Celebrations for NAIDOC week in Glebe began early this year with a Trivia Night Fundraiser on the 28th May, followed by the Elders Lunch on the 30th June, Family Day on the 4th July and the final event, the Corroboree Night on the 10th July. This is the second year for the Glebe community to host its own NAIDOC events and each year these are becoming more and more popular.

This Newsletter will cover those events as well as an interview with one of Glebe’s Unsung Heroes, Trent Rose, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer and some general information about NAIDOC week, pictures and some suggestions for creating some memorable events for 2011.

NAIDOC stands for the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920’s 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.

The 2010 NAIDOC theme of “Unsung Their Heroes-Closing the Gap by Leading Way” is a chance to celebrate and recognise the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who have made huge contributions to Australian society.

‘Unsung Heroes’ recognises the part played by the quiet achievers in the Indigenous community, both now and in the past. These heroes lead by taking their own paths, and in doing so, helping other Indigenous people set their own direction for the future. The 2010 theme assets Indigenous ownership of ‘closing the gap’ and some of those gaps that need to be closed include gaps between the Indigenous and non- Indigenous Australians and gaps in knowledge and understanding.

www.naidoc.org.au
NAIDOC Timeline

1920s & 1930s - Prior to and during this era Aboriginal rights groups boycotted Australia Day and continued right through to 1935 where petitions and organisations such as the AAL (Australian Aborigines League) were formed.

1938 - Australia Day 1938, protestors marched through the streets of Sydney, followed by a congress attended by over a thousand people. This was one of the first major civil rights gatherings in the world and became known as the Day of Mourning.

1940-1955 - During this period the Day of Mourning was held annually on the Sunday before Australia Day and was known as Aborigines Day. After it was decided that the day should represent a celebration of aboriginal Culture rather than a day of protest the day was shifted to the first Sunday in July.

1956-1990 - NADOC was formed-National Aborigines Day Observance Committee. In 1974 it was decided that the event should cover a week, from the first to second Sunday in July.

1991-present - NADOC was expanded to recognise Torres Strait Islander people hence the current name NAIDOC and it was decided that each year the NAIDOC celebrations would represent a chosen theme which would reflect important issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

There is an overall national committee with representatives from most states and territories as well as local committees such as Glebe.

Visit www.naidoc.org.au for more a more detailed NAIDOC timeline

A map of Aboriginal Australian Nations
Trent can be found engaging with the young people at the Youth Service in Glebe through reading, hanging out and general conversations, which ultimately all contribute to a more trusting and strong bond.

When this year ’ s NAIDOC theme came up of ‘ Unseen Heroes-Closing the Gap by Leading Their Way ’ I asked Trent how he thought the role of the ACLO ’ s can help in closing the gap. He responded;

“Slowly but surely, I think there is a long way to go but by engaging with the young people in the area, and the Police, small but significant steps can be made. But there is still a long way to go in closing that gap between the community and the Police.”

What does NAIDOC mean to you Trent?
“ A great time for celebration & a chance for Indigenous people to gain recognition in their local areas as Indigenous Communities.”

Trent Rose is the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) for the Leichhardt Local Command, based in Glebe. At just 23 he has shown commitment to working with young people through his current role and work prior to this as a teacher ’ s aide at a Behavioral School in Manly where he saw a range of issues.

He started in this role in January of 2010 and already has some great ideas about engaging with young people in the area, whether it is through sporting opportunities or general interaction at the youth service and the PCYC.

A strong link to Rugby League and strong passion for the game has also made him recognizable to some of the local youth which Trent believes has most likely helped in forming that trust and communication that is so vital to a role such as his.

Fun Facts About Trent:
Trent has lived in various locations from Walgett to Bathurst and currently Sydney. When asked of his favourite place so far, he said Sydney; however all the places he has lived hold something special and unique for him. Trent has a large family, a strong involvement with the football community through himself as a player and spectator and his brother who plays for Manly Sea Eagles.

The good news for Glebe is that it looks like Trent is here to stay, he believes bridging the gap between the Indigenous Community and the local police is not an overnight job and looks forward to the challenging task ahead.
On the 28th May 2010 the NAIDOC committee held its first fundraiser for NAIDOC week. The trivia night which was held at Harold Park Hotel in Glebe was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Amongst community members there were local agency staff as well as agencies from South Sydney. There were approximately 50-60 people that attended, along with ticket money and money raising activities we managed to raise $880.

NAIDOC themed balloons and streamers along with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Flags decorated the room. This created a vibrant and fun place to be and everyone was really happy with the outcome. The NAIDOC canvas which went around all the events was also stationed at the trivia night, thanks to Kathy Farrawell the Canvas with written messages, signatures and NAIDOC inspired words will be hanging at Glebe Public School.

The competition was fierce amongst the teams, particularly those from the Glebe area purchasing answers in the hope of being the winning team. It was great to see everyone getting so enthusiastic about the questions and we know there were some tough ones in there so good on everyone-you did brilliantly!

Community spirit was high with South Sydney Youth Service coming in 3rd, Glebe public School came 2nd whilst Kathy Farrawell's table had a convincing win!

Our lively MC Deny Kirkwood ensured that no table or person went fine free and encouraged everyone to get involved with games and activities (especially when donations were required). We want to say a big thank you to Deny for coming and bringing such a great presence to the night.

The Men of League framed poster was auctioned off for an impressive $140. Prizes included Harold Park Vouchers, Champagne, Hoyts tickets, Wine, and of course the wooden spoons for the losing team.
Elders’ lunch

On June 30 2010 the NAIDOC Committee put together an Elders Lunch at the Café Church hall in Glebe.

The day was wonderful with a number of Indigenous community members as well as local schools and staff coming along and sharing, stories and laughing, eating and generally having a great time. The local school children asked the adults questions about their past and in turn were able to share their own unique stories.

Once the NAIDOC canvas came out the children enthusiastically traced hands, wrote names and coloured in with NAIDOC inspired colours and themes, which you can see pictured below.

The Elders Lunch was an important event on Glebe’s NAIDOC calendar as it brought together different generations of Indigenous people, non Indigenous people, teachers and students. It was an eclectic mix of the community who were able to share stories, knowledge and history over some good food and great company.
Sunday the 4th July saw the NAIDOC Family Day finally arrive. The rain held off and for the majority of the day there was blue sky and sunshine covering Bicentennial Park in Glebe.

The AES (Aboriginal Employment Strategy) team cooked a fantastic BBQ and soon the park was beginning to fill with the sound of children playing and adults laughing. Whilst the fish weren’t biting as much as we would have liked, the kids who were in the fishing-competition didn’t let it dampen their determination and eventually 3 fish were caught. Prizes included a new fishing rod and a boat trip.

The Footy competition was a little less structured but a lot of fun! The first game was kicked off by the younger kids, not long after some of the young people and adults began their own game and you could hear cheers and laughter from both sides of the Rotunda. There were brand new footballs given out and a South Sydney Rabbitohs pack which was donated by South’s.

Everyone on the day had a great time and would very much like to see this continue again next year. The families that were able to attend enjoyed themselves along with the NAIDOC Committee, AES staff and the general public that also joined in.
Corroboree Night

On the 10th July the Glebe Youth Service was the venue for the final NAIDOC event in Glebe for 2010. With the help from Ainsley and her After Dark workers along with the NAIDOC committee members the night was a huge success and loads of fun. The Corroboree night was a true success due to the large numbers of families, adults, young people and agency staff that attended and there was something for everyone on the night.

The night started off with our wonderful MC Billy Mac who kept us all entertained and enthusiastic and also treated the crowd to a didgeridoo performance which was thrilling. Once everyone had filled their bellies with the delicious food and sweets we settled into watch Isaac Bboy2ezy amaze us with his incredible talent, flexibility and general enthusiasm for his craft.

After a performance Isaac involved the young people in the crowd through some dance-offs which were a real treat. The children who participated certainly weren’t shy in wowing the audience with their wonderful dance moves and those who got involved were given movie tickets to celebrate.

The night then proceeded with entertainment from The Black Turtles Band which thrilled us all with their easygoing and wonderful music for over an hour. The STR8 Balla’z closed out the night with a couple of songs and had a lot of support in the crowd. This was a wonderful event and most significantly a positive event for young people and their families in the Glebe community, who enjoyed themselves immensely.
NAIDOC Week Art Competition.

Leading up to NAIDOC Week this year, an art competition was held in the local primary schools. The winning design was featured on the NAIDOC posters around the Glebe area. Below is the winning poster—a combined effort from Glebe Public School’s Year 2 class!

Ways in which you can get involved in Glebe NAIDOC events for 2011:

Join the 2011 Glebe NAIDOC Committee and contribute to the planning and organisation of more fantastic NAIDOC events to come. contact Suzy Velkou on: 9566 1285 or email glebesacc@optusnet.com.au
NAIDOC Week Photo Montage

Left: Families enjoying themselves at the Family Fun Day

Below: Children working on the canvas at the Family Fun Day

Above: Fishing Competition at the Family Day

Above: Wendy Buchanan chatting with students at the Elders Lunch

Left: Flags outside the Marquee on the Family Fun Day
**Flag Facts:**
The Aboriginal Flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from central Australia. It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people during the land rights movement of the early 1970s.
Gary Foley took the flag to the East Coast where it was promoted and eventually recognised as the official flag of the Australian Aboriginal people.
The flag was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 197.
The flag was chosen as the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and was first flown there in 1972.

Symbolic meaning:
The symbolic meaning of the flag is commonly believed as:
- Black: Represents the Aboriginal people of Australia
- Red: Represents the red earth, the red ochre and a spiritual relation to the land and the Aboriginal blood which has been shed throughout the history of this land
- Yellow: Represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector

The Torres Strait Islander Flag was created as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples, designed by the late Bernard Namok, then a 15 year old school student from Thursday Island. The flag was recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in June 1992 and given equal prominence with the Aboriginal flag.

In July 1995, it was recognised by the Australian Government as an official 'Flag of Australia' under the Flags Act 1953.

Each part of the flag is designed to represent something about Torres Strait Island culture.
- Green: Represents the land
- Blue: Represents the sea
- White: Represents peace
- Black: Represents the Indigenous peoples

The dhari (headdress) represents Torres Strait Island people and the five pointed star represents the 5 major Island groups. The star also represents navigation, as a symbol of the seafaring culture of the Torres Strait.

Thank you to those who helped contribute to the NAIDOC Week Newsletter and to those who contributed to and participated in the whole of NAIDOC Week Celebrations. Special mentions go to the 2010 Glebe NAIDOC Committee, the City of Sydney, the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, and the Glebe Chamber of Commerce.