



Walgett Celebrates NAIDOC WEEK

The Walgett celebrations for NAIDOC Week began with a Flag Raising Ceremony held on the lawns of the Walgett Shire Council on Monday 6 July, with the theme for NAIDOC, 2015 being "We Stand on Sacred Ground".

Stephen Ruttley as MC, invited Mrs Anne Dennis, Councillor for the North Western Region of the Aboriginal Lands Council, to begin proceedings with the "Welcome to Country", which she performed in language. Anne welcomed all those present, giving special mention to young Sheree Whyte who is attending the LG NSW Awards as a representative of the Walgett Shire Council who are finalists in three categories for Youth Week.

The Deputy Mayor of Walgett, Mrs Jane Kerr, OAM, told of the meaning of NAIDOC and gave a brief history lesson for those present, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal who were unsure what NAIDOC was all about, admitting that she herself had to 'look it up'.

Stephen concluded the speeches with the message for everyone that our land is precious and we as a whole need to look after it and to treasure our cultural landmarks.





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Stephen invited Anne and Sheree to perform the Flag Raising Ceremony where the Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Australian flags were raised, after which the cake was cut, a masterpiece in itself, that was made by Simone Gibson from Lightning Ridge. Aboriginal artifacts on display were a hit with the crowd and were supplied by Tom Barker, also of Lightning Ridge.

Christine Corby, OAM, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited (WAMS), encouraged WAMS staff to attend the event as this is a significant week for the organisation. Lyn Rummery, after the official cutting of the cake, was asked to cut the cake to distribute to all those present.

WAMS Personnel included

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| Bill Kennedy | - Chairperson |
| Christine Corby | - CEO |
| Lyn Rummery | - Executive Support Officer |
| Naomi Barrett | - Admin Team Leader |
| Deborah Walford | - Administration Assistant |
| Leigh Leslie | - DCEO |
| Chloe Walford | - Early Childhood Educator |
| Katie Shields | - Early Childhood Educator |
| Coral Wright | - Early Childhood Educator |
| Sarah Dowse | - Acting Dental Team Leader |
| Lynne Turner | - Dental Therapist |
| Alyssa Walford | - Dental Assistant |
| Nichole Kennedy | - Dental Assistant |
| Rosalyn Fernando | - Healthy for Life AHW |
| Shirin Richards | - Healthy for Life RN |

