

## NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week runs from 3 to 10 July and will once again celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The theme for 2022 is Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a proud history of getting up, standing up and showing up – from the frontier wars and earliest resistance fighters, to communities fighting for change today.

As a nation, now is our time. We cannot afford to lose momentum for change.

We all must continue to Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! for systemic change and keep rallying around our communities.

Whether it's seeking proper environmental, cultural and heritage protections, Constitutional change, a comprehensive process of truth-telling, working towards treaties or calling out racism—we must do it together.

It must be a genuine commitment by all of us to Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! and support and secure institutional, structural, collaborative and cooperative reforms.

It's also time to celebrate the many who have driven and led change in our communities over generations – they have been the heroes and champions of change, of equal rights and even basic human rights.

Getting Up, Standing Up and Showing Up can take many forms.

We need to move beyond just acknowledgement, good intentions, empty words and promises and hollow commitments. Enough is enough.

The relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians needs to be based on justice, equity and the proper recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights.

Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! to amplify our voices and narrow the gap between aspiration and reality, good intent and outcome.

### **2022 NAIDOC Week poster winner**

Ryhia Dank, a young Gudanji/Wakaja artist from the Northern Territory, is the 2022 winner of the National NAIDOC poster competition, with her piece Stronger.

She receives a \$10,000 cash prize and will attend the 2022 National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony in Narm (Melbourne) next month.

The winning artwork was one of more than 300 poster entries, a record number for the NAIDOC poster competition.

"I created this piece after reading this year's National NAIDOC Week theme – Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! I knew straight away I wanted to do a graphic piece centred around our flags with text highlighting what we have been through and are still fighting for," Ryhia said.

"I feel that this piece being black and white allows us to focus on the details and messages in the artwork."

The NAIDOC poster is a symbol of the survival of First Nations peoples, while NAIDOC Week brings together many different communities to celebrate their long history as custodians of this land.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will always communicate through the language of art because art is a connection to lands and spirits.

All Australians are invited to celebrate NAIDOC Week and it is a great opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Attend or organise a NAIDOC event in your area.

Ideas on how to celebrate NAIDOC Week and classroom resources can be found at [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au)

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