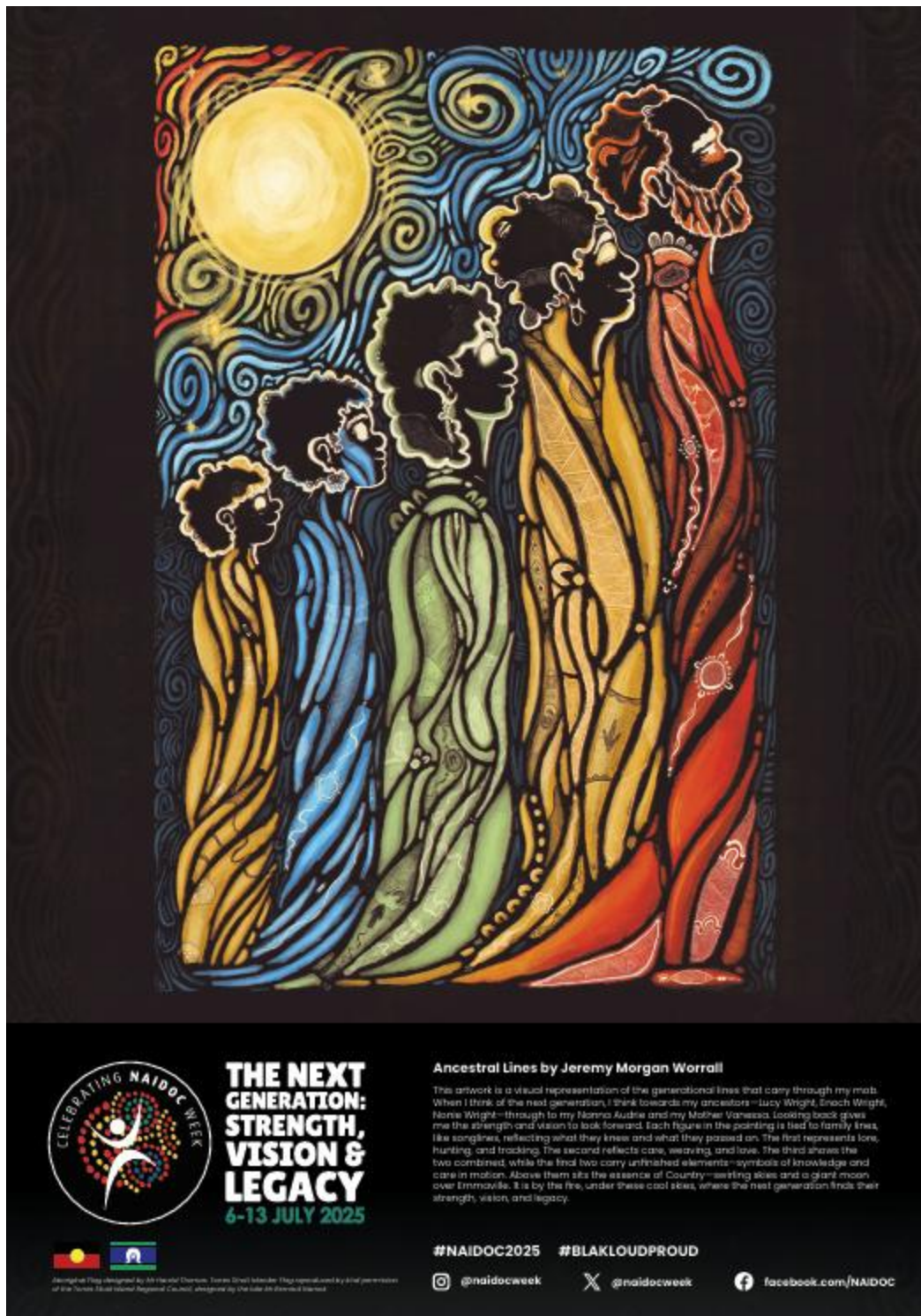




While Belinda is away, I'm producing this week's Sunday to Sunday.

I'm conscious this week is NAIDOC week. Common Grace talks about NAIDOC as:

... a soul-deep celebration for Mob—a time to feast on the joy and pride of culture, and connect with community. Even in years marked by hardship and upheaval, it has always been a powerful reminder of survival, resilience, and

the ongoing achievements of First Nations Peoples. In 2025, NAIDOC Week runs from the 6th - 13th July.

they also comment:

Born out of protest and shaped by defiant hope, NAIDOC week continues to be a space for truth-telling, and the proclamation that First Nations peoples are not only surviving, but they are leading, creating, and dreaming of a future where their people flourish.

Please go to the Common Grace webpage to see ways you can participate and support - [link](#)

This Sunday, as part of our worship service, we'll include NAIDOC week. Common Grace has provided some excellent resources, including a video clip of 3 Christian Aboriginal Elders, who are both inspiring and real examples of grace - something that seems to be diminishing in much of the western world!

And speaking about things that are inspiring and call us to be people of grace. As I write this, I'm more than aware that the SPTG has released its report summarising the committee's review of the site and its recommendations of our next steps. The report has already achieved one of its goals by generated much discussion. It's in the midst of that discussion that I want to add my two cents:

Among the many words and thoughts, I think we actually need to stop and show our appreciation to the committee. I think many of you are like me, big picture people, wanting to jump into big ideas and suggestions, often a little too impulsive and sometimes without thinking carefully about other ramifications. The committee is leading us well by saying this is too important to rush, we don't have the time or energy to be led down unhelpful rabbit hole!!

Be assured, there are many substantive ideas and opportunities to evaluate, together. If we decide to move ahead, I look forward to presenting both existing and new concepts for consideration. All the current report asks is that such ideas are considering in light of not only how they align with our mission, goals and values, but also are they are feasible, practical, and fit within our capacity on our site.

Can I draw us back to NAIDOC for a moment, for I think it can teach us much about how powerful it is when people identify with words such as: being born out of protest; defiant hope; truth-telling and proclamation; not only surviving but leading, creating and dreaming; where people flourish.

This year, I pray that part of our NAIDOC celebrations might simply include a renewed focus on that which is inspiring and graceful.

Grace and Peace

Steve Coster

Community Engagement Leader

Canberra Baptist Church/Currie Crescent Community Centre.