Unsung Heroes are the focus of this week’s annual National Aboriginal and Islander celebrations – commonly known as NAIDOC Week.

Indigenous Territorians today launched a week of family get togethers, flag raising ceremonies, youth art competitions, baby competitions and film nights and the annual NAIDOC march next Friday.

Indigenous Development Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy said this year’s theme *Unsung Heroes – Closing the Gap by Leading Their Way* recognised all the hardworking people who strived every day to make a difference.

“I pay special tribute to all Indigenous people who are quietly going about their business, taking care of their families and their communities and their cultural responsibilities.

“NAIDOC is the special occasion when Indigenous people stand tall and walk proudly, and share their cultures with the wider community,” said Ms McCarthy.

“It is also a happy time and people come together to be with their families, to renew friendships, relax, share stories and generally have a good time.

“NAIDOC is also a time for all Australians to join in the celebrations and to learn a bit more about each other.”

Minister McCarthy will be attending NAIDOC Flag Raising ceremony today in Borroloola and participating in NAIDOC activities in Katherine and Arnhem Land.

NAIDOC Week runs from 4 – 11 July.