

SPECIAL EDITION

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK



THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

Gulpa Guka– Welcome to this special NAIDOC Week edition of our community newsletter.

This year, we honour the legacy of our Elders, the strength of our young people, and the stories that shape our future.

Join us as we reflect, celebrate, and look ahead — together.

ON BEHALF OF THE RUMBALARA BOARD: *Marie Barbance, Vice Chairperson*



Deputy Chair of the Rumbalara Board, Marie Barbance, addressed the community at our NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony with a message of strength, unity, and vision – echoing the theme “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy.” Marie has kindly given permission to share her speech in our Special Edition Newsletter.

Gulpa Guka Aningya: Welcome Friend

Norda ya Woo Wamadum Woka

Yenbena Yorta Yorta: You walk upon the land of the people

Mooma Bungerra Bomba in norlan woka:

Take pleasure in all our land

Galnyn water nora nana: Respect all you see

We gather today on Yorta Yorta Country, right here in Mooroopna, a place of deep cultural significance, to mark the beginning of NAIDOC Week 2025.

This year, our theme, “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy,” calls us to reflect on the profound importance of our young people, their boundless potential, and the vital role they play in shaping our shared future.



Image: Marie Barbance

The raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags is a powerful symbol. It represents recognition, respect, and a commitment to walking together towards a more inclusive and equitable nation. These flags tell stories – stories of ancient cultures, of resilience in the face of adversity, and of an enduring connection to Country that spans tens of thousands of years.

As we stand here today, it's particularly significant to acknowledge that this year, NAIDOC Week celebrates an incredible milestone: 50 years. Fifty years of celebrating our history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Fifty years of advocating for greater understanding and recognition. This half-century mark is a testament to the enduring spirit of our communities and the remarkable progress that has been made, driven by generations of dedicated individuals.

This year's theme reminds us that our stories, our knowledge, and our strength are being carried forward by the next generation. Our children, our youth, are not just the inheritors of a rich legacy; they are also the architects of tomorrow. They embody the strength of their ancestors, possess a clear vision for a better future, and are actively building the legacy that future generations will benefit from.

We see this strength in their advocacy for justice, their passion for cultural preservation, and their leadership in every aspect of community life.

We see their vision in their innovative ideas, their unwavering hope, and their determination to create a world where all First Nations peoples are celebrated, respected, and empowered.

They are creating a legacy through their education, achievements, activism, and dedication to ensuring the mistakes of the past are not repeated—and that their cultures continue to thrive.

As we raise these flags today, let's renew our commitment to the next generation. Let's equip them with knowledge, nurture their aspirations, and remove barriers to their success. Let's listen, uplift their voices, and walk beside them as they lead us forward.

NAIDOC Week invites all Australians to learn, celebrate, and reflect. It's a time to deepen our understanding of First Nations cultures, histories, and achievements. With this year's theme—and the milestone of 50 years of NAIDOC—it's a powerful reminder that our future is bright, shaped by the strength, vision, and legacy of those rising to lead.



Thank you Marie for sharing your inspiring and meaningful words at our Flag Raising special event



Image: Corey Walker and Meerrmay Wise



Image: Nyoka Winmar- Saunders



Image: Sophie Winmar

Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-Operative proudly joined communities across Australia in celebrating NAIDOC Week 2025, embracing this year's theme: The Next Generation – Strength, Vision and Legacy.

This powerful theme celebrates the resilience of our Elders, the aspirations of our youth, and the enduring cultural legacy that shapes our nation. It speaks to the strength of generational leadership and the unbroken spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Throughout the week, we hosted a series of well-attended events that fostered connection, pride and reflection. Celebrations began with our Annual Flag Raising Ceremony, where the community gathered in unity to honour the survival, strength, and legacy of First Nations peoples.

"The pride, unity and energy felt throughout the week will continue to guide us forward".



Image: Felicia Dean

Image Courtesy of Belinda Briggs

A special Elders Luncheon followed—an opportunity for our Elders to come together, share a meal, enjoy entertainment, and reflect on their invaluable contributions to culture, family and community.

The week concluded with a vibrant Family Day filled with food, music, joy rides, games and community stalls—celebrating culture through togetherness and shared pride.

NAIDOC Week is more than a celebration. It's a moment to reflect on the past, honour our heritage, and look to the future with strength and purpose. This year's theme reminds us of the deep respect we hold for our Elders, and the vision and energy of our young people.

At Rumbalara, we're proud to walk alongside community in honouring that legacy. Thank you to everyone who participated, shared stories, and stood with us—and a special thanks to our dedicated team for making NAIDOC Week 2025 such a success.

NAIDOC WEEK HIGHLIGHTS



Image: Chloe Jones
Image Courtesy of Belinda Briggs



Image: Felicia Dean and Chloe Jones
Image Courtesy of Belinda Briggs



Image: Chloe Jones

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY:

**A POWERFUL
MORNING OF
PRIDE AND
REFLECTION, AS
THE COMMUNITY
CAME TOGETHER
TO HONOUR
CULTURE AND
COUNTRY.**

"Moments That Moved Us"



Image: Corey Walker and
Meermay Wise



Image: Flag Raising



Image: Uncle Lance James



Image: Smoking Ceremony



Image: Smoking Ceremony

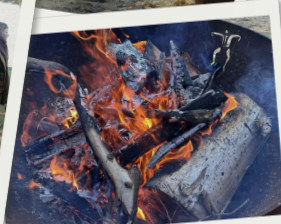


Image: Smoking Ceremony

NAIDOC WEEK HIGHLIGHTS



"Creating Memories"

ELDERS LUNCHEON:

**A JOYFUL
CELEBRATION
FILLED WITH
LAUGHTER,
SHARED
STORIES, AND
DEEP RESPECT
FOR THOSE
WHO'VE PAVED
THE WAY.**



Image: The Muirs



Image: Yarning over Lunch



Image: Aunty June Murray
and Erik Pederson



Image: Aunty Kella Robinson
and Lee Joachim



Image: Terrel Joachim



Image: Uncle Lance, Rhonda Dean, Felicia Dean,
Renai Dean and Yolande Kerr



Image: Yarning over
Lunch

NAIDOC WEEK HIGHLIGHTS



Image: Sonny Cooper



Image: Trinity Everingham



Image: Ruby Winmar



Image: The Brother Boys

"Connecting with Our Mob"

FAMILY DAY:

**MUSIC, COLOUR, CONNECTION
— FAMILIES CAME TOGETHER
IN A CELEBRATION OF
CULTURE, COMMUNITY,
AND FUN.**



Image: Shannon, Ashok & Neil



Image: Tysha McGee and her family



Image: Tea Cup Fun



Image: Kelli Bartlett



Image: CFA teachings

NAIDOC WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

Family Day Memories Continued



Image: Twist Time Fun



Image: Twist Time Fun



Image: Twist Time Fun

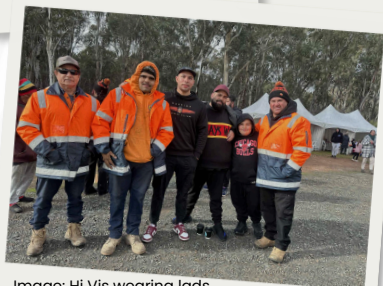


Image: Hi Vis wearing lads
from Yorta Yorta Nations



Image: Community
coming together



Image: Painting



Image: Our Medical Van



Image: CFA teachings

NAIDOC WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

"Celebrating Dharyna Day"



Image: Welcome Ceremony



Image: Welcome Ceremony



Image: Ashanti Walker



Image: Our Careers Team



Image: Weaving Workshop with
Dharyna Nicholson-Bux



Image: Painting



Image: Tasie Walker and
Rylee Weston



Image: Flag Raising

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YORTA YORTA NATIONS ON
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DHARYNA DAY**

NAIDOC WEEK

P I K Y Y L D A E D A N V P M E W
C K Y P B E M I T M A E R D A R W
O J G G A Q C O R X V D B I T U M
D O Q H L K K Z A P Q P G D O T W
I I J I L X J G Z L T E O U T L J
A K R J A V B A K E A M I F E U G
N Y R Q W N L L B N J N S E M C U
P G G V I Z A F P E A C K T S I Y
N J T Z U G C D K U C A P E H N R
V Q E H Q F K S K F N P L W N Y J
W P C G K J W N I S R C A Y T P S
A N L K D K A N G A R O O T Z V S
N Z R Q W O L L E Y Z L A N D U G
N U H R E K C U T M Q I R J N Q H
A H R D E R Y X R K O T E F J F O
O D I D G E R D I O O B R C U D V
G K K A B O R I G I N A L A U U I

DIDGERDIOO	ABORIGINAL	DREAMTIME	KANGAROO
WALLABY	CULTURE	YELLOW	TOTEMS
GOANNA	TUCKER	DEADLY	NAIDOC
SNAKE	BLACK	FLAG	LAND
SUN	RED	ART	MOB





COLOUR ME IN



**THE NEXT
GENERATION:
STRENGTH,
VISION &
LEGACY**
6-13 JULY 2025

Ancestral Lines by Jeremy Morgan Worrall

This artwork is a visual representation of the generational lines that carry through my mob. When I think of the next generation, I think towards my ancestors—Lucy Wright, Enoch Wright, Nonie Wright—through to my Nanna Audrie and my Mother Vanessa. Looking back gives me the strength and vision to look forward. Each figure in the painting is tied to family lines, like songlines, reflecting what they knew and what they passed on. The first represents lore, hunting, and tracking. The second reflects care, weaving, and love. The third shows the two combined, while the final two carry unfinished elements—symbols of knowledge and care in motion. Above them sits the essence of Country—swirling skies and a giant moon over Emmaville. It is by the fire, under these cool skies, where the next generation finds their strength, vision, and legacy.



Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas, Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok

#NAIDOC2025

#BLAKLOUDPROUD



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THANK YOU

Thank you for reading our NAIDOC Week Special Edition Newsletter!

We hope you enjoyed celebrating
The Next Generation: Strength, Vision
and Legacy with us.

CONNECT WITH US

Let's keep the conversation going.

To stay connected with Rumbalara
and keep up with the stories, events
and voices from our community:
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