Australia Day

Australia Day is celebrated by many Australians on 26 January each year. This day marks an important event in the history of Australia.

In May 1787, Captain Phillip left England with a **fleet** of 11 ships. On six of the ships there were more than 700 **convicts**. The convicts and other passengers were going to Australia to establish a new **colony**.

Captain Phillip raised the British flag in Sydney Cove.

On 26 January 1788, the **colonists** arrived on Australian soil, at a place Captain Phillip called Sydney Cove. The colony eventually grew into a large nation.

Australians celebrate Australia Day by having parties, picnics and barbecues. In Sydney, a play is performed to show how Captain Phillip landed in a little boat and put up a British flag on the beach.

Many people fly an Australian flag and wear green and gold colours. Some families who have come from other countries to live in Australia celebrate, too.