

# January 2014

Some customs in this calendar follow a lunar calendar or vary across regions, so are only a guide.

The Victorian Multicultural Commission is Victoria's pre-eminent multicultural peak body. It operates under the Multicultural Victoria Act 2011, but was established in 1983.

The Commission is the voice of Victoria's culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse communities - it is the main link between these communities and the Victorian State Government.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 <b>Oshogatsu (New Year)</b> - Shinto (until 6 Jan) <b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus</b> - Catholic <b>Feast of St Basil</b> - Orthodox Christian		3	4	5 <b>Twelfth Night</b> - Christian
6 <b>Epiphany / Feast of Teophany / Nativity of Christ / Dia de los Reyes</b> - Christian	7 <b>Christmas (Sibket)</b> - Ethiopian Orthodox <b>Guru Gobind Singh jayanti</b> - Sikh	8	9	10	11	12 <b>Baptism of the Lord Jesus</b> - Christian
13 <b>Mawlid an Nabi</b> —Muslim (begins sundown 12 Jan) <b>Maghi</b> - Sikh	14 <b>Makar Sankranti</b> - Hindu <b>Milad un Nabi</b> -Muslim	15	16 <b>Festival of Trees (Tu Bishvat)</b> - Jewish (begins sundown 15 Jan) <b>Mahayana New Year</b> - Buddhist (until 19 Jan)	17 <b>Thaipusam</b> - Hindu <b>Blessing of the Animals</b> —Hispanic Catholic	18	19 <b>Timket</b> - Ethiopian Orthodox <b>World Religion Day</b> - Baha'i
20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Conversion of St Paul</b> - Christian	26
27	28	29	30	31 <b>Lunar / Chinese New Year</b> - Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist (until 14 Feb)		

# February 2014

Find the Victorian Multicultural Commission online and keep up to date on events, grants, awards, programs and consultations.

[www.twitter.com/multiculturevic](http://www.twitter.com/multiculturevic)  
[www.facebook.com/multiculturevic](http://www.facebook.com/multiculturevic)  
[www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 Lammas - Pagan, Wicca, Christian	2 Candlemas - Christian Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Anglican Sunday of Zaccheus - Orthodox Christian Imbolc-Sughanassad - Wicca, Pagan
3 Setsubun / Rissun - Shinto	4 Vasant Panchami - Hindu	5	6	7	8	9 Synaxis of New Russian Martyrs and Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee—Orthodox Christian
10	11	12	13	14 Saint Valentines Day - Christian	15 Nirvana Day - Buddhist, Jain Presentation of Christ - Orthodox Christian	16 Triodion begins - Christian Sunday of the Prodigal Son - Orthodox Christian
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Sunday of the Last Judgment - Orthodox Christian
24	25	26 Intercalary Days - Baha'i (starts sundown 25 Jan until 1 March)	27	28		

# March 2014

Between 15-23 March, Victoria hosts a lively program of festivals and events highlighting our multiculturalism. Victorians from all walks of life come together to contribute to community harmony and share their culture.

Highlights include the Premier's Gala Dinner on 15 March and Viva Victoria Multicultural Festival on Sunday 23 March.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31					1	2 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> - Christian <b>19 Day Fast</b> —Baha'i (starts sundown 1 Jan until 20 Jan) <b>Meatfare Sunday</b> - Orthodox Christian
3 <b>Joshi-no-Sekku (Girls' Day)</b> - Shinto	4 <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> - Christian	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> - Christian (start of Lent)	6	7	8	9 <b>Cheesefare Sunday</b> - Orthodox Christian
10 <b>Maha Shivaratri</b> —Hindu	11	12	13 <b>Fast of Esther</b> - Jewish <b>L Ron Hubbard's Birthday</b> - Scientology	14 <b>Nanakshahi New Year</b> - Sikh	15 <b>Purim</b> - Jewish (starts sundown 15 March) <b>Cultural Diversity Week</b> starts <b>Premier's Gala Dinner</b>	16 <b>Magha Puja</b> - Buddhist
17 <b>Holi</b> - Hindu <b>Holy Mohalla</b> - Sikh <b>St Patrick's Day</b> - Christian	18	19	20 <b>Mabon (Equinox)</b> - Wicca, Pagan (starts sundown 19 March) <b>Shumbun no Hi (Equinox)</b> - Shinto	21 <b>Naw Ruz / Nourouz (New Year)</b> - Baha'i, Zoroastrian	22	23 <b>Viva Victoria Multicultural Festival</b>
24	25 <b>Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin</b> - Christian	26	27	28 <b>Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zaranhushtra)</b> - Zoroastrian	29	30

# April 2014

Victoria is one of the most multicultural places in the world. Between us, we come from 200 countries, speak 260 languages and follow more than 130 faiths.

Such diversity emphasises the need for mutual respect, understanding and ongoing conversation.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Hana Matsuri—Shinto	9	10	11	12	13 Mahavir Jayanti—Jain Palm Sunday - Christian
14 Lord's Evening Meal - Jehovah's Witness Baisakhi (New Year) - Sikh Varsha Pirappu (Tamil New Year) - Hindu	15 Hanuman Jayanti - Hindu Theravada New Year—Buddhist (until 18 April)	16 Pesach (Passover) - Jewish (sundown 15—21 April)	17 Holy / Maundy Thursday - Christian	18 Good Friday - Christian	19	20 Easter Sunday / Pascha - Christian
21 Festival of Ridvan - Baha'i (until 2 May) Easter / Bright Monday -Christian	22	23 Saint George's Day -Christian	24	25	26	27 Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) – Jewish (starts sundown 26 April) Divine Mercy Sunday -Catholic
28	29	30				

# May 2014

To help promote the benefits of multiculturalism and diversity, the Victorian Multicultural Commission publish the quarterly Multicultural Victoria Magazine.

Email us with your postal address to receive your copy every quarter:  
[info@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vmc.vic.gov.au)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 Samhain - Wicca, Pagan	2	3	4
5 Tango no-Sekku (Boys' Day) – Shinto	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Vesak Day / Buddha Purnima - Buddhist	14	15	16	17	18 Lag B'Omer - Jewish (starts sundown 17 May)
19	20	21 John the Theologian – Orthodox Christian	22 St Nicholas the Miracle Worker – Orthodox Christian	23 Declaration of the Bab - Baha'i starts sundown 22 May)	24	25
26	27 Lailat al Miraj - Muslim (starts sundown 26 May)	28	29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i (starts sundown 28 May) Ascension Day –Christian	30	31	

# June 2014

Victoria's diversity is an irrevocable part of who we are and without it, we would be all the poorer.

Living in a richly multicultural, diverse community means there are many opportunities for communities, cultures and religions to come together to learn more about each other!

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 Nagoshi no Oharai (Purification Festival) - Shinto						1
2	3	4	5 Shavout -Jewish (starts sundown 4 June)	6	7	8 Pentecost (Whit Sunday) - Christian
9	10	11 Vaikasi Visakam – Hindu	12	13	14 Lailat al Bara'ah - Muslim (starts sundown 13 June)	15
16 Guru Arjan Dev martyrdom - Sikh	17	18	19 Corpus Christi - Christian	20	21 Yule (winter solstice) - Wicca, Pagan (starts sundown 20 June)	22
23	24	25	26	27 Sacred Heart of Jesus - Christian	28 Ramadam starts -Muslim	29 Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul - Christian

# July 2014

The Victorian Multicultural Commission believes it is vital to the success of our multicultural society to build relationships across culture and religion.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <b>Tanabata (Star Festival)</b> - Shinto <b>Nativity of St John the Forerunner</b> - Orthodox Christian	8	9 <b>Martyrdom of the Bab</b> - Baha'i (starts sundown 8 July)	10	11	12 <b>Asala (Dharma Day)</b> - Buddhist	13 <b>Asalha Puja Day (Dharma Day)</b> - Buddhist <b>Obon</b> -Shinto (until 15 July)
14	15 <b>Fast of the 17th of Tammuz</b> - Jewish (starts sundown 14 July) <b>Saint Vladimir Day</b> - Christian	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 <b>Lalat al Kadr</b> - Muslim (starts sundown 22 July)	24	25	26 <b>Adi Amavasi</b> - Hindu	27
28 <b>Eid al Fitr (end of Ramadan)</b> - Muslim	29	30	31			

# August 2014

At the 2011 Census, 46% of Victorians were either born overseas or had at least one parent who was born overseas.

That's almost half of the population with a multicultural background!

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 <b>Fast in Honour of the Holy Mother of Jesus</b> - Orthodox Christian <b>Imbolc</b> -Wicca, Pagan (starts sundown 31 July)	2	3
4	5 <b>Tisha B'av</b> - Jewish (starts sundown 4 August)	6 <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> - Orthodox Christian	7	8	9	10 <b>Raksha Bandhan</b> -Hindu
11	12	13	14	15 <b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> - Christian <b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b> - Christian Orthodox	16	17 <b>Krishna Janmashtami</b> —Hindu
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 <b>Beheading of John the Baptist</b> - Christian	30 <b>Paryushana Parva</b> - Jain	



# September 2014

The Victorian Multicultural Commission runs eight Regional Advisory Councils across metro and rural Victoria.

The members advise government on issues concerning multicultural communities; advocate on their behalf and promote the benefits of multiculturalism at a local level.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Ecclesiastical Year begins - Orthodox Christian	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Nativity of the Theotokos - Orthodox Christian	9	10	11	12	13	14 Elevation of the Life Giving Cross - Christian
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Ostata (equinox) - Wicca, Pagan (starts sundown 21 Sept)	23 Shuki-Korei-Sai - Shinto	24	25 Rosh Hashanah (New Year) - Jewish (starts sundown 24 Sept) Navaratri -Hindu (until 3 Oct)	26	27 Meskel - Ethiopian Christian	28
29 Ganesh Chaturthi - Hindu	30					

# October 2014

In Victoria, we aim for an inclusive society—one where people of all communities can express and celebrate their cultural heritage and practice their beliefs in freedom.

A united community with shared laws, values and responsibilities.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3 <b>Waqf al Arafa</b> - Muslim (starts sundown 2 Oct)	4 <b>Yom Kippur</b> - Jewish (starts sundown 3 Oct) <b>Dussehra</b> -Hindu <b>St Francis Day</b> - Christian <b>Eid al Adha</b> -Muslim (until 7 Oct)	5
6	7	8	9 <b>Sukkot</b> - Jewish (starts sundown 8 Oct to 10 Oct)	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <b>Shmini Atzeret</b> - Jewish (starts sundown 15 Oct)	17 <b>Simchat Torah</b> – Jewish (starts sundown 16 Oct) <b>Shukaku Matsuri</b> - Shinto	18	19
20 <b>Birth of the Bab</b> - Baha'i <b>Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth</b> - Sikh	21	22	23 <b>Diwali</b> -Hindu, Jain, Sikh (until 27 Oct)	24	25 <b>Hijra (New Year)</b> - Muslim (starts sundown 24 Oct)	26
27	28	29	30	31 <b>All Hallows Eve, Reformation Day</b> - Christian		

# November 2014

The Victorian Multicultural Commission's 12 dedicated Commissioners are in close contact with the Chairperson. They include a Youth Commissioner and Community Representative Commissioner.



Every month, all 12 Commissioners meet to develop strategies and discuss community issues needing action.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					<b>1</b> All Saints / Hallows Day - Christian Beltane - Wicca, Pagan (starts sundown Oct 31)	<b>2</b> All Soul's Day - Christian
<b>3</b> Ashura -Muslim (starts sundown 2 Nov)			<b>6</b> Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev - Sikh			
		<b>12</b> Birth of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i				
				<b>21</b> Presentation of the Theotokos - Orthodox Christian		
<b>24</b> Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur - Sikh		<b>26</b> Day of the Covenant - Baha'i (starts sundown Nov 25)		<b>28</b> Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha - Baha'i (starts sundown 27 Nov)		<b>30</b> Advent Sunday, St Andrew's Day - Christian

# December 2014

The Victorian Multicultural Commission wishes all our friends a happy and safe festive season and a successful New Year!

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Suijin Matsuri - Shinto	2	3	4	5	6 St Nicholas Day - Christian	7
8 Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) - Buddhist Immaculate Conception of Mary - Christian	9	10	11	12 Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Christian	13	14
15	16	17 Hanukkah (to 24 Dec) - Jewish (starts sundown 16 Nov)	18	19	20	21 Yule - Christian Litha (summer solstice) - Wicca, Pagan (starts sundown 20 Dec)
22 Tohji Taisai - Shinto	23	24 Christmas Eve - Christian	25 Christmas Day - Christian	26 Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra) - Zoroastrian Synaxis of the Mother of God - Orthodox Christian	27 Guru Gobind Singh jayanti - Sikh	28 Feast of the Holy Innocents - Christian
29 Feast of the Holy Family - Christian	30	31 Watch Night - Christian Oharai (Grand Purification Festival) - Shinto				