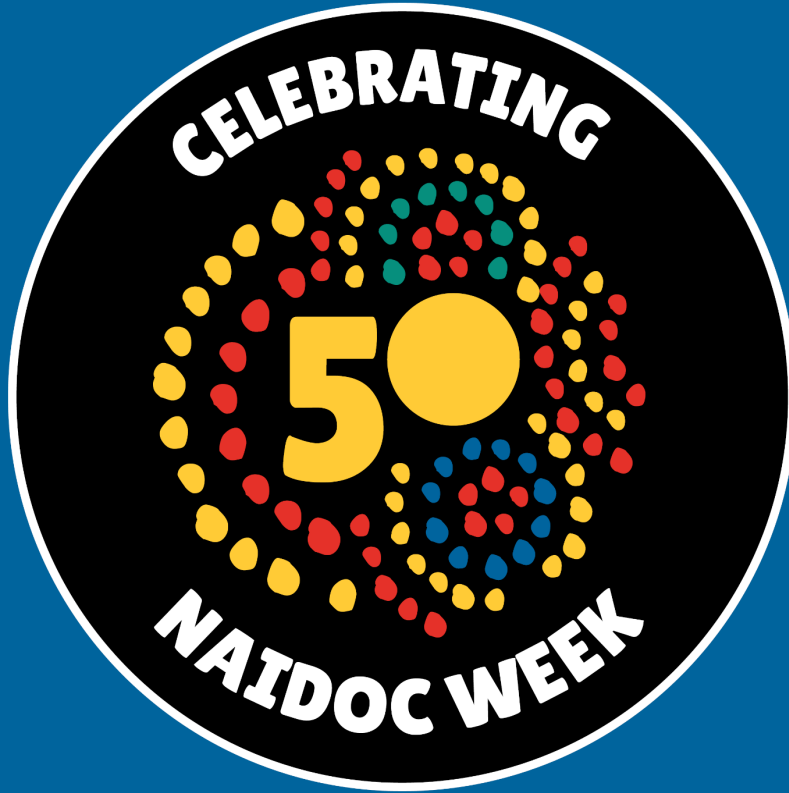




■ NAIDOC
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50 YEARS
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5-12 JULY 2026



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Welcome

John Richardson

Executive Director

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)



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Acknowledgement of Country

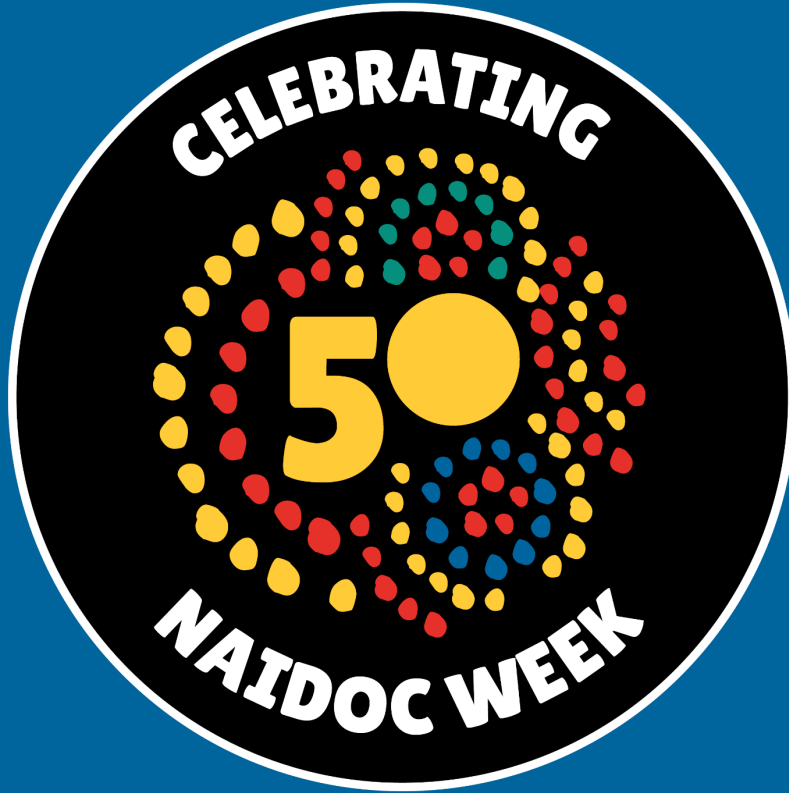
AIDR acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the various lands on which you all join us from today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this event.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters across Australia.



Housekeeping

- You will remain muted and your camera will not be activated for the duration of today's event.
- Today's event will be recorded and made available after the event.
- Please enter questions for our speakers in the Q&A function, not the chat box.
- Please use the chat box to share any thoughts or reflections during the presentation
- Please be respectful to each other when posting your comments or questions.



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50 YEARS DEADLY
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Guest host introduction

Associate Professor Bhiamie Williamson

Program Lead, National Indigenous Resilience (NIDR)

Monash University

2026 NAIDOC Webinar

Indigenous leadership in disaster resilience



MONASH
University



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DISASTER RESILIENCE

National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) is a research program at Monash University. Established in 2022, NIDR is a leading national research centre, and the only research centre dedicated to investigating the impacts major disaster events have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

NIDR is grounded in an understanding that climate change is producing more frequent and severe disasters. Despite the growing recognition that major disasters disproportionately impact Indigenous peoples, there is a little evidence and knowledge regarding how these events impact Indigenous peoples in ways that are different to other Australians. There is also little information or knowledge on Indigenous priorities during major disaster events.

NIDR aims to address these gaps, while challenging dominant discourses that focus on vulnerabilities alone, and focus on First Nations knowledge and leadership in disaster resilience and recovery.





Zoe Schultz
RESEARCHER



Bhiamie Williamson
PROGRAM LEAD



Lucy Connoles
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

WHO WE ARE



Alex Perlinski
RESEARCHER



Nell Reidy
RESEARCHER



Kaytlyn O'Neil
RESEARCHER



Beth Patch
COMMUNICATIONS

WHAT WE DO

Conducting research

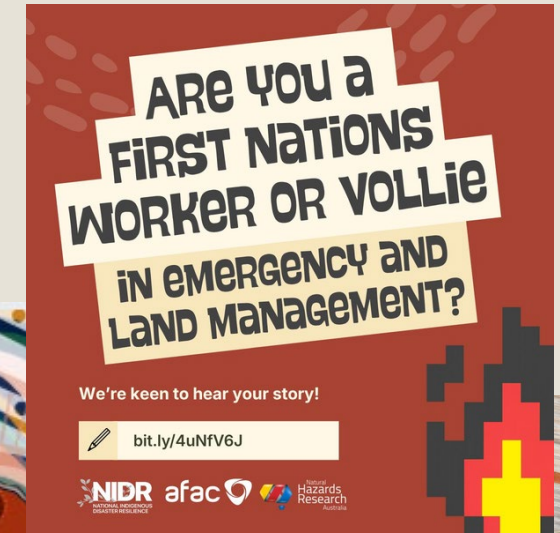
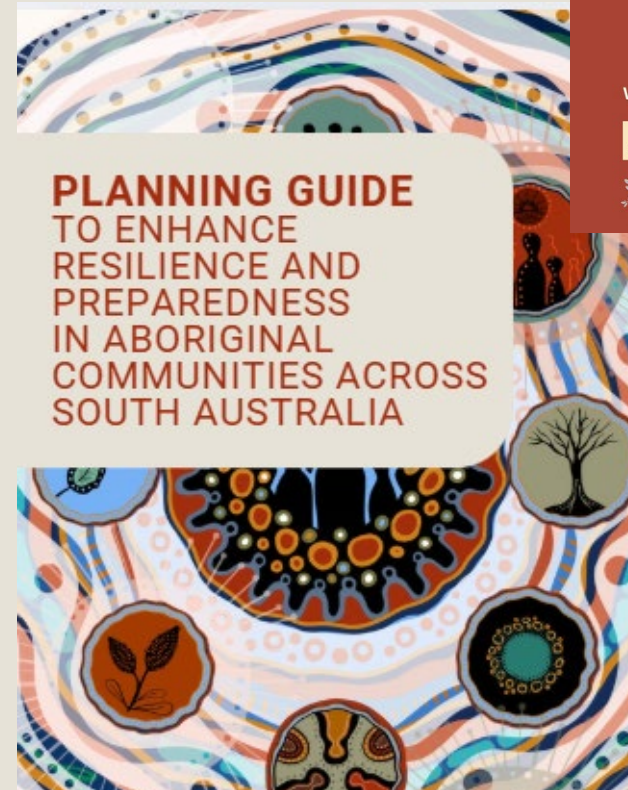
- Foundations in Indigenous Disaster Resilience
- Colonial Load and Cultural Conflict
- Indigenous Disaster Resilience at the Urban Interface

Holding Events

- NIDR Gathering
- Policy Roundtables
- Community of Practice

Creating tools, resources and policies

- National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Framework
- Preparedness Scorecard
- Planning Guide to Enhance Resilience and Preparedness



What is NAIDOC Week?

NAIDOC Week is an annual national celebration in Australia honoring the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Occurring in the first week of July, the name stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. It is a time for truth-telling, celebration, and community engagement.





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***Paralpi* by Zaachariaha Fielding**

Paralpi extends Zaachariaha's acclaimed *Inma* series and reflects a deeply cultural and immersive narrative grounded in Country. The artwork depicts the sounds of *Paralpi*, a significant place just outside Mimili on the eastern APY Lands in South Australia. As Zaachariaha describes, *Paralpi* is a place where people come to embrace and celebrate children, where they are taught by Elders to move and mimic their Clan emblem – for Mimili, this being the maku (witchetty grub).

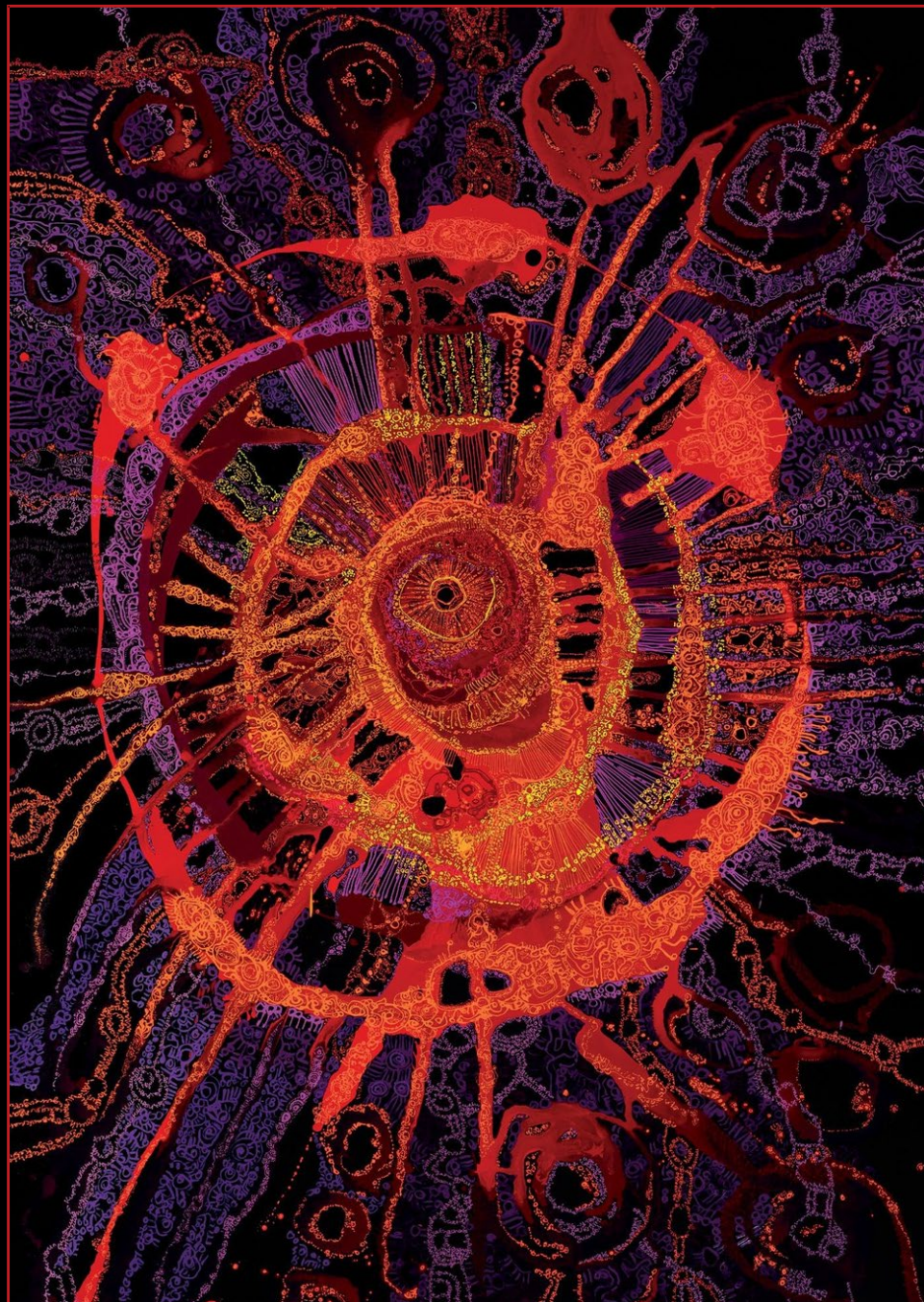
#NAIDOC2026

#FIFTYYEARSDEADLY

#NAIDOCWEEK



Aboriginal Flag, designed by Mr Harold Thomas.
Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind
permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional
Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.

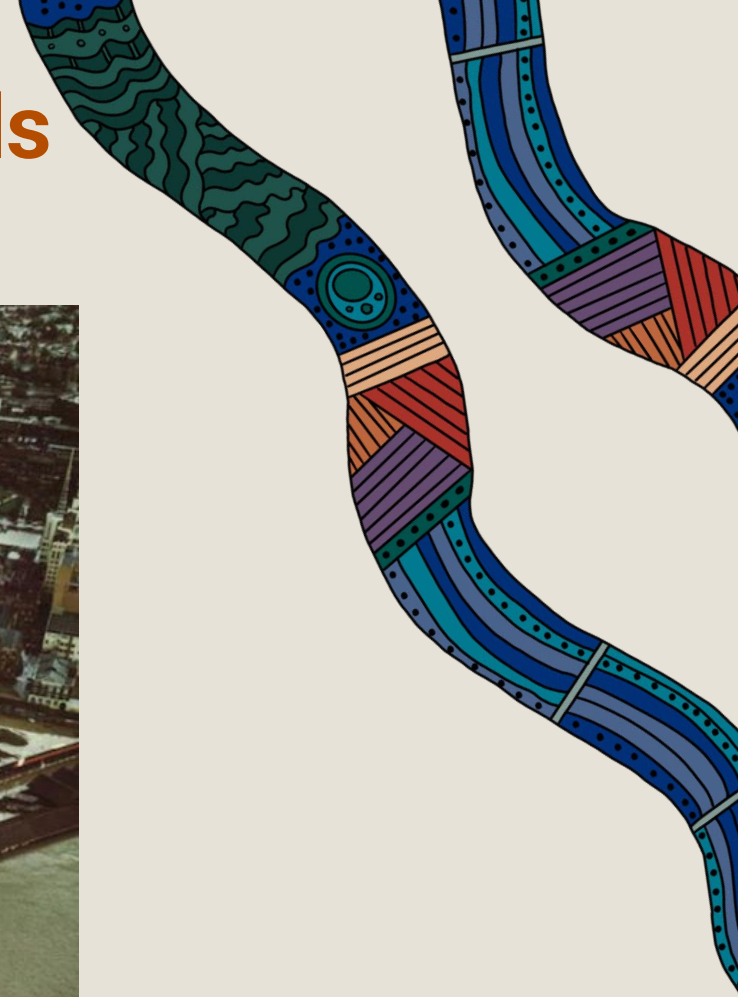


January 1974 Brisbane Floods



Source: ABC News, 'Gallery: Brisbane's 1974 Floods, 40 years on'

Available at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-27/brisbane-1974-floods-40-year-anniversary/5197952>



National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC)

APPENDIX C

NACC MOTIONS

<u>CATEGORY</u>		<u>Page</u>
A	Advice to Government on policies and programs in Aboriginal affairs	142
B	Advice to Government on other matters	193
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D	Non-advisory	216
E	Motions lost	219

Note: The motions contained in this Appendix have been taken verbatim from the Minutes of National Meetings; they are therefore unedited.

Motions from the National Meeting Canberra, 4-8 February 1974



National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC)

A. ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
IN ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

National Meeting, Canberra, 4-8 February 1974

THAT a fund for flood victims in Queensland and N.S.W. of \$10,000 for each area, be established from N.A.C.C. funds.

Moved: Mr. N.A. Fisher (Q9)

Seconded: Mr. J. Grainer (Q4)

THAT we put all our proposals for relief on paper and send them to Senator Cavanagh and demand he takes some action.

Moved: Mr. K. Smith (NSU.4)

THAT the Chairman seek a TV interview to appeal to groups such as Trade Unions, World Council of Churches and many more organisations for assistance to Aboriginal flood victims.

Moved: Mr. T. Loban (Q2)

Seconded: Mr. J. Grainer (Q4)

THAT we accept what has been stated here today and look at this proposal closely and make a recommendation on proposal when parliament meets. (Concerning an explanation of proposed changes in method of funding of loans to Aboriginal people.)

Moved: Mr. B. McGuinness (Vic.1)

Seconded: Mr. A.R. Agius (S.A.2)

THAT in view of the worsening flood situation for Aboriginal communities nationally this N.A.C. requests the presence on Friday at the Conference of Senator Cavanagh, Mr. Crean the Treasurer and

“That a fund for flood victims in Queensland and N.S.W of \$10,000 for each area, be established from N.A.C.C funds.”

Moved: Mr. N. A. Fisher (Q9)

Seconded: Mr. J. Grainer (Q4)



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“That in the view of the worsening flood situation for Aboriginal communities nationally this N.A.C requests the presence on Friday at the Conference of Senator Cavanagh, Mr. Crean the Treasurer and Mr. Lance Bernard, Deputy Prime Minister, to obtain humane financial alleviation of the flood hardships faced.”

Moved: Mr. D. Anderson (Vic. 3)

Seconded: Mr. K. Smith (NSW. 4)



National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC)

Mr. Lance Barnard, Deputy Prime Minister,
to obtain humane financial alleviation of the
flood hardships faced.

Moved: Mr. D. Anderson (Vic.3)
Seconded: Mr. K. Smith (NSW.4)

THAT Mr. Healey (NSW) and Mr. Hewitt (Q'ld) be
invited here to discuss flood relief.

Moved: Mr. H. Hall (NSW.7)
Seconded: Mr. Alfred Wuyatuuuy (N.T.3)

THAT as a first step the N.A.C. request that
\$30,000 of its own budgetary allocation be
transferred to start off an Aboriginal Flood
Relief Fund.

Moved: Mr. E.J. Bennell (W.A.8)
Seconded: Mr. A. Assan (Q'ld.6)

THAT \$50,000 from our budget be approved by
the Minister for distribution to Aboriginal
Flood victims.

Moved: Mr. K. Smith (NSW.4)
Seconded: Mr. N.A. Fisher (Q.9)

THAT the N.A.C. recognise the Aboriginal Embassy
as a National forum and information centre for
the Aboriginal struggle for land rights and
ultimate equality. Also that the Minister for
the A.C.T. Mr. Bryant, be requested to supply
suitable prefabricated buildings on the launs
for the Embassy staff. Furthermore, we ask that
Embassy staff to promote the National Aboriginal
Congress to the community at large and to politicians
and visiting overseas diplomats and members of state.

Moved: Mr. B. McGuinness (Vic.1)
Seconded: Mr. P. Hall (NSW.1)

“That as a first step the N.A.C request that \$30,000 of its own budgetary allocation be transferred to start off an Aboriginal Relief Fund.”

Moved: Mr. E. J. Bennell (W.A. 8)

Seconded: Mr. A. Assan (Q'ld. 6)



1974 Cyclone Tracy - December



Bruce Howard & Herald and Weekly Times, Tracy - she broke his heart : the morning after Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin, Casuarina resident Lynn John Cox returned from holidays to his wrecked home, 1974, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-148158468

Case Study

Adaptation lessons from Cyclone Tracy Part II:

Institutional response and
Indigenous experiences of
Cyclone Tracy



“While the engineering and reconstruction process demonstrated a very successful response and adaptation to an existing and future risk, the impact of the cyclone of the local community and its Indigenous population in particular, had not been well recorded” (p. 1)



Traditional cultural knowledge/natural warnings

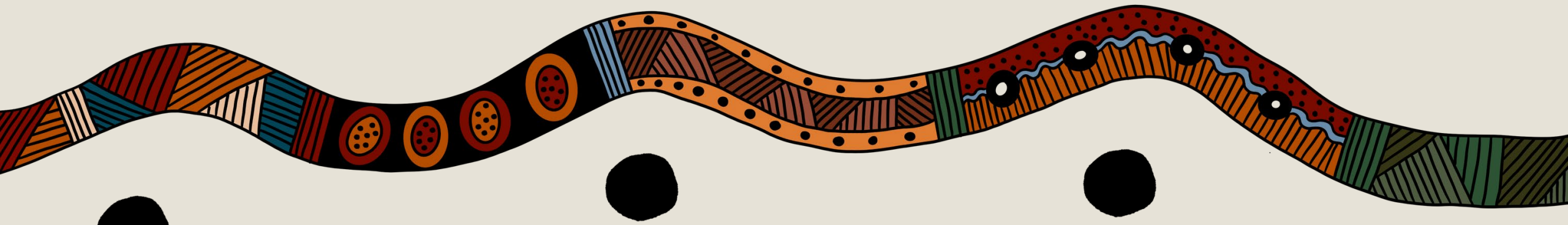
“The strangest thing was that there was no birds around, nothing and it was broad daylight and no birds nothing” (p. 32).



Loss of culture creates risk

Interviewer: "Saying all of that though if say your parents had grown up with their family they would have known about the cyclone more been able to take notice of signs in the environment and things like that?"

Respondent 19: "Most probably if they had been with their Aboriginal family, yeah. 'Cos they reckon these Aboriginals knew that's why they all went, they knew, they were saying something about the mango it was a little bit longer, hanging..." (p. 33)



Scattered families

“There were people that we didn’t even know It was like a boarding thing I don’t know. We were the only ones so it was like, a bit sad. But yeah, poor mum, I don’t know how she coped...we didn’t see him for 12 months...” (p. 50).



Lessons from 50 years of emergency management

- Indigenous groups have been neglected from official processes such as commissions and inquiries, examining major hazard events.
- Indigenous organisations have consistently stood up to provide relief and support, in lieu of support from mainstream agencies and NGOs.
- There has been wide and consistent recognition of the value of traditional knowledge in relation to natural disasters.
- Consistent measures of socio-cultural wellbeing, such as sanctity of family, in evacuations and displacement.













NAIDOC WEEK
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Speaker Introduction

Coral Lever

Co-founder and CEO

First Nations Response

Acknowledgement of Country



**FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP
IN DISASTER RESILIENCE**

50 Years of Deadly

NAIDOC WEEK 2026

PRESENTED BY CORAL LEVER
CEO & FOUNDER, FIRST
NATIONS RESPONSE

50 Years of Deadly Thousands of Years of Leadership



THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER

The question has never been whether we can lead. The question is when will our leadership be recognised, trusted, and properly resourced.



Truth To Power Lived Resilience

- Communities lead in every crisis.
- Disasters expose systemic gaps, not a lack of First Nations leadership.
- Kinship networks mobilise before formal systems respond.
- Culture and connection to Country strengthen resilience.
- Local knowledge drives response and recovery.
- Leadership is lived, not institutional.
- We don't need permission to lead we need recognition, trust, and investment.



First Nations Response

Solidarity Not Charity





The Architecture of Community Resilience

Driving change through shared action and community capability. Building systems that respond quickly, locally, and with trust. Strengthening long-term resilience through coordinated community-led support.

Grassroots doesn't mean unorganised, it means deeply connected. True resilience isn't built by a single leader; it is built when community capability meets collective power.

What Needs to Change

What Exists

- Strong community leadership
- Proven, responsive infrastructure
- Deeply trusted local networks

What's Missing

- Targeted investment and capacity building
- Systemic trust in our capability
- Permanent resource security

The Future Needs

- Direct resourcing of Mob-led systems
- True operational self-determination
- Systems that respect and follow local expertise



Self- Determination as the Mandate

For generations, our communities have protected Country, cared for one another, and led through crisis. We already lead. The future depends on whether systems choose to recognise, trust, and resource that leadership.



Thank You



0414 848 851



www.firstnationsresponse.org



info@firstnationsresponse.org



4 Thornley Street Marrickville
2204



NAIDOC WEEK
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5-12 JULY 2026

Speaker Introduction

Zoe Schultz

Research Fellow, National Indigenous Disaster Resilience

Monash University





IMPACTS FOR FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S WELLBEING

- It created a **safe and supportive** space for women to connect, exchange experiences and knowledge, and create lasting friendships.
- Women felt **confident and empowered** when they returned to their families, communities, rural fire brigades and workplaces.
- First Nations women had the opportunity to experience a cultural burn, **some for the first time**.
- **Healing through connection** to culture and relationships with other women who share similar experiences in life and at work.
- Returning as **changed women to unchanged places** brought challenges.



BOOSTING THE FIRST NATIONS WOMEN IN FIRE WORKFORCE

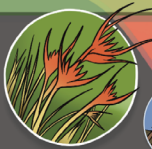
- First Nations women are a **highly skilled cohort** working in emergency services, national parks, native title organisations, and ranger programs across Australia.
- **Targeted support** for First Nations women already in frontline work is **scarce**.
- Targeted programs have the potential to:
 - **Reduce isolation and loneliness** in the workforce
 - **Promote healing** through connection to culture alongside other First Nations women
 - Enhance professional development through **new friendships, mentors and networks**



Australian Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (AUSWTREX)

Connection and healing

Friendships formed during AUSWTREX have continued beyond the program. Despite coming from different places, many shared similar experiences of how government policies and practices had impacted their families and connections to community and culture. AUSWTREX enabled Indigenous women to connect with others who shared similar experiences, leading to positive impacts on identity and wellbeing.



"Without knowing it, I'm actually healing a lot being around so many strong women."

Confidence and empowerment

All participants left AUSWTREX with increased confidence and a sense of empowerment. Alongside building new skills, the program created space for existing knowledge and leadership qualities to be recognised. Participants felt pride after taking on new challenges and achieving things they would not normally attempt.

"You give them the opportunity, give them the platform, they'll step up on it and they will own it. You just got to give them that space."

Reciprocal exchange

AUSWTREX provided a rare space for Indigenous women in fire to connect with other women working across Australia and overseas. Participants exchanged knowledge about different burning techniques, learning from women who practise cultural and hazard reduction burning. For some, it was their first opportunity to experience a cultural burn, or to use their skills to protect cultural heritage.

A 12-day program delivered by QFD and QPWS saw 37 Indigenous and non-Indigenous women enhance their fire practitioner skills and share cultural and western burning knowledge. This research project aimed to understand the impacts for Indigenous women who participated in Australia's first WTREX program. NIDR carried out interviews and participant observation, providing valuable insights to strengthen and support Indigenous women in this workforce.

Cultural, personal and professional growth

AUSWTREX went beyond a networking and training program. Participants found companionship within a workforce described as challenging and isolating for Indigenous women. For many, the most meaningful learnings from the program emerged through the development of relationships with other Indigenous women in fire.

Reincorporation

Reincorporating or returning as changed people to unchanged environments presented both opportunities and challenges. Some women returned to workplaces where their experiences were valued, while others faced negativity and limited recognition of their experience and skills.

"I think our work doesn't really understand how big of a deal it was."

This research highlights the capability and skill of Indigenous women working in the Australian fire and land management sector. It demonstrates that investing in culturally supportive programs can positively impact the wellbeing of this workforce, benefiting both First Nations women and the broader sector.

Safety and support

AUSWTREX provided a safe and supportive space to connect and learn alongside other women in fire. This was significant for participants who are often the only woman, or the only Indigenous person, in their workplace. Learning and working in an encouraging environment meant participants felt safe to challenge themselves in ways they haven't otherwise been able to.

"I just felt it was just amazing being there because usually here at work, our ops are mainly males... I feel like I'm going to get criticised or judged if I do something wrong..."

MORE INFO HERE





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Q&A

Don't forget to add your questions to the Q&A window.



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Event concludes

Thank you for attending today's webinar.

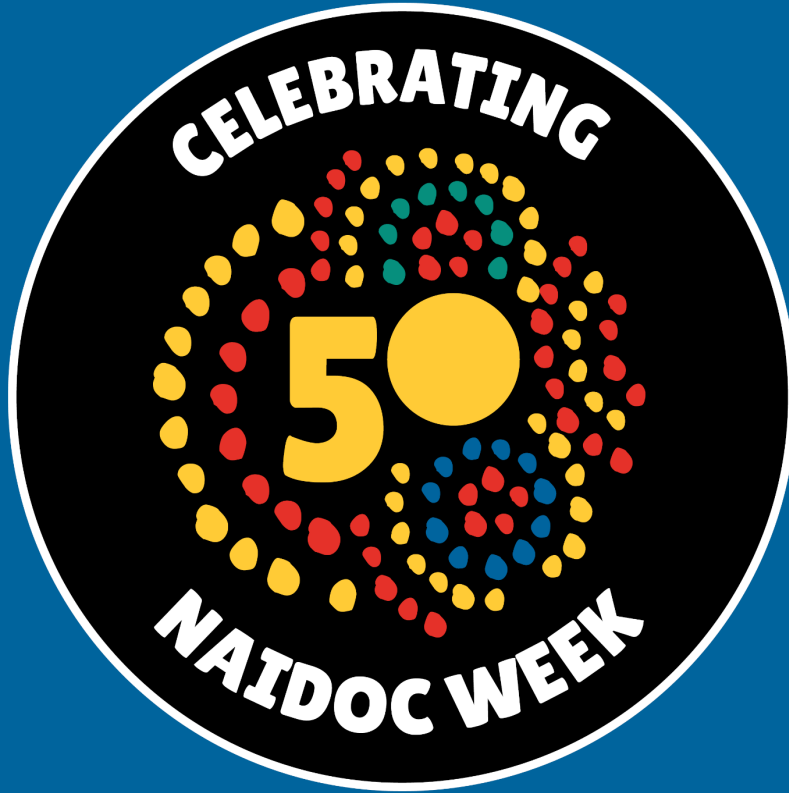
Next webinar:

Register now for Resilience Matters webinar series: Community-based disaster risk reduction: Putting communities at the centre

29 July 2026, 1.00-2.00pm AEST



Register now.



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