

## AUSTRALIA DAY SOLUTION – ARTICLE 16 DEC 2024

### Australia Day a new date in January

It is proposed to move Australia Day from 26 January to the second last Monday of January. Such a move would create a long weekend every year to be called the Australia Long Weekend.

The present date of Australia Day January 26 is the date when British settlement commenced in Sydney Cove. It is the date when the dispossession of our First Nations peoples commenced, with devastating consequences still felt today. It is a day that is divisive for many Australians. When it falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, there is no long weekend at all.

We need to choose a time to celebrate Australia that we can all support, whether we are of British descent, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or have come to live in Australia from the many countries around the world. We are all Australians – citizens with equal rights and obligations, equal before the law and all with one vote to elect our representatives.

The yearly calendar reveals that the second last Monday in January would always predate 26 January, falling each year between 18 and 24 January. A long weekend two-thirds of the way through this month is the best time to celebrate our nation as it falls at the end of the Christmas holiday period and before schools, universities, courts and parliaments return for the new year.

This is an incredible country and there is much to celebrate. But we need to do more than celebrate, we need to understand and reflect on our history, consider where we want Australia to go in the future and be respectful of one another.

The Proposal to move Australia Day to the second last Monday in January as part of the Australia Long Weekend is at <https://www.australialongweekend.com.au/> This website provides information as to why a change of time and date is needed and a petition that you can sign if you are supportive.

It really is for the people of Australia to decide how and when we want to celebrate our country into the future. It does not require a referendum for this to happen. It is up to us all as individuals and as communities to decide what we want to do.

So, what to do? If you support this Proposal, then sign the petition and spread the word. We can all make this happen in a way that brings people together and helps heal the nation.

*James Woods*

James Woods

*Elizabeth Elliott*

Elizabeth Elliott

*Phil Jenkyn*

Phil Jenkyn

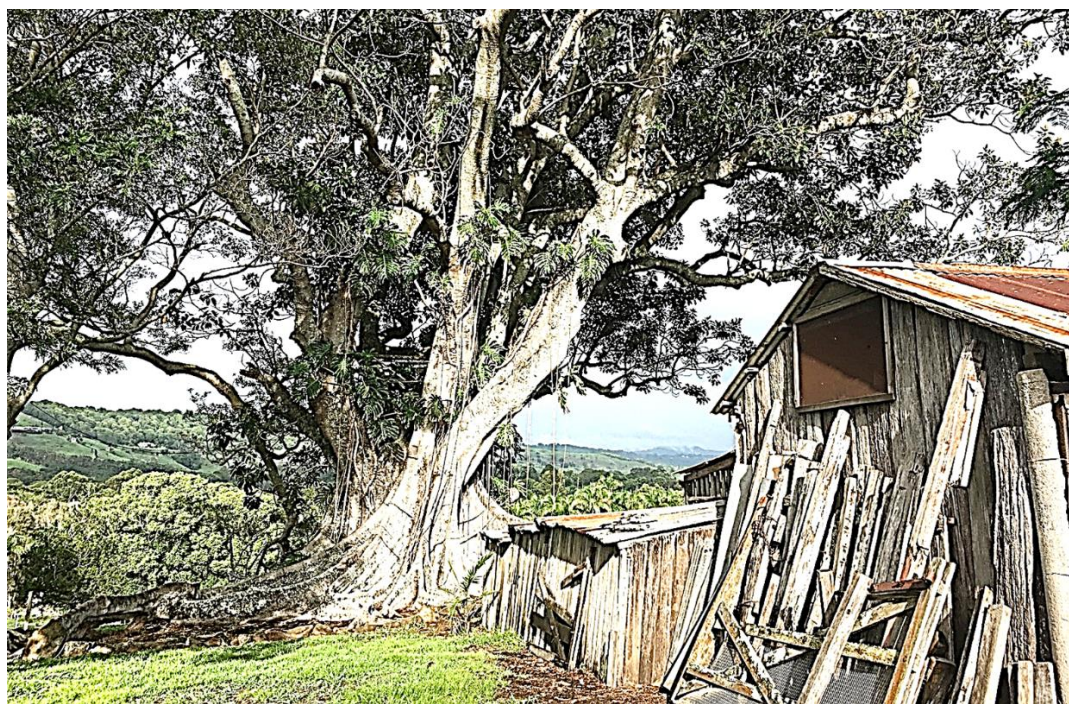
*[Make the Change for a Better Australia](https://www.australialongweekend.com.au/)*

James Woods is a businessman and lawyer based in Melbourne. He has established a website proposing that Australia Day be moved to the second last Monday in January as part of an Australia Long Weekend.

Elizabeth Elliott is a paediatrician and a professor at Sydney University. Her clinical work and research is focused on improving the health and well-being of disadvantaged children. She was awarded an AM for her services to paediatrics and child health.

Phil Jenkyn is a retired barrister and community activist. He played a leading role in the successful battle to save Sydney Harbour's headlands. He has received an OAM for his service to the environment and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Trust.

Australia Long Weekend  
Phone: 03 8611 2600 (via eCollect)  
16 December 2024



*Australian Landscape – “Standing Tall” (2024) Phil Jenkyn*

An ancient fig tree and the old wooden shed standing tall together in the Australian landscape.