

WAAWA

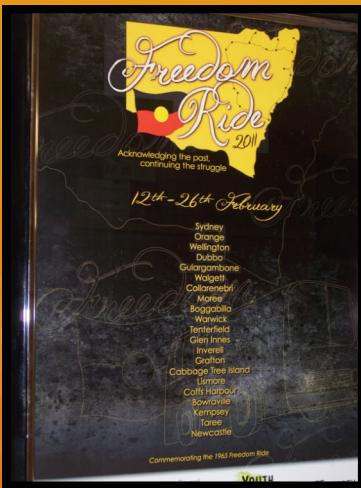
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On 15 February 2011, the Freedom Ride of 2011 retraced the 2,300 route travelled forty six years ago when the original Freedom Ride made its way across north west and coastal NSW.



The first Freedom Ride was organised by the students of the University of Sydney, who wanted to draw public attention to the poor state of Aboriginal health, education and housing.



That epic bus journey was led by Charles Perkins who was the president of the Student Action for Aborigines, which was formed in 1964.



Protesting at the treatment of Aboriginals in Walgett, they were forced off the road by townsfolk, which created national and international media coverage.

The 2011 Freedom Ride will celebrate the significant impact this early expedition had on the identity of Aboriginal Australia and its' role as a forerunner for considerable changes to improving the quality of life for Aboriginal people.

The towns they visited included –

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Sydney | Orange | Wellington |
| Dubbo | Gulgargambone | Walgett |
| Moree | Collarenebri | Boggabilla |
| Warwick | Tenterfield | Glen Innes |
| Inverell | Grafton | Lismore |
| Kempsey | Bowraville | Coffs Harbour |
| Taree | Newcastle | Cabbage Tree Island |



Freedom Ride

rides again

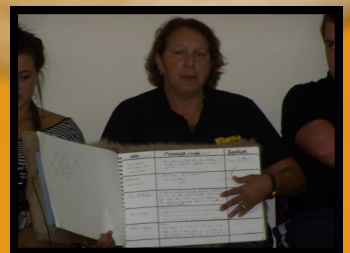


Upon arrival at WAMS they were welcomed by Trevor Simpson after which they described their journey so far. They were fascinated by stories of when the Freedom Ride was in Walgett in 1965 that some of the WAMS staff remembered and showed particular interest in the Snake Puzzle, especially the segment dedicated to the original Freedom Ride.



The visitors asked for WAMS staff to sign the book of names and comments they were collecting along their journey and other artifacts they had brought with them.

WAMS was presented with a memorial certificate commemorating the journey of the 2011 Freedom Ride.



WAMS staff present for this event were -

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Bill Kennedy | - | Chairperson |
| Christine Corby | - | CEO |
| Trevor Simpson | - | Mental Health Worker |
| Jessie Richardson | - | Clinic Practice Manager |
| Kelly Rowe | - | Drug & Alcohol Health Worker |
| Ricco Lane | - | Trainee Mental Health Worker |
| Karen Rutterman | - | Records Officer |
| Naomi Barrett | - | Administration Officer |
| Stephanie Shepherd | - | Finance Assistant |
| Reg Rutene | - | Murdi Paaki Network Co-ordinator |
| Maryanne Rutene | - | Executive Support Officer |
| Fay Wood | - | Collarenebri Health Worker |
| Roslyn Fernando | - | Goonimoo Assistant |
| Patricia Murray | - | Goonimoo Assistant |
| Wendy Ashby | - | Dental Team Leader |
| Gail Kennedy | - | Dental Assistant |
| Sarah Dowse | - | Dental Assistant |

