

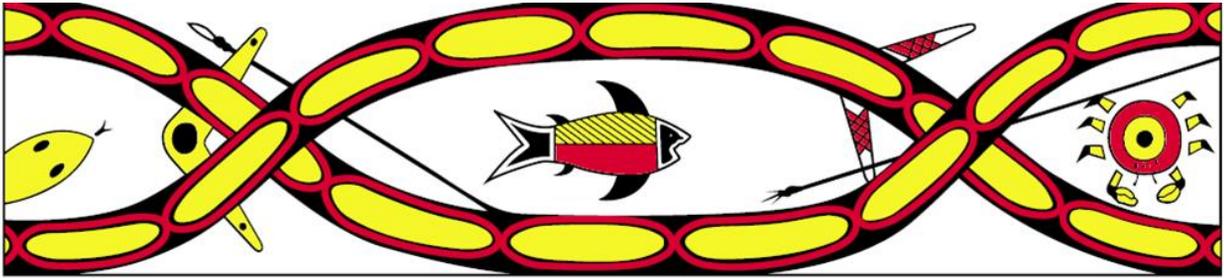
METROPOLITAN LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL



**PROTOCOLS
for
WELCOME TO COUNTRY
and
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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INTRODUCTION

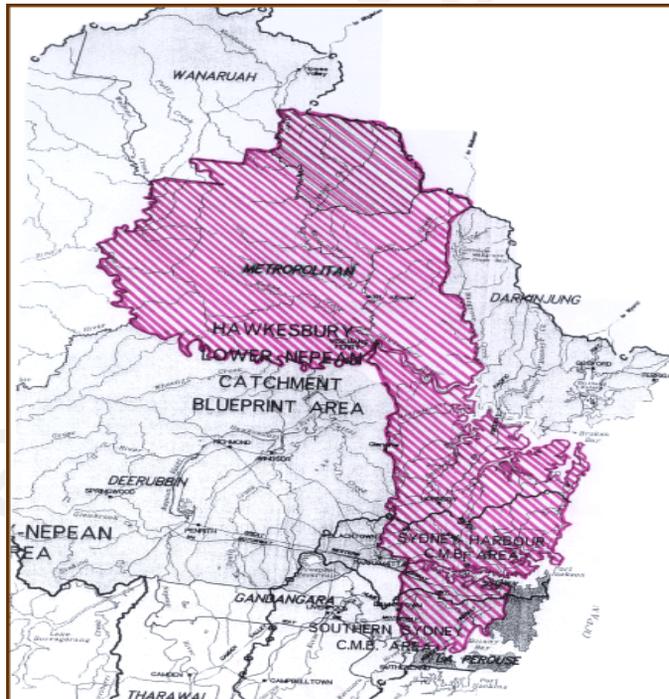
OVERVIEW & WHAT WE DO

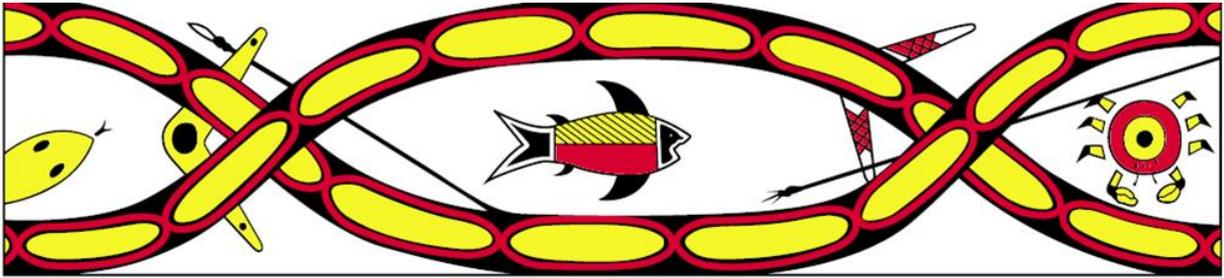
The purpose of this document is to provide all staff with an understanding of some of the important tools and protocols for working with and or consulting with and acknowledging the local Aboriginal community.

The Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) is bound by the key legislative requirements which determine the objects and functions of a LALC as contained in the amended Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA).

The LALC is an incorporated body constituted under the ALRA. The ALRA states that the objects of each Local Council's area and other persons who are members of the Council.

METROPOLITAN LALC MAP OF BOUNDARIES





SIGNIFICANCE OF WELCOME TO COUNTRY

What is a Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement

A 'Welcome to Country' (WTC) is done as a sign of respect for the traditional owners of the Land, and to give recognition to our elders both past and present.

An acknowledgement is a way for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people not from that land and/or area to show their respect to the Traditional Owners.

Example of an Acknowledgment 'The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and its members would like to acknowledge the traditional owners' of the lands within our boundaries, the 29 clan groups of the Eora Nation. We would like to pay our respects to our elders both past and present, and all Aboriginal people's within our boundaries from whatever Aboriginal nation you may come from'

Key point to remember when doing an Acknowledgment;

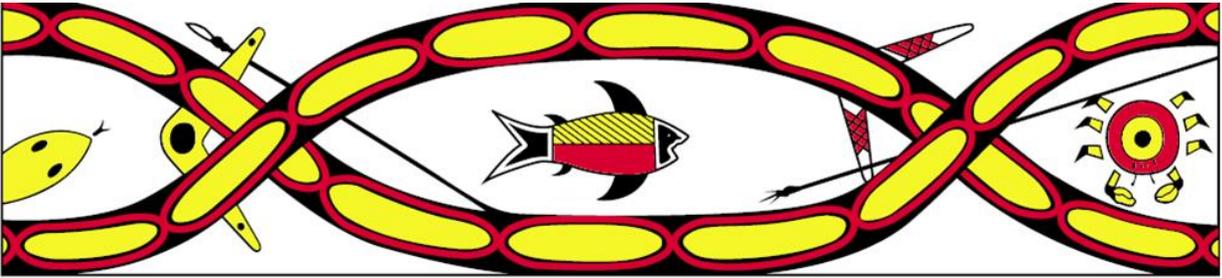
- Name
- Clan Group/Nation (check with your Local Aboriginal Land Council)
- Seeking permission to perform the Acknowledgment
- Acknowledging the local Aboriginal people/s

What is a Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement

A 'Welcome to Country' (WTC) is done as a sign of respect for the traditional owners of the Land, and to give recognition to our elders both past and present.

Who to contact or request for a Welcome to Country

Organisers of events need to contact their Local Aboriginal Land Council in their area, if you're unsure it is advisable to contact your Local Government in your Area.

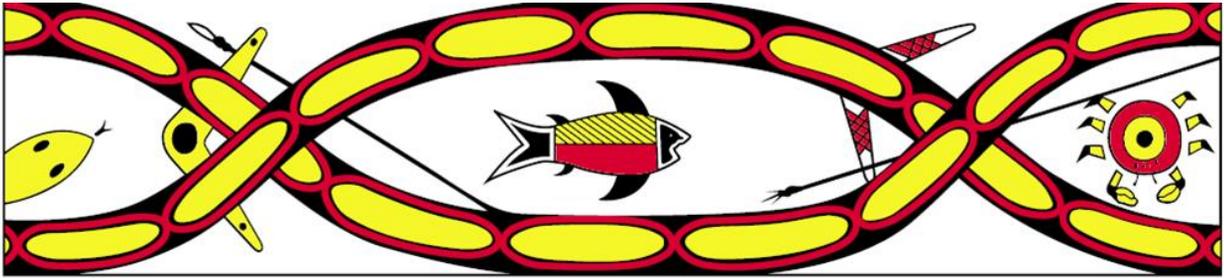


Local Government Areas in Metropolitan LALC

Within Metro's boundaries there are 24 Local Government Areas. Metro aims to build positive and constructive relationships with local government within its boundaries. We have signed Principles of Cooperation agreements with a number of Councils as a way of formalizing these relationships. Our aim is to sign a Principle of Cooperation Agreement with every Council within our Boundaries.

List of LGA's in Metropolitan LALC

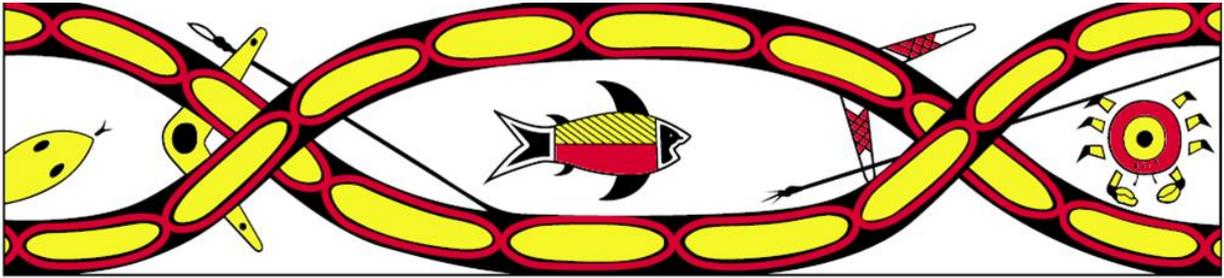
- Ashfield
- Auburn
- Bankstown
- Botany Bay
- Burwood
- Canada Bay (Principles of Cooperation signed)
- Canterbury
- Hornsby
- Hunters Hill
- Hurstville
- Ku-ring-gai
- Lane Cove (Principles of Cooperation signed)
- Leichhardt (Principles of Cooperation signed)
- Manly
- Marrickville
- Mosman
- North Sydney (Principles of Cooperation signed)
- Parramatta
- Pittwater
- Rockdale
- Ryde
- Strathfield
- Sydney City Council (Principles of Cooperation signed)
- Willoughby (Principles of Cooperation signed)
- *Sydney Harbour Foreshore (Principles of Cooperation signed)*



DATES & EVENTS

26 th January	Australia Day Survival / Invasion Day
13 th February	Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generation
21 st March	Harmony Day
25 th April	ANZAC Day
26 th May	National Sorry Day
26 th May to 3 rd June	National Reconciliation Week
3 rd June	Mabo Day
1 st July	Coming of the Light Festival (Torres Strait Islander Celebration)
First week of July	National Aboriginal & Islander Day of Celebration NAIDOC Week
4 th August	National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day
9 th August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People

Outlined above is the number of significant dates on the Aboriginal Community Calendar



DATES & EVENTS cont'd

Australia Day (26 – Jan)

Australia Day is a day of celebration for most Australians however; for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people it is a day that represents invasion, dispossession and loss of culture and sovereign rights. For this reason many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people choose to refer to Australia Day as Survival Day.

The Survival Day concept was born out of the 1988 Bicentenary Australia Day celebrations in Sydney. Many Indigenous Australians who took part in the Bicentennial marches felt they would like to have an alternative celebration which told the story of how their history and culture had survived since colonisation. The first Survival concert was held in 1992 and local Australia/Survival day ceremonies and celebrations are held annually across NSW.



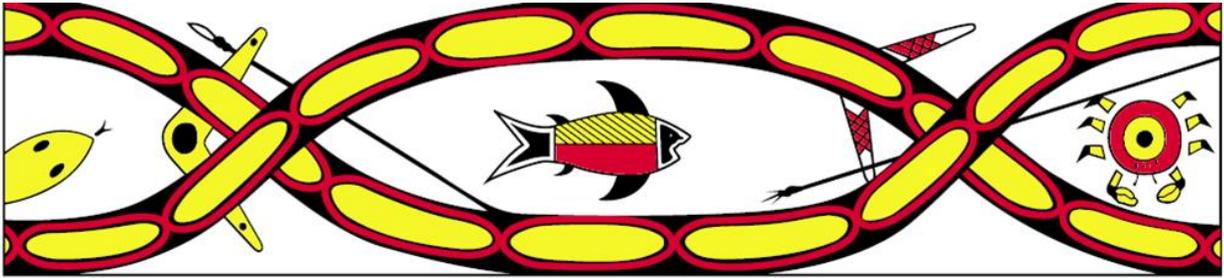
Coloured Diggers Day (25 – Apr)

A Coloured Diggers March is held during Anzac Day each year as a way of raising awareness as well as honouring and recognising the contribution Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders war veterans that were accorded to other servicemen and servicewomen but denied for so many years to Aboriginal people.

Upon their return to Australia, instead of recognition, Aboriginal Diggers received ignorance and racism, were not eligible for returned servicemen land grants or even membership of Returned Services League (RSL) clubs, and sometimes even found that the government had taken their children away while they defended their country.

The first official Coloured Diggers March was held on Anzac Day 2007 in Redfern, Sydney, with hundreds of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander veterans and their descendants marching in Sydney's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anzac Day parade.





DATES & EVENTS cont'd

National Reconciliation Week (26 – May to 3 - Jun)

Each year National Reconciliation Week celebrates the rich culture and history of the First Australians. It provides the opportunity to focus on reconciliation and to explore new and better ways of meeting challenges in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The start of the week is National Sorry Day (26 May) (a recommendation of the Stolen Generation Report) followed by the Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which removed from the Constitution clauses that discriminated against the First Australians (27 May) and the end of the week (3 Jun), Mabo Day, is the anniversary of the High Court decision in the Eddie Mabo land rights case of 1992.

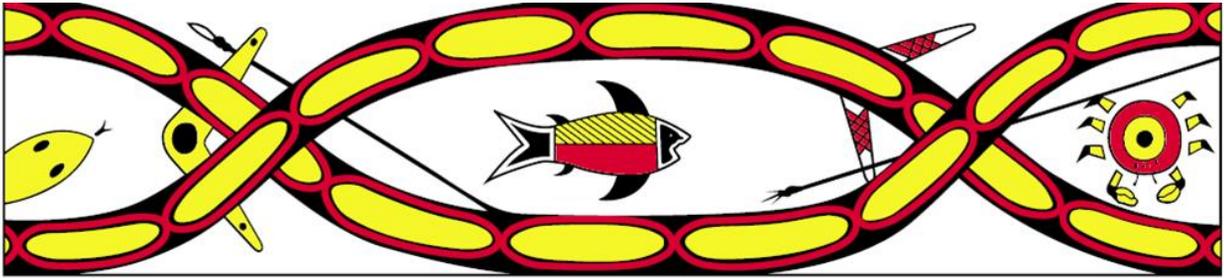


NAIDOC Week (First week in July)

National Aboriginal & Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) celebrations are held around Australia in the first full week in July to celebrate history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.

The start of the week (1 July) is the Coming of Light Festival, a significant day for many of the predominantly Christian Torres Strait Islanders, as it marks the day that the London Missionary Society first arrived in the Torres Strait.





DATES & EVENTS cont'd

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (4 - Aug)

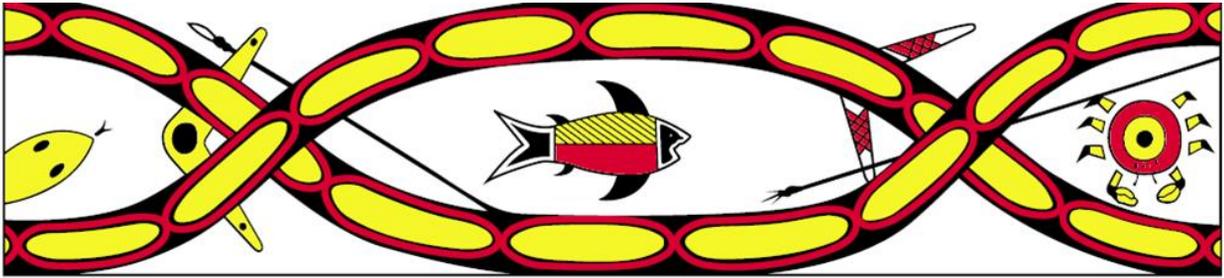
This is an annual event which aims to raise awareness of the significance of providing a safe, nurturing, and healthy environment for Indigenous children. The focus of the day is to enhance family relationships and emphasise the importance of culture for young children. Each year, the Children's Day has a theme to highlight a significant issue, concerns or hope for Aboriginal and Torres Islander children.



International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 - August)

The day recognises the value and diversity of the cultures of Indigenous communities and the contributions that they can make to humanity.





DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

Aboriginal Elders

The moral and spiritual leaders of various Aboriginal communities; they are also the teachers, who pass on their cultural knowledge, they are also known and respected in their communities.

Indigenous

The term 'Indigenous' is generally used when referring to both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

- is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
- identifies as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and
- is accepted as such by the community in which s/he lives or has lived.

Aboriginal Land Council

Aboriginal land councils represent Aboriginal affairs at state or territory level. They aim to protect the interests and further the aspirations of Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal land councils are not, as is widely believed, funded by taxpayers. The NSW Aboriginal Land Council has been self-supporting.

Tribe/Clan

- This is a local descent group, larger than a family but based on family links through common ancestry. A 'clan' is a subset of a nation.
- More appropriate word for 'tribe' to use are 'nation' or 'clan' or 'family groups'

Traditional Owners/Custodians

This is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or group of Indigenous people directly descended from the original inhabitants of a culturally defined area of land, sea, or country. Traditional Owners have a cultural association with country, which derives from traditions, observances, customs, beliefs or history of the original inhabitants of the area.