

NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Week Activity for 2026

Wednesday, 6 May 2026
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Program Contact:
Sarah Gilmour, Associate
Director Park Lands, Policy &
Sustainability

Approving Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City
Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on planned activities, following feedback from the Reconciliation Committee (the Committee) on 25 February 2026, to celebrate National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June 2026) ([Link 1](#)) and National NAIDOC Week (5 to 15 July 2026) ([Link 2](#)).

The theme for National Reconciliation Week is “**All In**”, while the theme for National NAIDOC Week is “**50 Years of Deadly**”.

At the Reconciliation Committee meeting on 25 February 2026, Committee Members engaged in valuable discussion about NAIDOC Week, its origins 50 years ago, and the contributions of Elders, including Kadlitpinna.

At that meeting, a commitment was made to consider how this feedback could be reflected in the 2026 National NAIDOC Week celebrations and inform future projects.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 12 May 2026 for consideration

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT COUNCIL

- 1 Notes the proposed activities to celebrate the 2026 National Reconciliation Week, between 27 May 2026 and 3 June 2026, and National NAIDOC Week, between 5 July 2026 and 12 July 2026.
 - 2 Notes that the NAIDOC Week 2026 celebrations will include a social media campaign to highlight and recognise Kurna Elders who were instrumental in our history.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community An inclusive, equitable and welcoming community where people feel a sense of belonging.
Policy	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Action 2: Build relationships through celebrating NRW. Action 9: Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories by celebrating NAIDOC Week.
Consultation	Consultation occurred with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Reconciliation Committee at Panpapanpalya on 11 February 2026.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	CoA's Reconciliation Team is staying abreast of the SA NAIDOC Committee discussions regarding opportunities for collaboration.
25/26 Budget Allocation	CoA's Annual Business Plan includes \$54,000 for NAIDOC Week 2026 activities with NRW activities supported through the Reconciliation Team operating budget.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	CoA's Annual Business Plan includes \$57,000 for NAIDOC Week 2026 activities with NRW activities supported through the Reconciliation Team operating budget. Refer also to item 6.3 in this Agenda.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The current report relates to National Reconciliation Week and National NAIDOC Week activities and celebrations in 2026.
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

National Reconciliation Week (NRW), 27 May to 3 June 2026

1. The 2026 theme for National Reconciliation Week is “**All In**”, calls for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day ([Link 1](#)).
2. The week is scheduled for Wednesday, 27 May 2026 to Wednesday, 3 June 2026.
3. Since February 2026 the details for National Reconciliation Week have evolved and are summarised in the table below:

Activity	Date (2026)	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Alignment
<p>1. Event details: Cooking Demonstrations</p> <p>Location: Adelaide Central Market (event) – Community Kitchen.</p> <p>Format: Informal, free event, no tickets required. Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Native • Cooee Native Superfood. <p>Additional Information: Prior to each event there will be a Welcome to Country, performed by a local Kaurna cultural leader.</p> <p>An Aboriginal musician will be onsite to provide entertainment at both sessions.</p> <p>The CoA will develop supporting promotional material and a gift with purchase. The gift with purchase, available throughout NRW, is a tea towel, designed by Colleen Strangways.</p> <p>The Public Art team will print a series of postcards featuring images from the artist’s Adelaide Town Hall exhibition as a cross-promotional addition to be included with the gift with purchase.</p>	<p>Friday, 29 May 2026</p> <p>Two sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunchtime: 12:00pm – 1:00pm • Evening: 6:00pm – 7:00pm 	<p>2.6 CoA commits to organising at least one NRW event each year at the Adelaide Central Market and/or Rundle Mall.</p>
<p>2. Artist Exhibition</p> <p>Location: Adelaide Town Hall.</p> <p>Format: A photographic exhibition curated and organised by CoA with artwork to be displayed throughout NRW.</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Aboriginal artist Colleen Strangways. <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>The exhibition will run concurrently with NRW activities.</p>	<p>Wednesday, 27 May to Wednesday, 3 June 2026</p>	<p>2. Build relationships through celebrating NRW.</p>

National NAIDOC Week (NAIDOC Week), 5 to 12 July 2026

4. National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
5. In 2026 the week is scheduled from Sunday, 5 July 2026 to Sunday, 12 July 2026.
6. The theme for 2026 is “**50 Years of Deadly**”.
7. At the 25 February 2026 Reconciliation Committee, Committee Members engaged in valuable discussion about NAIDOC Week, its origins 50 years ago, and the contributions of Elders, including Kadlitpinna.
8. At that meeting, an undertaking was given to further investigate ways in which to increase the recognition of pioneering Kurna Elders, including Kadlitpinna to inform future projects, including using historical information regarding and provided by Kurna Elders.
 - 8.1. In response, Administration is developing a social media campaign that will run throughout National NAIDOC week, with daily posts designed to highlight individuals who have made significant contributions but have not been formally recognised. The series will recognise both men and women, and the content will be informed by existing publicly available information, Council archives, and the Copley Collection.
 - 8.2. The Reconciliation Committee Members were invited via email to share their recommendations for names of individuals to be recognised, particularly those who have contributed to community, culture, and NAIDOC but may not yet have received public acknowledgement.
9. The CoA’s activities for National NAIDOC Week are summarised in the table below:

Activity	Date (2026)	Organiser	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Alignment
<p>1. NAIDOC in the Mall</p> <p>Location: Rundle Mall. Administration has engaged multimedia studio Polymorphic to support an Aboriginal artist in developing an artwork based on the NAIDOC theme, which will be displayed publicly in Rundle Mall. The artwork will be an immersive projection installation within a 6m x 6m tent and will offer a 2-3 minute immersive walk-through experience for the general public. The installation will be available to experience Tuesday, 7 July 2026 until Friday, 10 July 2026 inclusive.</p>	Tuesday, 7 July 2026 to Friday, 10 July 2026	CoA	<p>9.3 Deliver and support employees to participate in NAIDOC Week events in our local area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAIDOC in the Mall • Lord Mayor’s NAIDOC Awards • NAIDOC artwork commissioning.
<p>2. NAIDOC Artwork Commission</p> <p>Location: Artwork to be displayed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly in Rundle Mall at the NAIDOC in the Mall event. <p>Format: Administration has engaged the multimedia studio Polymorphic to support an Aboriginal artist in developing an immersive projection installation based on the NAIDOC theme.</p>	Tuesday, 7 July 2026 to Friday, 10 July 2026	CoA	<p>9.3 Deliver and support employees to participate in NAIDOC Week events in our local area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAIDOC in the Mall • Lord Mayors NAIDOC Awards • NAIDOC artwork commissioning.

Activity	Date (2026)	Organiser	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Alignment
<p>3. NAIDOC Week Social Media Campaign</p> <p>A social media campaign will run throughout NAIDOC week, with daily posts designed to highlight individuals who have made significant contributions but have not been formally recognised. The series will recognise both men and women, and the content will be informed by existing publicly available information, Council archives, and the Copley Collection.</p>	<p>One post per day Sunday, 5 July – Sunday, 12 July 2026 on Facebook and Instagram Stories</p>	<p>CoA</p>	<p>This activity responds to an undertaking given at the Reconciliation Committee on 25 February 2026 to further investigate ways to recognise pioneering Kurna Elders, including Kadlitpinna to inform future projects, including utilising historical information regarding and provided by Kurna Elders.</p>

Next steps

10. The City of Adelaide Reconciliation Team will continue to collaborate with the State and National NAIDOC Committees to coordinate activities.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Reconciliation Australia website – NRW theme 2026](#)

Link 2 – [National NAIDOC Week | NAIDOC](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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