

NAIDOC

This year's theme is '**KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD**' celebrating the staunch spirit of Indigenous communities and invites all to stand in solidarity, amplifying our voices and empowering our nations.

NAIDOC week for me is a week of celebration shared with my loved ones and wider Indigenous community. It is a time I love getting involved in the NAIDOC events as much as I can in celebrating who I am and why I am proud to be a part of this deadly community. Celebrating and supporting our cultures, uniting and uplifting each other.

What the theme this year means for me is that no matter what, we keep fighting and making known what needs to be implemented to make positive change for our people. Our people have been standing up and making themselves known for hundreds and thousands of years, and we as the younger generation will continue to do this for our old people who stood before us. We have come too far to give up now. We are such a strong nation, who will create the change we need as a country. We will unite, we will make it known and we will look deadly doing it.

Proud is about making change,

Blak isn't about colour

AND

Loud doesn't mean in volume

In my language fire means Kaarl or Kaala meaning campsite. Kaarla to my old people and significantly my Nan, meant home. She grew up on farms in the bush where fire was very important to them. Where the Kaarla was, meant food and warmth, but most importantly it meant family and love. The Kaarla was where yarns happened. Where cultural knowledge was passed down through our family. It's where dreamtime stories were shared and where language was spoken. Fire means much more than just a flame to my Elders. It's a part of their spirit, who they are, who I am.

Our Elders were the torch bearers igniting and carrying the flame. They have passed this torch down to us to continue the legacy of what they started, keeping the fire burning for generations to come.

😊 <3