



**True
Sport**

Cultural Education
Initiative

COOLBELLUP AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB NAIDOC ROUND CASE STUDY

WHY NAIDOC ROUND MATTERS

This round is important to the club because we pride ourselves on our mob coming together all year round to showcase our solitude, camaraderie, kinship and community connections.

Most of our family members have played at and represented this club with pride and sportsmanship, we have lost a few past players throughout the years and when we pull on those colours we show our collective love for those who wore the “Blue & White Hoops” before us.

Each week the team behind the scenes ensure that we all are afforded the opportunity to play games for this amazing club, Saturdays represent family, friends, future and this year we are chasing multiple flags.

*“We Are One,
We Are Cooby.”*



Image Credit: Kiara Blake





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WHAT THE CLUB DOES

Over the recent years we have held a dance performance prior to games being played, it is usually held between the Women's and Reserves games, allowing time for all our beloved supporters to come down and enjoy the event.

Usually prior to the commencement of each game there is a gift exchange in honour of our Elders and maintenance of respect for our opposition on the day.

We have an Indigenous design that we all wear proudly and continue to do so each year.



Image Credit: Kiara Blake



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IMPACT ON THE CLUB

Recent opportunities have provided observations that we as a strong and resilient community come together for each other, displaying pride, ownership and standing together for the cause of what NAIDOC round means to all our First Nations communities.

We have our brothers and sisters from all different backgrounds who come down here and share in our culture, yet we include them in everything Cooby as we are and have always been an inclusive sporting club.

The club is a predominantly First Nations club, we have brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, nephews and nieces all donning the Cats guernsey.

We often get our nearby neighbours watching our training sessions and games with pride that the footy club is still operating in it's 51st year as a club and we have a strong Women's side to add to our repertoire.



LEARNING & GROWTH

It is amazing to see all the different families coming together for this round, especially when all the young people attending always have a football in hand and kicking it around on the sidelines.

There has been an occurrence where we had to disband our Colts team due to low numbers in that age group, allowing us to form our 3rds Men's team, most recently it was a difficult decision to make for the club to pull the pin on that one as well, yet I am certain we can get there again next year and keep building the great club culture that we have here at Cooby

"I have always been proud of who I am and where I come from, I was born in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) so I've experienced culture from day one and share it with my community daily."

ADVICE FOR OTHER CLUBS

If you are looking to start, I would say the time is now, hold those conversations and get as many of our First Nations community members involved from the beginning, we all must start somewhere I always say.

Get committee members to reach out and ask anyone wanting to be involved in the implementation of this amazing round, that's a spark for the conversation.

Hold the space and don't give up, keep talking about it and eventually it will find traction.



Image Credit: Kiara Blake

