

Entry type: Event
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Australian Bicentenary 1988

(1988 - 1988)

Born 19880126, Australia

Died 19881231

Summary

Australian State and Federal governments named the festivities around the Bicentenary of the invasion of Australia on 26 January 1788 by the British the 'Celebration of a nation'. Various communities took a dissenting view, notably many Indigenous groups who united on 26 January 1988 to stage the largest Indigenous protest in the history of colonised Australia. This took the form of a peaceful march of 100 000 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Sydney. It was part of a history of Indigenous observation of this day inaugurated by the 1938 Day of Mourning. As the Indigenous poet and campaigner Oodgeroo Noonuccal asked at the time of the Bicentennial, 'from the Aboriginal point of view, what is there to celebrate?'. In 1987, Oodgeroo returned her MBE in protest against the upcoming 1988 Bicentennial celebrations.

Published resources

Book

The Macquarie encyclopedia of Australian events, Fraser, Bryce, 1997

Australia's too old to celebrate birthdays (Galarwuy Yunupingu 1988), Harris, Alana, 1988

Resource

Art and the Olympics, Sally McCausland,
<http://artslaw.com.au/reference/artolymp994/>

Resource Section

The Sydney Morning Herald and Representation of the 1988 Bicentennial, Foley, Gary, 1997,
http://www.kooriweb.org/foley/essays/essay_11.html

Newspaper Article

Aborigines Cast a Shadow Over Australia's Party, Mydans, Seth, 1988

Black Protests Will Be Peaceful: Foley, Ingrid Svendsen, 1987

Poet swaps name in protest, Roberts, Greg, 1987

Why I am now Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Oodgeroo Nunuccal, 1987

Book Section

The year of mourning, Foley, G. et al, 1990

The Day of Mourning, Horner, J. and Langton, M., 1987

January, Stell, M. K. and Thompson, R., 1989

Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Heritage 200 entries, 1988 \[manuscript\]](#)

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