



Media Release

2 July 2014

Come and celebrate NAIDOC Week at Barmah

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation is inviting the community to celebrate NAIDOC Week (7 – 14 July) at the Dharnya Centre within Barmah National Park on Wednesday 9th July.

Yorta Yorta Nation is organising the community celebration in collaboration with Parks Victoria, Viney Morgan Aboriginal Medical Service and Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE with support from the Njernda Aboriginal Corporation Echuca.

According to Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Interim CEO Damian Morgan-Bulled, NAIDOC Week is a special time to acknowledge Traditional Owners, their land rights and Aboriginal culture and heritage.

“NAIDOC Week celebrations at Barmah provide the opportunity to celebrate with the local Aboriginal community and gain an insight into our traditions and connections to Country,” said Damian.

NAIDOC celebrations will start with bread making and a Welcome to Country, followed by traditional dancing and a flag raising ceremony. A free camp oven lunch will be provided and fun activities focusing on the environment and natural science run by Environmental Educator Lanie Pearce, Engineers Without Borders, Turtles Australia, Jewish Aid, Strathellan Family Landcare Group and the Superb Parrot Project Group will keep the kids entertained in the afternoon.

The NAIDOC Week theme this year is Serving Country, Centenary and Beyond, which honours all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of country. From warriors in the Frontier Wars to warriors who have served with honour and pride in Australia’s military conflicts and engagements across the globe. We proudly highlight and recognise the role they have played in shaping our identity and pause to reflect on their sacrifice. We celebrate and honour their priceless contribution to our nation.

The Dharnya Centre and Barmah National Park are significant to the Yorta Yorta people.

“Barmah National Park holds many culturally significant sites throughout the forest, highlighting the presence of Yorta Yorta people in the area for thousands of years,” said Damian.

“Barmah National Park is also the first site in Victoria where Traditional Owner involvement in park management is formally recognised under a joint management agreement between Yorta Yorta Nation and the Victorian Government.

“Gaka Yawall Ngulla Yenbena Yorta Yorta Woka. Come walk and talk with the people on Yorta Yorta Country,” he said.



Media enquiries

Parks Victoria - Suzanne Hughes - 0438 307 973

or Marlene Thomas – 5430 4620

Yorta Yorta Nation – Tracey O’Keeffe - 0417 541 735



Parks Victoria
www.parks.vic.gov.au



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What: NAIDOC Celebration Day at Barmah

When: 11am – 3pm, Wednesday 9th July, 2014

BBQ and free camp oven lunch provided at **12.30pm**.

Where: Dharnya Centre, Barmah National Park

Media opportunities:

Media are welcome to attend to film or photograph celebrations throughout the day. Interviews will be available with spokespeople from Yorta Yorta Nation and Parks Victoria between **12.30pm – 1:30pm**.



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