

REFLECT | RESPECT | CHANGE

INVASION DAY. SURVIVAL DAY. A DAY OF MOURNING.

January 26 in Lutruwita/Tasmania



*Invasion Day protest through
Nipapluna/Hobart's CBD.
Photo: ABC News, Luke Bowden*

CHANGE THE DATE: **Not a date for Celebration**

Each year, the Tasmanian Aboriginal community calls on the Australian Government to recognise 26 January as a Day of Mourning.

January 26 holds multiple meanings. For some, it is a time to acknowledge the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the world's oldest continuing cultures within the story of modern Australia.

For many others, however, it is not a day for celebration. The date marks the arrival of the First Fleet and the raising of the British flag at Sydney Cove, symbolising the beginning of invasion, dispossession and ongoing oppression of First Peoples. National celebration on this day continues to cause pain and reinforces the lasting impacts of colonisation still felt today.

In this context, Reconciliation Tasmania supports calls to **#ChangeTheDate**, so that a national day can be one that all Australians can recognise and celebrate, while honouring the central place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our nation.

January 26 offers an opportunity to reflect on our shared and complex history, and to recognise that truth-telling and reconciliation are essential to building a stronger future. Reconciliation Tasmania encourages all Tasmanians to walk alongside the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in solidarity.

Your initial step should always be to elevate and emphasise the voices and truths of Tasmanian Aboriginal People, and to extend this support to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Reconciliation
Tasmania



SHARE THE MESSAGE:

Advocating for an inclusive future

We all have a role in advancing the truth of our shared history. Conversations about January 26 should be approached with care, openness and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land, seas and skies.

By learning the history of January 26 and sharing accurate information, Tasmanians can help re-examine our true history and contribute to a future that recognises and respects the enduring cultures and leadership of Aboriginal peoples.



For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, 26 January is a reminder of the pain and suffering of their ancestors, the theft of their land, the enormous loss of life in the Frontier Wars and the intergenerational trauma that comes with that history.

Celebrating on this day ignores the historical atrocities committed against First Nations Peoples and obscures the many uncomfortable truths of our shared history. But it also overlooks the many ways in which colonisation is ongoing- the grave injustices of Black deaths in custody, ever-growing gaps in health outcomes and life expectancy, youth justice statistics, destruction of sacred sites and contemporary child removal that our systems and structures continue to permit and in some cases promote.

In recent years, awareness around the pain of 26 January is building. Many local councils- including City of Melbourne, Geelong, Yarra, Moreland, Darebin, City of Sydney and Sydney's Inner West, Launceston and Flinders Island in Tasmania as well as Fremantle, WA - have cancelled and/or replaced their 26 January events, or voiced formal support for changing the date.

These changes are welcomed."

[ANTAR, Rethinking](#)

TAKE ACTION, LEARN & SHARE - ADVOCACY RESOURCES

These resources will help deepen your understanding. Learn something new, start a conversation, and take a small step that contributes to reconciliation.

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre campaigns - [Invasion Day](#)
- Reconciliation Tasmania '[Learn More](#)'
- Let's talk January 26 - [Factsheet](#)
- [Being a good Ally](#) - Reach Out
- [The many different dates we've celebrated Australia Day](#) - SBS NITV
- [10 ways to be a genuine ally to First Nations communities](#) - Amnesty International

COMMIT TO ACTION:

What can you do to create change?

Standing up for what is right takes courage and care, particularly when conversations about January 26 are challenging. In an increasingly polarised society, it is vital that non-Aboriginal people actively support the voices and aspirations of First Peoples - by listening, challenging misinformation, and walking alongside the Aboriginal community with respect and consistency.

In the lead up to January 26 this year, we encourage you to deepen your understanding of our shared history and the need to promote respect and re-define reconciliation. Reconciliation is the responsibility of non-Aboriginal people and requires truth-telling, addressing injustice, and reflecting on the changes each of us can make: in our lives, communities and organisations, to help build a more just and united future.

BE BRAVE

- Listen to what Tasmanian Aboriginal leaders and all First Peoples have to say about January 26.
- Amplify the voices of Aboriginal people on social media.
- Attend your nearest Invasion Day rally – search online for 'Invasion Day', 'Survival Day', or 'Day of Mourning' events - see our Tasmanian events listing [here](#).
- Help educate your workplace around [the history of 'Australia Day'](#). Hold workshops and staff education training.

BE INFORMED

- Learn about the Traditional Owners of the land where you live; inform yourself about Tasmanian Aboriginal history.
- Learn about the historical and continuing impacts of invasion and colonisation in Tasmania.
- Consider sharing articles or posts amongst your networks that promote truth telling.
- Commit to reading a book or watching a movie on the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people post-colonisation.

BE THE CHANGE

- Offer your staff the option to work 26 January and take a different day off - [Change It Ourselves](#).
- Write a letter to your local paper, or call your local radio station, to share what you have learned and why you are choosing not to celebrate on 26 January.
- If you hear people making uninformed comments, take responsibility for sharing what you have learned about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.
- Share your knowledge amongst friends, families and work colleagues.

