

# Autumn

“Now comes the time when quiet showers soothe  
The wounds of Summer’s too intense embrace,  
And gentle hands reach down softly to smooth  
The wrinkles from the garden’s sun-seared face;  
Quick little breezes race  
Down thro’ the forest; swell, and die again,  
And saplings toss like merry boys at play,  
And tall, time-roughened trees, like grave old men,  
Forgetting that the years have made them grey,  
Laugh with the laughing day.”— [C.J. Dennis, Autumn](#)

## March: A Month of Transition and Renewal

Welcome to our March edition! As the wheel of the year turns, March stands as one of the most dynamic months on the calendar. It is a bridge between seasons—ushering in spring in the North and autumn in the South—and is historically named after Mars, the Roman god of war, marking the time when military campaigns would resume after winter.

---

### Global Highlights

March is defined by the shifting of the earth and the celebration of identity.

- **The Equinox (March 20/21):** The official astronomical start of Spring (Northern Hemisphere) or Autumn (Southern Hemisphere). Day and night are nearly equal in length everywhere on Earth.
- **Women’s History Month:** A month-long global spotlight on the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.
- **International Women’s Day (March 8):** A focal point in the movement for women's rights, celebrated globally with rallies, conferences, and networking.
- **World Wildlife Day (March 3):** A day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world’s wild fauna and flora.

### Cultural Significance

From splashes of colour to "the luck of the Irish," March is rich with vibrant traditions.

## Major Festivals

Event	Date	Significance
Holi	Varies (Full Moon)	The Hindu "Festival of Colours" celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

---

<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	March 17	Originally a religious feast day for the patron saint of Ireland, now a global celebration of Irish culture.
--------------------------	----------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>Nowruz</b>	March 20/21	The Persian New Year, celebrated by over 300 million people worldwide as a symbol of rebirth.
---------------	-------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>Pi Day</b>	March 14	A fun global celebration for math enthusiasts, honouring the mathematical constant
---------------	----------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Did you know?** March was actually the **first month** of the year in the earliest Roman calendars. This is why September, October, November, and December (meaning 7, 8, 9, and 10) are named as they are, despite being the 9th through 12th months today!

## Health & Wellbeing Observances

- **World Hearing Day (March 3):** Focuses on raising awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss.
- **International Women's Day (March 8):** A day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements and advocating for gender equality.
- **World Sleep Day (March 13):** The 2026 theme is "**Sleep Well, Live Better,**" emphasizing that quality sleep is a foundational pillar of physical and mental health.
- **International Day of Happiness (March 20):** Observed on the same day as the Spring Equinox, this day promotes the idea that happiness is a fundamental human goal. The 2026 theme is "**Caring and Sharing**".
- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day (March 24):** Designed to build public awareness that tuberculosis today remains an epidemic in much of the world.

## AU Major Australian Highlights

- **125 Years of the Navy & Army (1 March):** A historic milestone as the Australian Navy and Army commemorate 125 years of service. Both were formed on 1 March 1901 following Federation.
- **Clean Up Australia Day (1 March):** The nation's largest community-based environmental event. In 2026, it falls on the first Sunday of the month, encouraging volunteers to tidy local parks, beaches, and bushland.
- **Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (Ends 1 March):** The 2026 festival concludes its major celebrations, including the parade and Fair Day, on the first weekend of March.

- **Harmony Week (16–22 March):** A week-long celebration of Australia's cultural diversity under the message "Everyone Belongs". **Harmony Day** itself is observed on Saturday, 21 March.

 Clean Up Australia +7

## Cultural & First Nations Observances

- **National Close the Gap Day (19 March):** Observed on the third Thursday of March, this day advocates for health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March):** Often observed in conjunction with Harmony Day to focus on combatting racism.
- **Multicultural Festivals:** Various major events run throughout the month, including the **Holi Festival** (4–8 March) in major cities like Sydney and the **25th Biennale of Sydney** opening on 14 March.

## Public Holidays & State Events

March 2026 features several long weekends depending on your location:

- **Western Australia:** Labour Day (Monday, 2 March).
- **Victoria:** Labour Day (Monday, 9 March).
- **South Australia:** Adelaide Cup Day (Monday, 9 March).
- **ACT:** Canberra Day (Monday, 9 March).
- **Tasmania:** Eight Hours Day (Monday, 9 March).

 Fair Work Ombudsman +4

## Lifestyle & Awareness

- **Hearing Awareness Week (1–7 March):** Focuses on hearing health and communication inclusion.
- **Parks Week (2–9 March):** Celebrates the vital role parks play in community health.
- **National Eucalypt Day (23 March):** A day to celebrate Australia's iconic natural environment.
- **Earth Hour (28 March):** Australians will join millions globally at **8:30 PM** to switch off lights for one hour to support climate action.

Hope you enjoyed your "March" reading, which I meticulously sourced from the web . I'm sure it will come in handy 😊.

March is going to be a big month for the club!