



AFL NSW/ACT CELEBRATES SIR DOUG NICHOLLS INDIGENOUS ROUND

AFL NSW/ACT is proud to celebrate the **2017 Toyota AFL Sir Doug Nicholls Indigenous Round**, with footy teams across NSW and the ACT set to pay tribute to the significant contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made to our game.

The **Sydney Swans** will tonight host **Marn Grook at the SCG**, a blockbuster game against traditional rivals Hawthorn. A number of special events will be held in the lead up to the game including a traditional corroboree dance, smoking ceremony and a performance from Indigenous singer-songwriter **Dan Sultan**. At half-time, Indigenous Auskickers from across the State and Territory will have the opportunity to showcase their skills on the field of the SCG.

Celebrations for Sir Doug Nicholls Indigenous Round extend beyond the SCG with football teams from Canberra to Northern NSW set to participate in special Indigenous guernseys and pre-game ceremonies this weekend.

In Canberra, the **Marist Australian Rules Football Club** (MAFC) will observe Indigenous Round with a whole of Club celebration, playing this weekend in a custom jumper designed by Canberra local and 2014 ACT NAIDOC Indigenous Person of the Year, Dion Devow.

In Western Sydney, **Blacktown Magic** will be proudly wearing an Indigenous guernsey when they take the field at Blacktown International Sports Park on Saturday 3rd June. The Guernsey was designed by local artist Luke Penrith who also designed the boots to be worn by **Lance 'Buddy' Franklin** during Marn Grook at the SCG.

On the North Coast of NSW, **Sawtell Toormina Junior Football** will be acknowledging Indigenous Round with a celebration on Sunday. Koori dancers will be performing, charity auctions taking place and traditional Indigenous food will be available across the day.

This is the eleventh year the AFL has celebrated Indigenous Round in the Toyota AFL Premiership Season and this year it coincides with two historical, momentous occasions in Australian history with 50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the Mabo decision.

AFL NSW/ACT CEO **Sam Graham** is thrilled to see the NSW and ACT footy communities coming together to celebrate the historical and ongoing contribution made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players, coaches, umpires, officials and volunteers to the game.

“Right across the football landscape this weekend, from our elite Clubs through to junior footy, our code acknowledges and celebrates Indigenous people and their culture.” Graham said,

“Indigenous Round provides a platform for our fans and participants to engage with important stories and moments from our history such as the 1967 referendum which they may not have engaged with before.”

**For more information on Sir Doug Nicholls Indigenous Round please contact
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