

MEDIA RELEASE 08/07/2024

Esperance NAIDOC Week:

Coming Together to Celebrate First Nations Cultures in Kepa Kurl

Press Release: Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) is taking the lead this year to coordinate a week of NAIDOC events and activities that bring the Esperance community together to acknowledge and celebrate First Nations people and culture in our region.

The National NAIDOC dates for 2024 are July 7 – 14. However, as these dates fall within the school holidays in Western Australia, our community has chosen to celebrate NAIDOC from 10 – 16 August.

The 2024 theme, **Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud**, recognises the ongoing strength and vitality of First Nations culture.

“This year we celebrate a number of milestones. Not only is it the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC week, but ETNTAC is also celebrating the 10 year anniversary of our Native Title determination and it is 30 years since we lodged our claim for Native Title over Kepa Kurl,” said Ms Gail Reynolds-Adamson, Chairperson ETNTAC.

“Our rich traditions, spanning 65,000 years, represent the world's oldest living cultures and should be embraced and celebrated by all. The resilience of our people, maintaining the practices of our Ancestors despite enduring trauma, speaks volumes. There is an unwavering sense of pride in our culture, generously shared with others. It is this enduring spirit that has allowed us to survive, and it is what we celebrate.

As a community, it is a time to reflect on the truths of our past, learn from them, and move forward together. Let us collectively celebrate an enduring culture that has continued to survive for thousands of years and also celebrate the many achievements and contributions of our people.

This year, ETNTAC is combining our efforts and focusing our resources into a single week of inclusive free activities for the whole community. We welcome the community to join us for this year's NAIDOC week” Ms Reynolds-Adamson said.

ETNTAC was also successful in securing significant funding support this year from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), for a program of activities that incorporate a strong focus on truth telling.

In a collaboration with our community partners, ETNTAC is pleased to announce a week-long calendar of free community events including:

- **Kepa Kurl Youth Ball**, 10 August, 6-10pm, Pink Lake Golf Club;
- **Cultural induction workshop, opening ceremony, and community activities**, 12 August, 1:30- 7pm, Esperance Civic Centre;
- **Kepa Kurl Kids Day**, 13 August, 9:30am- 12:30pm, Outside School Hours Centre;
- **Film screenings** 14 August, 12pm & 6pm at the Esperance Civic Centre & Fenwick Cinema;
- **Men's Health Pit Stop**, 15 August, 8:30am – 12pm, meeting at ETNTAC Office, 11A Shelden Rd.
- **Koolanga's Disco**, 15 August, 3:30 – 4:30(children yrs K-2) 5 – 6:30pm (children yrs 3-6), Esperance Civic Centre
- **Combined Schools NAIDOC event**, 16 August, 9am – 3pm, Graham McKenzie Stadium.

More information about each of these scheduled events will be shared over the coming month.

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