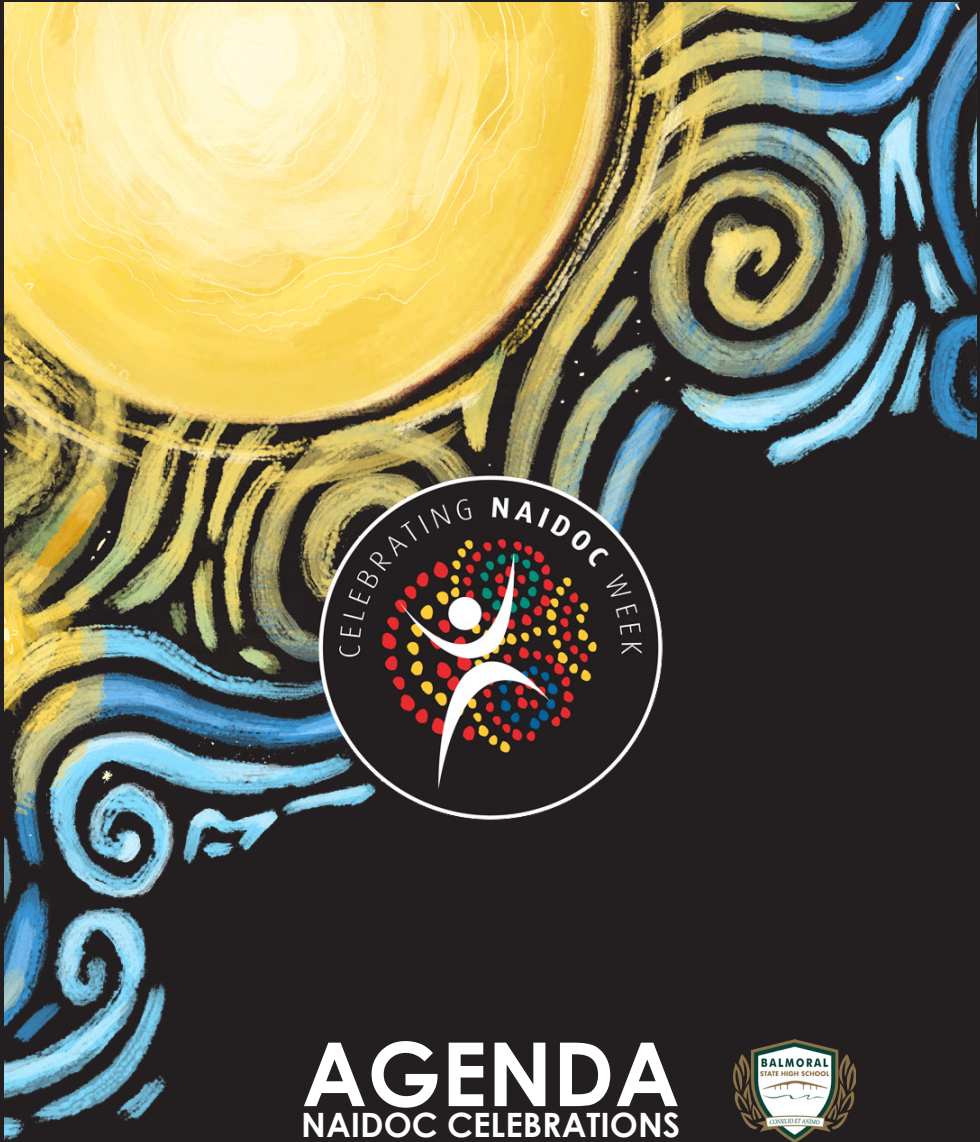


# Welcome

We begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. This week, we come together to celebrate and honour the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Today’s panel will reflect on 50 years of NAIDOC and is a chance to listen, learn and reflect as we hear from voices who carry deep knowledge, lived experience and cultural wisdom.

We thank our panelists for sharing their stories and continuing to ignite strength and spirit across generations.



All participation in activities throughout the week is an entry into the draw for the custom First Nations designed skateboard!

MONDAY	_____	Cookie Decorating at the Deadly Room Guest Panel (Whole School Assembly)
TUESDAY	_____	Traditional Games with Deadly Choices at the Oval
WEDNESDAY	_____	Boomerang Hunt (All Week)*
THURSDAY	_____	Weaving Bracelets in the iBlock forecourt
FRIDAY	_____	Skateboard winner announced!

\*Find a Boomerang around the school grounds and return it to the office for a prize!





# MEET OUR GUEST PANEL



**Gaja (Aunty) Kerry Charlton**



Gaja (Aunty) Kerry is a proud Yagarabul Elder and Traditional Owner with cultural connections to the Quandamooka, Kabi Kabi, Yuggera Ugarapul peoples, and the Gulf region.

She is a respected Language Fellow, podcaster, and cultural leader whose work includes the Wulara-Nguru historical language mapping project, Women of Brisbane with Judy Watson, contributions to Meanjin (Winter 2023), and the prestigious title of Brisbane NAIDOC Elder of the Year (2025).

We are honoured to welcome Aunty Kerry to Balmoral this Monday as part of our NAIDOC celebrations.



**Karina Hogan**

Karina is a proud Aboriginal and South Sea Islander woman, journalist, and respected community engagement specialist. She serves on the boards of the Queensland Children’s Hospital and Foundation, advocating for the wellbeing of all children, and is the current Chair of BlakDance – supporting the growth of First Nations performing arts.

Through her business, Kree Consultancy, Karina leads powerful work in cultural safety, storytelling, and engagement. She is also a talented facilitator, MC, and documentary creator with a passion for connecting with people from all walks of life.



**Kiana Charlton**

A proud Goenpul/Yagara Goori with strong ties to North Stradbroke Island and Brisbane, she is a dedicated educator and mother of two. With over 10 years of teaching experience, she has worked across various school systems and now teaches Cultural Studies at Dunwich State School and Cleveland District State High School.

Motivated by the lack of First Nations truth in curricula, she earned a Master’s in Indigenous Education and a Master’s in Guidance and Counselling, deepening her focus on truth-telling and intergenerational trauma. Her efforts were recognised with the Brisbane NAIDOC Education Award in 2022.



**Jesse Green**

A proud Butchulla/Woppaburra/Gunditjmara man from Brisbane, co-founded Yilay with his partner Kirrily to create a 100% Indigenous-owned, culturally appropriate apparel and signage company.

With a strong background in Indigenous community engagement through AFLQ and the Cape York Leaders Program, Jesse is passionate about youth empowerment and healthy lifestyles. He also ran JG Fitness, promoting wellness in Brisbane. Drawing on his sporting experience in AFL and Touch football, Jesse brings expertise in functional, high-quality garments.

Through Yilay, he aims to support communities while providing bespoke products with purpose, and values both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community support.



**Zhanae Dodd**

Zhanae Dodd is a proud Ghungalu, Wadja, Birri, Wiri/Widi and Kaanju woman belonging to the gurubil skin group from Central Queensland. She is passionate about cultural sovereignty, justice, and Indigenous-led futures.

Zhanae is the co-founder of Yoora Maltha, a global Aboriginal-led movement advancing human rights, treaty, and systems reform. She also leads Guyala Yimba, a storytelling consultancy, and founded Burri Energy, a climate justice tech start-up that centres Indigenous knowledge.

As a member of Generation Justice, she has taken a landmark climate rights complaint to the United Nations and continues to be nationally recognised for her powerful youth advocacy and leadership. Zhanae regularly speaks in media and public spaces, unapologetically centring Indigenous truths and calling for systems built on justice, respect, and self-determination.