NAIDOC Week

In 1939 Aboriginal people asked for a national day of their own. Churches began to hold what was called Aboriginal Sunday, which became National Aborigines' Day in 1955. In 1957 the National Aborigines' Day of Observance Committee (NADOC) was formed. The name of the committee was later changed to include Torres Strait Islander people, and became NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Observance Committee). They decided to hold an annual NAIDOC Week every year in July.

Each year there is a different theme for NAIDOC Week, and one State or Territory leads the activities. Flags are raised, and there are speeches, games, dances and cultural events, such as art shows. Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people display some of the ways they have contributed to the culture of Australia.

Anzac Day

Anzac Day is celebrated on 25 April to remember people who have served in wars. The word 'Anzac' was formed by combining the initials of 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps', the name given to Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought in the First World War (1914–18). On 25 April 1915 Anzac troops landed on the shore at Gallipoli in Turkey.

Australians who served in the Second World War, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam, are also honoured on Anzac Day. It is a public holiday all over Australia, even if it falls on a Saturday or a Sunday.

At dawn on 25 April, all over Australia, special religious services are held. Those who have served Australia in wars wear their uniforms and medals, lay flowers and wreaths at war memorials, listen to speeches and say a special poem called 'For the Fallen'. A minute's silence is observed to remember those who died in war, with a bugle call to mark its ending. There are parades and bands play.

In the afternoon many people who served in the wars come together to talk over old times and relax with refreshments, songs and a gambling game called 'two-up' which was very popular in wartime.