Keeping Community informed

By Lidia Thorpe Co-chair Victorian NAIDOC Committee

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The new Victorian NAIDOC model

As part of its planning for future NAIDOC Week festivities, this year’s Executive Committee undertook an evaluation of NAIDOC 2014 and is in the process of developing a model to support the role and functions of future NAIDOC Committee’s. As a way to ensure continuity, maintain consistency and momentum part of this planning has resolved that the Executive Committee will be appointed for a three year term. This does not mean you cannot be part of the General Committee or participate in event Working Groups.

Working groups work with the NAIDOC position and report to NAIDOC Committee, NAIDOC executive are also on working groups.

This new model ensures all events are coordinated in a professional and timely manner. Each working group has a lead person that reports to the committee on progress.

We value and promote good leadership in the community, therefore we provide this opportunity for young people to be part of the committee and take advantage of the opportunity to be mentored by more experienced members.

Yours respectfully, Lidia.

If successful with our commonwealth funding application we have submitted to have a Victorian NAIDOC community support fund. Guidelines will be available upon receipt if granted.
This year’s Mr and Miss NAIDOC Ceremony was the first official Victorian event to kick off NAIDOC week.

The event was held at the Koorin Gamadji Institute at the Richmond Football Club together with the support of the Koorie Youth Council.

We are proud to say that we attracted a record number of entrants with over 22 deadly young men and women nominating to participate. The nominees came from across the state sharing their stories and journey with a massive audience and a well-placed judging panel that could provide further opportunity into the future.

Approximately 120 community and family members were in attendance. This was also a record number to date.

We announced this year’s NAIDOC Patrons on the night, who were all very worthy recipients for NAIDOC 2014. Our 3 Patrons all had made a significant impact on the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The Mr and Miss NAIDOC event provides an unique personal and professional development opportunity for young Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The honor to represent NAIDOC Victoria allows the recipients to grow and inspire others, raise issues about their local communities, promote NAIDOC’s values, network with community and other stakeholders all whilst showcasing their leadership skill and qualities as young proud Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander young people.

As part of Douglas Briggs and Sharina Ladharam’s role as Mr and Miss NAIDOC, they were invited to a number of NAIDOC events across Melbourne and delivered speeches on their journey’s, their aspirations and what NAIDOC means to them as young Koories and aspiring leaders within their communities.

It was decided that Mr and Miss NAIDOC would attend any community or official events proudly wearing their sashes, this was seen as an honor to represent the youth and of Victoria throughout the week and other events after NAIDOC week in the community.

We would like to thank Aunty Pam Pedersen, Andrew Jackomos, Belinda Duarte and Jade Johnson for their contribution on the Judging panel.

Our esteemed elders who were awarded the 2014 Victorian NAIDOC Patrons were well received and respected by the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community; all recipients have worked tirelessly for our people giving their time both personally and professionally.

Aunty Marlene Scerri, Uncle Bootsie Thorpe and Aunty Lois Peeler pictured below are a true reflection of the respect and caliber one possesses to be a NAIDOC Patron.

Thank you for your contribution to our communities.
VICTORIAN NAIDOC BELONGING TO ALL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOP!

Issue # FIRST EDITION

NAIDOC March

By Rieo Ellis

STILL MARCHING FOR OUR RIGHTS

As is tradition, the 2014 NAIDOC March commenced with a BBQ Breakfast put on by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. By all accounts, this year’s March was a great success with record numbers in attendance.

This year we were lucky enough to also have the latest Koori Tram form part of the March procession which was followed by a Post March Speakers and a Concert held at Federation Square and supported by the Melbourne City Council.

Highlight:

Aunty Pam giving a speech as we stopped near the Statues of her Parents.

Rieo catching a lift from the back of the March to the front in a Police Car!!

The sound of the Didgeridoo at significant sights provided us with the right of passage such as;

• The Big Fig tree on the corner of Nicholson and Gertrude St, this was where Community members used to meet and have church services

• The Statues of Sir Douglas Nicholls and Lady Gladys Nicholls.

Stopping the March at each major city intersection was a time for people to reflect on our journey and the struggles of our people and culture, didg playing, traditional dancing traditionally, sitting down and coming together.

Would like to acknowledge the
The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
The Victorian police
Yarra Trams
And the Marshalls
Allan Wickey, Tashia Corrigan, Joe Wandin Maddison, Fender Coombes, Jodi Keasey
Brian Liddle, Andrew J Atkinson, James Briggs Snoz Brown, Tracey Briggs
The Marshalls did a great job by keeping a slow pace and allowing elders to keep up, And also for keeping the chants and being loud and proud.

Comments from community members:

“Was good to see unity in Community, was a great march”

“Was like the old days marching."

“Most deadly feeling, felt overwhelmed by the spiritual feeling at atmosphere”

“Respect shown for people that are no longer with us today was wonderful”

“Loved seeing the inclusion of Non Aboriginal people”

Thanks to the March Sub Committee.

Rieo Ellis, Aunty Pam Pederson, Tracy Williams, Lelly Bamblett, Cienan Muir, John Brown

FAST FACTS

Over 3000 ATTEND VICTORIAN NAIDOC MARCH

Approx. 120 ATTEND VICTORIAN MR & MISS NAIDOC AND PATRONS CEREMONY

RAISING THE BAR

Approx. 630 ATTEND VICTORIAN NAIDOC BALL
Official Victorian Flag Raising

The Official Victorian NAIDOC Flag Raising was held at Federation Square this year with the raising of 8 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags simultaneously.

Like all 2014 NAIDOC Week events, the Official Flag Raising was very well attended by the Community and included guest speakers including the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Honorable Tim Bull and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, the Honorable Robert Doyle.

This year’s Flag bearers stood alongside NAIDOC Committee Members, Mr and Miss NAIDOC and 2014 NAIDOC Patrons together with members of the Torres Strait Islander Community during the Flag Raising Ceremony.

Not only was this a significant flag raising event in terms of the level of community participation but 10am start and having Federation Square as the venue meant that this event was witness by many international visitors and hundreds of people working or visiting the City Centre.
Victorian NAIDOC Grand Ball
By Lisa Thorpe

Oh what a night! The 2014 NAIDOC Ball would have to be one of the best in a long time. There was a touch of class in the venue with the gold tickets and the lowering of the chandelier, (this was our measure of how well we were doing if we had enough funds we could cover the cost of the Chandelier to be lowered and we did), then the beautiful black crowd just took it to another level of beauty and elegance with all the colour and beautiful dresses both Men and Women. There was a crowd at 6.30 Sharp waiting for the doors to open, sorry for the delayed response in getting everyone through the doors, but thank you to everyone for patiently waiting on the stairs to get in. The entertainment from Brett Lee for pre-dinner drinks was fantastic and full of guests, we had open the Ballroom early, this set the mood for the rest of evening. Once the ballroom doors opened the Tambo Company band were playing, this gave everyone the opportunity to find their seats and sit down before the Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Di Kerr and Boon Wurrung Elder Aunty Caroline Briggs, their Welcomes are always beautiful, but this night they were very inclusive of the whole audience and made everyone feel special and included.

The two MC’s were Tammy Anderson and Aaron Pederson who were engaging and energetic and kept the crowd entertained. But, the show stopper of the evening would have to be the surprise package that only Lidia could provide. Jillibalu Riley a young man of the Kuku Yalanji Tribe, Kuranda QLD is a talented circus acrobatic and spectacular, in five minutes he had the whole ballroom admiring his performance and style, it was a brilliant touch to the night, any longer and the crowd would have gone wild. He entertained everyone with his skills and beauty.

The Belle of the Ball was Miss Sky Thomas and Beau was Mr. Tyson Briggs, our 3 Patrons and Mr and Miss NAIDOC were presented to the people also. The Matron and Gentleman of the Evening were Aunty Lorraine Parsons and Mr. Noel Williamson.

The only grumble I heard all night was the dance floor was full and no room to move; this was from the start to finish of the evening

The Photo Booths were also a big hit, lucky we had 2 of them, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the posing. All the music and performers were Victorian based and showed how great our local talent is. It was a night to remember, and will be hard to beat next year, but we are looking forward to the challenge and welcome any support and ideas. All the behind the scenes work made for a beautiful evening, proud to be a part of it. Many thanks to Lidia and Salina who worked tirelessly all your hard work showed in the fine detail and the end result was beautiful. I would also like to thank Sheree and Emma at Bubup Wilam for the ticket sales; sorry if I put you under the pump you were both Great.

I would also like to thank the sponsors who paid to have their organisational name on the tables, and to the Corporates who happily paid the higher price to ensure the ticket costs for community was more affordable. Bring on 2015 NAIDOC BALL!
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED from the Committee

We would like to thank the many people, Community Organisations, Government Departments, Local Councils and Corporates for having the confidence in us as a new Committee and providing us with in-kind, financial and professional support which assisted us to put on a spectacular NAIDOC week for the Victorian Aboriginal Community.

We would like to acknowledge and give particular thanks to Jill Gallagher, CEO of VACCHO which supported the Committee as the auspice at very short notice.

Andrew Jackomos, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People for supporting Mr and Miss NAIDOC which was an invaluable contribution resulting in record crowds and entrants.

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria who patiently persisted with the new arrangements and provided the resourcing to have dedicated workers for NAIDOC.

And many more…… we look forward to your continued support to make a bigger and better NAIDOC that we as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians all belong to and are a part of.

The 2014 – 2017 NAIDOC Committee is;

Co-Chairs Lidia Thorpe & Darren Turner
Secretary Elisha Douglas mentored by Aunty Pam Pedersen.
Treasurer Cienan Muir mentored by Lisa Thorpe
2014 General membership.
Rieo Ellis
Jessie Lloyd
Robbie McGuinness
Liz Cavanagh & Jeanette Vaha’akolo
Thank you to Robbie Mac also who assisted with the early coordination planning.

A special thanks to Salina Bernard who was the backbone behind this year’s success, Salina’s expertise and persistence keeping us all on track was invaluable.

Our judges for Belle, Beau, Matron and Gentleman of the evening at the VICTORIAN NAIDOC BALL

NAIDOC is a time to strengthen our people and come together.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive on all accounts, Facebook, emails and particularly elders providing their thoughts on what a positive community feeling they felt.

Regional and Suburban NAIDOC events and activities.

Congratulations to all regional and suburban Aboriginal communities on their NAIDOC week events, it was great to showcase activities happening across the state.
Victorian NAIDOC news....

OPPORTUNITIES!!!

Expressions of interest for general committee and working groups will open late October, please keep a look out in community emails, Vic NAIDOC Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/vicnaidoc

or our website http://vicnaidoc.com/

Expressions of interest will be advertised earlier than usual for a NAIDOC position; this position will initially work one day per week to ensure everything is running smoothly going forward to July.

Once the NAIDOC position is on board, we will seek expressions of interest for entertainers, performers for NAIDOC events

Our decision making processes are well documented and open for all community to see. We work-shopped a process of our decision making to maintain integrity and transparency for our people. All members contributed to this process to ensure a well-balanced criteria.

Other News:

We will be holding a NAIDOC fundraiser dinner in February to raise funds for events. Government funding as you know is always limited, therefore we want to make sure we cover all bases. Look out for the summer edition of Victorian NAIDOC......

The Victorian NAIDOC Committee pay our respect to the traditional owners of lands on which we live, work and do business.

We pay our respect to Elders and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who continue to care for country, culture and our people.

We will always remember and take the time to reflect on those who are not with us today.

To our ancestors whom guide us.

Thank you to the following people for allowing the Victorian NAIDOC Committee to use the fantastic array of photographs for our very first newsletter.

Gina Bundle, Steven Rhall for the City of Melbourne and Jillian Mundy from Koori Mail.
Where NAIDOC began

1920 – 1930

Before the 1920s, Aboriginal rights groups boycotted Australia Day (26 January) in protest against the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. By the 1920s, they were increasingly aware that the broader Australian public were largely ignorant of the boycotts. If the movement were to make progress, it would need to be active.

Several organisations emerged to fill this role, particularly the Australian Aborigines Progressive Association (AAPA) in 1924 and the Australian Aborigines League (AAL) in 1932. Their efforts were largely overlooked, and due to police harassment, the AAPA abandoned their work in 1927.

In 1935, William Cooper, founder of the AAL, drafted a petition to send to King George V, asking for special Aboriginal electorates in Federal Parliament. The Australian Government believed that the petition fell outside its constitutional responsibilities.

Being inclusive:

YOUR SAY! Email or Facebook your comments to vicnaidoc@gmail.com or https://www.facebook.com/vicnaidoc

The 2014 Victorian NAIDOC committee are interested in your thoughts and comments on the following;

- Should we as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians lead the way and move NAIDOC week back to where it started? Late January / early Feb?

- Should we follow the National theme for NAIDOC? We are working on getting a Victorian rep on the National committee.

- How can we be more inclusive to allow for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians a say on Victorian NAIDOC activities?

- Should NAIDOC be a one off week of events? If not, what are your ideas? Should it be a series of events throughout the year?