

INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND 18-19-20 JANUARY 2025

A group of friends support the idea of moving Australia Day to the second last Monday in January as part of an 'Australia Long Weekend'. They decide the time to act is now.

They organise activities, celebrations, discussions and more to take place over the Saturday/Sunday/Monday 18/19/20 of January 2025 - in Sydney's beautiful Pittwater.



Barrenjoey Headland looking down over Palm Beach and Pittwater

The working group consists of Phil Jenkyn OAM retired barrister, local filmmaker John Illingsworth, Peter Middleton marketing and tourism, Dr Peter Mitchell OAM environmental specialist and historian, Lisa McLean former journalist, Tom Sherlock a former Councillor and others.

This led to the name – the 'Inaugural Australia Long Weekend'.

On Saturday 18 January there was a walk in Palm Beach. A number of people were interviewed including some young Australians. On Sunday 19 January a group caught the ferry across Pittwater to Patonga and climbed through wonderful bush to the lookout, and then on to lunch at 'The Boat House'.

On Monday 20 January there were three stimulating speeches in Governor Phillip Park and a walk to the Barrenjoey Lighthouse. It was back to the old Barrenjoey Boat Shed now called 'The Joey' for lunch.

John Illingsworth shot some wonderful film which he has put into a number of short videos that truly capture the spirit of this inaugural long weekend. They have been placed on his YouTube channel and can be viewed at [pittwaterpathways](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpittwaterpathways). Photos were also taken.

The aim is to celebrate being an Australian, to reflect on our long history and be respectful of all – and to discuss how we can do things better. The time chosen allowed everyone to come together and relax and have fun. That is certainly what happened.

The links to the videos and the photos and an earlier article follow.

Phil Jenkyn OAM

12 Feb 2025

INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND 18/19/20 JANUARY 2025

VIDEOS

MOVING AUSTRALIA DAY TO AN AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND DISCUSSED

Day 1 Sat Video <https://youtu.be/6uuqWDd4XCM>

PHIL JENKYN OAM a retired barrister discusses the idea of moving Australia Day to the second last Monday of January each year as part of an Australia Long Weekend.



Info at <https://www.australialongweekend.com.au/>

Sign and share the petition at

<https://www.change.org/p/create-the-australia-long-weekend-in-january-as-our-national-celebration>

Filmed by John Illingsworth Sat 18 Jan 25, Day 1

Inaugural Australia Long Weekend.

AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND SUPPORTED

Day 2 Sun Video <https://youtu.be/d3BGqVAD3OA>

TOM SHERLOCK a former Councillor is a passionate supporter of moving Australia Day to the second last Monday of January.



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Filmed by John Illingsworth Sun 19 Jan 25, Day 2

Inaugural Australia Long Weekend.

AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND SOME FACTS

Day 3 Mon Video <https://youtu.be/ZUdkdRb8PY0>

DR. PETER MITCHELL OAM an environmental specialist and historian sets out facts concerning the present date of Australia Day and discusses what needs to change.



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Filmed by John Illingsworth on Mon 20 Jan 25, Day 3 of the Inaugural Australia Long Weekend.

AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND BENEFITS

Day 3 Mon Video <https://youtu.be/uLZp689TYoI>

LISA McLEAN a former journalist speaks about listening and respecting, accepting the truth of the past, and being truly inclusive.



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Filmed by John Illingsworth on Mon 20 Jan 25, Day 3

Inaugural Australia Long Weekend.

AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Day 3 Video <https://youtu.be/Mff8kTS1iul>

PETER MIDDLETON a recent supporter of Australia Long Weekend, on the advantages of the public holiday being on the second last Monday of January.



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Filmed by John Illingsworth on Mon 20 Jan 25, Day 3

Inaugural Australia Long Weekend.

For all videos on the [pittwaterpathways](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLor69SMXRyYd4Pmza-Tvhar4zJE04BEzH) AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND playlist see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLor69SMXRyYd4Pmza-Tvhar4zJE04BEzH>

INAUGURAL AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND 18-19-20 JANUARY 2025

PHOTOS



Sat 18 - North Palm Beach "Summer Bay"



South Palm Beach Interviews



Discussion with young Australians



Phil Jenkyn OAM answering questions



Young Australians giving the thumbs up for an Australian Long Weekend over the second last long weekend in January – every year!



Sun 19 - Tom S, John Illingsworth & John M



On the way to Patonga on the Hawkesbury



Tom, John I, Phil Jenkyn & John Mckillop



Tom jumping for joy and ahead of the rest



Climbing to the lookout from Patonga



Tom Sherlock thumbs up at the lookout



Monday 20 - Wonderful view from Barrenjoey Headland towards Palm Beach and Pittwater



Phil Jenkyn OAM introducing speakers



Peter Middleton advertising & tourism



Dr Peter Mitchell OAM environment



Lisa McLean former journalist



Walking towards Barrenjoey Headland



Peter Mitchell and the geology of the area



Uncle Neil on the local Aboriginal history



Walking up the track to the Lighthouse



Celebrating the Inaugural Australia Long Weekend at the magnificent Barrenjoey Lighthouse



And afterwards over lunch at 'The Joey' the former Barrenjoey Boat Shed on Pittwater

For information visit <https://www.australialongweekend.com.au/> and to sign and share the petition <https://www.change.org/p/create-the-australia-long-weekend-in-january-as-our-national-celebration>

The Inaugural Australia Long Weekend was filmed by John Illingsworth over three days 18-19-20 January 2025. To view the videos see [pittwaterpathways](https://pittwaterpathways.com.au/)

CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA DAY – MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025

This year a number of concerned citizens will be celebrating Australia Day 2025 on Monday 20 January – the second last Monday of the month.

They are doing so as they no longer feel that it is appropriate to celebrate the nation on 26 January, a date that marks the dispossession of our First Nations peoples and the commencement of British colonisation.

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In a recent article ‘Historians recommend moving Australia Day away from January 26’ news.com.au 3 Jan 25, ANU historian Professor Angela Woollacott states that “the debate around January 26 will go on forever and the only way to just clear the deck is to have a new date.” CQUniversity historian Dr Benjamin Jones agrees and poses the question “Is there a possible alternative?”

The answer to that in our view is YES.

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“We all need a time and date once a year when we can come together in a respectful and joyous way – wouldn’t it be good if it was over a long weekend that allows plenty of time to celebrate, reflect and relax?” asks Phil Jenkyn OAM, a retired barrister and community activist.

“We believe that the best time for Australia Day is the second last Monday in January as part of an Australia Long Weekend.”

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“The proposed time is about two-thirds of the way through January, it will always pre-date 26 January and is simply the best time of the year for such a celebration,” says James Woods, businessman and lawyer.

“We have created a website and a petition and have consulted widely over the last six months. We are now seeking the support of the Australian people for this proposal.”

James Woods and Phil Jenkyn OAM, Co-Convenors

Australia Long Weekend

Web: <https://www.australialongweekend.com.au>

Petition: change.org [here](#)

13 Jan 25 v3

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.

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.