



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PROVIDES BOOKS TO RUPP LIBRARY TO
RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

On the occasion of NAIDOC Week 2013, on 12 July Mr Dave Gordge, the Acting Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy, presented two books on Australian Aboriginal art, to the Hun Sen Library at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

The Australian Embassy hopes these books will be an ongoing resource for Cambodians wishing to learn more about Australia's rich Indigenous culture.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia and the world each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Australia's Indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Australia's Aboriginal people arrived from Asia at least 50,000 years ago. They formed many different tribes and were largely nomadic hunters and gatherers.

Torres Strait Islander peoples first settled on islands north of the mainland, between the tip of Queensland and Papua New Guinea, about 10,000 years ago.

Today most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples live in cities and towns, but many still live in rural and remote areas and follow traditional lifestyles.

Indigenous culture is diverse and strong, and makes a vital contribution to Australia's national identity. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples contribute significantly across many fields including the arts, media, academia, politics, sport and business.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

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