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Harmony Week ~ 15 to 21 March

Last year saw the 20th anniversary of Harmony Day and in recognition of this occasion, Harmony Day was renamed Harmony Week.

Harmony Week begins on Sunday 15 March and includes 21 March, which is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Community members may choose to wear something orange during Harmony Week to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country and it's our diversity that makes Australia such a great place to live. Harmony Week is a celebration of this cultural diversity; it's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

There are some fascinating statistics about Australia's diversity:

- More than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are spoken in Australia.
- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.

'As a community we should always show kindness, respect and solidarity and also show that we support and treasure everyone's contribution to our great country. Harmony Week is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate that everyone belongs in this diverse community of Australia including right here in the Town of Gawler' says Mayor Karen Redman.

The Evanston Gardens Library will showcase Harmony Week as the theme for its Children's Programs on 17 and 19 March, with harmony themed story time sessions and craft activities.

On Wednesday 18 March, the Gawler Community House is having a Harmony Week Celebration in their brand new café, from 12 - 2pm, and encourage everyone to come dressed in orange. All members of the community are welcome.

For more information about Harmony Week and events that are taking place across the region, go to <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

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ENDS

Town of Gawler

Official Media Release

Gawler



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