

We acknowledge that the City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country. We would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung People, the Traditional Owners of the land that this work was carried out on. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.



This calendar features some of the many cultural celebrations observed by local communities. We have done our best to capture events and celebrations relevant to multicultural communities in the Greater Bendigo area. We also acknowledge contributions from local community members and staff towards this project.



For feedback, please email us at inclusive.communities@bendigo.vic.gov.au

To download a copy of this calendar, please visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

For information and resources, scan the QR code, or visit the City of Greater Bendigo's Cultural Diversity webpage at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/community-services/community-and-care/cultural-diversity



Connect Greater Bendigo is your local directory and calendar of upcoming events and volunteer

opportunities for sporting and recreation clubs, community groups and not-for-profit organisations in Greater Bendigo. You can also follow the CONNECT Greater Bendigo Facebook page to keep up-to-date at www.facebook.com/connectgreaterbendigo or by visiting www.connectgreaterbendigo.com.au

JANUARY

Pongal / January 14

Tamil Thai Pongal Day is a Tamil and Hindu Harvest festival which gives thanks to the sun god for the abundant harvest.

Makar Sankranti / January 15

Makar(a) Sankranti is the only Hindu festival based on the solar calendar instead of the lunar. Makar Sankranti is the celebration of the sun's journey from the Southern to the Northern Hemisphere and is considered an auspicious time. It is a time of celebration and expressing thanks to Mother Earth or nature when winter starts to recede.

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti / January 17

The festival honours and remembers the Sikh leader Guru Gobind Singh - an inspirational man who was also a warrior, poet, philosopher, and a spiritual master.

Thaipusam / January 25

Thaipusam is a temple festival celebrated by Hindus of Tamil descent. Most Hindu festivals fall either on full-moon day (Punarpusam) or on new-moon day (Amavasi). Thai Pusam occurs on the full-moon day in the Tamil month. Thaipusam is a day of prayers and penance dedicated to Lord Subramaniam, also known as Lord Murugan, a major South Indian god, the deity of youth, power and virtue.

FEBRUARY

Lunar New Year / February 10

The date of Lunar New Year changes depending on the moon. The festival lasts for up to 16 days. This year is the year of the Dragon.

Seollal / February 10

Korean Lunar New Year. Korean people start Seollal by performing ancestral rites known as charye together as a family. These rites are a show of gratitude to one's ancestors and it is believed that the spirits of the ancestors would return during Seollal.

Yarghu Festival / February 24

A Karen Buddhist festival celebrated on a full moon day, that involves cooking food using seven ingredients and offering it to people who are unwell, in poor health and are living in poverty. Yarghu is celebrated over two days.

MARCH

Ramadan / March 10

On the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Local community organises four community Iftar (breaking fast) dinners every Saturday of the month.

Naw-Rúz / March 21

Celebration of the new year upon arrival of the spring season in many countries along the Silk Roads, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Purim / March 23

Purim commemorates the time when Jewish people living in the Achaemenid Persian empire were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther and her uncle and adviser named Mordechai.

Easter / March 29 - April 1

While Christmas - the feast celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ - falls on December 25 every year, the date of Easter - the festival that celebrates Jesus' resurrection - is not fixed, and often falls anywhere between late March and late April, because the date attempts to reconcile the solar and lunar calendars

APRIL

Chaitra Navratri / April 9

A nine-day festival that is highly revered across India, and holds a special position in the Hindu Pantheon. During these nine days, devotees observe a fast and worship the nine forms of Nava Durga. Specific colours are associated with each of the nine days. Devotees often follow the colour code and choose their clothing for the celebrations accordingly.

Ugadi / April 9

Ugadi is the New Year's Day for the Hindus of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana states in India. This typically falls in March or April. The people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh use the term "Ugadi", Karnataka "Yugadi" and Maharashtra "Gudi Padwa".

Eid al-Fitr / April 10

Eid al-Fitr is the earlier of the two official holidays celebrated within Islam and is celebrated by Muslims worldwide because it marks the end of the month-long, dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan. It is celebrated by visiting family and friends and having feasts together. In Turkey, Eid is known as Ramazan Feast or Ramadan Bayrami and is usually a three-day holiday.

Sinhala New Year / April 13

Beginning of the solar New Year, traditionally celebrated by Sinhalese and Tamils in Sri Lanka and Tamils in India. This festival symbolises the new harvest and prosperity.

Vaisakhi Festival / April 13

The Vaisakhi or Baisakhi Festival is a very popular ancient harvest festival celebrated by all Punjabi's, irrespective of their religion. Vaisakhi is a highly significant day, especially for Sikhs, who also celebrate it as Sikh New Year Day, according to the Hindu solar calendar.

Water Festival / April 13

Water Festivals are the New Year's celebrations that take place in Southeast Asian nations, and among the Dai people of China. Referred to as Songkran Festival in Thailand and Laos and Thingyan Festival in Myanmar. Water plays a major role in the festival, symbolically it washes away the previous year so people can get ready for the next one.

Ram Navami / April 17

Ram Navami is an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Ram, who is considered the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu and holds significant importance in Hinduism.

Yom HaShoah / April 18

Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs on the 27th of the Hebrew month of Nisan and is a memorial day for those who died in the Holocaust.

Ridvan / April 20

Ridvan is the most significant festival of the Baha'i faith and is celebrated over 12 days. The First Day of Ridvan is the most important of the Baga'i Holy Days. The festival's first, ninth and twelfth days are significant and work is suspended.

Pesach/ Passover / April 22

Passover is the first and most significant of the Jewish pilgrim festivals. It celebrates the redemption by God of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. Work is not permitted on the first two and last two days, with many people refraining from work during the whole festival.

Hanuman Jayanti / April 23

Hanuman Jayanti is a Hindu religious festival that celebrates the birth of the Hindu God, Hanuman, who is highly venerated throughout India and Nepal. This festival is celebrated on different days across India.

MAY

Kodomo no Hi - Children's Day $\,/\,$ May $\,5\,$

Kodomo no Hi is celebrated every year on May 5 in Japan. On this national holiday, children are respected and honoured for their individual strengths, and happiness is wished upon them.

IDAHOBIT Day / May 17

IDAHOBIT stands for the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia. IDAHOBIT is a day to celebrate and appreciate our diverse community and to stand up for equality for all members of society. The day is about raising awareness, championing inclusion and celebrating the LGBTIQA+ community.

Vesak / May 23

Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Lord Buddha. This is a major religious and significant day for Buddhists.

Baha'i: Declaration of the Bab / May 23

This date marks the anniversary of the Bab's announcement of his mission in 1844. The Bab is a prophet and is considered one of the founders of the Baha'i faith.

JUNE

Shavuot / June 11

Shavuot is a Jewish celebration of Moses' descent from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments. It is the second of the Jewish pilgrim festivals. Some people refrain from work on Shavuot.

Eid al-Adha / June 17

Eid al-Adha is the latter of the two official holidays which are celebrated within Islam. It is tradition to slaughter a sheep, goat or cow, and distribute the meat among family, friends, and the needy.

Matariki / June 28

Matariki is known as the Māori New Year in Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view) and became an official public holiday in New Zealand in 2022.

JULY

NAIDOC Week / July 7-14

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Guru Purnima / July 21

The day of Guru Purnima is traditionally the time when seekers offer the Guru their gratitude and receive his blessings. Guru Purnima is also considered an especially beneficial day to practice yogic sadhana (disciplined practices) and meditation.

AUGUST

Obon Festival / August 13-16

Obon is an annual Buddhist event for commemorating one's ancestors, whose spirits are believed to temporarily return to this world in order to visit their relatives during Obon.

Wrist Tying Festival / August 17

Karen people all around the world celebrate a Wrist Tying Festival in August called Lar Ko Kee Su, where the act of tying white thread around people's wrists has come to symbolise the unity of Karen people.

Rakhi/Raksha Bandhan / August 19

Raksha Bandhan is an auspicious festival celebrated across the world by all Hindus. It is the day to cherish the relationship between a brother and a sister. They show their love to them by tying Rakhi (sacred thread), exchanging gifts, offering sweets and celebrating the bond of love and affection they share.

Krishna Janmashtami / August 26

Krishna Janmashtami, also called Gokulashtami, is an annual Hindu festival. It is a celebration of the birth of Lord Krishna.

Wear it Purple Day / August 30

Wear it Purple was founded in 2010 in response to global stories of real teenagers, real heartache and their very real responses. Several rainbow young people took their own lives following bullying and harassment resulting from the lack of acceptance of their sexuality or gender identity.

SEPTEMBER

Onam Festival / September 5

Onam is the most popular festival of Kerala, a southern state of India, and is celebrated for ten days. Every year this festival falls on the Malayalam month of Chingam, between August/September, and is known as the harvest festival of Kerala.

Teej / September 6

Teej is the most famous festival among Nepali women, and is observed for marital happiness, the wellbeing of spouses and children, and the purification of own body and soul.

Ganesh Chaturthi / September 7

Ganesh Chaturthi is a festival that pays homage to Lord Ganesh and celebrates the day of his birth. Many recognise that Lord Ganesh brings order in this universe and worship him before embarking on a new endeavour, intellectual journey, or business.

Harvest Moon Festival / September 17

East and Southeast Asian cultures celebration of the harvest and of the Autumn season at the time of the full moon.

Chuseok / September 17

Chuseok, also known as Korean Thanksgiving Day, is one of the most important festivals of the year.

OCTOBER

Yom Kippur / October 11

This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with fasting and repentance. Many Jews will refrain from work and attend synagogue services.

Vijayadashami / October 12

A major Hindu festival celebrated as victory of Lord Rama, every year at the end of Navaratri. The festival is also known as Dussehra or Dasara. In Nepal, it is celebrated as Dashain.

Wan Ok Phansa / October 17

Wan Ok Phansa is a festival for devout Buddhist Thais as it marks the end of lent and the start of a new season following the end of heavy rains.

Karwa Chauth / October 20

The fasting of Karwa Chauth is celebrated by some Hindu women, and its rituals are observed by married women for the long life of their husband. Married women worship Lord Shiva and His family including Lord Ganesha and break the fast only after sighting and making the offerings to the moon.

NOVEMBER

Bandi Chorr Divas / November 1

Bandi Chhor Divas, also known as 'The Celebration of Freedom', commemorates the release of Sikh guru, Sri Guru Hargobind Ji from prison. Sikhs continue this annual celebration with lamps being lit outside gurdwaras and sweets distributed to all.

Diwali / Tihar / Deepavali / November 1

This day is celebrated by Hindus, Nepalis, Jains, Sikhs, and Newar Buddhists. Although for each faith it marks different historical events and stories, the festival nonetheless represents the same symbolic victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.

Day of the Dead / Día de Muertos

/ November 2

Día de Muertos is a holiday traditionally celebrated on November 1 and 2. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember friends and family members who have died.

All Souls Day / Dia de Finados / November 2

This Brazilian holiday is marked the day after All Saints Day, and honors the souls who have passed on.

Kathina Ceremony / November 3

Kathina, or the Kathin (Robe-Offering) Festival is celebrated between October and November, with robes being offered to Buddhist Monastics. It is observed during the rainy season in Burma and Thailand so that monks and nuns can have extra

Guru Nanak Jayanti / November 15

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurpurab, also known as Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak. One of the most celebrated Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev is highly revered by the Sikh community.

Wan Loy Krathong / November 15

Loy Krathong, also known as Thailand's Festival of Lights, is one of the biggest festivals in Thailand. In Thai, the word loy means float, and krathong means container, boat, or vessel, and people float a Krathong decorated with candles and flowers onto the water. Thai people believe this is a way to rid oneself of bad luck and negative feelings.

Sweet December / November 30

For Christian Karen people, Sweet December is celebrated throughout December as a time of harvest, family, and the joy and hope found in Christmas. On November 30 people stay awake all night singing songs, worshipping, playing games, and dancing to welcome in the month of December.

DECEMBER

Simbang Gabi / December 16

Simbang Gabi is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas. It is similar to the nine dawn Masses leading to Christmas Eve practiced in Puerto Rico called Misa de Aguinaldo.

Chanukah Festival of Lights / December 25

Chanukah (Hanukkah) commemorates the recapture and rededication by the Jewish people of the Jerusalem Temple. It lasts for eight days and nights, and each night an additional candle is lit.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day School holidays (cont.)						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
					Karen New Year	Pongal
15 Makar Sankranti	16	17 Sikh: Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	City of Greater Bendigo Citizenship Ceremony Hindu: Thaipusam	Australia Day Our Survival Day India: Republic Day	27	28
29 School holidays (end)	30	31	1	2	3	4
		And the second second				



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 Sri Lanka : Independence Day
5	Aotearoa/New Zealand: Waitangi Day	7	8	9	Lunar New Year Losar / Tibetan New Year Korean: Seollal	11
12	National Apology to the Stolen Generation Anniversary	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Karen Buddhist: Yarghu Festival	25
26	27	28	29	1	2	3



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	Hindu: Maha Shivaratri International Women's Day	9	10 Islam: Ramadan (start)
11 PUBLIC HOLIDAY Labour Day (Victoria)	12 Mauritian National Day	13	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day
18 Cultural Diversity Week (start)	19	20	Baha'i/Persian/Afghan: Naw-Rúz International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22	Jewish: Purim Pakistan Day Bendigo Latin Festival	24 Cultural Diversity Week (end)
Holi Greek Independence Day	26	27	28	Good Friday School holidays (start)	30 PUBLIC HOLIDAY Easter Saturday	Baster Sunday Trans Day of Visibility



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter Monday						Daylight saving (end)
8	9 Islam: Ramadan (end) Chaitra Navratri Ugadi Gudi Padwa	Islam: Eid al-Fitr Turkish: Ramazan Bayrami Hari Raya Aidilfitri	11	12	Sri Lanka: Sinhala New Year Sikh: Vaisakhi Festival Water Festival (start)	14 School holidays (end)
15 Water Festival (end)	16	17 Hindu: Rama Navami	18 Jewish: Yom HaShoah	19	20 Baha'i: Ridvan	21
Jewish: Pesach/ Passover	23 Hindu: Hanuman Jayanti	24	25 PUBLIC HOLIDAY ANZAC Day	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
						Japan: Kodomo no Hi - Children's Day
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Neighbourhood House Week (start)	14	15	16	17	18	19 Neighbourhood House Week (end)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
National Volunteer Week (start)	21	22	Buddhist: Vesak Buddha Purnima Baha'i: Declaration of the Bab	24	Africa Day	National Sorry Day National Volunteer Week (end)
27 National Reconciliation	28	29	30	31	1	2
Week (start)			and the second		The second second	

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Mabo Day National Reconciliation Week (end)	4	5	6	7	8	9
King's Birthday Dragon Boat Festival Men's Health Week (start)	11 Jewish: Shavuot	12	13	14	15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Men's Health Week (end) Refugee Week (start)
17 Hari Raya Haji Islam: Eid al-Adha	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22 Refugee Week (end)	23
24	25	26	27	28 Aotearoa/New Zealand: Matariki	29 School holidays (start)	30



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4 United States: Independence Day	5	6 Dalai Lama's Birthday	7 NAIDOC Week (start)
8	9	10	11	12	13	School holidays (end) NAIDOC Week (end) France: Bastille Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Sikh: Guru Purnima
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	A National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
5	6	7	8	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	11
12 Thailand: Wan Mae/Mother's Day	Japan: Obon Festival (start)	14 Pakistan: Independence Day	India: Independence Day Korea: National Liberation Day	Japan: Obon Festival (end)	Karen: Wrist Tying Festival Indonesia: Independence Day	18
19 Hindu: Rakhi/Raksha Bandhan	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Hindu: Krishna Janmashtami	27	28	29	30 Wear it Purple Day	31	1
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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Vietnam: Independence	3	4	5	6	7	8
Day			Onam Festival	Teej	Hindu: Ganesh Chaturthi	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Malaysia Day Mexico: Independence Day	17 Harvest Moon Festival Korea: Chuseok	18 International Week of Deaf People (start)	19	20	21 School holidays (start)	22
23	24	25	26	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Friday before the AFL Grand Final	International Week of Deaf People (end)	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	China: National Day	Jewish: Rosh Hashanah (start)		Jewish: Rosh Hashanah (end)	Zinda Multicultural Festival	School holidays (end) Daylight saving (start)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Taiwan: National Day Fiji Day	Jewish: Yom Kippur Durga Ashtami	Hindu: Dussehra/ Vijayadashami	International Day for Disaster Reduction
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Nepal: Dashain (start)		Wan Ok Phansa			Hindu: Karwa Chauth
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Nepal: Dashain (end)		Karen Culture Showcase	
28	29	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	31	1	2	3
THE RESERVE	10 mm	Bendigo Cup		ART CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF		100 E



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
28	29	30	31	Sikh: Bandi Chhor Divas Diwali / Tihar / Deepavali	Day of the Dead / Día de Muertos Brazil: All Souls Day / Dia de Finados Twin Holy Days - Birth of Bab	Hindu: Bhaiya Dooj Twin Holy Days - Birth of Bahá'u'lláh Karen Buddhist: Kathina Ceremony
4	5 Melbourne Cup	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	Trans Awareness Week (start)	14	Sikh: Guru Nanak Jayanti Thailand: Wan Loy Krathong	16	17
18	Trans Awareness Week (end)	Trans Day of Remembrance	21	22	23	24
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (start)	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	St Andrew's Day Karen Christian: Sweet December	1



December 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	International Day of People with Disability	4	5 Thailand: Wan Por/ Father's Day	6	7 Day of the Little Candles / Dia de las velitas	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
9	10 International Human Rights Day 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (end)	11	12	13	14	15
16 Philippines: Simbang Gabi	17	18	19	20 School holidays (start)	21 Summer Solstice	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day Jewish: Chanukah Festival of Lights	PUBLIC HOLIDAY Boxing Day	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



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JANUARY								FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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Emergency phone numbers

In an emergency call 000 for fire, police, and ambulance

If you have difficulty speaking English, emergency service you requested

Bendigo Police Station

5448 1300

Orange Door

1800 512 359

Child Protection

1300 664 977

Safe Steps **1800 015 188**

Kids Helpline **1800 551 800**

Centre Against Sexual Assault

5441 0430

Suicide Line Victoria

1300 651 251

Lifeline

13 11 14

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)

132 500

VicEmergency

1800 226 226

Useful service contacts

TIS National (Translating and Interpreting Service)

••••••

Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services **5**441 6644

Bendigo Community Health Services

5406 1200

131 450

City of Greater Bendigo

MULTICULTURAL CALENDAR 2024





























