

VICTORIAN NAIDOC

NEWSLETTER - THIRD EDITION



BELONGING TO ALL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE!

KEEPING COMMUNITY INFORMED

By Lidia Thorpe,
Chairperson Victorian NAIDOC
Committee

WELCOME to the Third Edition of the Victorian NAIDOC Newsletter. NAIDOC has grown to become the body that brings Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities together for culture, connection and celebration.

In 2016, Victorian NAIDOC held five successful events: the annual flag raising ceremony, awards ceremony, Vic NAIDOC ball, NAIDOC March and the Vic NAIDOC carnival, hosted by Bendigo District Aboriginal Co-Op.

Highlights last year, aside from our great events, included the return of the Sports Award after a long absence, being shortlisted for the Melbourne Awards in the 'Contribution to

Multiculturalism by a Community Organisation' category, and being the first to hear the first ever premier of the new Treaty remix. Authorised by the Yothu Yindi Foundation for Victorian NAIDOC Ball only. The dancefloor was packed!

Our goal is to provide events that are safe, inclusive and cultural.

In this edition, we'll give a recap of last year's events, tell you about our plans for 2017 and let you know how you can get involved.

We are putting a call out for new members to become involved on the committee and working groups.

Yours Respectfully,
Lidia Thorpe

VICTORIAN NAIDOC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Victorian NAIDOC committee are a voluntary committee made up of:

Honorary Elder - Aunty Pam
Chairperson - Lidia Thorpe
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Vacant
General Committee Members - Mark Nannup
A member from VACCHO

We believe in building the capacity and capabilities of our young people and therefore maintain a membership of young people and promote informal mentoring.

Our auspice arrangement is with the peak body for Victorian Aboriginal Health Services, this allows our committee to focus on the activities of NAIDOC week whilst having support from VACCHO's finance and human resource teams.

We're looking for more committee members, if you're interested in being on the NAIDOC committee, please fill out the Expression Of Interest form.



VICTORIAN NAIDOC 2017

VICTORIAN NAIDOC 2017 THEME

OUR LANGUAGES MATTER is the 2017 National NAIDOC theme.

The importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will be the focus of national celebrations marking NAIDOC Week 2017.

The 2017 theme, Our Languages Matter, aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

Some 250 distinct language groups covered the continent at first (significant) European contact in the late eighteenth century. Most of these languages would have had several dialects, so that the total number of named varieties would have run to many hundreds.

Today only around 120 of those languages are still spoken and many are at risk of being lost as Elders pass on.

VICTORIAN NAIDOC 2017 EVENTS

For more information on Victorian NAIDOC 2017 events, dates and tickets, please check our website at: <http://vicnaidoc.com>

Every year, Victorian NAIDOC week officially kicks off with the annual **Flag Raising Ceremony** and 2017 won't be any different. The Ceremony will be held at Federation Square in Melbourne's CBD on Monday 3 July.

To help out, volunteer to be a marshal, help setting up, packing up or just to get more information, check out our website or contact us. Details are below.



The importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will be the focus of national celebrations marking NAIDOC Week 2017.

The **2017 Victorian Naidoc Awards** will be on Friday 30 June - If you think you could be the 2017 Miss or Mr NAIDOC, NAIDOC Patron or NAIDOC Sportsperson, you know someone who should win the award, or just want to be a part of the awards ceremony, please let us know.

The **Victorian NAIDOC 2017 March** will be held on Friday July 7 to highlight inequality.

We've secured a venue for the annual **Victorian NAIDOC Ball!** The Victorian NAIDOC Ball is definitely one of the highlights of the NAIDOC events calendar.



VICTORIAN NAIDOC 2017

VICTORIAN NAIDOC 2017 EVENTS

The Ball is going to be held at the Melbourne Pavilion, 135-157 Racecourse Road, Kensington.

We have 2 levels of ticketing; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community rate and Corporate / Government rate. For more information and to buy tickets, check out our website.

NAIDOC Football and Netball Carnival returns for 2017! October 7-8



A Ballarat Community Consortium led by the official host: Ballarat & District Aboriginal Cooperative and the Western Bulldogs Community Engagement Program will work together with the NAIDOC Sports Committee on the **2017**

NAIDOC Football and Netball Carnival.

On behalf of our many Teams, Organizations and Community members, the carnival will:

- Promote Healthy Active Lifestyles, Wellbeing in a Social & Cultural context
- Provide an environment that is free of Alcohol, Drugs & Violence, and provide medical services and security
- Ensure competition surfaces & associated facilities

The NAIDOC Sports Committee would like to thank the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative for setting a high standard over the last two years in putting our Senior Football Netball Carnival firmly back on our events calendar.



Lastly, we'd like to congratulate Janeene Payne, who will be continuing in the role of NAIDOC Event Manager for 2017. If you have any questions about any of our events, please give her a call on 0413 279 087

VICTORIAN NAIDOC COMMUNITY EVENTS

We were proud to showcase and support **over 80 Victorian local community events** over 2016. These events were featured in the NAIDOC week events calendar and on the Victorian NAIDOC website. It's never too early to submit your event and let community know about your event. Visit the Victorian NAIDOC website for more details.

<http://vicnaidoc.com>



VICTORIAN NAIDOC OFFICIAL EVENTS 2016

OFFICIAL VICTORIAN NAIDOC FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Date: Monday 4th July, 2016
Time: 9:30am – 11:00am
Location: Federation Square, Melbourne



The annual Flag Raising Ceremony officially marks the beginning of NAIDOC Week. It brings members of the community together to publicly commemorate the importance of NAIDOC week.

NAIDOC week is an opportunity for our people to come together in a positive and cultural context - encouraging families, community and elders together and to recognise the enormous contribution that Indigenous Australians make to the community.

The Flag Raising Ceremony is building in momentum with more and more organisations and government bodies coming out to mark the beginning of NAIDOC week. We encourage them, as well as community, to come along.

There was a great turnout to

The event honours continued connection to culture, country and language of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The event honours continued connection to culture, country, and language of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. with a Smoking Ceremony, Welcome to Country and a moment of silence for our people who have gone before us.

the ceremony last year, with many honorary first nation clan elders, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Natalie Hutchins, Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, and, of course, Victorian NAIDOC award winners and elders, in attendance.

VICTORIAN NAIDOC AWARDS CEREMONY

Date: Friday 1st July, 2016
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: Korin Gamadji Institute, Richmond

The Victorian NAIDOC Awards Ceremony is the first event on the Victorian NAIDOC Week calendar.

Awards are presented to Miss and Mister NAIDOC, NAIDOC Patron, and this year saw the return of the NAIDOC sports Award. The Award winners are attend and speak at all official Victorian NAIDOC week events as part of their professional leadership development experience. Winners are also invited to attend and speak at several other NAIDOC community events.

It was standing room only at the 2016 awards ceremony where over 100 people packed out the Korin Gamadji Institute at the Richmond Football Club.

The NAIDOC Patron award acknowledges an Aboriginal community member for their personal and/or professional achievement and contributions to their community. Patrons are asked to act as a support and cultural and personal mentor to winners of Mr & Miss NAIDOC.



VICTORIAN NAIDOC OFFICIAL EVENTS 2016

VICTORIAN NAIDOC AWARDS CEREMONY



The 2016 NAIDOC Patron Award winner was Robbie Thorpe, from the Gunnai / Gunditjmara mob, who has been an actively involved in Aboriginal communities his entire life.

He was a member of the Cultural Heritage working group and co-founder of the *Koori Information Centre* in Fitzroy in the 1980s, a law student in the 1990s, and a radio broadcaster in the 2000s. In the 2010s Robbie volunteered as coordinator of MAYSAR.

He has been called upon countless times to make presentations and provide ceremonies at community gatherings. In particular, he has sought to share his knowledge of land, law, history and justice with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The Mr and Miss NAIDOC Awards acknowledge young people (16-24 years old), their knowledge and contri-

butions to participation and leadership in their respective communities.

Winners develop personally and professionally and have the opportunity to inspire other young people, tell their story (journey), raise issues about their local communities, promote NAIDOC's values, network with community and other stakeholders and showcase their leadership skills.



The Miss NAIDOC Award winner was Merinda Dryden, from the Yorta Yorta mob. She wanted to be Miss NAIDOC because she's "proud of my heritage and fiercely determined to impart indigenous

history, language and culture to our young people." She's currently working at The Department of Justice and Regulations, helping to employ Aboriginal and Torres Striate Islanders for the department. She was very active at Fitzroy High School in promoting our culture through education and art. Merinda also loves painting Aboriginal artwork and spending time with her loved ones.

Mr NAIDOC this year is Jordan Edwards, a young man with Gunditjamara, Aranda and Wadawarrung heritage. He wanted to be Mr NAIDOC so he could share our culture "with everybody in Australia no matter what ethnicity or religious belief,"

Jordan teaches traditional dance in Altona and leads cultural tour walks along the Yarra for the Koorie Heritage Trust.



VICTORIAN NAIDOC OFFICIAL EVENTS 2016

VICTORIAN NAIDOC AWARDS CEREMONY

The 2016 NAIDOC award ceremony also saw the return of the NAIDOC Sports Award, which acknowledges outstanding sports achievement and contribution to culture.

Shantelle Thompson won the award this year. The "Barkindji Warrior" is a two-time world champion in Jiu Jitsu, proud mother of three and inspiring and active sharer of her journey.

Since taking up the sport in 2010 to cope with post-natal depression after the birth of her twins, Shantelle has achieved great success all while challenging the boundaries of what it means to be a mother, an Aboriginal woman and a martial artist.

Congratulations to all our award winners, and thank you for your ongoing contribution to Victoria NAIDOC and our community.

Want to be a part of the 2017 Victorian NAIDOC Awards Ceremony?

Think you could be the 2017 Miss or Mr NAIDOC, NAIDOC Patron or NAIDOC Sports person? Or do you know someone who should win the award?

Let us know.
Check out our website at <http://vicnaidoc.com>
or call Janeene on **0413 279 087**

VICTORIAN NAIDOC MARCH

Date: Friday 8th July, 2016
Time: Pre-March festival 10:30am, March 11:45am
Location: Start at Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Finish at Federation Square

We gathered at 10:30am at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) to call for a day of mourning and to bring to light the disadvantages and inequality faced by our people.



made up over 5000 people on the day!

In keeping with tradition, the march departed from VAHS where Uncle Robbie, NAIDOC Patron Awardee gathered us. The march then walked down Nicholson Street onto Spring Street, turned down Bourke Street and then onto Swanston Street and finished up at Fed Square.

Digeridoo players led us the whole way, at the front of the group and at intersections along the way.

It was great to see the event had such a clear agenda:

Treaty was definitely on peoples' minds

Before the march, we heard speeches from Celeste Liddle and Robbie Thorpe. There was banner making, kids face painting and other activities. Community also collected their NAIDOC t-shirts and purchased NAIDOC hoodies,

It's so powerful to see our mob gathered and together; Schools, Government representatives, community organisations and whole clans

Treaty was definitely on peoples' minds.

Thanks again to everyone that came along, lets make this year's march, on Friday July 7, even bigger!

T-Shirts were very popular last year. They'll be on sale again this year at \$5 for the Aboriginal Flag T-Shirt - and we'll make sure to have plenty in stock so no one will miss out.



VICTORIAN NAIDOC OFFICIAL EVENTS 2016

VICTORIAN NAIDOC MARCH



NAIDOC March photos by The Flash Mob



JOIN THE 2017 VICTORIAN NAIDOC MARCH!

The Victorian NAIDOC 2017 march will be held on Friday July 7 to highlight inequality.

To help out, volunteer to be a marshal, help setting up, packing up or just to get more information, check out our website at <http://vicnaidoc.com> or call Janeene on **0413 279 087**



VICTORIAN NAIDOC OFFICIAL EVENTS 2016

VICTORIAN NAIDOC BALL

Date: Saturday 9th July, 2016
Time: 6:30pm – 11:30pm
Location: Crown Palladium, Southbank



The 2016 Victorian NAIDOC Ball was held at the Crown Palladium. We had a record, sell-out 680 people at the ball.

The purpose of the ball was to recognise the success and creativity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders across their scholars, artists, sportspeople and elders... not to mention the championing of youth in the community.

The NAIDOC Ball was a massive success with pre-drinks, entertainment and a delicious three-course dinner. Performances were by Kiway Kennell, Squid Nebula, Kidd Benny and Emma Donovan. Another highlight was the premier of the new Treaty remix. Authorised by the Yothu Yindi Foundation just for the Victorian NAIDOC Ball – The dancefloor was so full it we don't think anyone was still sitting down!

Check out the [Victorian NAIDOC facebook page](#) to see a video and more photos from the event.



...recognise the success and creativity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders across their scholars, artists, sportspeople and elders...



The event highlighted the solidarity in the Victorian community and spoke volumes on the importance of recognising and celebrating all Australians.

The Victorian NAIDOC Ball is definitely one of the highlights of the events calendar. A big thanks to everyone who attended and helped us make it such a fantastic evening.

Join the 2017 Victorian NAIDOC Ball

The NAIDOC Ball is one event on the NAIDOC calendar not to be missed. The 2017 ball will be on Saturday July 8.

We have 2 levels of ticketing; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community rate and Corporate / Government rate. For more information and to buy tickets, check out our website: <http://vicnaidoc.com> or call Janeene on **0413 279 087**



VICTORIAN NAIDOC OFFICIAL EVENTS 2016

VICTORIAN NAIDOC FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CARNIVAL



Check the VicNAIDOC website for next year's Carnival dates and location.

Date: Saturday 15th - Sunday 16th October, 2016
Location: Epsom Guntley Reserve, Bendigo.

The 2016 Victorian NAIDOC Football and Netball Carnival was hosted by the Bendigo mob and called the Murrumbidgee Statewide Koori Football and Netball Carnival. We want to thank the Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC) for putting on such a great event.

22 football teams (across 2 divisions) and 43 Netball teams (in 3 divisions) competed over the weekend. Including friends, family, kids, trainers, coaches and community; almost 5000 people came along from all around the state.

There was loads more than just the sports on field though,

with activities including Specky Dreaming clinics, face painting, Indigenous hip hop and music, the Australian Defence Force Band and health promotion information and advice.

The ADF and a team of Tiwi Islands' girls also had a couple of womens' football exhibition matches - lets get even more teams next yer!

We'd also like to give a big thanks to the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans for the official Wel-



come to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

Congratulations to the winners and all the great athletes that made the carnival such a great success.

Div 1 Football Grand Final
Gippsland Eagles 13-3-81
def **Fitzroy Stars** 8-3-51

Div 2 Football Grand Final
Ballarat Wanderers 9-9-63
def **Bendigo** 4-4-28

Div 1 Netball Grand Final
Gina's Dream Team 28
def **Rumbalara** 14

Div 2 Netball Grand Final
Woomeras 22
def **Mallee Tigers** 21

Div 3 Netball Grand Final
Gina's Dream Team 24
def **Team Beyond Blue** 21

VICTORIAN NAIDOC COMMUNITY EVENTS

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FAST FACTS - VICTORIAN NAIDOC IN NUMBERS



680

A record, sell-out number of people attended the Victorian NAIDOC Ball



5000

over people marched on Parliament House and Fed Square this year for the Vic NAIDOC march.



80

over community events showcased on our website.



22

football teams,

43

Netball teams, Friends, family and community came together for the Victorian NAIDOC Sports Carnival



100

-plus Standing room only at the NAIDOC Awards event



THANK YOU FROM AUNTY PAM

Mr. and Miss NAIDOC 2016

As an Elder and invited to take part on this occasion as a Judge for myself I was so amazed at the talent and professionalism of these young people.

For the judging panel we found it quite difficult and emotional to choose the winners. We are now finding that our young people are so wonderful believing in their culture and yearning to go forward as young Aboriginal people in applying themselves to positions in the workforce in the past I would not even apply for. Our winners, Merinda Dryden and Jordan Edwards who we chose were fantastic representatives for our youth and I congratulate them for the way they both carried themselves throughout NAIDOC.

2016 Sports Awards

Congratulations to Shantelle Thompson who was such a worthy winner in her field of sport in Jiu Jitsu. I wish her well and I do hope she Wmakes the Commonwealth Games Team as a representative of Australia and our Aboriginal people.

2016 NAIDOC March

This year's NAIDOC march was absolutely wonderful. It was so moving to see so many people taking part. It was the best we have had in years and I say thank you to everyone who put in the hard work to make it such a success.

2016 Victorian NAIDOC Ball

Once again this year's NAIDOC Ball was such a success being held at the Crown Palladium. Everyone who attended on the night had a great time. The entertainment and the power point which was shown around the room looked so amazing. Congratulations once again to the organising team.

Aunty Pam Pedersen



GET INVOLVED

VICTORIAN NAIDOC COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 2017/2018

We are calling for expressions of interest for community members who would like to be a part of the Victorian NAIDOC committee. Please submit your application with attached resume by 3rd March 2017, 5:00pm

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email: _____

Are you from Victoria • Yes • No How long have you lived in Victoria: _____

Who is your Mob? (if known) _____

1. Tell us about yourself and your previous experiences and commitment.

2. What interests you the most about being a part of the NAIDOC committee?

3. What experience do you have organising and co-ordinating Aboriginal community events?

4. What do you need to consider when effectively communicating with Aboriginal people, particularly our youth and our elders.

5. Please provide two references (including one professional reference)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Position held: _____ Position held: _____

*Please use extra paper if required

All applicants must:

- Be over the age of 16 years
- Email access and mobile phone
- Be able to attend all NAIDOC events pre and post
- Be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent

Please do not hesitate to contact Chair- Lidia Thorpe if you require more information at vicnaidoc@gmail.com