

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Wayne Fitzgerald

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Phone number *

[REDACTED]

Date of meeting: *

Tuesday 6 September 2022

Agenda item title: *

Change Australia Day effort

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[australia_day_argument_mcc.docx](#) 51.87 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *

No

Wayne Fitzgerald

Mobile: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

2nd September 2022

Attention: **Melbourne City Council**

I recently responded to your Council on this matter and received an invitation to take it further, this is my response.

I am personally insulted and upset by the negative and questionable propaganda circulating that questions the manner in which this continent was founded and subsequently colonised **and** is consequently celebrated as 'Australia Day' on the 26th January.

However, in that regard, I am fully aware that my feelings or beliefs are of no relevance compared to the 'squeaky wheels' that are a minority but appear to hold more weight and influence over such matters.

For many years, I have had the opportunity to meet with, and discuss matters such as the issues of colonisation, today's benefits provided to all Australians and the specifics of 'Australia Day' with true 'first' Australians and Torres Strait Islanders. At no times have I been informed of negative feelings in these regards and the opinion has always been: "There was no invasion" and leave the Aussie Day celebrations as they are and have been. "We love the family get-togethers and BBQs."

I make the point that I love speaking with them and exchanging knowledge. I love their sense of humour and their love for the land, something that today's urbane youth seem to have lost.

This continent was sooner or later going to be discovered: the first discoverers were not the English; however, it was the English that colonised it. In truth, this has been a largely beneficial event and some of the other possibilities may not have been so positive in their management of the country and its inhabitants. Without going into detail, take the Spanish as a good example of this negative behaviour.

We live in the 21st century and I/we can't be responsible for the behaviours of the people of the previous centuries, this is history and I refuse to be made to 'pay' for their behaviours. But I acknowledge it as past history; they were different times with different attitudes.

Our 'Aboriginal' or 'first nations' people migrated to this continent too, certainly some 40-45,000 years ago BUT this is still recent history in the greater scheme of things.

Then, what about the evidence that 3 or even 4 such migrations occurred at different times and evidence shows that each one either subjugated or killed the previous inhabitants. When Tasmania separated (*that was a global warming event!*) from the mainland about 14,000 years ago, their genetically different population survived independently (until Europeans arrived that is).

Who or what did **they** displace?

Could the first landing have been labelled an 'Invasion'?

What of the subsequent ones?

Then there is plenty of evidence to suggest that they unfortunately, but significantly, contributed to the killing off of our megaflora as well as some other unique species. Obviously, we 'new' Australians are not alone in these behaviours.

'Man' (not just *homo sapiens*) has rarely lived in harmony with one another, on any continent. Note that the natives of the Torres Strait Islands have never lived in harmony with those of the mainland in spite of a very narrow water barrier. Have you asked them why? Or what they did about it?

I take great offence in your council getting involved on issues that are not of their responsibility. These consume ratepayer funds (our tax money actually) in an irresponsible way.

Australia Day is a federal responsibility but effectively run by the states. Councils have no input into this and I vehemently ask that you do not persist in trying to change it. Please desist from wasting rate-payer funds as these are invariably increased yearly and are a significant tax impost for property owners.

Regards

Wayne Fitzgerald

DOCUMENT 1:

'The Great Aussie Bastard'

January 26, 2022

This is a comment written by a John on the Daily Telegraph page, he has an Aboriginal ancestor.

On 26 January 1788 when the First Fleet ships unloaded their ~1,200 convicts, Royal Marine guards and officials not a shot was fired.

As they looked around what's now Circular Quay they saw nothing other than bush. Not a single building, planted field, domesticated plant or animal - nothing at all. It was the same across the continent.

It was "terra nullius" - a vacant land.

There was no Aboriginal Army to defeat in battle. There was nothing to claim as the spoils of victory.

There was just wild bush. The few Aborigines who came out to have a look at these strange people were completely illiterate and innumerate and those on the south side

of the harbour spoke a language completely unintelligible to those on the north side of the harbour and they'd been constantly at war with each other for as long as anyone can remember.

There was no "invasion".

Captain Phillip was instructed by the government in London to treat the natives "with amity and kindness" and he did.

No Aborigines were shot; no platoon of Marines fixed their bayonets or loaded their muskets or took a shot at anyone who emerged from the bush to see what was going on. Instead, they offered them gifts and friendship.

Most people now "identified" as "indigenous" - like myself and my children and grandchildren have European - mostly British - ancestry to a greater or lesser extent.

I recently had a DNA test done that shows I'm 48% Irish, 20% English, 30% Scandinavian, 1% Spanish and 1% Aboriginal.

The absurdity is that, in this time of identity politics, I am an "Aborigine" by virtue of the fact that one of my Irish ancestors married an Aboriginal woman 6 generations ago.

There is no reason to change Australia Day. It was the day "Australia" came into being and had it not been for those British coming ashore on 26 January 1788, I wouldn't exist and neither would Mr Mundine.

The name "Mundine" is as English as a cold pork pie or fish-n-chips wrapped in newspaper.

It's time for all indigenous people to get over what happened 229 years ago and stop playing the victim.

DOCUMENT 2:

Bravo Jacinta Price!



On July 1 my term as Senator for the Northern Territory officially began, and already I'm dealing with the left's woke nonsense.

Rather than focus on solutions for the REAL issues, our new government is more concerned with its own virtue signalling.

Let me make this one clear for the Adam Bandts and Anthony Albaneses of the world: just because someone is Indigenous does not automatically make them marginalised. I'm tired of the paternalistic and condescending narrative that says that by virtue of lineage, Indigenous Australians are somehow in need of help and incapable of success without the aid of some privileged inner-city lefty.

Simply having Indigenous heritage doesn't automatically make someone disadvantaged. In Australia, we have a growing Indigenous middle class, successful people lucky enough to have the advantage of the generous education system, services and employment opportunities that our great nation has to offer ALL Australians.

They've done that WITHOUT a constitutional Indigenous "voice" to parliament, they've done it WITHOUT a treaty, and they've done it WITHOUT any need for some hero-complex lefty's virtue signalling.

I've said it before and I'll say it again – a constitutional "voice" to parliament is redundant. The Australian people have freely elected TEN Indigenous Australians to Federal Parliament.

According to the recent census, Indigenous Australians account for 3.2 per cent of the population – they now make up 4.5 per cent of the Australian Federal Parliament. You don't need a constitutionally mandated representation for a group overrepresented in Parliament.

Yes, many of the most marginalised in our country are Aboriginal, but the "gap" is not only between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

It lies between successful Aboriginals and marginalised Aboriginals just as much as it does between successful and marginalised people of ALL backgrounds.

It lies in the more remote Indigenous communities where our nation's most disadvantaged live, not in the big cities. Out there they're not concerned with virtue signalling or flag waving, they don't need smoking ceremonies or acknowledgments of country.

In those communities where English is not the primary language is spoken, where education is not adequate, where jobs are limited and welfare is rife, that's where the gap is the widest.

And you don't need a new "voice" to parliament to tell you that.

There are plenty of voices telling us that now, and they're being ignored by the political elite trying to win woke social points.

Instead of making this about race, instead of virtue signalling for political gain, we need to focus our efforts on the REAL problems, with REAL solutions to improve the lives of marginalised Australians – no matter their background.

We should be focussing on ensuring that ALL Australian children can adequately read, write and speak English to gain an education that leads to employment.

I don't know how many times I need to call on Australian leaders to focus on the REAL problems, but I'll continue to do so until they listen – because we need them now.

Yours for REAL solutions,

Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
Country Liberal Senator - for NT

A letter that should be listed with the submissions on item re 26 January.

Kind regards,
Fiona

Fiona Ward | Director, Office of the CEO

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I choose to work flexibly and send emails outside of normal office hours. No need to reply outside yours.

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.

From: Danielle Roche [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 11:09 AM
To: Sally Capp - Lord Mayor of Melbourne [REDACTED]
Cc: Karlie Brand [REDACTED]; Danielle Roche [REDACTED]
Subject: Review of City of Melbourne's Approach to Australia Day: Notice of Motion, July 26 Council Meeting

Dear Lord Mayor

Attached please find correspondence for your consideration.

Kind regards

Dannielle Roche OAM

Chair | National Australia Day Council

Old Parliament House, King George Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

australiaday.org.au | australianoftheyear.org.au



23 August 2022

Rt Hon Sally Capp
Lord Mayor
Melbourne City Council
GPO Box 1603
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Via email: [REDACTED]

Old Parliament House
King George Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600

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Dear Lord Mayor,

Review of City of Melbourne's Approach to Australia Day: Notice of Motion, July 26 Council Meeting

I write on behalf of the National Australia Day Council (NADC) in response to Melbourne City Council's review of its approach to Australia Day, and to provide information about our work to deliver a national day that is inclusive of the histories, stories and perspectives of *all* Australians.

The NADC is the national coordinating body for Australia Day. In 2020, we introduced a new approach to Australia Day through the Story of Australia campaign and its *Reflect. Respect. Celebrate – We're all part of the story* message.

The message invites all Australians to reflect on our nation's history, including its most troubling and difficult moments, respect that the day – and indeed being Australian – has different meanings to different people, and celebrate Australia's place as an inclusive, diverse and multicultural society.

Research-informed, market-tested and evidence-based, the campaign responded to a desire to be more inclusive of the histories, perspectives and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For example, it features the story of Christine, a member of the Stolen Generations, and Steve Widders, a Kamilaroi and Anaiwan man and disability advocate, among others.

The Story of Australia quickly became one of the most successful Government-supported communications campaigns in recent memory – with more than 80 per cent of Australians supporting its message, tone and inclusivity.

Since 2021, the NADC has provided grants of up to \$20,000 for Councils and community groups to host Australia Day events that allow their communities to reflect, respect and celebrate.

In 2022, we broadened this work, providing an additional \$10,000 funding for applicants to work with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deliver events that included meaningful reflection and acknowledgment of their histories, perspectives and cultures.

In Melbourne, Port Phillip City Council partners with the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council to host *We-Akon Dilinja* (morning of mourning), an annual commemoration as dawn breaks over Port Phillip Bay. The NADC has been proud to support this event for the past three years.

The feedback from participating Councils has been overwhelmingly positive about the success these events have had bringing local indigenous and non-indigenous communities together in reflection, mutual respect and celebration of culture.

Despite several invitations in recent years, the City of Melbourne has engaged with neither the NADC's community events grants program nor its major events partnerships funding program, which provides up to \$1 million to capital city Councils or event hosts for state-significant Australia Day events.

The NADC would welcome the opportunity to work with Council and its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to develop a uniquely Melbourne event in a similar vein to We-Akon Diliinja, Sydney's Wugul-Ora – which is also supported by the NADC – or many other events that provide an appropriate, meaningful reflection on history and allow attendees to pay their respects, while at the same time celebrating enduring indigenous survival and culture.

I further note that your Notice of Motion at Council's meeting on 26 July, at 1.2.4, requests that Council officers "include consideration of ways to engage with the Commonwealth Government on reconciliation with First Nations people, including involvement in the movement to change the date" (emphasis added).

While all available evidence demonstrates that an overwhelming majority of Australians support Australia Day, to the extent that Council is willing to engage with Commonwealth bodies to further the cause of reconciliation in the context of our national day, the NADC would be pleased to assist.

To help Council understand our comprehensive work in this field, a report on the NADC's activities for Australia Day 2022 is attached to this email.

Further, should you be amenable, the NADC would be delighted to provide you with a detailed briefing on our work, including insights into the development and success of the Story of Australia and its *Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. We're all part of the story* message.

To discuss any of the matters raised in this letter, or to arrange a meeting, please contact me on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Danielle Roche OAM
Board Chair
National Australia Day Council

CC: Karlie Brand, NADC CEO: [REDACTED]

REFLECT.
RESPECT.
CELEBRATE.
**AUSTRALIA
DAY 2022**
REPORT



Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



NADC

National
Australia Day
Council

WE'RE ALL PART
OF THE STORY.

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Australian Government

The National Australia Day Council is proudly supported by the Australian Government.



REFLECT.
RESPECT.
CELEBRATE.
**AUSTRALIA
DAY 2022**
REPORT



CHAIR INTRODUCTION



The Story of Australia has in some way shaped a part of our lives, from the pace we live to the way we see our place in the world, and what it means to each of us to be Australian.

The National Australia Day Council's work to tell the Story of Australia in a new way began in 2020 with a national advertising campaign to introduce the *Reflect. Respect. Celebrate—We're all part of the story* message.

The Story of Australia quickly became one of the most successful Government-supported community events campaigns in recent memory—with more than 80 per cent of people supporting its message, tone and inclusivity.

In 2021, the NADC—with the support of the Federal Government and party response to the COVID-19 pandemic—added another layer to this work in the form of \$20,000 grants for community Australia Day events.

Our focus for Australia Day 2022 was to deepen and broaden our engagement with communities around the nation. On any measure, this work was a success. On 26 January 2022, in all corners of our nation, Australians came together at more than 530 events hosted by councils and local community groups to reflect, respect and celebrate with their communities.

The Australia Day 2022 Community Events Grant program launched in October 2021 with \$7.5 million in funds—enough to provide \$20,000 grants to an estimated 375 recipients. Interest in hosting Australia Day events exceeded the NADC's most ambitious expectations and the grants were oversubscribed.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, which helped the NADC secure a further \$3.5 million in funding to increase the funding pool to \$11 million and, allowing a total of 534 community grant applications to be approved.

The NADC offered additional funding to applicants whose event programs included elements that encouraged attendees to reflect and respect the history and perspectives of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and celebrate their enduring culture. A most 200 applicants took this opportunity to strengthen their ties to Traditional Owner groups in their communities—a significant uptake in year one.

The following feedback from Bonnie Shreeve, Council in Queensland, speaks to the success of this investment: *"For many years, the relationship with our Indigenous community has been fading, and this year it was our mission to reach out and rebuild those relationships. We were able to involve the local Indigenous groups in a respectful and meaningful way by making them part of the celebrations and providing a platform to express themselves."*

While conversation continues about the best way for Australians to reflect and respect on our history and celebrate our achievements and being Australian, participation in Australia Day remains strong. Sustaining and facilitating this participation remains the NADC's most important work.

The NADC is pleased to provide this report on our work to encourage Australians to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate on Australia Day 2021.

Danielle Roche OAM, Board Chair,
National Australia Day Council

ABOUT THE NADC



ABOUT THE NADC

Who we are and what we do

The National Australia Day Council works to ensure that celebrations of Australia Day encourage:

- **Participation** To unite all Australians through celebration and reflection
- **Meaning** To promote the meaning of Australia Day and being Australian
- **Recognition** To acknowledge active citizenship and achievement.

The NADC promotes our national day to inspire national pride and unity through these core programs:

- The celebration of Australia Day, which encourages all Australians to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate
- The Australian of the Year Awards
- Australian citizenship and civic values programs
- The Australia Day Ambassador program.

Our Priorities

The NADC Corporate Plan 2020-2024 outlines its priorities with the purpose of inspiring 'national pride and unity through participation and engagement in its central message: Reflect, Respect, Celebrate—we're all part of the story'. The priorities include:

- Telling the stories of inspiring Australians
- Empowering Australians to reflect, respect and celebrate.

The Australia Day Network

The Australia Day Network is an affiliate group of state and territory organisations which helps facilitate the celebration of Australia Day and being Australian and recognises inspirational Australians through the Australian of the Year Awards.

Through the Australia Day Network, the NADC helps Australia's 537 local government authorities and hundreds of not-for-profit and community organisations deliver Australia day events that encourage participation, promote meaning and celebrate citizenship.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2022: OVERVIEW

The NADC's focus for Australia Day 2022 was firmly on participation—encouraging Australians to gather with friends, family and their community to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate. To do this, the NADC delivered:

- The Story of Australia advertising campaign (TVCs, radio outdoor, digital)
- An \$11 million Australia Day Community Events grants program supporting 530 community and council events around the nation
- A program of major events in capital and major cities, including the Australia Day live event in Sydney which was broadcast around the nation live on ABC for the first time

- The annual National Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony on 26 January
- The extension of the NADC's program to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement, with new additional funding for welcomes to country, smoking ceremonies and cultural elements in community events
- The Australia Day Ambassador program
- The Australian of the Year Awards.





REFLECT,
RESPECT,
CELEBRATE
**WE'RE ALL
PART OF
THE STORY**

THE STORY OF AUSTRALIA

The Story of Australia campaign features everyday Australians reading an original poem, *The Story of Australia*.

the story of Australia

It's the story of me

It's the story of you

It's the story of we

In parts it is painful

In parts it is raw

In others it's beautiful

Inspiring great awe

It tells of many people

From far and wide

And those who've been here

Since the beginning of time

It brings us together

And tears us apart

We all have our views

So where do we start?

By listening to each other

And sharing our part.



REFLECT, RESPECT, CELEBRATE WE'RE ALL PART OF THE STORY

The NADC's theme and central message for Australia Day is Reflect, Respect, Celebrate—we're all part of the story. Launched in 2020, this message is delivered through an annual advertising campaign, the Australian of the Year Awards and Australia Day activities, which include hundreds of events held in communities around the nation on 26 January.

The Reflect, Respect, Celebrate message invites Australians to reflect on the most pivotal date in our nation's history—26 January—and to see the events that preceded and followed it from multiple perspectives.

For some, Australia Day is a day to celebrate the opportunities provided by living in a free, multicultural society. For others, it is a chance to reflect on the racial tensions and what it means to be Australian. And for many, 26 January represents a day of sadness, mourning and remembrance of colonialism.

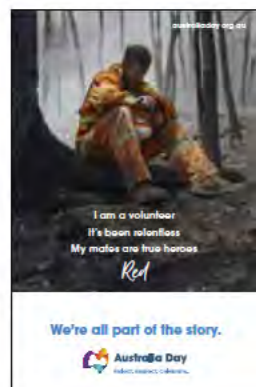
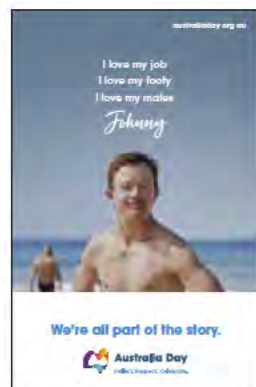
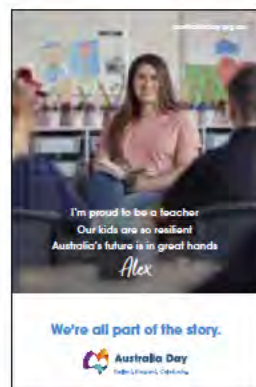
The Story of Australia asks Australians to reflect on origins of modern Australia and the impact this had on First Australians and the way of life. It asks Australians to respect First Nations peoples' deep connection to land, sea and sky, and respect what it means to be welcomed to Country—to be invited to share and continue a legacy of more than 65,000 years of continuous culture.

And it invites us to celebrate this unique and precious culture, as well as the contribution every Australian has made to giving our nation its envied place in the world, from the waves of migrants who fled war and hardship to make this country home during the 20th century, to the newest arrivals who accept the racial tensions on Australia Day. We are all part of *The Story of Australia*.

ABOUT THE 2022 CAMPAIGN

In 2022, *The Story of Australia* comprised an integrated advertising, communications, and community engagement campaign. The core advertisement aired between 2 and 26 January 2022 in multiple formats and through a range of channels, including:

- 60-second and 30-second television commercials featuring Australians reading the lines of an original poem, *The Story of Australia*
- 30-second radio advertisements encouraging listeners to visit the NADC website and plan their Australia Day
- Outdoor radio and digital advertising as part of a major media campaign
- Media partnerships with major outlets including SevenWest Media and Australian Community Media, Southern Cross Austereo radio.



Do Something Australian Digital activation

For the first time in 2022, the NADC launched a complementary digital and social campaign under *The Story of Australia* umbrella. The *Do Something Australian* campaign challenged audiences to look beyond the accepted norms of what's Australian and learn more about the way multiculturalism has shaped our nation's food, music, language, culture and experiences. The campaign featured a content series that included:

- Australians sharing their favourite multicultural foods and recipes
- Artists explaining how music from around the world had influenced their own
- Australia Day playlists featuring Australian artists
- Content and listings promoting Australia Day events and activities.

Communications and stakeholder engagement

A supporting program of communications and community engagement included:

- Direct engagement, campaign briefings and messaging materials (speech notes, media releases, social media background briefings) provided to Australia's 537 local government authorities and hundreds of not-for-profit and community organisations
- Earned media, including opinion and editorial coverage in major daily newspapers

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Campaign exposure and acceptance

For the third consecutive year, *The Story of Australia* was well received by Australians.

A most three-quarters (72 per cent) of Australians recalled being exposed to the campaign, either by seeing the 60-second TVC, 30-second TVC, outdoor advertising, social media or hearing a radio advertisement.¹

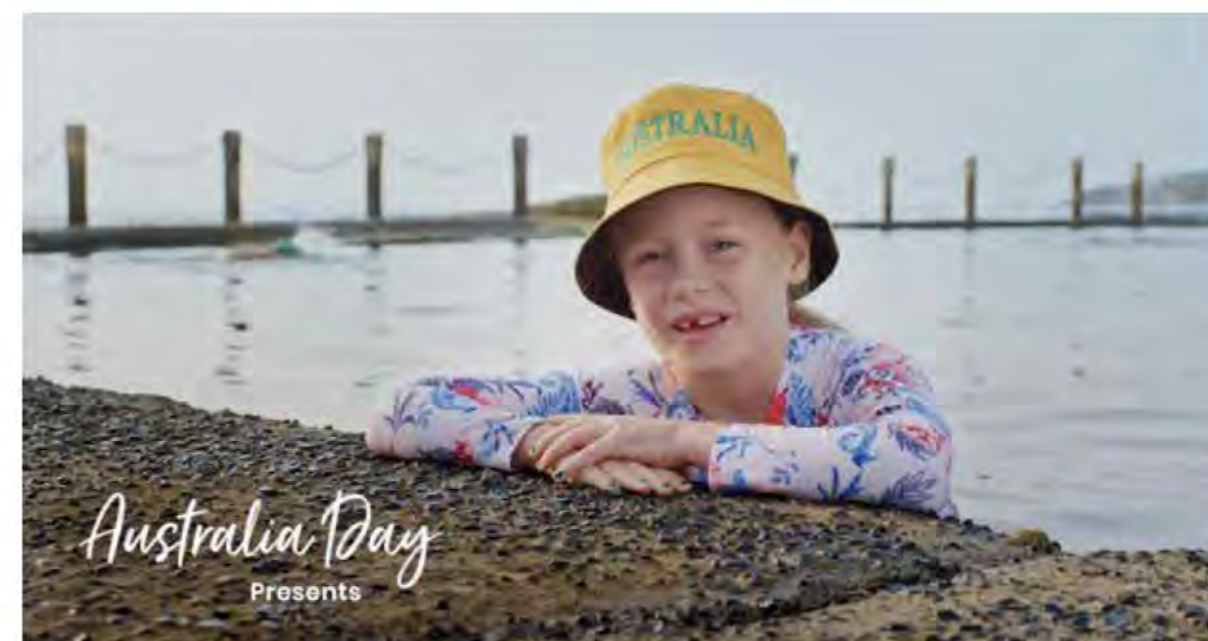
Overwhelmingly, those who saw the campaign felt it was inclusive of all Australians (82 per cent). Sixty-one per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who saw the campaign shared that view.

Post-campaign analysis shows that people who saw the campaign were more likely to agree that Australia Day is inclusive of all Australians, regardless of background or age (43 per cent, as opposed to 16 per cent among those who did not see the campaign) and that they feel proud to be Australian on Australia Day (48 per cent, as opposed to 26 per cent among those who did not see the campaign).

Exposure to *The Story of Australia* led to a decline in negative perceptions of Australia Day. Those who saw the campaign were less likely to agree that Australia Day doesn't mean much to them (a 4-point improvement) and that celebrating Australia Day is not acceptable for people like me (a 5-point improvement).

Participation in formal Australia Day events stabilised in 2022 following declines in 2021 (42 per cent in 2022 compared to 43 per cent in 2021 and 55 per cent in 2020, pre-COVID-19)²

A focus for the NADC in 2023 will be to continue to encourage engagement and participation in formal and informal Australia Day events that provide an opportunity to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate.



1. Review Strategic, post-campaign track, February 2022.
2. FiftyFive5, Australia Day 2022 Participation, page 24

AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 EVENTS



AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 EVENTS

Local government and community organisations play a vital role in delivering Australia Day events.

In 2022, the NADC approved grants funding to 534 councils and not-for-profit community organisations for community events on Australia Day—a total investment of \$11 million. The Australia Day 2022 Community Grants Program exceeded the inaugural 2021 program in both the value of grants awarded and the number of events supported, demonstrating a strong desire for grassroots community Australia Day events in cities and regions around Australia.

Major events funding

In 2022, funding was offered to organisers of major events in each state and territory.

A total of \$7.5 million was invested to deliver events in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra and Darwin.

The flagship national Australia Day event, Australia Day Live, was again held on the shores of Sydney Harbour.

For the first time in 2022, Australia Day Live comprised a live concert and broadcast event with a national activation. The broadcast included crosses to events and activities at locations around Australia, from Uluru in the Northern Territory to Victoria's 12 Apostles to Karratha, in Western Australia.

More than half a million Australians watched the telecast on the evening of 26 January, the culmination of a day of activities that encouraged reflection, respect and celebration—from the WugulOra ceremony at Barangaroo, to the Salute to Australia tri-forces event and citizenship ceremony on Sydney Harbour to the national concert in the evening.

\$20,000 Australia Day 2022 Community Events Grants

Open to the Australia Day Network, local councils and not-for-profit organisations, these grants were provided to applicants who designed and delivered Australia Day events that gave their communities the opportunity to come together and Reflect, Respect and Celebrate.

In 2022, the NADC also offered an extra \$10,000 in funding for events that incorporated reflection, respect and celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, such as smoking ceremonies, welcomes to country and cultural performances like storytelling and dance. Almost 200 of the 530 grant recipients received this additional funding.

"For many years, the relationship with our Indigenous community has been fading, and this year it was our mission to reach out and rebuild those relationships. We were able to involve the local Indigenous groups in a respectful and meaningful way by making them part of the celebrations and providing a platform to express themselves. They contributed more than we were expecting for the day; our request was just for them to deliver a Welcome to Country because we did not want to disrespect them in any way, but they went above and beyond with their delivery."

Community Development Officer,
Barron Shire Council





Australia Day in Narrandera

Location: Narrandera, NSW
Attendees: 1485

Australia Day hosted in and around Narrandera included a community breakfast with the Narrandera Lions Club food van and a live broadcast of an official Australia Day ceremony. Following speeches from local dignitaries and an Australia Day ambassador, community members took part in Australiana games as part of the event. Activities included free kayak hire, river tours and tours of Indigenous sacred sites.

Taree Australia Day Ceremony and Concert

Location: Taree, NSW
Attendees: 1350

Held at Queen Elizabeth Park, Taree's Australia Day celebrations included a free community breakfast hosted by Rotary, Lions and Quota Clubs, as well as Mid Coast Council. In the evening, the community gathered for a free family concert with dancing and culturally diverse performances. Both the breakfast and the concert included speeches, Indigenous activities and school participation. Thirty-six people received their Australian citizenship at a Citizenship Ceremony and Australia Day Awards were presented to members of the local community.





Shire of Dumbleyung Australia Day Awards & Family Event
 Location: Dumbleyung, WA
 Attendees: 300

Dumbleyung's name derives from the Indigenous word Dambling, meaning large lake or inland sea. In 2022, the community of Dumbleyung, situated on the Dumbleyung Lake Nature Reserve, gathered for an Australia Day event that showcased and celebrated local Indigenous culture through music, dance, arts, medicine, food and storytelling. In the evening, there was a special 'picnic under the stars' event. With a strong focus on sharing the local Indigenous history and culture, there was a smoking ceremony, cultural tour and football celebrity appearances. The celebration also included market stalls, supporting local businesses.

Alice at the Beach

Location: Alice Springs, NT
 Attendees: 450

Despite being more than 1500km from the nearest beach, Alice Springs hosted a beach-themed Australia Day celebration with sandpits, paddle pools and waterslide in the Ghan Gardens at the National Road Transport Hall of Fame. Community groups, the RSL and Rotary and Territory Clubs were involved in the beach party, with a barbeque and other refreshments throughout the day. The Australia Day celebration also included Mini Ghan Desert Express electric train rides and other activities.





Australia Day – The Indian Way

Location: Cranbourne, Vic
Attendees: 180

Australia and India share a close bond that is never closer than on 26 January, which is both Australia Day and Indian Republic Day. In 2022, members of Victorian's Indian community gathered in Cranbourne to celebrate the heritage of both Australian and Indian cultures. The event included a We Come to Country, national anthems, dinner, community reflection, musical performances, and fun activities such as a cookoff and karaoke. As part of the festivities, attendees were encouraged to reflect on the reciprocity heritage and contribution to the Australian community, respect the diversity of the Australian culture, and celebrate the future of Australia.

Av a' G'day in Walpole

Location: Walpole WA
Outer Regional Australia
Attendees: 600

On Australia Day 2022, the community of Walpole in the southwest of Western Australia gathered at Pioneer Park for a large community event hosted by the Walpole Community Resource Centre. Activities included an awards ceremony, live music, Aussie tucker, market stalls, sheep dog trials, shearing demonstrations and games. With speeches, Acknowledgement of Country and an official Australia Day address, the community was invited to think about the "Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. We're all part of the story. Australia Day message.



Australia Day in the Moreton Bay Region

Location: Moreton Bay, Qld
Attendees: 2000

Held in Scarborough and Bribie Island, Queensland, local Australia Day celebrations included community events at seaside locations, so festivities could be combined with the most Australia of Australia Day activities—a trip to the beach. Events included a Welcome to Country, live entertainment, food vendors and an activity zone with an “Australia Day Gratitude Project” installation. The project encouraged event participants to write what they loved about living in Australia. There were many activities including a mechanical surfboard, face painting and concluded with fireworks display over the water.



Ipswich Australia Day Celebration

Location: Ipswich, Qld
Attendees: 2500

Australia Day in Ipswich, Queensland, was celebrated with a free community family friendly event that included a Welcome to Country from members of the Yagara People—the traditional owners of the land surrounding Ipswich—dancing, musical performances and a singalong to Australian rock classics by five-piece cover band, Chester. The event included inflatable water slides, food trucks and playing in the Tulmur Place zero-depth water play zone. The event was held in the Ipswich CBD, and included Indigenous performances of the Yagara people.



AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 EVENTS

Welcome To Country

The NADC is committed to fostering greater acknowledgement and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, histories and cultures on Australia Day.

For the first time in 2022, Australia Day in Canberra began with a Welcome to Country attended by the Prime Minister and Governor-General, His Excellency General David Hurley, AC. Supported by the NADC, directed by artistic director and Quandamooka man Wesley Enoch, AM, and hosted by the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, the event provided an opportunity for the nation's leaders to gather with the traditional custodians of the land and around the nation's capital and share a moment of reflection and respect.

National Citizenship and Flag Raising Ceremony

Australia Day 2022 again began with the National Citizenship and Ceremony broadcast live from the Rond Terrace, on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra.

Opening with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country provided by elders of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, the traditional owners of the land surrounding Canberra, the ceremony included a reflection on Aboriginal and Torres Strait history and a focus on continuous connection to country on the land that is today the nation's capital. Attended by the Prime Minister, Governor-General and members of the overseas diplomatic corps, the event culminated with a citizenship ceremony.

In 2022, a national audience of 239,000 people watched a live broadcast on ABC.

Australian of the Year Awards

The Australian of the Year Awards provide an opportunity for Australians to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate our nation's finest individuals and highest achievers.

The 2022 Australians of the Year were:

- Dylan Acott, Australian of the Year, from Victoria
- Vanessa Dempsey, Senior Australian of the Year, from the ACT
- Dr Danielle Nour, Young Australian of the Year, from NSW
- Shanna Wahn, Australia's Local Hero, from NSW.

The 2022 Australian of the Year broadcast was viewed by a national live TV audience of 639,000.



IN THEIR
WORDS
**OPINION
LEADERS**
ON OUR
**NATIONAL
DAY**



THIS COUNTRY HAS A HABIT OF FORGETTING HISTORY, LET'S KEEP THE DATE

Wesley Enoch

Year after year we ask the same question about Australia Day. How can we celebrate our national day on January 26?



Some say change the date. Some see it as a tradition we should never change. We have been having this same debate since 1988, or at least 1994 when it was first legislated we had to have Australia Day on January 26. Do you remember when this wasn't the case and Australia Day was just whatever long weekend we could arrange at the end of summer? The last burst of holiday before we went back to school and work.

We, here's something provocative—don't want to change the date. As a Quandamooka man living on country think we should be reminded of our colonial history, and the heartbreak that means for our people, every day. Don't want to brush away the past 234 years and somehow forget what happened. This country has a habit of forgetting its history.

No—want the date of our National Day to stand as a spur to discuss our history and remember the traumas and tribulations of Indigenous Australia. Changing the date is easy, confronting our past is the harder thing to do. How can we commemorate the painful past and still celebrate our hopes for a better future?

Yes—it may make some people feel uncomfortable but unless we can find our way through the heartache, injustice and suffering that has brought us to this present time we will never fulfil our potential as a nation. Our future will always feel muted if we choose to limit our understanding of our first past.

Poet and activist Oodgeroo Noonucca wrote: "Let no one say the past is dead, the past is all around us and with us." Unless we can bring ourselves to speak the truth—telling required and the humanity to hear it—don't want to change the date.

We are entering a new phase of Australian history where the 35-year promise of Treaty is again heard on the radio and seen on the television. A time when sovereignty is being discussed with vigor in the corridors of power and the Uluru Statement from the Heart calls out to enshrine a Voice to Parliament.

This is the legacy of the Reconciliation movement. The symbolism of walking across bridges 20 years ago has led us to the brink of real change. These are things to celebrate and acknowledge, the hard work of our elders and the vision of those who have gone before us.

The history of Survival Day concerts across the country is testament to our ability to find optimism in the face of hardship and to encourage more change. Hope should not be a panacea that replaces real change, but optimism should be present every day to demonstrate to our children that change is possible.

Noel Pearson talks of the three grand narratives of our country: the first Nations' narrative of the longest continuous cultures on Earth, the Second Nations' stories of the arrival of the British and the colonial project, and the Third Nations' stories of Australia as the most successful multicultural, multiethnic nation on Earth.

Our national day is an amalgam of these three narratives, it is our lived experience, our neighborhoods, classrooms, and workplaces. These three narratives intertwine and have earned the right to be acknowledged as part of our national character—we are a country of backpackers and refugees, wogs, white breads, skyscrapers and out-of-the-boaters.

If we change the date prematurely we lose the spur to discuss and debate the meaning of what it is to be Australian. We need to find a way to celebrate our discomfort.

There is a new tradition forming on the evening of January 25 as we gather to reflect on the Indigenous history of this country. At Sydney last year there is The Vigil and in Canberra this year Naamurru Nguurru—caring for the campfire.

These events are about quiet contemplation, and reflection, thoughtfulness and honoring over 60,000 years of living on this land. We must find ways of reflecting on our history not just selected parts. We need to find ways to respect the three narratives as part of our broader storytelling.

We need to find new ways to celebrate who we are in a way that builds connections between communities and families.

The themes of reflect, respect, celebrate are open enough for everyone to find their own pathway. For me reflecting on our future history, respecting and celebrating my family, elders and survival. How will you reflect, respect, celebrate?

Wesley Enoch is a writer and director. He has from Stradbroke Island (Munjerbah) and is a proud Quandamooka man. He is the Queensland Indigenous Chair of Creative Industries.

Original published in *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 January 2022.

PRIDE AND RESPECT UNITE US

Danielle Roche OAM

News that Melbourne has been asked to consider hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games reminds us of the greatest moment in the history of the Sporting Capital, the 1956 Olympic Games, and a timely reminder of the power of unity on the eve of Australia Day.



In 1956, three days before the end of the Melbourne Olympics, a 17-year-old Chinese-Australian boy sat down in his father's restaurant in Bourke Street, Melbourne, and wrote an urgent letter to the Chairman of the Australian Olympic Committee.

He wanted organisers to change the Closing Ceremony so that athletes would participate not under the flags of individual nations, but as one. They would not be defined by nationality, race or religion—but simply as Olympians.

The boy wrote: "There will be only one nation. War, politics and nationality will be forgotten. What more could anybody want, if the whole world could be made as one nation?"

John Ian Wing's vision came to define the 1956 Melbourne Olympics as the Friendly Games. It was also repeated at subsequent Olympic Games, including Atlanta in 1996, where it was able to march together with athletes from every corner of the globe.

The sentiment of John Ian Wing's vision is captured in the National Australia Day Council's 2022 Australia Day campaign.

The campaign asks Australians to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate—because we're all part of the story, from those whose ancestors walked on Country for tens of thousands of years, to those who came in the waves of post-war migration, to our newest citizens.

The campaign provides a snapshot of a proud multicultural nation, and every day Australians make their own contribution.

People like Leanne, a WA nurse who assisted in setting up her hospital's response to the pandemic, and Alex, a South Australian school teacher educating and guiding young Australians. And like Steve, a proud Kamarron and Anawman man who is dedicated to celebrating and promoting Australia's multicultural achievements.

There is no doubt that, for some, Australia Day serves as a reminder for what followed rather than what occurred on 26 January 1788. We must respect that the day can symbolise loss, dispossession and colonisation.

We cannot ignore this history, and we cannot pretend it didn't happen. We must recognise that there is an opportunity for Australia Day to become a day that moves us closer towards understanding and reconciliation.

We live on ancient Country—our history began more than 65,000 years ago. Australia Day is an important day to reflect on a rich legacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture—as well as the lasting impact that European settlement has had on that culture.

We also celebrate thousands of generations of enduring culture, learn more about the Country we live on and listen to different perspectives on our history.

This year the National Australia Day Council provided 534 grants to support councils and community—run Australia Day events. These events will combine the reflection, respect and celebration—for the past and our history, for the present and, most importantly, the future. More people become Australian citizens on Australia Day than any other day, choosing to build their future here above anywhere else in the world. For these people, Australia Day represents the promise of a better future for them and their children. This is worth celebrating.

This Australia Day also provides us with something just as precious as the promise of a better future—being together in the here and now, and the opportunity to reconnect and celebrate with family and mates.

Rarely has so much been asked of a nation and its people than in the past two years. We do not need to look far to see the difference that a simple act of courage and kindness can make.

Running towards an emergency to protect lives and property so that others can flee to safety. Turning up to work, day in, day out, to care for the sick even though it means risking your own health. Rolling up your sleeve to get a vaccine to protect yourself, your loved ones—and those you've never even met.

These are the everyday acts of courage, kindness and community that make ours such a special place to live.

Sixty-six years later, John Ian Wing's vision has come to define Australia—the fundamental truth that no matter where we come from, how long our family has been here, or what language we speak, we are all Australian.

This Australia Day, let us reflect, respect and celebrate the contributions we have all made to the Story of Australia. Happy Australia Day.

Danielle Roche OAM, Board Chair, National Australia Day Council.

Original published in the *Herald Sun*, 24 January 2022.





NADC

National
Australia Day
Council



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group Team

This is a written response in regards to the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) meeting of Tuesday 6th September, 2022 and in particular Agenda Item 6.5 Options - January 26.

Thanks to Justin Hannay and the management teams for the work that has been done concerning this report. It is an immense amount of work that has been done. Thanks to the people who were involved in compiling the data and statistics of the recent survey that has been mentioned, and the citizens in the community who participated.

I support the strategic objectives of City of Melbourne, as detailed in the Options Paper. I support the City of Melbourne policy framework that is mentioned on Page 6 of 10.

City of Melbourne has been exemplary in its commitment to its Reconciliation Action Plan. I fully support the Reconciliation Action Plan of the City of Melbourne, and fully support Justin Hannay and the Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Councillors in their endeavours to further the Reconciliation Action Plan of the City of Melbourne. This work is molto importante.

The Victorian State Government, and the Australian Federal Government are taking giant strides in furthering the reconciliation process. It is appropriate and valid for City of Melbourne to discuss January 26, in the context of what happened on that date in 1788.

It is worthwhile for City of Melbourne to discuss and detail research that has been conducted in regards to reconciliation and citizens thoughts and sentiments regarding January 26.

Truth telling has been flagged as something that needs to occur. Some people may have the attitude that the past is the past, what's done is done, you can't change history. To move forward, sometimes you need to know where you're coming from. To figure out and appreciate where things are at.

Can we find a precedent, that has been published in print in the media, in regards to January 26, 1788 where the truth has been altered, where a misleading narrative has been presented as fact?

The answer is, yes, we can.

Remember, truth telling is considered an important component of the reconciliation journey.

The Monthly magazine of August 2012 published an article concerning January 26, 1788. The article was entitled "Captain Arthur Phillip + Jean-François Galoup, Comte de La Pérouse", written by Shane Maloney, with an accompanying illustration by Chris Grosz.

Consider the paragraphs from the article -

"On 24 January 1788 Jean-François Galoup, Comte de La Pérouse, explorer and navigator, beheld a sight as startling as any he had witnessed since sailing from France in August 1785.

It was an English fleet, of which he could distinguish the colours and pendants."

The author is suggesting that Admiral La Pérouse is startled and surprised and that the sight of the First Fleet is completely unexpected.

In 1788, Admiral La Pérouse arrived at Botany Bay in command of a scientific expedition, consisting of two large ships (La Boussole and L'Astrolâbe). This expedition had travelled all over the Pacific.

Prior to arriving at Botany Bay, La Pérouse and the scientific expedition had reached Petropavlovsk, on the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula on 7 September 1787. There, they rested from their trip and had a rendezvous with a Naval Intelligence officer, who had travelled from Paris, with the latest despatches. In letters received from Paris, La Pérouse was ordered to investigate the settlement the British were establishing at Botany Bay.

The First Fleet of 11 ships set sail from England on May 13, 1787. Almost four months before La Pérouse would reach Petropavlovsk. Enough time for a courier to travel by stage coach from Paris to Petropavlovsk. King Louis XVI was personally involved in working out the itinerary of the scientific expedition around the Pacific. They planned for a rendezvous at Petropavlovsk.

La Pérouse commanded a ship in the US War of Independence, and captured an important British fort. He was a seasoned and successful naval officer. He managed to arrive in Petropavlovsk according to the schedule.

Officer Bartholomew Lesseps disembarked from the expedition, and took with him ships logs, charts and letters back to France. After the stay at Petropavlovsk, La Boussole and L'Astrolâbe left the port, and set sail out into the Pacific, with the intention of sailing to Botany Bay.

When Admiral La Pérouse arrived outside Botany Bay on January 24, 1788 he would not have been startled or surprised at what he and his officers saw anchored at Botany Bay. He had been told about the British First Fleet, and with his vast experience, he would not have been fazed by what he saw.

However, the author would like you to believe the opposite of how Admiral La Pérouse actually felt on that day of 24 January 1788. The author is misleading the readers here.

Let's consider the following paragraph from the Shane Maloney article concerning Captain Arthur Phillip and Admiral La Pérouse.

" When strange sails were sighted off Botany Bay, he sent HMS Supply to confirm his suspicions. As honour required, officers were sent to extend Phillips compliments to the French and offer any assistance."

However, according to Watkin Tench, who was onboard the Charlotte in the First Fleet, (and was commissioned to write a book about establishing a convict settlement at Botany Bay by a London publishing house) the British sent out a junior officer in a long boat to greet the French. After much difficulty, the junior officer reached Admiral La Pérouse. At the time HMS Supply was anchored, as they were getting ready to sail the First Fleet from Botany Bay to Port Jackson.

When the French ships arrived the lookouts call was "Sail Ahoy. A large sail", followed by "Another Sail Ahoy, Two large sails". According to Watkin Tench, this announcement caused great surprise and consternation amongst the British.

Who were they? Were they pirates? Dutch raiders? What were they doing?

See, the British did not have a clue as to the provenance of these two ships.

The Gadigal people, on Gadigal country would have noticed the loud commotion amongst the British anchored at Botany Bay. They would have noticed the two large sailing ships outside Botany Bay, causing the commotion.

This is a clear example of two different versions of what occurred when the French arrived at Botany Bay. Watkin Tench was there, he was commissioned by a London publishing house to write a book about the establishment of a convict settlement at Botany Bay, and he faithfully and accurately chronicled his experiences. Shane Maloney, a noted crime fiction novelist, over 200 years later, wrote an essay on the encounter of the French scientific expedition, and the First Fleet. In an example of psychological transference, he reverses the roles of the participants. Instead of the British being shocked and startled at the sudden arrival of the Two French ships, and with Admiral La Pérouse being fully cognisant of the existence of the British convoy to Botany Bay, Shane Moloney, with great invention switches the vibe, shall we say, and makes up a story about Admiral La Pérouse being startled (OMG!!!), and the British with cool methodology sending out HMS Supply to greet the French.

This story in The Monthly from August 2012 is just nonsense. The author is making it up , as he goes along. It is a misrepresentation of what occurred. A fabrication. A fiction.

In regards to the illustration, the two French ships depicted show them flying the famous tricolour French flag (bleu, blanc et rouge). That flag was introduced many years later, the flag that was flying on La Boussole et L'Astrolâbe was a different French flag.

When Captain Arthur Phillip raised the flag at Port Jackson on January 26, 1788, and claimed the land in the name of King George, Admiral La Pérouse had the two ships La Boussole and L'Astrolâbe anchored at Botany Bay.

Now the French treated the First Nations peoples different to the way the British treated them.

City of Melbourne should be aware that Captain Arthur Phillip kidnapped and enslaved Arabanoo. When Arabanoo passed away from a European disease, Captain Arthur Phillip kidnapped and enslaved Bennelong. This caused great angst and stress for First Nations people.

When former Prime Minister Scott Morrison gave a speech in regards to his own convict heritage, and his embrace of such a thing, being proud of it, he started out by saying - " When the 12 ships of the First Fleet arrived....."

The problem is, as any serious academic who has researched the First Fleet will tell you is that there were not 12 ships in the first fleet , as stated as fact by the former Prime Minister.

There were Eleven (11) ships in the First Fleet. In an extraordinary display of superb maritime navigation, all the ships of the First Fleet made it to the destination of Botany Bay.

Maybe the former Prime Minister of Australia was confusing the number of ships in the First Fleet with the number of submarines the Australian maritime engineers in Cotentin-en-Cherbourg, France thought they were going to build with France's Naval Group. That number was 12.

Is the embrace of people having a convict heritage a peculiarity of just NSW citizens?

Again, part of the reconciliation journey will involve discerning where people have made inaccurate interpretations on what occurred. For whatever reason.

This discussion of January 26 is appropriate, and City of Melbourne should maintain its policy settings and commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan.

City of Melbourne seem to have a good handle on where this is going.

Best regards,
Chris Thrum