

NAIDOC Week celebrations are being held this week across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is



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celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.

Today, NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

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 since become the name of the week itself.

This year, the contribution made by Indigenous Australians to the conservation of the Australian environment will be recognised in NAIDOC Week celebrations.

*God of all creation, ...
Open our eyes to see who is oppressed and who is the oppressor.
Open our ears to hear the stories of the stolen generation'.
Open our hearts to embrace the pain of our
Indigenous brothers and sisters in love.
Open our minds to search for truth,
so that one day we will together celebrate your gift to us of
our common humanity, in harmony, justice and peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.
Song: Took the Children Away (Archie Roach)*

Source: <http://www.naidoc.org.au>