



25 May 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT

How will we celebrate WA Day in 2020?

WA Day will look very different to usual in 2020, with most Western Australians having only just come out of hibernation and busy re-adjusting to life in a post COVID-19 world.

Many Perth families are heading down south or to the Mid-West for the long weekend, providing much-needed support to the State's tourism sector. Travel to the Kimberley is still restricted, along with many activities still limited by group numbers.

This year, SOTAstream will take the place of the usual much loved SOTA Festival. A free online music festival, SOTAstream will be streamed live on Facebook throughout the State, featuring Abbe May, Carla Geneve, Drapht, Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse, Methyl Ethel, Psychadelic Porn Crumpets and San Cisco.

While SOTAstream is an exciting modification of the usual long-weekend celebrations, other major events usually scheduled for WA Day have been cancelled, reducing the usual opportunities for media to celebrate the best of Western Australia.

To counter this problem and provide local media with some inspiration for possible WA Day content, Celebrate WA has prepared a number of 'listicles'.

Celebrate WA can assist in providing further ideas for stories across the long weekend, including interviews, images and vision.

To get quotes from Celebrate WA Chair Michael Anghie or interviews with SOTAstream artists or images, please contact:

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Top 10 WA songs to listen to over the WA Day long weekend

It's a well-known fact that WA has produced some of the country's best musicians. From iconic rock'n'roll, to chilled out folk and everything in-between, there must be something in the water here that gives our West Aussie artists the edge.

If you're having a BBQ this WA Day, make sure you get in the groove with Western Australian music. We've picked 10 favourite West Aussie tracks for your playlist;

1. *The Less I know The Better - Tame Impala*

Tame Impala may be one of the biggest bands in the world now, but many WA music fans remember when Kevin Parker and co were the new guys on the Perth music scene. Picking a favourite Tame song is a bit like picking a favourite child, but break-up anthem *The Less I Know The Better* has to come close.

2. *Awkward - San Cisco*

Perth's indie-pop darlings have had hit after hit in their short careers, but there's something about their first smash that never fails to put us in a good mood. You can watch San Cisco perform LIVE on WA Day, with a free concert being streamed online at www.facebook.com/sotafestival.

3. *Ubu – Methyl Ethel*

Ubu might be a hard-to-remember name, but once you've heard the song, chances are it'll be stuck in your head for a week. Methyl Ethyl have been an institution in the Australian music scene for the past decade, and will be gracing the state at SOTAstream this WA Day to bring their infectious sound to WA.

4. *Jimmy Recard – Draphht*

Think you don't know this song? Think again. Chances are you've belted out "J, R, Jimmy Recard!" more than once in bars and at house parties over the years – it's too catchy not to. You might have the chance to sing it again when Draphht takes to the (virtual) state for SOTAstream, WA's free online concert, this Monday.

5. *Wide Open Road – The Triffids*

The quintessential WA sound for many, *Wide Open Road* is one of those songs that transports you back to a point in your life. If you're going on a road trip...

6. *Beautiful To Me - Little Birdy*

Written by a member of WA music royalty the Steele family, *Beautiful To Me* is exactly what we want to listen to on WA Day – sweet, upbeat and beautiful.

7. *Black Fingernails, Red Wine - Eskimo Joe*

You can't compile a list of WA music without this smash hit from Eskimo Joe. Although we might never quite make out that famous lyrics in the chorus ("I don't understand the point of fingers" – anyone?), you can't deny how catchy the tune is.



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8. *London Still - The Waifs*

If you've ever been homesick (and who hasn't), this song will strike a chord. The tune captures everything we've felt when far away and wishing we were back in WA.

9. *Witchcraft – Pendulum*

For those who like music with grunt, Pendulum are hard to beat. The iconic noughties drum / bass band know how to get us moving, and *Witchcraft* is one of their best. Remove precious objects from the room, crank the volume till you feel the bass.

10. *Better Than – John Butler*

The man who famously started his career as a busker in Fremantle is now a global folk, blues and roots sensation. *Better Than*, with its chilled vibe and up-beat message is the perfect “relaxing in the WA sunshine” track.

Top 10 best ways to celebrate

There may be no WA Day festival this year, but there are still heaps of ways to celebrate WA this long weekend. See if your whip around the office includes:

1. Celebrate our oceans – take a dip if you're near the coast and see how tough you are in the winter water. If you're inland, drag out a surfboard and fake it to take a shot to post online #WADay.
2. Celebrate our vast interior – if you're inland celebrate all that red dirt around you, and if you live by the seaside then roll in a sand dune and celebrate our deserts.
3. Start the queue for the BBQ – get down to the local park first and get your best snags on the plate before anyone else. Show some West Aussie politeness and make sure you clean the top before handing to next in line.
4. Backyard cricket or footy! Not your cup of tea? Celebrate the diversity of our multi-cultural heritage with a game of bocce, mahjong or two-up.
5. Drive. Somewhere, or anywhere. WA is the land of the wide open road. Find one and drive a few hours in one direction and then come back.
6. Support local. Go to your nearest café or restaurant and treat yourself. Then go back again later. And once more before bed. Put your dollars into the WA economy no matter where you are.
7. Pull out that outdoor activity gear you never use and see if it still works. Does the canoe float? Does the sand-board slide? Does the surfboard float? No better time than WA Day to find out by giving it a go.
8. Watch the sunrise and then watch the sunset. OK, so you can do this on the roof of your house, but why not try two different outdoor locations in one day. We've got beautiful parks – let's use them.



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9. Drop in on a picnic or a BBQ. It's WA Day with lots of people outdoors. Introduce yourself and make a new friend.
10. Be loud and proud. Stand in your driveway and shout: "I'm a West Australian and I'm proud of it." Get your whole street involved. Have a drink together and toast our great State!

Top 6 online activities

If you're staying home this long weekend, you can still be truly West Australian in the comfort of your home:

1. Listen to SOTAstream! It's not often you get the chance to watch the best WA bands for free in your living room, but on WA Day you can do just that. Streamed online all over the state, SOTAstream is the hottest ticket in town on Monday 1 June.
2. Make a WA flag – remember it's the one with the black swan on it.
3. Go online and learn about our State animal emblem – the Numbat! Not the Quokka.
4. Watch a WA classic movie like Red Dog or Breath and act out key scenes.
5. Take a tour of WA online – visit Albany, Esperance, drop in on some wineries, check out Karijini and Esperance, use Google Maps to work out the distances and how far you have travel.
6. Create your own special WA Day photo album by bringing all those great past travel photos together into one spot on your phone or laptop.

Top 5 dishes to eat this WA Day long weekend

Whether you're having friends or family over this long weekend or heading off for a mini-getaway, we can all work a little more local WA produce into our diets.

WA Day is the perfect excuse to treat yourself to a delicious indulgence or cook something low and slow. We've put together a list of five of our absolute favourite WA things to eat over the long weekend, to give you some inspiration. Bon Appetit!

1. Start the day off right with smashed avocados from the South West, topped with poached free-range WA eggs and Cambray Cheese marinated feta. The best part about cooking it yourself is, you won't have to re-mortgage the house to pay for it!
2. Having a few friends over for a BBQ? Us too. We're lucky to have out-door weather all year round in WA, so why not enjoy it! If you're in our State's capital, pick up a dozen sausages from the butcher. Better yet, pick up 2 dozen and eat the rest for leftovers cold the next day. Bliss.
3. As the days get shorter and the nights cooler, minds turn to comfort food (at least ours does, anyway!). There are few things more comforting than a roast beef dinner complete with lots of gravy and roast potatoes, just the way mum used to make it. WA beef is some of the best in the world, so head down to your local butcher and ask them what looks good.



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4. Heading to the in-laws and need to impress? We've all been there. Whip up a salad using in-season ingredients – fennel and orange is a killer combo – and marvel at how much better everything tastes when it's fresh and grown locally.
5. If you haven't made banana bread during COVID-19, you must be one of the few who haven't. Jump on the bandwagon and get baking with bananas from Carnarvon to make the perfect 'healthy' treat!



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