



ARMSU

ABORIGINAL RESOURCE &
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT
UNIT

ARMSU Bulletin

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

The ARMSU Bulletin is an occasional publication of ARMSU (Aboriginal Resource & Management Support Unit).
The ARMSU Bulletin includes activities, information and reflections which support cultural understanding, respect and celebration.

NAIDOC Week Special Edition

July 2007.

Celebrating NAIDOC Week 2007

8th - 15th July



50 years:

Looking Forward, Looking Blak.

Celebrating the history, culture and achievements
of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

History of NAIDOC Week

The creation of the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) has its origins in the fight for Aboriginal rights that began to gather pace in the 1920s and 1930s.

Its precursors were the Day of Mourning (26 January 1938) and Aboriginal Sunday that was observed the Sunday before Australia Day starting in 1940.

In 1957 a National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC) was formed with support and cooperation from Federal and State governments, the churches and major Indigenous organisations.

Its aim was to promote Aboriginal Sunday as a day to focus community attention on the nation's Aboriginal people.

After the 1967 Referendum and the establishment in 1972 of a Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the national focus on Indigenous issues increased significantly.

In 1974 NADOC became an all-Indigenous committee, and in 1975 extended the Aboriginal Day to National Aborigines Week, with celebrations held in July.

In 1988 the committee's name was changed to NAIDOC—National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee—to acknowledge Torres Strait Islander people.

www.naidoc.org.au

Celebrating history, culture and achievements

NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia in the first full week in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'.

This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week, and its acronym has become the name of the week itself.

The week is celebrated not just in the Indigenous community, but also in increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces.

The 50th anniversary for NAIDOC is a time for us to reflect on how far we have come as Indigenous Australians and the significant contribution we have made to shape this nation. The year also marks a significant milestone with the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum.

As the theme for NAIDOC Week 2007 states, we need to look forward to what we want Australia to be in 50 years time and where our people will be. It is up to all Australians to put the hard work in to correct the inequalities still suffered by our people. Like the origins of NAIDOC itself it needs all of us—Indigenous Australians, governments, and the wider Australian community to improve life opportunities of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders and respect for our position and role in the life of the nation.

Symbolically, the National NAIDOC Awards and Ball will take place on Black Friday (13 July 2007) in Darwin.

The national NAIDOC Awards and Ball will be the high point for NAIDOC Week 2007, with NAIDOC celebrations being held the week of **8-15 July**.

'Black Friday' is ideal to celebrate the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC and I imagine many communities will embrace the coincidence of Black Friday in NAIDOC Week, and will celebrate with creative activities and events around the country.

From a Statement by National NAIDOC Week Chairperson, Aden Ridgeway (Nov 2006)

Trivia Quiz for staff

Who was the Aboriginal actor who starred as Detective Michael Riley in Water Rats?

What is the name of the Aboriginal dance company which performed at the Sydney Olympics 2000?

Aboriginal poet Oodgeroo Noonuccal was first known as?

Who was the first Aboriginal footballer to play in the VFL/AFL?

Which Aboriginal boxer won the world bantamweight title in 1968?

Which Aboriginal athlete competed at the Olympic Games in Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000?

Aden Ridgeway was the Deputy Leader of which political party?

Who designed the Aboriginal Flag?

Which Torres Strait Islander began the famous case that ended in the recognition of native title?

For the answers, and more questions in this series, go to the national NAIDOC website.

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/activities/trivia.aspx>

Suggestions and Ideas for NAIDOC Week Activities with Children

- Have a flag raising ceremony.
- Display Indigenous posters around your class room.
- Listen to Indigenous music.
- Study a famous Indigenous Australian.
- Study Aboriginal arts and crafts.
- Read a Dreamtime story.
- Learn the meanings of local or national Aboriginal place names.

Play traditional games (see Australian Institute of Sport website
<http://www.ausport.gov.au/isp/traditional.asp>).

Check out the DECS Aboriginal Education website for more ideas and resources
<http://www.aboriginaleducation.sa.edu.au/pages/Educators/resources/>.



If you would like to receive copies of the NAIDOC Poster, forward your details and the number of posters required to the following address .

National NAIDOC Committee
PO Box 17
Woden ACT 2606
or faxed on (02) 6264 5903
or e-mail: info@naidoc.org.au

ARMSU Talking Culture

Australia has a wonderfully rich diversity of Indigenous cultures. ARMSU Talking Culture is dedicated to supporting the growth of cultural awareness and understanding in children. We work with children from the age of 3 years presenting Cultural Experiences with groups of children and their carers and teachers. For more information, call **Andrew Baker** at ARMSU on 8445 8128.

In addition to providing cultural awareness training and activities for children in all types of services, ARMSU supports Aboriginal child care and Out of School Hours Care services with management training and advice, policy development and service delivery issues. For more information, call **Debbie Bond** at ARMSU on 8445 8128.

Our goal is to support the best possible outcomes for Aboriginal children. ARMSU is part of Network SA, a non-profit resource and advisory agency which has been actively supporting children's services in all parts of South Australia for more than 20 years.



ARMSU

Aboriginal Resource & Management Support Unit

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Introducing...

Andrew Baker

I have been ARMSU'S cultural awareness consultant for 1 year now and I can honestly say it is the most rewarding job position I have ever had.

I am also in my 3rd year studying Bachelor of Early Childhood at UNISA.

I visit all types of educational and care settings to promote Indigenous culture to children ranging from 2 years to 12 years of age. I present everything from Aboriginal Dreaming stories to showing Aboriginal Artefacts.

All presentations are followed with various activities reinforcing the presentation and then we all do some singing and dancing while using clapping sticks.

As all children are unique individuals their responses to these activities are varied but are always positive. They enthusiastically get involved and never fail to make me laugh with their questions and corks (cute) behaviour.