

Harmony Week

The central message for Harmony Week is that 'everyone belongs', reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians. Harmony Week is a great opportunity to recognise that inclusiveness is an Australian value. If possible, the AOTM could be presented in a Harmony Week assembly, with a student from a diverse background given the opportunity to tell their story, or for a student to be recognised for their effort in including all.

Activity Options

Stand Up For Diversity

Ask students to stand in their assembly who were not born in Australia. Remaining students are then asked to stand if any of their parents were born in Australia, followed by their grandparents, and finally any of their friends or community. This visual technique is an opportunity to show students that the Australian identity is not determined by where they are born, but their involvement in the community.

Unique Stories

Have members of the community tell how they or their families arrived in Australia. Stories from students, staff and members of the community could be used to show students the multicultural nature of Australia, and recognise the unique journeys many make to be here.

Classroom Bandanna Project

Students could create a large bandana for their classroom, where each student is given the opportunity to draw something significant to their culture.



- Explain the concept of 'culture'
- How many different languages are spoken in the classroom?
- How can we help all people feel like they belong in Australia?

Resources

[Ideas & Inspiration - A Taste of Harmony](#)

[Schools Event Planning Kit](#)

[Department of Home Affairs](#)

Who might you invite to present the award?

- Multicultural group representative
- A significant individual from a diverse background



Clean up Australia Day

'Clean up Australia Day' was started in 1989 by an 'average Australian bloke', who had a simple idea to make a great difference in his own backyard - Sydney Harbour. This simple idea of cleaning up his 'backyard' has now become the nation's largest community-based environmental event. His name was Ian Kiernan and he was named Australian of the Year in 1994 for his Clean Up Australia initiative. Over the past 30 years, Australians have devoted more than 35 million hours towards the environment through Clean Up Australia Day, and over 365,000 ute loads of rubbish have been removed as part of Clean Up Australia activities

Activity Idea

Creating a Clean Up event is a great way to make a difference for our environment. You can register your event online and you will receive a free Clean Up Kit and then all you need to do is follow three simple steps to activate your Clean Up Event. Spread the word about your event and get ready to make a difference! To provide an extra incentive for the class, how about a prize for the top 3 students who have collected the greatest amount of litter?

Resources

[Cleanup Australia](#)
[Digital Library - Cool Australia](#)
[Step Up with Clean Up Australia](#)
[Cool Australia - Curriculum Materials](#)

- A local council representative
- An environmentalist
- An environmental science student from a local university

Who might you invite to present the award?

Talking Points

- Highlight the impact of litter to our environment
- Explain the importance of recycling
- Address the concept of a wasteful society
- Outline the environmental consequences if the next generation doesn't recycle

