

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Friday, 1 July 2016

---

## University to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2016

In celebration of NAIDOC Week 2016 (July 3 – 10), the University of Tasmania will proudly recognise Aboriginal culture and heritage with engaging lectures, activities and community events.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Aboriginal Research and Leadership) Professor Maggie Walter said the week would bring the University community together to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

“NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for us to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture, past and present, as a part of who we all are as Australians and Tasmanians,” Professor Walter said.

Head of Service for the University’s Riawunna Centre Caroline Spotswood said NAIDOC Week was a significant time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to share their stories and experiences with their families and the community.

“The Riawunna Centre is instrumental in arranging NAIDOC activities, bringing University staff, Aboriginal community members and other service providers together across the three campuses to reflect, enjoy and participate in cultural activities,” Ms Spotswood said.

The week will feature the second annual Japanangka errol West Indigenous Scholar public lecture, to honour the life and work of the late Tasmanian Aboriginal academic and internationally-recognised poet and scholar.

*Pedagogy of Aloha – Trusting in our Native Traditions* will be presented by native Hawaiian scholar Dr. Kū Kahakalau, an award-winning educator, visionary, researcher, song-writer and expert in Hawaiian language, history and culture.

Aunty Kū and her husband Nālei have spent the past three decades creating and testing various components of a Hawaiian system of education that is culturally-driven, family-oriented and place-based.

The lecture will be held in the Seminar Space (D201-202) at Burnie's Cradle Coast campus from 5.30pm on Tuesday 5 July, the Newnham Campus' Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre from 5.30pm on Wednesday 6 July and in the Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre on the Sandy Bay campus from 5.30pm on Thursday, 7 July.

Other activities at the University's campuses across the state include:

- Burnie: A flag raising on 6 July and cultural display on 8 July at the Cradle Coast campus
- Launceston: A men's workshop (Trevallyn Reserve) and a women's workshop (firebowl making) on 5 July at Inveresk, followed by a natural dyeing workshop at Riawunna Launceston on the Newnham campus on 6 July
- Hobart: Staff and students will attend a BBQ and celebration on Thursday 7 July at Riawunna at Hytten Hall, Sandy Bay campus

NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) originates from the 1938 'Day of Mourning' Aboriginal protest led by William Cooper through the streets of Sydney to present a national policy for Aboriginal people to Prime Minister Joseph Lyons.

The day was marked annually from 1940 and in 1955 'Aborigines Day' was moved to the first Sunday in July and realigned as a day of celebration, and became a week-long event in 1974.

For a full calendar of the University's NAIDOC Week events, visit <https://secure.utas.edu.au/events/2016/july/naidoc-week-celebrations>

**Information released by:**

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: (03) 6226 2124

Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)