

**23 July 2019**

**Fairfield City Inaugural NAIDOC Day of Celebration attracts huge community interests**

Under the theme – Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let's work together for a shared future - NAIDOC Week 2019 was held nationally from Sunday 7 July and continued through to Sunday 14 July.

NAIDOC Week was enjoyed by hundreds of locals from Fairfield City on Thursday 11 July at the Prairiewood Youth and Community Centre with an inaugural community celebration.

The event was opened with an Acknowledgement Country from Uncle Darrell Fabar, a smoking ceremony Uncle Brad Bevis with support from his daughter Michellie and speeches by Frank Carbone, Mayor of Fairfield and Guy Zangari Member for Fairfield. The Buuja Buuja group, a local family, performed and told stories through traditional and contemporary dance to officially open the celebration.

The event was planned by local elders Uncle Des, Uncle Darrell, Aunty Freda, Uncle Dennis and the members of the *Fairfield Engaging Families of Aboriginal Heritage* network, which includes Communities for Children Fairfield, Fairfield City Council, Fairfield Public School, Karitane, The Parks Community Network and Woodville Alliance.

“Working together with local elders, the Fairfield City Council, local community and organisations, schools and volunteers made the inaugural community celebration truly a symbol of what NAIDOC stands for *by working together for a shared future*” said Randa Warda, Communities for Children Fairfield.

“The purpose of the community celebration for NAIDOC was to collectively engage the broader communities of Fairfield and give us an opportunity to celebrate, understand and appreciate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their culture” said the FEFAH Working Group.

“The families loved the event. Parents commented that this was their first time learning about Aboriginal culture and how very important it is for us to learn about the history of our new country” said Paula Frivola, Refugee and Community Liaison Officer Sydney Catholic Schools Based at Mary Mackillop Catholic College.

“I’ve been to many NAIDOC community events, and this was one of the best ones I have been to” said Jesse from Nulungu Dreaming.

Children, young people, families and the elderly enjoyed all day free BBQ and indigenous food, fun activities such as basket weaving, petting zoo, sand art, boomerang painting, soccer, native planting, didgeridoo performances, rock painting, storytelling and more.

Stalls by local community services and organizations such as Budyari Health, FLYHT, (Fairfield Liverpool Youth Health Team), Guntawang, Kari, Uniting Family Relationship Centre & Multicultural Family Centre, The Parks Community Network, Timorese Group, Vinnies NDIS LAC and Woodville Alliance provided information about their services and products.

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