The top of the page features a vibrant background of overlapping circular patterns in shades of orange, teal, and pink, reminiscent of traditional Indigenous art. In the center, a large black circle contains the text "NAIDOC Week 2023 For our Elders" in a bold, colorful, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in four lines: "NAIDOC" (orange), "Week 2023" (teal), "For our" (pink), and "Elders" (orange).

NAIDOC Week 2023 For our Elders

Intergenerational segment

Please advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within your meeting that these resources may contain names and images of deceased persons.

This segment is designed for use with people of all ages. It is a time to celebrate and honour our Elders/elders. It includes a number of very short stories that outline the extraordinary achievements of 10 Indigenous Australian Elders. Consider how you can highlight stories of connection and unity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Choose several of these stories to use in this segment. Add in a couple of stories about Elders/elders in your own community. These might include:

- Indigenous Elders who are members of, or connected to, your corps
- Non-Indigenous elders who play an important role in your community
 - » You might like to honour those who have journeyed alongside our Indigenous brothers and sisters, fighting for justice and reconciliation
- Elders/elders of The Salvation Army

Follow up in Kids Church

Share **Deuteronomy 32:7 (CEV)** with the children, "Think about past generations. Ask your parents or any of your elders. They will tell you ..." Explain that our elders are parents and grandparents, they are leaders in the church, they are important older people in our community. They help us to learn about the past and grow into the future. In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders are very important. They help us to understand and care for our country and our people.

- Read some more of these stories with the children.
- Ask the children to name an Elder/elder who they would like to honour. It might be someone from one of the stories, or someone from their own life.
- Print copies of the 'Who are you celebrating this year?' template included below.
- Help the children to write the name of the person they are celebrating and invite them to draw a picture of that person in the box.
- With permission from the children, display the completed templates where everyone in your corps can see them.



Intergenerational segment

Ask the children:

Who is an older person that is important to you?
Why are they important?

Ask several people from other generations to answer these questions too.

Explain that this is NAIDOC Week. During NAIDOC Week we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Ask people from different generations to read each of these statements. Following each statement, ask everyone to repeat:

"We remember and pay respect to our elders."

Finish the segment with this prayer:

Creator God, we celebrate and honour our elders today. Give us wisdom to see how their stories connect with ours; how their lives impact the world that we live in and the opportunities that we have. May we be inspired to live our lives well so that we also have a positive impact on the lives of the generations to come. Amen.

Stories of Indigenous Australians

Past Elders

Share these small highlights of the lives of past Elders and encourage everyone to find out more.

Uncle David Unaipon

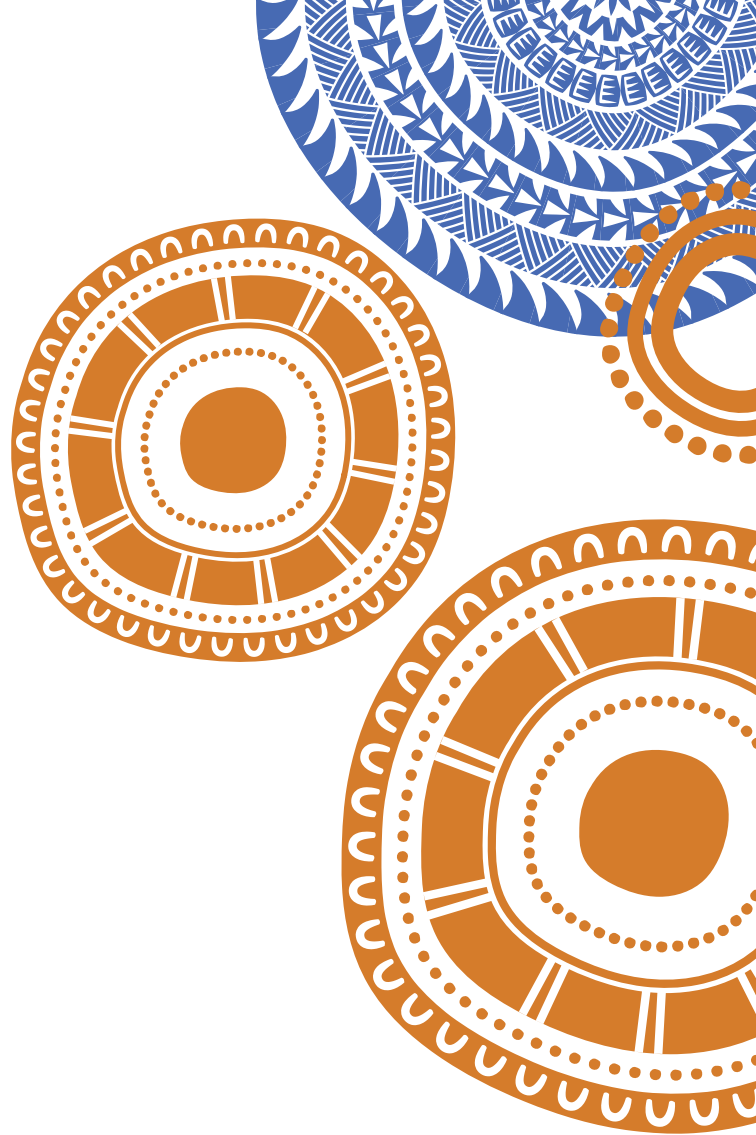
Did you know that Uncle David Unaipon was an Australian inventor and author?

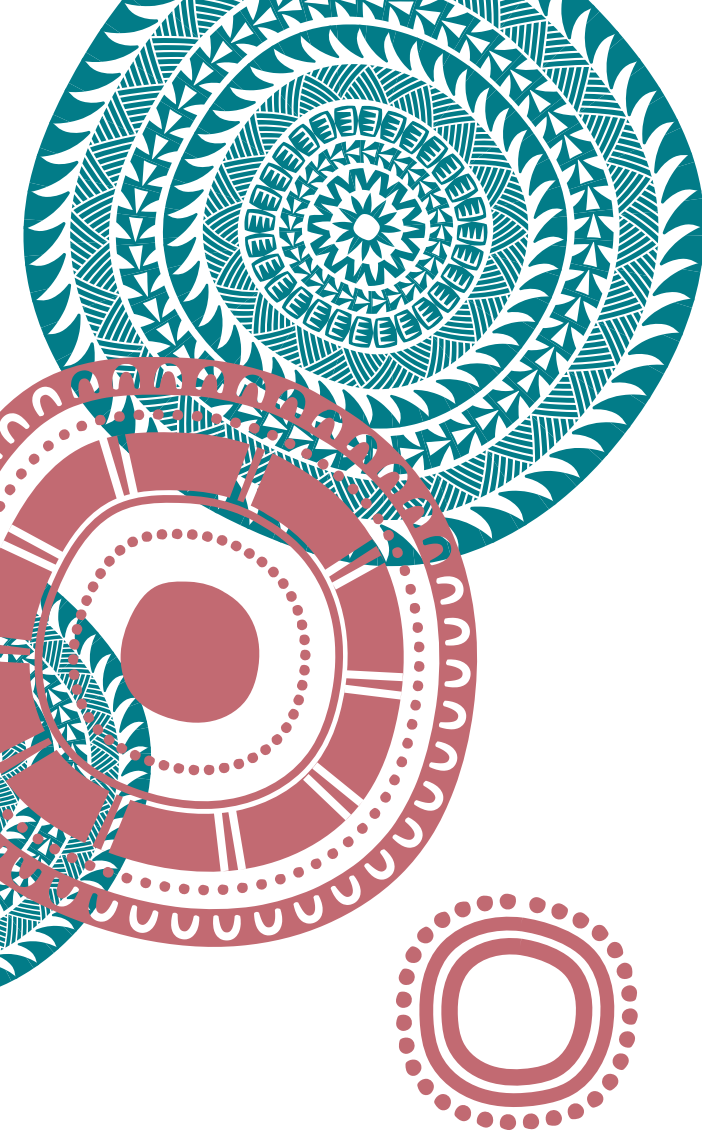
If you look at an Australian \$50 you will find a picture of Uncle David Unaipon! He created a device, in 1909, for shearing sheep that made the job much faster and easier. Many other people were able to make a lot of money because of this invention. He wrote a book and poetry and he worked hard to help Aboriginal people.

Uncle Vincent Lingiari

Imagine if someone came and took away your home and land and made you work to keep living there.

Uncle Vincent Lingiari was a Gurindji man. In 1966 he organised for around 200 of his people to stop their work and ask for fair wages and working conditions as well as the return of their land. The strike lasted for seven years before Prime Minister Gough Whitlam poured a handful of red dust through Uncle Vincent's fingers and announced that his government would give Aboriginal peoples rights to their land. Uncle Vincent and Gough Whitlam set a wonderful example of how black and white Australians can come together to bring justice.





Uncle Eddie Koiki Mabo

Imagine fighting in court for 10 years for permission to own your home – even though your family had lived there for many generations.

Eddie Koiki Mabo was born on the island of Mer in the Torres Strait. His first language was Meriam and his culture taught him respect for land and waters. One day, he discovered that Australian law said that his home island of Mer, did not belong to his family but to the Government. Mabo fought to change the law so that his people could own their home. In 1993, the High Court of Australia decided to recognise, for the first time, the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their land. This was an important step, but people still fight today to make things fair for Indigenous Australians.

Uncle Neville Bonner

I wonder if you have ever voted or seen people voting in an election?

Indigenous Australians were not allowed to vote in elections until 1962. Just nine years later, Senator Neville Bonner was the first Indigenous Australian to enter the Federal Parliament. He was a Jagera man who lived on Ukerebagh Island, Tweed Heads, New South Wales. He represented Queensland in the Senate for 12 years.

Lady Gladys Nicholls

Did you know that we can learn how to live well by watching how older people live?

Lady Gladys was a leading Aboriginal activist whose dedicated community service and commitment to advancing Aboriginal rights inspired many, particularly young women. She worked hard to ensure that those around her were given every opportunity to reach their full potential. Her example helped others to be strong when they faced challenges too.

Uncle/Sir Doug Nicholls

Did you know that the home ground of the Fitzroy Stars football club in Victoria is known as the Sir Doug Nicholls Oval?

Sir Doug Nicholls was a Yorta Yorta man. He overcame trauma, racism and prejudice to become a champion runner, boxer and football player. He was also a pastor, activist and Governor of South Australia! Together with his wife Lady Gladys Nicholls, Sir Doug fought for the rights of Aboriginal peoples in Australia.

Uncle William Cooper

Did you know that the beginnings of NAIDOC Week go as far back as 1938?

William Cooper led a national Aboriginal movement that called for Aboriginal voices to be heard in parliament. In 1938 he helped to organise a protest march a week before Australia Day. This was called the Day of Mourning. Eventually, this became NAIDOC Day then, as we know it today, NAIDOC Week.



Present Elders

Consider reaching out (via your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement coordinator) and inviting these Elders, who are currently serving their communities, to tell their own stories.

Uncle Vince Ross

Uncle Vince Ross, a Muthi Muthi man, joined the Salvos when he was 12, after seeing how they cared for people experiencing homelessness in his community. By 17, he was a leader and bandmaster in his corps. In 2020, he received the Order of the Founder – the highest award that a person can receive in The Salvation Army – for his lifelong work towards reconciliation and unity. Uncle Vince is also the creator of the Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Geelong. This is a place where people can learn, grow and heal together.

Aunty Diane Riley-McNaboe and Associate Professor Lynette Riley

Did you know that, for many years, Aboriginal peoples were forbidden to speak their own languages?

When Aunty Diane Riley-McNaboe was a child, she would listen to some of her Elders secretly speak their language. As she grew up, she spent hours working hard to learn her Wiradjuri language. She and her sister wondered how other children who grew up off Country would connect with their language and culture. Now Aunty Diane, and her sister, Aunty Lyn, work together to teach others.

Aunty Rhonda Collard Spratt

Imagine being taken away from your family at the age of three and sent to live with strangers.

Rhonda Collard Spratt is a Noongar-Yamatji woman who lives in Ipswich in Queensland. She grew up apart from her family and her land after being removed from her family when she was three years old. Aunty Rhonda is a storyteller and author of children's books that help to keep Aboriginal culture and teachings alive. Her stories honour our First Nations peoples, their lore, and their kinship with our bush animals and this sacred land.

Aunty Jean Phillips

"Your history is our history, our history is your history."

Aunty Jean is an Indigenous Australian Elder and has been a senior Aboriginal Christian leader for over 60 years. She has served those living in poverty, helping us to understand the need for better housing and employment, as well as raising awareness about the truth of Australia's history. Aunty Jean has made a significant contribution to building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.



Who are you celebrating this year?



Who are you celebrating this year?

