



NAIDOC WEEK 5th to 12th July 2009 National Aboriginal Islander Day Observance Committee

All Australians are invited to join in the celebrations for NAIDOC Week 2009, from Sunday 5th July through to Sunday 12th July. The theme for NAIDOC 2009 is *Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth*. The aim of the theme is to honour the achievement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and looks to the future.

Each year a host city is selected as a focal point for national NAIDOC activity. In 2009, the national focus will be on Brisbane and will include the National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony. The awards ceremony highlights the individual achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

NAIDOC week celebrates and promotes a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their culture. From Alice Springs to Adelaide, Canberra to Cairns, Hobart to Hay and Brisbane to Broome, communities throughout the country will celebrate the survival of Aboriginal peoples, the continuation of Aboriginal culture and will promote the contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have made to our nation.

NAIDOC Week is the outcome of a long history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander efforts to bring issues of concern to the attention of Governments and the general public. In 1924, the Australian Aborigines Progressive Association (AAPA) was formed in Sydney under the leadership of Fred Maynard. In 1932 William Cooper, from Cummeragunga, formed the Australian Aborigines League in Melbourne.

In November 1937, Cooper called a meeting of Aboriginal people suggesting that they hold a Day of Mourning on the next Australia Day to publicise their cause and stir the conscience of non-Aboriginal Australia. The following Australia Day, 26 January 1938, the Australian Aboriginal League and the Aboriginal Progressive Association combined to hold a Day of Mourning in Sydney. The day marked the 150th anniversary of the First Fleet landing at Sydney Cove and included a protest march through the streets of Sydney organised as a prelude to a congress that was attended by a thousand people.



In 1939, Cooper wrote to the National Missionary Council of Australia (NMCA) to seek their assistance in supporting and promoting an annual event. From 1940 until 1955, the Sunday before Australia Day became the Day of Mourning, and was later to be called Aborigines Day.

In 1955, the NMCA suggested that Aborigines Day should become a National Day with the aim to change negative attitudes towards Aboriginal people and include not only the churches, but also the Commonwealth Government, State Governments and other organisations.

In 1957, Aborigines Day was changed from January the first Sunday in July and with the support and co-operation of the Federal and State Governments, the churches and major Aboriginal organisations, the National Aborigines' Day Observance Committee (NADOC) was formed.

In 1991, with a growing awareness of the distinct cultural histories of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, NADOC became known as the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC).

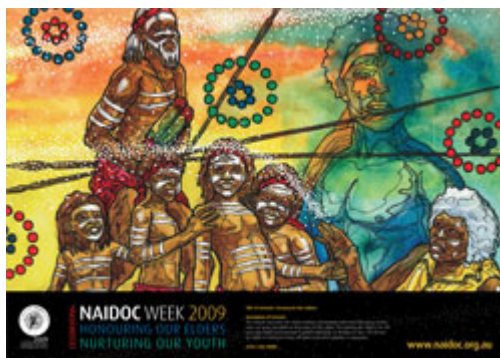
Fifty years on from the formation of the first NADOC committee, NAIDOC celebrations continue to provide Australia's Indigenous peoples the opportunity to display the richness of their culture and heritage to the rest of the Australian community.

You can learn more about NAIDOC week at

[National NAIDOC](http://www.naidoc.org.au)

National NAIDOC - Poster Competition Winner 2009

The National NAIDOC Art Award provides the opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to showcase their talents. The Award has a prize of \$5,000 and the winning entry becomes the National NAIDOC poster. The NAIDOC poster and award is a NAIDOC tradition that can be traced back to 1972.



Winning Artist

Luke Mallie

(Mackay, Queensland)

Born in Brisbane, Luke Mallie's people are both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. His mother, Annie, is from the Kuku Yalanji Nation, which covers the Mossman/Daintree area north of Cairns; and his father, Aaron, is from Kubin on Moa Island in the Torres Strait. Luke is the youngest of seven children.

Title of Work

Carrying On Our Culture

