, will take place throughout the afternoon, with events for all classes of yachts and 18ft skiffs. Conducted by the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron on behalf of the Australia Day Regatta Inc, traditional, classic and modern yachts from around the nation, some up to a century old, will be taking part in this historic event.
Time: 1.15pm – 6pm
Location: Eastern end of Sydney Harbour
- Sydney Ports Jazz on the Water is the place to catch a stellar line-up of performances by talented jazz musicians with a stunning harbour view backdrop. Chill out to Gerard masters featuring Wes Carr, the Bodacious Cowboys play the music of Steely Dan, Son Veneno - 10 piece original Salsa Band and much more Refreshments and a licensed bar will be available.
Time: 3.00pm – 9.00pm
Location: Pirrama Park (formerly Pyrmont Point Park)
- Join the magnificent Tall Ships Race, as the sea-faring beauties round out the day's activities on the main harbour. Starting at Bradleys Head, the tall ships will lead the spectacular fleet of historic and charter vessels as they make their way to finish under the Harbour Bridge.
Time: 3pm onwards
Location: Bradleys Head to Harbour Bridge
- New for Australia Day 2012 is the Tiger Moths Aerial Display where three classic Tiger Moths enter from the heads, fly over Sydney Harbour and perform aerial displays.
Time: 3.30pm
Location: Over Sydney Harbour
- The Rocks Australia Day, presented by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, is a free outdoor festival featuring pop, rock, funk, soul, folk and blues music performances across various stages and The Rocks laneways. Dance your way through nine hours of live music from over 50 Aussie singers and songwriters.
Time: 11.30am – 8.30pm
Location: The Rocks
- Darling Harbour Australia Day is more fun for the family, including a dedicated Children's Stage, followed by the World Music and Dance Program. In the evening Darling Harbour will host the Australia Day Spectacular featuring an address from the Governor of NSW, a stunning multimedia symphony of pyrotechnics, light and music, culminating in a fireworks extravaganza over Cockle Bay from 7pm.
Time: 11.30am – 9.00pm
Location: Darling Harbour



What's On Outside the CBD:

There are over 5000 fun and free Australia Day activities taking place in local areas across NSW. Some highlights include: Blacktown is hosting an afternoon of free family entertainment, Parramatta is starting the morning with the majestic hot air balloons and Penrith is hosting the great Aussie Rock Shows to the Smurfs and to get into the community spirit don't miss the wood chopping demonstrations at Wollongong. The Australia Day celebrations in these four regions are proudly presented by Endeavour energy.

For more Information or to join the conversation please visit www.australiaday.com.au



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Sydney Harbour Bridge Closure

The Sydney Harbour Bridge will be closed for up to three weekends in January (13-16, 20-23, 27-30) from 10pm Friday until 5am Monday. Please plan ahead, allow plenty of time to travel to events and catch public transport.

Australia Day events on 26 January will not be affected by the weekend closures of the Sydney Harbour Bridge

For Further Information

T: 1800 822 486

For maps, clearway information or to sign up for SMS alerts visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au

For further information, images and interview requests with spokespeople please contact:

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