



Australian High Commission

Vanuatu

Tuesday 10 July 2018

Media Release

Flag raising ceremony to mark NAIDOC Week

On Monday 9 July, the Australian High Commission marked the start of the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week by raising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags outside the Australian High Commission for the first time.

The Australian High Commission had installed two new flagpoles to accommodate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, which form a key part of Australia's identity as a nation. Two members of the Australian Defence Force raised the flags accompanied by the singing of the Australian national anthem by the High Commission choir. The moving ceremony was a fitting tribute to Australia's Indigenous heritage.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated by Australians around the world.



Members of the Australian Defence Force raise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at the Australian High Commission

This year's NAIDOC theme – *Because of her, we can* – celebrates the contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made – and continue to make – to Australian society as leaders and role models.

NAIDOC Week's origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

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