



Australian Government



Australia now
Pacific edition

Australia now Pacific edition

Celebrating the deep cultural connections
between Australia and Pacific partners





Australia now: Pacific edition is an Australian Government initiative celebrating the deep cultural connections between Australia and Pacific partners.

From June to December 2026, the initiative brings together artists, communities and cultural practitioners through a vibrant series of collaborations, performances and exchanges across the Pacific and in Australia. Activities are centred around three key themes: celebrating Pacific voices and partnerships; First Nations connections; and the shared challenge of climate change.

At its heart, *Australia now* recognises the enduring connections between the First Nations peoples of Australia and the peoples of the Blue Pacific. The program celebrates these relationships while showcasing the rich cultural heritage, creativity and leadership of First Nations communities, whose enduring connections to land, sea, sky and community continue to shape our region.

The program also reflects on one of the Pacific's most significant shared challenges: climate change. Through storytelling, artistic expression and cultural exchange, *Australia now* highlights the shared lived experience of our region and encourages collective action and understanding. *Australia now* also supports Pasifika showcases at leading festivals in Melbourne, Brisbane, Far North Queensland and Darwin, helping deepen understanding and appreciation of Pacific cultures in Australia.

Through film screenings, music and dance collaborations, youth and community workshops, and cultural heritage knowledge exchange across the Pacific, *Australia now* is fostering lasting partnerships and deepening links between our peoples.

By bringing together artists, communities and cultural heritage specialists from across Australia and the Pacific, *Australia now* is creating opportunities for exchange, learning and collaboration - strengthening the connections that bring our region closer together.

For more information, visit pacificaustralianow.com.

Calendar

JUNE

	<i>Rising Festival: God Save the Queens</i>	Pasifika showcase celebrating Samoan, Tongan, Fijian and Māori cultural roots.	Melbourne, Australia
	<i>Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir New Zealand Tour</i>	A cultural exchange and performance tour with the New Zealand Children's Choral Academy and the <i>Treble Voices Festival</i> .	Aotearoa, Auckland, Hamilton and Rotarua, New Zealand
	<i>The Flying Canoe</i> immersive audio storytelling experience (ongoing)	Transporting students and families to the islands of Kiribati. Delivered to Australian school students by the Arts Centre Melbourne.	Online and across Victoria, Australia

JULY

	<i>Between the Tides</i> - Queensland Music Trails	Featuring Bundjalung, Innigai and South Sea Islander singer/songwriter Georgia Corowa.	Airlie Beach, Australia
	NAIDOC Film Screenings	Australian film <i>Kangaroo</i> community screenings.	Kiribati New Caledonia
	<i>Breath of Country, Breath of Ocean</i>	Cultural exchange and performances led by internationally acclaimed First Nations musician William Barton.	Samoa
	BighART Youth Exchanges	Performances and youth workshops, fostering cultural exchange between Australian First Nations leaders and Pacific communities.	Solomon Islands Samoa Australia
	<i>Two Nations, One Ocean Mural</i>	A new large-scale mural created by Australian First Nations artist Maddison Gibbs and Palauan artist Elsei Tellei.	Palau
	The National Library of Australia's <i>Pacific Peoples of Australia</i> initiative (ongoing)	A long-term cultural heritage initiative ensuring the stories, traditions and contributions of Pacific communities in Australia are preserved, visible and accessible for generations to come.	Australia

AUGUST



*Darwin Festival -
Global Rhythms
Public Concert*

Australian First Nations
song and dance and
Pacific drumming at a free
family concert.

Darwin,
Australia



Pasifika Film Fest

Film festival and workshops
celebrating Pacific stories
and climate storytelling.

Tuvalu



*Fijian Flying Circus
Australia Tour*

A six-month tour and skills
exchange from Fiji's first
contemporary circus in
partnership with Cluster Arts.

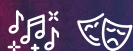
Darwin, Brisbane,
Melbourne and
Sydney, Australia



Family Film Festival

Australian film *Kangaroo*
community screenings.

Suva, Lautoka
and Labasa, Fiji

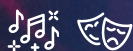


Cultural Night Market

Celebrating Australian and
Niuean connections through
food, music and dance.

Niue

SEPTEMBER



*Pasifika Made,
Brisbane Festival*

One of Australia's largest
celebrations of Pacific
culture.

Brisbane,
Australia



*International Congress
of Maritime Museums*

Supporting cultural heritage
specialists from Samoa,
Cook Islands and Fiji to
participate in this global
congress.

Sydney,
Australia

Genre icons:

Film



Climate



Music



Cultural Heritage



Performance



Digital



Visual arts

OCTOBER



Oceania Pacific Arts Residency, Creative Australia, Creative New Zealand and the Oceania Centre at The University of the South Pacific in Fiji

Inaugural tri-nation performing arts residency strengthening creative networks across Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

Fiji



Australia-Pacific Traditional Ecological Knowledge Exchange

A knowledge exchange exploring Australian First Nations and Pacific approaches to climate resilience and environmental stewardship.

Solomon Islands
Kiribati
French Polynesia
Cook Islands

NOVEMBER



Asia TOPA Dance Festival and Dance Fest Fiji Creative Exchange

Connecting Australian and Fijian artists and arts professionals for creative collaborations, public performances and technical training.

Fiji



Live music exchanges and collaborations

Australian First Nations and Pacific exchanges led by Australian music organisations Skinnyfish Music, Wantok Musik and Gaba Musik.

Solomon Islands
New Caledonia
Fiji
Tonga



Pacific Cultural Professional Exchange with the Australian Museum

Capacity-building initiative connecting cultural heritage professionals from six Pacific island nations.

Australia



Performing arts exchange and collaboration

Casus Creations (Australia) and Rako Pasefika (Fiji) partner to present contemporary physical theatre, circus and Pacific storytelling.

Fiji
Rotuma
Australia

DECEMBER



Connected Oceans (continues in 2027)

Arts-led initiative from Wantok Musik linking Antarctic science and Pacific communities.

Australia
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands



Australia-Pacific Climate Futures Indigenous Arts Exchange (continues in 2027)

Bringing together emerging artists from Australia, Asia and the Pacific for a residency in Samoa exploring Indigenous knowledge systems and climate futures.

Australia
Samoa
Tonga
Vanuatu
Indonesia



Image by: Jesse Alpert



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More information
pacificaustralianow.com



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Pasifika Made, Brisbane Festival. Image by Jade Ferguson

