

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](#)

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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.