




INTERFAITH & INTERCULTURAL CALENDAR 2024






The Interfaith & Intercultural Calendar is part of Council's intercultural and diversity work. This contributes towards nurturing a sense of belonging, increasing connections and understanding, and fostering inclusion, equality and prosperity within the community.

Mesmerising performance by children
from local Punjabi community at the
Djerriwarrh Festival 2023

A young girl is the central focus, wearing a black headscarf with a gold and blue lace headband. Her black long-sleeved top features vibrant blue and gold embroidery on the cuffs. She is smiling and has her arms raised in a gesture of performance. The background is dark with out-of-focus warm lights, suggesting an outdoor night event.

Each year Melton City Council organises a series of Curious About Culture (community profile) events to facilitate a better understanding about different community groups residing in the City of Melton.

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day (Public Holiday)	2	3	4	5	6 † Epiphany (Christianity)
7 † Nativity (Orthodox)	8	9	10	11	12	13  Maghi (Sikhism)
14	15  Pongal (Hinduism) (15-18)	16	17  Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji (Sikhism)	18	19 † Feast of Epiphany (Orthodox)	20
21	22	23	24	25  Mahayana New Year** (25-27) (Buddhist)	26  Australia Day (Public Holiday)	27
28	29	30	31			

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.









**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

A close-up portrait of a young girl with dark hair styled in a traditional Sri Lankan fashion. She is wearing a black headpiece adorned with a large, ornate gold and pearl headpiece. Her hair is decorated with several gold and pearl ornaments, including a large circular one on the left side and a smaller one on the top. She has a red bindi on her forehead and is wearing a gold nose ring. Her eyes are dark and looking slightly to the right. She has a soft smile. The background is blurred. At the bottom of the image, there is a decorative border with green, blue, and orange segments.

A young girl from local Sri Lankan community proudly exhibiting her cultural expression at Council's Harmony Day event

Over many decades, the fabric of our local community has been further enhanced by more than 63,000 migrants from over 161 nations, bringing with them religious and cultural diversity.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7   Lailat al Miraj* (Islam) World Interfaith Harmony Week (1-7)	8	9	10  Chinese New Year (Buddhism) Losar/ Tibetan New Year (Buddhism) (10-24)
11	12	13	14  Lent begins (Christianity) (14 Feb to 28 March)	15  Nirvana Day** (Buddhism)	16	17
18	19	20	21  International Mother Language Day	22	23	24  Magha Puja Day** (Buddhism)
25  Lailat al Bara'ah * (Islam)	26	27	28	29		

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.

**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

Yara Alkurd, a former Palestinian refugee turned extraordinary singer, enchanted the audience with her inspirational songs at the Refugee Week 2023 event



Melton City Council observes Cultural Diversity Week as an opportunity for all residents of the City to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 † Easter Sunday (Christianity)					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 ॐ  Maha Shivaratri** (Hinduism) International Women's Day	9
10	11  Ramadan (Islam)* (**) (11 March-9 April) Labour Day (Public Holiday)	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 † Great Lent (Orthodox) (18 March-26 Apr)	19	20  Naw Ruz* (Baha'i)	21  Harmony Day	22	23
24  † Purim* (Judaism) Holy Week (Christianity) (24-30)	25 † ॐ  Annunciation (Christianity) Holi* (Hinduism) Hola Mohalla (Sikhism) (25-27)	26	27	28	29 † Good/Holy Friday (Christianity) (Public Holiday)	30


*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.

**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

A young Muslim girl enjoying the festivities
of Council's Harmony Day event

The City of Melton is now the fastest-growing area in Australia with an annual population growth of 6.42 per cent. The population estimate for the City of Melton as of 30 June 2022 was 192,865.

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1† Easter Monday (Public Holiday)	2	3	4	5	6  Lailat al Qadr* (Islam)
7	8	9	10  Eid ul Fitr* (Islam)	11	12	13  Baisakhi (Sikhism)
14	15	16	17  Rama Navami** (Hinduism)	18	19	20  Ridvan* (Baha'i) (April 20-May 1)
21  Mahavir Jayanti (Jainism)	22	23  Pesach* (Judaism) (23-30)	24  Theravada New Year (Buddhism) (24-26)	25  ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)	26	27
28	29	30				

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.

**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

David Cowan, Chairperson of Melton Interfaith Network sharing his insights at the Refugee Week event which took place in partnership with the Network

Melton City Council's work in the interfaith space aims to work towards an inclusive community that embraces and values faith diversity and promotes interfaith harmony and religious pluralism. This is achieved by building sustainable relationships, enhancing interfaith capacity and fostering collaborative partnership.



MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 † Good/Holy Friday (Orthodox)	4
5 † Easter/Pascha [Orthodox]	6 ✡ Yom HaShoah* (Judaism)	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 🏳️‍🌈 IDAHOBIT	18
19 † Pentecost (Christianity)	20	21	22	23 🧘 ✨ Vesak/Buddha Day** (Buddhism) Saga Dawa Duchen (Buddhism) Declaration of the Bab* (Baha'i)	24	25
26 🇦🇺 🇳🇿 National Sorry Day	27 🇦🇺 🇳🇿 National Reconciliation Week (May 27-June 3)	28 ✨ Ascension of Baha'ullah* (Baha'i)	29	30	31	

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.




**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

Sobur Dhieu, a young student and activist, leader of a social group called “Girl Chat” delivering the keynote speech at Council’s Refugee Week event



Council organises events and programs to celebrate the contribution of people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds during Refugee Week in June.

JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 King's Birthday (Public Holiday)	11	12  Shavuot* (Judaism) (12-13)	13	14	15
16  Martyrdom of Guru Arjun Dev Ji (Sikhism) Refugee Week (16-22)	17  Eid ul Adha* (Islam) (17-19)	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.






**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

Melton City Council marks National NAIDOC Week to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

CITY

MELT

JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4  NAIDOC Week (4-11)	5	6
7  Hijra* (Islam)	8	9  Martyrdom of the Bab* (Baha'i)	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17  Ashura* (Islam)	18	19	20
21  Asalha Puja ** (Buddhism)	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.






**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

A group of Ukrainian dancers performing a traditional dance at the Djerriwarrh Festival 2023



Melton City Council is committed to fostering inclusivity, diversity, and support for the LGBTIQ+ community in our municipality.

AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13  Tisha B'Av * (Judaism)	14	15 † Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christianity)	16	17
18  Ullambana** (Buddhism)	19  Raksha Bandhan** (Hinduism)	20	21	22	23	24
25	26  Krishna Janmashtami** (Hinduism)	27	28	29	30	31  Paryushana** (Jainism) (31-7 Sept)

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.





**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

A performer from the Pacifica communities,
adding more colours and festivity to the
Djerriwarrh Festival 2023

Intercultural Stage at Melton
City Council's Djerriwarrh
Festival showcases traditional
dance and music to celebrate
Melton's diversity and engage
locals with people and cultures
from all over the world.




SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7  Ganesh Chaturthi** (Hinduism) Samvatsari** (Jainism)
8  Daslakshana** (Jainism) (8-17)	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18  Kshamavani** (Jainism)	19	20	21  International Peace Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.


**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

The City of Melton is a place where tradition and future complement and support each other



Sons and Daughters of the West are free health programs for men and women aged 18 and over living, working, and recreating in Victoria's west. The 10-week programs aim to improve men's and women's health and wellbeing through a series of workshops, presentations, events, and experiences.

OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3   Rosh Hashanah* (Judaism) (3-4) Navaratri ** (3-October 12) (Hinduism)	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12   Yom Kippur* (Judaism) Dussehra (Hinduism)
13	14	15	16	17   Sukkot* (Judaism) (17 Sep-23 September) Kathina** (Buddhism)	18	19
20  Conferral of Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib (Sikhism)	21	22	23	24  Shemini Atzeret* (Judaism)	25  Simchat Torah* (Judaism)	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.


**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

A student from Melton Primary School asking a question to learn about the lived experience of the refugees at the Council's Refugee Week 2023 event



Council recognises the contributions of community groups, clubs, and organisations in making our city a thriving community where everyone belongs and supports groups who seek financial support from Council's Community Grants Program.

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>1 † ॐ ॐ ॐ</p> <p>All Saints Day (Christianity) Diwali** (Hinduism) Mahavira Nirvana (Diwali-Jainism) Bandi Chhor Divas (Diwali-Sikhism)</p>	<p>2 ✨</p> <p>Birth of the Bab* (Baha'i)</p>
<p>3 ✨</p> <p>Birth of Baha'ullah* (Baha'i)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Melbourne Cup (Public Holiday)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 ॐ</p> <p>Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Ji (Sikhism)</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 ॐ</p> <p>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Sikhism)</p>	<p>25 ✨</p> <p>Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 ✨</p> <p>Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Baha'i)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.

**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.



The African Communities Working Group represents African communities within our City. It works to support the City of Melton to be inclusive, valuing and acknowledging the contribution of cultural diversity and the specific role of African communities within the municipality.

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 † Advent (1– 24) (Christianity)	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 🧘 Bodhi Day (Buddhism)	9	10 🌐 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 † Christmas Day (Christianity) (Public Holiday)	26 ⚡ Boxing Day (Public Holiday) Hanukkah* (Judaism) (8–15)	27	28
29	30	31				

*Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i holy days begin at sundown on the previous day listed.

**Certain Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.



Melton City Council acknowledges Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples living and working in Melton. Council recognises the people of the Kulin Nations as the original custodians of the land now known as the City of Melton. Council pays respect to their Elders, past, present, and future.

Please note: The names of certain events may have alternative spellings or be recognised on different dates by groups and individuals within communities. The calendar focuses on countries, national days, significant multicultural festivals in Australia, and events that are widely celebrated by Australia's major ethnic and religious communities. Please be advised that the calendar is not exhaustive of all events that are celebrated around the world and should be considered a guide only. Calendar users should seek further advice regarding particular events.