

MEDIA RELEASE



Australians made their mark in NSW for Australia Day 2012

26 January 2012 – Australians united today to make their mark at the 2012 Australia Day celebrations and they had plenty to choose from! Despite the inclement weather at the start of the day, thousands of Australia Day events took place today across NSW, as thousands of proud Aussies gathered in the cities, parks, and the iconic Sydney Harbour. There was no shortage of barbeques, backyard cricket matches, music, and mateship as everyone gathered to celebrate our national day.

The Australia Day Council of NSW Chairman, Angelos Frangopoulos, says that this year's program offered a way for every Australian to make their mark. "Australia has such a diverse community; it is only fitting that our Australia Day events should reflect that. All over the state, whether it was on the water, picnicking with family, at a concert with friends or taking part in a Citizenship ceremony. There was an option for everyone to celebrate the spirit of Australia in a way that is meaningful to them."

AUSTRALIA DAY 2012 – in a snapshot!

- Vessels on the Harbour: approximately 900
- Venues across the CBD throughout the day operated to 60-70% capacity
- Parramatta attendance: approx 10,000 today with more than 8,000 expected to attend tonight's celebrations
- Wollongong attendance: 20,000 today with approx 30,000 expected for this evening's fireworks
- Kogarah attendance: Approx 10,000 throughout the day
- The Sydney CBD welcomed 17 new citizens from 14 countries in a moving citizenship ceremony and 3000 people took citizenship on Australia Day across the state
- Approx 160 Australia Day Ambassadors took pride in participating with communities including Parramatta, Wollongong and Kogarah; and Sydney's Hyde Park was transformed into a carnivale of activity.

SYDNEY HARBOUR : KEY EVENTS

- The **Body Science Great Australian Swim** launched its second series as people of all ages dove into the harbour, joining elite swimmers like Iron Man champion **Ky Hurst** who battled it out in the Cudo 2.2km ocean swim.

Winners of the 2012 Body Science Great Australian Swim:

Elite

Men's - Michael Sheil, QLD – 23min:08sec

Women's - Zoe Elkerton, NSW – 23min:44sec

750m

Men's - Liam Christie, QLD – 9min:56sec

Women's - Caitlin Schluter, QLD – 9min:46sec

300m - kids

Men's - Jesse Goodyear, NSW – 3min:39sec

Women's - Taylah Watson, QLD – 4min:14sec

- The **Ferrython** once again let loose those four sassy and spirited old gals, the iconic little green and yellow Sydney Ferry catamarans, to race from Circular Quay to Shark Island, before racing to the finish line under the Harbour Bridge, in the exciting **Ferrython**.

Winner of the 2012 Ferrython: China Southern Airlines

- Staring at Bradleys Head, the magnificent **Tall Ships** raced in spectacular style to the Harbour Bridge.

Winner of the 2012 Tall Ships Race: Young Endeavour

- Jessica Watson judges the Australia Day Best Dressed Vessels Competition contributed to the excitement and colour in Sydney Harbour, as vessels of all shapes and sizes (and their crews) 'dressed up' to party!

Winner of the 2012 Best Dressed Vessels :

Overall – Calamita

Best Flag – Pacific Sun

Original Theme – Tuna

Small Boat – Maling

Working Boat – Waratah

Charter – Sydney Sundance



- **The 176th Australia Day Regatta** added a touch of class and heritage to the harbour, with traditional and classic yachts from around the nation.

It was hard to miss the Sydney skyline as **F/A-18 Hornets** zoomed over the harbour, wowing crowds as part of the **Awesome Forces - RAAF Defense Aerial Display**. Below them, the **Australian Army 21 Gun Salute & RAN Search and Rescue Display** also impressed.

- Currently crowds have gathered for the **Sydney Ports Jazz on the Water** concert at Pirrama Park and the Australia Day finale **Darling Harbour Australia Day Spectacular and Fireworks**, in Cockle Bay.

SYDNEY CBD: KEY EVENTS

- GIO Oz Day 10K Wheelchair Race saw the world's finest wheelchair athletes race around the city's historic quarter at exhilarating speeds.

Winners of the GIO Oz Day 10K Wheelchair Race

Mens - Kurt Fearnely, Australia in a time of 20min:24sec (new course record)

Womens - Madison de Rozario, Australia in a time of 25min:01sec

- In its 10th year the moving **Woggan-Ma-Gule**, a spectacular Indigenous ceremony, honored age-old custodial traditions and ancestral creation spirits, while commemorating our past and celebrating our future.
- **Hyde Park, Sydney's Biggest Backyard**, saw thousands of people of all ages soak up a host of fun and interactive sport and recreational activities, and included a performance by Aussie legend John Williamson, the moving Lord Mayor's Citizenship Ceremony, a flash mob dance and the Reel Australia showcasing hosted by Kate Ritchie.
- The much loved **NRMA Motorfest**[®] was back by popular demand for the 26th year, with Macquarie Street and College Streets playing host to an impressive display of over 1,000 vintage and classic cars.

Didn't make it to the Australia Day events? Join in the celebration online and show the World How We Celebrate!

Post your photo onto our **Facebook page** and share it with thousands of other passionate Australians. The Australia Day Facebook page engages with the online community on all things Australian. From sport, politics, arts and humor the Facebook community regularly hosts discussions throughout the year and has attracted a following of over 183,000 people.



With **australiaday.com.au** Australia Day Council of New South Wales averaging more than **200,000 visitors** today and 2 million page views, it was the place for all your Australia Day information.

Australia Day Anywhere is a new micro site developed for the Australian online community to view all discussions, comments, tweets, photos and event information from around the world. Visit australiaday.com.au/anywhere and be part of the action wherever you are. The site brought together Aussies from every corner of the globe.

The **Mobile Phone App** is another first for the Australia day Council of NSW. The phone App helped people decide what events to see, what's coming up next year, where it's located on the map, and other useful navigational details.

- Full searchable listings of Australia Day events and artists (Sydney)
- Event Information (including map and playing times)
- Find venues near your location
- Quick access to Australia Day blog and Twitter feed

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



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For further information, images and interview requests please contact Edelman

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