

Tjapukai

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL PARK

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Community NAIDOC Celebrations at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park

Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park hosted over 1300 people in the park on 10th July, 2008 for the first 'NAIDOC Week Tjapukai Cultural Day'. Activities for the day included spear throwing, boomerang throwing, fire making, canoe racing, tug of war, face painting, cultural dance performances, and colouring in. The traditional Kup Murri lunch which was served in the Cultural Village sold out, and the car park was over flowing. "It was fantastic to see the community come together in good spirits as one. It was a great family day," said David Hudson, one of the original founders.

In addition to the week long activities organized by the NAIDOC committee, the annual NAIDOC Dinner was held at Tjapukai on 12th July, 2008. Two hundred guests including Mayor Val Schier, Jim Turnour MP, Steve Wettenhall MP, and Councillor Diane Forsyth experienced the Tjapukai by Night dinner and dance show, including the sumptuous international buffet dinner in the Boomerang Restaurant. The live band along with MC David Hudson kept the entertainment going until late.

NAIDOC celebrations are held in Australia in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The term NAIDOC once stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee' who were responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and since then, the acronym has become the name of the week of celebration. Non indigenous communities including government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces also celebrate NAIDOC.

Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park offers a truly unique experience, providing visitors with a showcase of indigenous culture, using authentic dance and music, enhanced by special effects.

For more information on Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park telephone 07 4042 9900 or visit www.tjapukai.com.au.

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