

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander QLS Cultural Calendar 2026

## JANUARY

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## FEBRUARY

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## MARCH

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## APRIL

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## KEY CULTURAL DATES

13 February	<b>National Apology Anniversary</b>
19 March	<b>National Close the Gap Day</b>
21 March	<b>National Harmony Day</b>
May	<b>Indigenous History Month</b>
26 May	<b>National Sorry Day</b>
27 May	<b>Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum</b>
27 May – 3 June	<b>National Reconciliation Week – All In</b>
3 June	<b>MABO Day</b>
July	<b>QLS Annual First Nations Plan</b>
1 July	<b>Coming of the Light</b>
5-12 July	<b>NAIDOC Week – 50 Years of Deadly</b>
4 August	<b>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day</b>
9 August	<b>International Day of the World's Indigenous People</b>
2 September	<b>Indigenous Literacy Day</b>
13 September	<b>Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People</b>
October	<b>Indigenous Business Month</b>

## MAY

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## JUNE

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## JULY

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## AUGUST

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## SEPTEMBER

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## OCTOBER

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## NOVEMBER

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## DECEMBER

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<b>Booin Gari Festival (Come This Way)</b>	Started in 2008 in Tewantin, Sunshine Coast. The Murri gathering is a family day to celebrate local Indigenous culture and history through a range of creative events and performances. Source: <a href="http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2">www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2</a>
<b>Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) July</b>	Started in 2009 and goes for 3 days in July. It features dance, music, fashion parades, dramatic performances, workshops and artists' talks. Source: <a href="http://ciaf.com.au/cairns-indigenous-art-fair-ciaf">ciaf.com.au/cairns-indigenous-art-fair-ciaf</a>
<b>Clancestry</b>	Celebrates arts and cultures of the world's First Nations Peoples with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Scheduled in February or October, the festival started in 2013 and is hosted by the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. Source: <a href="http://qpac.com.au/clancestry">qpac.com.au/clancestry</a>
<b>Cully Fest</b>	In Cunnamulla, south-west QLD, in 2016 but changes venues. Cully Fest is a 3-day outback and Aboriginal cultural festival that offers traditional Aboriginal dance and language, bush yarns, didgeridoo making and other workshops including song writing and ukulele, a cabaret with bush tucker dinner, a school excursion program, National Finals Rodeo and headline musical acts. Source: <a href="http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#queensland">www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#queensland</a>
<b>Cultural Fest</b>	Despite the simple name this festival is held in Townsville since 1994. It is believed to be the biggest of its kind in Australia. Source: <a href="http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2">www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2</a>
<b>Dreaming Festival</b>	Woodford (one hour north of Brisbane) is the largest Aboriginal cultural festival in Australia showcasing the wide variety of cultural expression. The festival started in 2004 and features performing arts venues, bars, Ceremony grounds, traditional healing, galleries, rituals, campfire story circles and a mass of stalls, workshop avenue and food outlets. Source: <a href="http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2">www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2</a>
<b>Garma Festival</b>	Since the first festival in 1999, the Garma Festival is Australia's largest Indigenous gathering, a 4-day celebration of Yolngu life and culture held in remote northeast Arnhem Land. It is hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation, Garma showcases traditional miny'tji (art), manikay (song), bunggul (dance) and story-telling, and is an important meeting point for the clans and families of the region. Source: <a href="http://yyf.com.au/garma-festival/about-garma-festival/">yyf.com.au/garma-festival/about-garma-festival/</a>
<b>Laura Aboriginal Dance and Cultural Festival</b>	A biennial three-day gathering dedicated to celebrating local dance and arts from across the Cape York region (far north Queensland). During the festival elders pass on the stories and meaning behind the dances and songs to the next generation. The festival was first celebrated in 1994. Source: <a href="http://www.anggnarra.org.au">www.anggnarra.org.au</a>
<b>Lockhart Festival</b>	A 4-day dance festival organised by the Aboriginal community of Lockhart River on the far north Queensland coast. Over 100 dancers from 8 tribal groups in Arnhem Land, Cape York, fly into Lockhart by light plane: far away from their homelands, many of the dancers are meeting other tribal groups for the first time, and new relationships are forged between communities. Source: <a href="http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2">www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-cultural-festivals#toc2</a>
<b>Quandamooka Festival</b>	A full 3 month festival (June to August), includes traditional performances, dance, music and cultural tours and much more. Source: <a href="http://www.quandamookafestival.com.au">www.quandamookafestival.com.au</a>
<b>Frontier Festival</b>	The Gulf Country Frontier Days Festival is overflowing with Country and Western and Indigenous culture. By day, all eyes are on the ring for the National Indigenous Rodeo Championships. By night, First Nations performers and musicians from around the world take to the stage. A true celebration of the diversity of culture with the "Kabarriji Wangkijibi Spectacular" – The Coming Together of Nations, taking centre stage for a 3 day event during August, refer to the website for more information. Source: <a href="http://www.queensland.com/au/en/things-to-do/events">www.queensland.com/au/en/things-to-do/events</a>
<b>Horizon Festival</b>	Horizon Festival is an annual 10-day festival exploring the intersections of art, people, and place on Kabi Kabi and Jinibara Country, Sunshine Coast. Horizon is a meeting point and a dividing line. Somewhere to connect, captivate, and challenge your notions, a place to wander and wonder through new art, music, performance and more. Horizon is a continuum. Always evolving, shifting slowly over time. Never lost, always searching. Source: <a href="http://www.horizonfestival.com.au/about/welcome-to-horizon-festival">www.horizonfestival.com.au/about/welcome-to-horizon-festival</a>
<b>Winds of Zenadth festival</b>	ZENADTH Celebrating diversity through dance Sharing "Zenadth Kes" – the Torres Strait Islands. A unity festival. "Winds of Zenadth" is an all-islands festival celebrating a proud living culture with ancient roots, originally Melanesian. It is one of the biggest celebrations of Indigenous culture in the region. Visitors can witness the unique nature of Torres Strait Islander culture at the place where Indigenous islanders gather to practice, revitalise and preserve the language, art and ceremonies of Zenadth Kes. Experience a diverse Indigenous island festival with every island represented through dance and culture. Winds of Zenadth is a bi-annual event, next held in 2024 on Thursday Island. Source: <a href="http://www.queensland.com/au/en/things-to-do/events/arts-and-culture/indigenous-events-queensland.html">www.queensland.com/au/en/things-to-do/events/arts-and-culture/indigenous-events-queensland.html</a>