

*This summary was developed by members of the Drama Victoria Committee of Management.
Most of the information is drawn from NAIDOC's own website (www.naidoc.org.au),
an important place to begin your own research.*



Always Was, Always Will Be.

8-15 NOV 2020

(2020 National NAIDOC logo)

NAIDOC stands for the **National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee**, the name adopted in 1991. This celebration, which has its roots in the 1938 Day of Mourning, has taken place since 1975 during the first full week in July each year. This year NAIDOC Week would normally fall from Sunday 5th July to Sunday 12th July; however, due to restrictions and safety for communities, **it has been postponed to the 8th-15th November.**

NAIDOC (and earlier organisations) have done incredible work during the past 80 years to celebrate the histories, cultures, and achievements of First Nations people. Increasingly, NAIDOC Week is celebrated not just in First Nations communities, but by all Australians. **Drama Victoria** wishes to recognise NAIDOC's work by providing Drama Victorians with a snapshot of what NAIDOC stands for. We emphasise that educators must become competent and sensitive when approaching topics related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, issues, and themes.

**We encourage you to use the extra time available this year to get prepared, educated,
and ready to fully participate in NAIDOC Week 2020!**

A brief snapshot of NAIDOC Week's history:

In 1937, after years of boycotting and protesting Australia Day, a large number of First Nations leaders began preparing for the now famous Day of Mourning. The 1938 Day of Mourning drew attention to the deplorable condition of First Nations peoples after 150 years of British rule. The result of this day, one of the first major civil rights gatherings in the world, was a most effective protest provoking calls for national observance and celebration. First Nations leaders were invited to meet with then Prime Minister Joseph Lyons. The expectation was that full justice and recompense would follow.

While justice and recompense remain elusive, a National Aborigines Day was established in 1940, originally held on the Sunday before Australia Day. William Cooper (1860-1941) was a key figure in organising both the Day of Mourning and National Aborigines Day. In 1955 the leaders of the movement decided to change the date from January to July, creating a day to remember and celebrate Aboriginal peoples, cultures and heritage. The original National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC) comprised major Aboriginal organisations, state and federal governments, and a number of church groups. NADOC was composed entirely of First Nations members for the first time in 1974. Shortly afterwards, NADOC decided that the event should cover a whole week. Despite requests since 1984, National Aborigines Day has yet to become a national public holiday.

In 1991 NADOC became NAIDOC in recognition of Torres Strait Islanders. During NAIDOC Week, all Australians are invited to participate in a range of activities, support your local First Nations community, and celebrate First Nations peoples, histories, and cultures.

How to get involved in NAIDOC Week 2020:

Try one or more of the following activities in your **Drama classrooms** during NAIDOC Week. It's a good idea to start getting ready early! Most of these activities can also be done at any time during the year—they're simply good practice. Use **Teaching First Nations content and concepts in the Drama classroom: Advice for teachers in Victorian schools** (available on the Drama Victoria [website](#)) to ensure your work is informed and appropriate.

- Contact your local First Nations community (the Land or Tribe Council website is a good place to start) to find out how they're celebrating and how you can be involved.
- Explore this year's [theme](#) 'Always was, always will be' with your students. Check out past themes on the next page.
- Listen to First Nations music. Remember to acknowledge the artists and don't pirate!
- Set a research task exploring the lives and contributions of famous First Nations performing artists and companies.
- Develop a performance task inspired by the words and lives of past and present First Nations leaders, such as winners of the [National NAIDOC Awards](#).
- Study a play by a First Nations [playwright](#).
- Watch a film which presents a First Nations perspective (check out the creative team and making-of the film first – not all films about First Nations peoples and events present a First Nations perspective).
- Read and explore a Dreaming story with your students (make sure it's published and endorsed by First Nations peoples).
- Create an Epic Theatre performance promoting a Day of Remembrance as a public holiday, and other political change.
- Create public displays around your school advertising NAIDOC week. Download the official NAIDOC Week [poster](#) for inspiration!
- Organise an arts event celebrating the achievements, histories, and cultures of First Nations peoples.
- Research NAIDOC Week events happening around Australia.
- Explore the [teaching resources](#) available on the NAIDOC website.
- Share what you're doing with neighboring schools and communities! Use the official hashtags #NAIDOC2020 #NAIDOCWeek or #NAIDOC when talking about NAIDOC Week on social media. You can also tag the National NAIDOC Week social media accounts: [Facebook - NAIDOC](#), [Twitter - NAIDOC](#) Week and [Instagram - NAIDOC Week](#).

Past and present NAIDOC Week themes and host cities

2020: "Always Was, Always Will Be"
2019: "Voice Treaty Truth" (Melbourne)
2018: "Because of her, we can!" (Sydney)
2017: "Our languages matter" (Cairns)
2016: "Songlines: The living narrative of our nation" (Darwin)
2015: "We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate" (Adelaide)
2014: "Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond" (Gold Coast)
2013: "We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963" (Perth)
2012: "Spirit of the Tent Embassy: 40 years on" (Hobart)
2011: "Change: the next step is ours" (Sydney)
2010: "Unsung Heroes – Closing the Gap by Leading Their Way" (Melbourne)
2009: "Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth" (Brisbane)
2008: "Advance Australia Fair?" (Canberra)
2007: "50 Years: Looking Forward, Looking Back" (Darwin)
2006: "Respect the Past-Believe in the Future" (Cairns)
2005: "Our Future Begins with Solidarity" (Adelaide)
2004: "Self-determination-Our Community—Our Future—Our Responsibility" (Perth)
2003: "Our Children Our Future" (Hobart)
2002: "Recognition, Rights and Reform" (Sydney)
2001: "Treaty—Let's Get it Right" (Melbourne)
2000: "Building Pride in Our Communities" (Townsville)
1999: "Respect" (Alice Springs)
1998: "Bringing Them Home" (Broome)
1997: "Gurindji, Mabo, Wik-Three Strikes for Justice-Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum" (Brisbane)
1996: "Survive—Revive—Come Alive" (Adelaide)
1995: "Justice Not Tolerance" (Perth)
1994: "Families Are the Basis of Our Existence—Maintain the Link" (Melbourne)
1993: "Aboriginal Nations—Owners of the Land Since Time Began—Community is Unity" (Darwin)
1992: "Maintain the Dreaming—Our Culture is Our Heritage" (Canberra)
1991: "Community is Unity—Our Future Depends on Us" (Sydney)
1990: "New Decade—Don't Destroy, Learn and Enjoy Our Cultural Heritage" (Tasmania)
1989: "The Party is Over—Let's Be Together as an Aboriginal Nation" (Darwin)
1988: "Recognise and Share the Survival of the Oldest Culture in the World" (Brisbane)
1987: "White Australia Has a Black History" (Perth)
1986: "Peace—Not For You—Not For Me But For All" (Adelaide)
1985: "Understanding: It Takes the Two of Us" (Melbourne)
1984: "Take a Journey of Discovery – To the Land My Mother" (Adelaide)
1983: "Let's Talk—We Have Something to Say"
1982: "Race For Life For a Race"
1981: "Sacred Sites Aboriginal Rights-Other Australians Have Their Rites"
1980: "Treat Us to a Treaty on Land Rights"
1979: "1979 International Year of the Child. What About Our Kids!"
1978: "Cultural Revival is Survival"
1977: "Chains or Change"
1976: "Trucanini Last of her People Born 18?? Died 1876. Buried 1976. Received Her Land Rights at Last"
1975: "Justice for Urban Aboriginal Children"
1974: "Self-Determination"
1973: "It's Time For Mutual Understanding"
1972: "Advance Australia Where?"