



NAIDOC
8-15 Nov, 2020

**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**



RAINBOW NETWORK NEWS

NAIDOC 2020 EDITION

To mark NAIDOC week 2020, we have put together this resource for you to download and to share.

It is a compilation including all of the stories, resources and services, relevant to young LGBTQIA+ indigenous folk, that we have shared in the Indigenous Voices section of our newsletter in 2020. We have produced this material in collaboration with our young, queer, indigenous guest contributor, Courtney Hagen.

Rainbow Network acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the lands on which we work and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Warm regards,
Rainbow Network

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Introduction

By Courtney Hagen

NAIDOC, the week of celebration - celebration of a culture rich and vibrant, standing strong and resilient after a long period of 200+ years fighting for our lives.

This week is about recognising this resilience and acknowledging the work we still all need to do at a personal, community, government and international level to continue to support the healing and empower the disempowered. 70,000 years of history run deep through my DNA, through my family's bloodlines and through the unwavering, echoing vibrations through the country we all call home.

This country and my people have survived ice ages without bunkers and electricity, their own pandemics of disease, violence and trauma brought on by colonization - the effects of which still ripple through the generations with our babies expected to undo the damage.

Resilience is what we celebrate, standing strong and being our complete selves is how we best celebrate culture. The theme of 'Always was, always will be' embodies that resilience and celebrates the oldest living and continuing culture in the world. Aren't we so incredibly lucky to be living on this land? I can't wait to celebrate that in this dedicated week, and every single day.

I invite those who celebrate NAIDOC alongside us this week to reflect on how you can celebrate and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 365 days a year. As we all know, education is power, action can be taken on many levels to support the First Nations people of this country daily.



INDIGENOUS VOICES

Introducing Courtney Hagen

My name is Courtney Hagen, I am a proud Butchulla and Gubbi Gubbi Woman from country Queensland, now living in Wurundjeri country in Naarm (Melbourne). My passion for creating awareness and safe spaces for queer mob stems from my own personal journey understanding my own sexuality.

I've been very lucky to connect with so many people across the community through sport and our podcast Coming Out, Blak. Matika and I created this podcast and social media channels to share stories about Queer Mob who identify within the LGBTQIA+ community, to create representation and share conversation.



Courtney Hagen



You can find the podcase,
[Coming Out, Blak](#) here.

Or follow it here:



Pep Phelan

By Courtney Hagen

'For Indigenous LGBTIQ people, being both Indigenous and identifying as LGBTIQ creates a unique experience where the extensive health and socioeconomic disparities identified are compounded'

- Pep Phelan MRCAA (2020).

Our young LGTBQIA+ First Nations Mob are one of the most at risk groups during this pandemic. Pep discusses this in a recent article highlighting that LGBTI people are among the most vulnerable and marginalised in many societies, and among those most at risk from COVID-19.

Pep is a proud Aboriginal woman who identifies as a lesbian, one of many incredible trailblazing academics who are also a part of the LGBTQIA community.

On our recent episode of 'Coming out, Blak' I was able to interview Pep about her story, Indigenous academia and issues within LGBTQIA+ Indigenous data in health research. Listen [here ...](#)



Aretha Brown

Aretha Brown

By Courtney Hagen

You can't be what you can't see - we always hear it and talk about the importance of representation and when we think of idols we think of legends like June Oscar, Adam Goodes or Senator Pat Dodson. Incredible figures who have been fighting for a lifetime for our mob.

But I wanted to share something this month a little different, at the ripe old age of 25 I have found myself inspired by someone significantly younger than me, which is a strange notion given what we have learned over the years to look up to our elders.

This young person is no other than Aretha Stewart-Brown, an activist,

model, artist and creator. Aretha was also former Prime Minister of the National Indigenous Youth Parliament.

Born in the year 2000, Aretha identifies as Queer and discusses many different topics through her artwork which can be seen at the NGV and various train stations in the Western Suburbs.

Additionally Aretha shares advice, information and perspectives through her Instagram and Youtube pages. I recently watched this ABC interview where Aretha shares the advice she would give her 12 year old self, so much of it I wish I was told, but all of it still rings true to this day. In a time when I've felt very disconnected from people, mob and community, Aretha's passion is so infectious and energising I feel right at home. You definitely won't regret following her social media channels.

Follow her here:



Artist Profile:

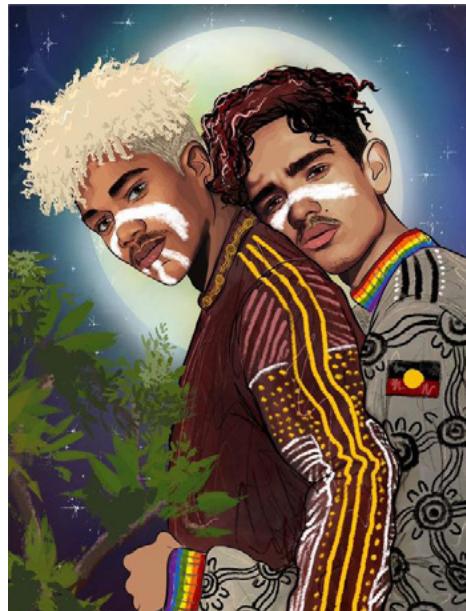
Dylan Mooney

By Rainbow Network

Dylan Mooney is a 24 year old, queer, contemporary indigenous artist who lives and works on Quandamooka country in Brisbane. He creates powerful characters in his work and shares stories of struggle, pride and resilience.

Dylan's work is richly detailed and celebrates the beauty of queer connection and the strength within first nations communities. It is definitely worth checking out his Instagram and Facebook pages for some inspiration and a fresh representation of queer, first nations young people.

Follow him here:



Artwork by Dylan Mooney



Artwork by Dylan Mooney



Artwork by Dylan Mooney



Artist Profile: Indiah Money

By Rainbow Network

Indiah Money is a queer, Wiradjuri, non-binary artist. Their practice is multi-disciplinary and includes written, visual and performance work.

You can read some of Indiah's poetry in the Indigenous run magazine, [Under Bunjil](#) and in the Indigenous edition of

[Rabbit Poetry](#).



Indiah Money - photo by Edwina Green from Archer Magazine

Indiah has performed as a drag king at Hamar Hall as part of [dis rupt](#) in the [YIRRAMBOI](#) Festival in 2019. In this [article](#) they wrote for Archer Magazine, Indiah shares some their experiences along the journey to throwing off the colonial construct of binary gender and changing their pronouns.

Indiah currently has work online as part of an exhibition presented by Grey Gardens Gallery, a queer project space named after the cult documentary [film](#) of the same name. The film is an intimate depiction of an eccentric mother and daughter in the face of dire circumstances and isolation and the artists in this exhibition have been invited to reflect on the film and on their own response to the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indiah's space in the exhibition can be found [here](#).



OPPORTUNITIES

Black Rainbow

Futures Fund

By Rainbow Network

Black Rainbow have created an Indigenous LGBTIQSB Futures Fund with grant funding from Google.org's global initiative to support LGBTQ+ organisations worldwide.

The Futures Fund has been created to support self-selected career development and enhancement opportunities across all professions for Indigenous LGBTIQSB community members aged 15-35 years. From 2021-25, Black Rainbow will provide grants of up to \$1000 to four Indigenous LGBTIQSB recipients each year with 20 individual grants in total. Read more [here](#).



Black Rainbow - photo from Instagram



Bushrangers Basketball Club

By Courtney Hagen

Movement has always been an incredible outlet for me, whether it's going for a quick walk or throwing a ball for my dog in the backyard. Since the tender age of 5 I've been involved in organised sport in and out of school and the lifelong friendships and life lessons learned in such a safe environment have forever shaped me.

Sport or recreational activity provides a great environment for individuals to be a part of a community. The mental health benefits of positive social interactions and movement speak for themselves.

In the spotlight this month is Bushrangers Basketball Club. These legends pride themselves on creating safe spaces for LGBTIQA+ basketballers and their allies to play community sport. They are seeking to generate interest in all players in the LGBTIQA+ community (and allies) who are disengaged in sporting activity or looking for a safe space to play basketball.

They have a strong focus on supporting the inclusion of transgender and gender diverse players. I've recently joined this club and have enjoyed every second of it, within the club there is an awesome mix of skill from absolute beginners to masters of the sport. With organised sport hopefully coming back in the coming months, our young people will see a tenfold of benefits in human connection by jumping into a sport or recreational activity. Find out more [here](#).



Bushrangers Basketball Club



POSTER DOWNLOADS

Posters to Celebrate LGBTI+ Blakfullas

Zoe Belle Gender Collective, Thorne Harbour Health and Elizabeth Morgan House have worked together with Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa artist **Charlotte Allingham**, to create some beautiful posters which celebrate LGBTIQ+ First Nations communities.

The posters are now available free to download from:
Thorne Harbour Health
and
Zoe Belle Gender Collective.



What is LGBTIQ?

This is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer.
Below is a brief explanation what LGBTIQ means.

LESBIAN This term is used to describe women who experience sexual, romantic, and emotional attraction to other women. Some women may also refer to themselves as Gay and when doing so the same definition *below applies, but in a female context.

GAY This term is used to describe men who experience sexual, romantic, and emotional attraction to other men. *As above women, who are Lesbians may also use the term Gay to describe themselves.

BISEXUAL Bisexuality is an umbrella term for people who experience sexual, romantic, and emotional attraction to people of two or more genders. The term pansexual is also used to describe forms of attraction that are not limited to male or female.

TRANSGENDER Transgender is an umbrella term that describes people that do not identify with the gender they are assigned at birth. This includes transgender men and women, gender fluid (flexible) identified, and a range of other gender diverse identities. Sistergirl and Brotherboy can also be used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Transgender people. See below.

SISTERGIRL Sistergirl is considered to be a culturally, as well as socially, accepted term to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Transgender people who identify as female.

BROTHERBOY Brotherboy is considered to be a culturally, as well as a socially, accepted term to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Transgender people who identify as male.

INTERSEX Intersex people are those who are biologically gender variant. Intersex Human Rights Australia defines Intersex people as those who are born with physical sex characteristics that don't fit medical and social norms for female or male bodies.

QUEER Queer is sometimes used as an umbrella term for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. Queer is an umbrella term that includes people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. These terms are deemed too limited. For example, people may identify their gender as "genderqueer" or "non-binary" as they do not primarily or permanently identify as male or female.

Artist – Joy Delaney
BLACKRAINBOW © living well

Indigenous LGBTIQSB Glossary Posters

Black Rainbow recently paid several Indigenous LGBTIQSB artists for the license to use images of their work to act as back drops to glossary posters. Packs of 6 were sent out to 150+ Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander organisations nationwide. The glossary posters are now available to download to free. Sign up to get them [here](#).



SERVICES & GROUPS

Groups and SERVICES for First Nations LGBTQI+ Folk

This Australia wide list of services for First Nations LGBTQI+ Folk has been compiled by

Elizabeth Morgan House.

Listed alphabetically:

Service/group: Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander Mardi Gras History

Location: Facebook

About: A public Facebook group providing a platform to share memories and photos of Mardi Gras parades and to contribute to the online timeline, 'History of First Peoples entries in the Sydney Mardi Gras parade.'

Contact: [Facebook](#)

Service/group: Black Rainbow

Location: Based in Darwin but provides national advocacy.

About: Black Rainbow is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Sistergirl and Brotherboy

(LGBTQI+SB) organisation in the pursuit of positive health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQI+SB. An advocacy platform and a touch-point for the community, Black Rainbow originally focused on suicide prevention, but they have expanded their horizons and now offer more including trainings and project grants.

Contact: [www.blackrainbow.org.au](#)

Service/group: BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation

Location: Sydney and Facebook

About: BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation was established as a collective response to the identified need for strengthened visibility of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQ+ community. Their aim is to foster pathways that provide informed and authentic representation, that positively impacts the social and emotional wellbeing of their community. BlaQ are currently conducting a research project into the experiences of LGBTQ+

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

They also have a Facebook community group.

Contact: [www.blaq.org.au](#) or [Facebook](#)

Service/group: Elizabeth Morgan House

Location: Melbourne

About: Elizabeth Morgan House

(EMH) provides refuge accommodation and specialist family violence services to Aboriginal women and their children. Their support also extends to parents of Aboriginal children, as well as partners and ex-partners of Aboriginal people. EMH welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, non-binary, sistergirls, brotherboys, intersex and two spirit queer folk who identify as women or feel comfortable accessing a women's service.

Contact: [www.emhaws.org.au](#)

Ph: (03) 9403 9400

E: info@emhaws.org.au



Service/group: First Nations Rainbow
Location: NSW and Facebook
About: An organization providing advocacy, support and connection. First Nations Rainbow brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who also identify as brotherboys, sistergirls or as part of the LGBTQI community to be able to strengthen community, improve wellbeing and reduce stigma and discrimination. They also have a Facebook community page.
Contact:
www.firstnationsrainbow.org.au
or [Facebook](#)

Service/group: IndigiLez
Location: Based in Queensland but provides national advocacy.
About: IndigiLez Leadership and Support Group formed in 2008 and has since become one of Queensland's prominent social support group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lesbians and same sex attracted women. Online yarning circles run on a regular basis.
Contact:
www.yarnsheal.com.au/indigilez

Service/group: Koorie Pride Network
Location: Facebook
About: Koorie Pride is a Facebook community which supports LGBTQIASB+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Victoria. This page is open to all LGBTQIASB+ peoples and allies. They also host a private group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTISBQ mob.
Contact: [Facebook](#)
or allisont@vaccho.org.au

Service/group: Kurbingui
Location: Greater Brisbane, Moreton Bay and Southeast Regions of Queensland.
About: Kurbingui Youth and Family Development is a Not-For-Profit Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation providing Family, Community, Cultural, Education, Training and Social Wellbeing Services
Contact: www.kurbingui.org.au

Service/group: LGBT+ Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People
Location: Facebook
About: A private group for LGBT+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people providing connection and support and discussion around available supports and health services.
Contact: [Facebook](#)

Service/group: National Indigenous Critical Response Service - crisis phone line
Location: National
About: The National Indigenous Critical Response Service has been funded by the Commonwealth Government of Australia to provide a critical response to support individuals, families and communities affected by suicide or other trauma that is culturally responsive to their needs. This service is LGBTISBQ safe.

Contact: 1800 805 801
or [website](#)



Service/group: Sistergirls and Brotherboys

Location: Facebook

About: A private Facebook group predominantly for sistergirls, brotherboys, 2 spirit, trans and gender diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. A supportive space for people transitioning, considering transitioning or who have transitioned. Generally queer friendly this group includes non-Indigenous LGBTIQ+ community members as well.

Contact: [Facebook](#)

Service/group: Strong Brother Strong Sister

Location: Victoria

About: Strong Brother Strong Sister is a community group that holds regular yarns and info sessions for young LGBTISBQ mob and provides opportunities for young rainbow mob to connect and share experiences in a safe space. They have also received funding to support 50+ young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (which includes LGBTISBQ) who are at risk of suicide, child protection intervention, or who

are experiencing family violence or serious alcohol and other drug problems.

Contact: [website](#)

To refer young people at risk:

Cormach Evans, Director

P: 0497 642 927

E: cormach@strongbrotherstrong-sister.com

LGBTISBQ Support group

referrals contact April or Wadi.

E: april@strongbrotherstrongsis-ter.com

E: wadi@strongbrotherstrongsis-ter.com

and Brotherboy community. It's about sharing stories and reaching out to our loved ones and Community Cultural Connectors when times are tough. This service also provides referrals.

Contact: www.yarnsheal.com.au

E: info@yarnsheal.com.au

Service/group: Tiddas 4 Tiddas

Location: Online community

About: Tiddas 4 Tiddas is an online community to connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women (including anyone who identifies as a woman, non-binary, sistergirls) and share their stories.

Contact: [website](#)

Service/group: Yarns Heal

Location: Based in Queensland but offers services nationally.

About: Yarns Heal is a suicide prevention campaign for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl

