



**INTERFAITH NETWORK INC.  
CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG**



**2010**

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE  
RAPPROCHEMENT (restoring of harmony) OF CULTURES**

**JANUARY**



5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	Sikh	<i>Guru Gobind Singh was the 10<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru</i>
6	Epiphany	Christian	<i>Visit of the Magi to baby Jesus</i>
	Theophany	Orthodox Christian - New [Gregorian] Calendar	<i>Baptism of Christ and Blessing of Holy Water</i>
7	Christmas Day	Orthodox Christian - Old [Julian] Calendar	<i>Birth of Jesus Christ</i>
14-15	Thai Pongal – Ekadasi	Hindu (South India)	<i>Sun enters Capricorn Harvest Festival</i>
18	Founders Day	Brahma Kumaris	
19	Theophany	Orthodox Christian - Old [Julian] Calendar	<i>Baptism of Christ and Blessing of Holy Water</i>
30	Tu B'Shevat	Jewish	<i>New Year for Trees</i>

**FEBRUARY**



12	Maha Shiva Ratri	Hindu	<i>Revelation of Supreme Being (God Shiva); day fasting, night to dawn Temple worship</i>
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13	National Apology Day	Koori	<i>Anniversary of apology to Stolen Generations</i>
13-14	Lunar New Year	Buddhist - Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Year of the Tiger</i>
17	Ash Wednesday	Christian	<i>Season of Lent (Fasting) lasting 40 days until Palm Sunday</i>
26	Mawlid-al-Nabi	Muslim	<i>Birth of Prophet Muhammad</i>
26	Ayyam-i-Ha	Baha'i	<i>Inter-Calary Days – continues until 1st March</i>
28	Purim	Jewish	<i>Feast of Queen Esther</i>

## MARCH



2-20	The Fast	Baha'i	<i>Period of Fasting (Sunrise to Sunset)</i>
21	Naw Ruz	Baha'i	<i>New Year</i>
27	National Walk for Values	Sathya Sai	
28	Palm or Passion Sunday	Christian	<i>Jesus' entry into Jerusalem</i>
30	Pesach	Jewish	<i>Passover - Festival of Freedom, Exodus from slavery in Egypt</i>

## APRIL



1	Maundy (Holy) Thursday	Christian	
2	Good Friday	Christian Orthodox Christian	<i>Death of Jesus Christ</i>
3	Shri Ram Navami	Hindu	<i>Birthday of Lord Rama</i>

4	Easter Sunday	Christian Orthodox Christian	<i>Rising of Jesus Christ</i>
11	Yom Ha Sho'ah	Jewish	<i>Holocaust Memorial Day</i>
14	New Year Day	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Cambodian, Lao, Sri Lankan)	<i>Solar Calendar</i>
13- 14	Hindu New Year	Hindu	<i>New Year</i>
14	Vaisakhi Festival	Sikh	<i>The first initiation of Khalsa Sikhs by Guru Gobind Singh (1699)</i>
19	Yom Ha'atzmaut	Jewish	<i>Declaration of Independence of State of Israel</i>
21 April to 2 May	Feast of Rivdan	Baha'i	<i>Declaration of Baha'u'llah, Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>

## MAY



6	Easwaramma Day	Sathya Sai	<i>Mother and Children's Day</i>
13	World Falun Dafa Day		
19	Shavuot	Jewish	<i>Festival of Weeks - Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai</i>
23	Pentecost	Christian Orthodox Christian	<i>Coming of the Holy Spirit</i>
23	Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i	<i>The Bab - Forerunner of the Baha'i Faith</i>
26	National Sorry Day	Koori Community	<i>Anniversary of the 1997 Tabling of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report: "Bringing Them Home"</i>

27	Vesak	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Cambodian, Lao, Sri Lankan)	<i>Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha</i>
28	Vesak	Buddhist - Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha</i>
27 May to 3 June	Anniversary of 1967 Referendum	Koori Community	<i>The Referendum removed discriminatory clauses from the Australian Constitution</i>
	Reconciliation Week		<i>Celebrating the Week of Reconciliation with the Koori Community – continues until 3 June</i>
29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	<i>Baha'u'llah: Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>

## JUNE



3	Mabo Day	Koori Community	<i>Anniversary of the High Court decision in 1992 recognising Native Title rights</i>
16	Martydom of Guru Arjan Dev	Sikh	<i>Guru Arjan Dev was the 5<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru (1606)</i>
25	Poson	Buddhist - Theravada (Sri Lankan)	<i>Coming of Buddhism to Sri Lanka in 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC</i>

## JULY



4-11	NAIDOC Week	Koori Community	<i>Celebrates survival of people and culture</i>
8	Israa'/Me'raj	Muslim	<i>The Prophet Muhammad's Ascension to Heaven</i>
9	Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'i	<i>The Bab - forerunner of the Baha'i Faith</i>

20	Tisha B'Av	Jewish	<i>Day of Mourning</i>
26	Lailatul-Bara'at	Muslim	<i>The Night of Salvation</i>

## AUGUST



4	National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day	Koori Community	<i>First observed in 1988; each year has a special theme</i>
5	Raksha Bhandhan	Hindu, Brahma Kumaris	<i>Sisters tie thread (Rakhi) to brothers, symbolizing sister bondage</i>
9	International Day	Koori Community	<i>International Day of the World's indigenous people</i>
11	Ramadan (First Day)	Muslim	<i>Start of the month of fasting</i>
23	Shri Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	<i>Festival celebrating incarnation of Lord Ganesha (Vinayaka); fasting sunrise to sunset</i>
24	Vulan Festival	Buddhist – Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Ancestor Day - especially venerating mothers</i>

## SEPTEMBER



1	Installation of Guru Granth Sahib	Sikh	<i>The installation of Guru Granth Sahib was in the Harmandar Sahib (Golden Temple), compiled by Guru Arjan Dev (1604)</i>
5	Lailatul-Qadr	Muslim	<i>The Night of Power</i>
9	Rosh Hashana	Jewish	<i>New Year</i>
10	Eid-al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	Muslim	<i>Festival of the Breaking of the Fast</i>
18	Yom Kippur	Jewish	<i>Day of Atonement</i>

22	Children's Festival	Buddhist - Mahayana (Vietnamese)	<i>Celebrates children by giving them fun through music &amp; lantern lighting</i>
23	Sukkot	Jewish	<i>Festival of Booths - Major Harvest Festival</i>
24	Shri Khrisna Jeyanthi	Hindu, Brahma Kumaris	<i>Birthday of Lord Krishna</i>
30	Shemini Atzeret	Jewish	<i>Rejoicing of the Torah</i>

## OCTOBER



1	Simchat Torah	Jewish	<i>Added day of Rejoicing of the Torah</i>
8	Pchum Ben	Buddhist - Theravada (Cambodian & Thai)	<i>Ancestor Day</i>
17	Deepavali (Diwali)	Hindu	<i>Festival of Lights</i>
20	Birth of the Bab	Baha'i	<i>The Bab - forerunner of the Baha'i Faith</i>
20	Proclamation of Guru Granth Sahib	Sikh	<i>The proclamation of Guru Granth Sahib as Eternal Guru of Sikhs by Guru Gobind Singh (1708)</i>
24	United Nations Day	Interfaith	

## NOVEMBER



1	All Saints Day	Christian	<i>Day to honour all saints and believers, living and dead</i>
9-10	Akhand Bhajans (Global)	Sathya Sai	<i>24 Hours World Peace Prayer</i>
12	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	<i>Baha'u'llah: Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>

15	Yaum-al-Arafah Day of Arafaat (Hajj)	Muslim	<i>Start of Pilgrimage</i>
16	Eid-al-Adha	Muslim	<i>Festival of the Sacrifice</i>
21	Birthday of Guru Nanak	Sikh	<i>Guru Nanak was the Founder of the Sikh faith</i>
23	Birthday of Sai Baba	Sathya Sai	<i>Sai Baba's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday</i>
24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	Sikh	<i>Guru Tegh Bahadur was the 9<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru (1675)</i>
28	Advent Sunday	Christian	<i>Beginning of preparation for Christmas</i>

## DECEMBER



2	Chanukah	Jewish	<i>Feast of Re-dedication of Jerusalem Temple (Festival of Lights)</i>
7	*Muharram	Muslim	<i>New Year (1432)</i>
16	*Day of Ashura	Muslim	<i>10<sup>th</sup> Day - day of fasting</i>
25	Christmas Day	Christian	<i>Birthday of Jesus Christ</i>

\* *Dates for Muslim Holy Days and Festivals are the EXPECTED dates only and should be confirmed by physical moon sighting or contacting the local masjid (mosque).*