AUSTRALIA DAY

In the book Common Wealth, Gregg Dreise, questions when Australia Day is held and what it means for all Australians in the 21st Century.

Australia Day, observed annually on 26 January, is the official national day of Australia. It commemorates the 1788 landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and the raising of the English Union Jack Flag by Arthur Phillip. Yet, at that time it was not Sydney Cove – it was Warrane, Aboriginal land and it belonged to the native, indigenous people of Australia.

For decades January 26th was seen as a day to celebrate the British colonisation of Australia but in 1938, on the 150th anniversary of Arthur Phillip's arrival, Yorta Yorta man William Cooper and supporters of the Aboriginal Progressive Association staged a protest in Sydney to have the day recognised as a day of mourning. More than 1000 First Nations people marched silently through the streets of Sydney in 1938. In 2020, prior to Covid-19, more than 100,000 people took part in protest events to show their support for having the Australian National day moved to a date that is inclusive of all Australians, especially our First People.

In your own words explain why Australia Day should be moved to another day.

HASS: ACHASSI099 - Examine different viewpoints on actions, events, issues and phenomena in the past and present.

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