

# ABC celebrates NAIDOC Week 2021

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## NAIDOC Week content and creativity on the ABC

Throughout NAIDOC Week, which runs from 4 - 11 July, the ABC will showcase Indigenous storytelling across television, radio and online, including the premieres of arts documentaries

### Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra

on ABC TV and iview, Tuesday 6th July 8:30pm

Premieres Tuesday 6 July at 8.30pm on ABC TV and iview. Firestarter tells the story of how three young Aboriginal brothers - Stephen, David and Russell Page - turned a newly born dance group into a First Nations cultural powerhouse.

### My Name is Gulpilil

on ABC TV and iview, Sunday 11th July 8:30pm

### Dubboo: Life of a Songman

on ABC TV Plus, Wednesday 7th July 9:00pm



ABC iview's NAIDOC Week collection will also feature the world premieres of children's programs **Red Dirt Riders** and **Tjiti Lullaby**, alongside outstanding Indigenous-led content such as **The Australian Dream**, **FREEMAN**, **Mabo**, **Mystery Road**, **Total Control**, **Redfern Now** and performances by **Bangarra Dance Theatre**.

Across ABC Local Radio and social media, the ABC will feature **young Indigenous leaders and Elders in conversation** about the NAIDOC Week theme of "Heal Country!".

Radio National programs will explore **Indigenous stories and issues**, including Earshot's feature on the battle over the **Martowarra Fitzroy River** and insights from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activists and creatives across **Awaye!**, **Soul Search**, **The Book Show**, **The Stage Show**, **Blueprint for Living**, **Stop Everything!** and **The History Listen**.

**ABC music networks'** celebration of Indigenous talent includes ABC Classic's premiere of **Deborah Cheetham's Woven Song**, Double J's **Deadly Beats J Files** and an extended version of triple j's new First Nations music show **Blak Out**.

[Click here for more details](#) of the ABC's NAIDOC Week content and coverage.

## ABC NEWS

will continue to cover **Indigenous issues, perspectives and conversations** across multiple platforms.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander journalists and presenters at the ABC have come together to celebrate NAIDOC Week by sharing their personal experiences and highlight the importance of **Indigenous storytelling** all-year round.

In an ABC promotional campaign for NAIDOC Week, Indigenous staff from across the country share the strength and resilience of these stories and the vital role it plays in keeping culture, customs and communities connected, now and for future generations.

The campaign incorporates **commissioned artwork by Buffie Corunna**, a Noongar woman from Western Australia.

[Read the ABC's full media release for NAIDOC Week 2021.](#)

# ABC celebrates NAIDOC Week and First Nations stories through the voices of Indigenous staff

Posted 28th June 2021

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander journalists and presenters at the ABC have come together to celebrate NAIDOC Week by sharing their personal experiences and highlighting the importance of Indigenous storytelling all-year round.

In an [ABC promotional campaign for NAIDOC Week](#), which runs from 4-11 July, Indigenous staff from across the country share the strength and resilience of these stories and the vital role they play in keeping culture, customs and communities connected, now and for future generations.

**Isabella Higgins**, a proud Torres Strait Islander woman and ABC News Indigenous Affairs Correspondent, says in the campaign: “Storytelling is actually about survival – it’s about ensuring our languages, our culture, our customs, that they survive and that they’re there for the next generation. “NAIDOC Week is this incredible time where as First Nations people we see our culture pushed to the forefront...The ABC is making sure the voices of all First Nations communities are at the front of all of our storytelling. The ABC is telling our story – the story of our communities, of our country.”

**Daniel Browning**, from Bundjalung Country on the far north coast of NSW and the producer and presenter of Radio National’s *Away!*, which celebrates Aboriginal arts and culture, says: “We can’t know the national story if we don’t know the first story...If we don’t understand the stories that have been sung, danced and recited here for millennia, we don’t know our story. “It’s through telling stories that I connect with people and that’s what I love about being a journalist or a storyteller. And story is absolutely crucial to everything we do here at the ABC – connecting people through story and sharing culture.”

**Dave Woodhead**, a Torres Strait Islander man and triple j presenter, says: “First Nations people have so much history to share and all people have to do is open their hearts and ears and just listen to us. Storytelling is so important because things that happened a thousand years ago still have relevance today. “I’m proud to be working at triple j and the ABC because it gives me the opportunity to share stories of First Nations artists through the wonderful tool of music.”

The promotional campaign, running across television, radio and online from 27 June, tells Australians **what NAIDOC Week means to the ABC** and the importance of incorporating Indigenous stories, culture and perspectives into ABC content every day. The creative incorporates **commissioned artwork by Buffie Corunna**, a Noongar woman from Western Australia.

## Indigenous voices and languages on the ABC

Such content builds on the ABC’s proud history of enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to tell and share their own stories and supporting Indigenous talent, as exemplified by the [ABC Elevate Reconciliation Plan 2019-22](#).

The Elevate RAP features a major, year-round commitment to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and voices into the national conversation, including rolling out radio station idents incorporating local languages and increasing the use of Indigenous names in content.

**Phillipa McDermott**, ABC Indigenous Lead, said: “Indigenous languages and place names are not just a means of simple Identification, they express knowledge about everything we know: Family, clan, law, geography, history, relationships, philosophy, religion, anatomy, country, everything.

“So, when **we invite our audience to listen to and practise these words and languages**, we are not only maintaining our culture but we are passing it on to new generations, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who now live on this land.

“We hope it will ignite their imaginations to think about what the word means or what the place where they might live, work or travel to means, and the deep spiritual significance of that name or place. **The ABC is an industry leader** in this space and while we are already working with many other organisations, we really encourage all our industry colleagues to do the same.”

### **In line with this commitment, the ABC has introduced initiatives such as:**

- Increasing the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nation names through supers in video programming, news reporting and in social media and TV and commissioned screen content.
- ABC News has begun incorporating Acknowledgment of Country on State and Territory 7pm television bulletins in the ACT, Northern Territory, South Australia and Tasmania, with Western Australia and NSW bulletins to come. In Queensland and Victoria, Indigenous place names will be included in viewer-sourced photographs in weather reports within the 7pm bulletins.
- 7.30 will start including Indigenous place names in coming weeks.
- The recent *Australia Talks* TV special incorporated Indigenous place names throughout the program.
- *Gardening Australia* has been showing Indigenous place names on their map of Australia since 2020.
- ABC Radio Melbourne broadcasts a Welcome to Country each morning.
- ABC Radio Darwin uses a Larrakia Welcome to Country, as well as broadcasting a Friday news headlines segment in Creole.
- ABC Sport broadcast an Acknowledgment of Country for all games in recent Indigenous rounds.
- ABC Radio has introduced 130 Indigenous language station idents across its Capital City and Regional radio networks.
- All major events and live concert broadcast on the ABC’s national music networks feature an Acknowledgement of Country.
- Presenters across triple j, Double J, triple j Unearthed, ABC Classic and ABC Country use Indigenous place names as a matter of course, when talking about where artists or listeners are from.
- triple j also asks its audience if they can name the place they’re calling from and recently launched the *Blak Out* First Nations music program.
- An Acknowledgement of Country is featured daily on all ABC Children’s services, including ABC Kids, ABC ME and ABC Kids listen. ABC Kids listen also includes different Indigenous words every day, across 11 different Indigenous Australian languages.

- On ABC Kids, *Little J & Big Cuz* features multiple Indigenous words and languages, including Noongar and Warlpiri. *Play School* incorporates Indigenous languages and words in episodes, scripts and songs.
- On ABC ME, *Good Game Spawn Point* presenters use Indigenous place names when describing the locations they are reporting from.
- Radio National's *Word Up* (broadcast as a segment in *Away!* and available online) introduces listeners to the diverse languages of Indigenous Australia one word at a time.
- ABC Factual & Culture requires external producers to reference Indigenous place names in documentary series, where relevant. Indigenous consultants advise on the appropriate use of such place names in this content. ABC factual and documentary programs also include an Acknowledgement of Country in the credits.
- The ABC has collaborated with First Languages Australia to develop and publish a new version of the [Gambay Indigenous language map](#) on the ABC Indigenous website, to enable audiences to click on any part of Australia to see and listen to the language of that place.
- The publicly accessible ABC Pronunciation Guide incorporates guidance on pronunciations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names, places and concepts.

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For more information: Peter Munro, ABC Communications [munro.peter@abc.net.au](mailto:munro.peter@abc.net.au)