



**Dharrivaa Elders Group Incorporated**  
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ABN: 26 795 240 948 [www.dharrivaaeldersgroup.org.au](http://www.dharrivaaeldersgroup.org.au)

## ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2007



### We will remember them

Active DEG members Mary Creighton and Ted Fields Snr passed away in August 2006. Ted Fields Snr was one of the founders of the Group and Mary was a very active member in more recent years. *Mary's image used with permission from husband Tim Creighton.*

Yanaaya Baayaamibiyaay - *Go with Biami*



Above: Elders travelling to Sydney in September were invited by the Dubbo elders group for lunch. George Rose



thanked the group and presented them with a copy of the DEG's reading banner.



Above: Margaret Rose, Val Collis and George Rose presented Marj Weatherall with the scooter provided by the NSW Dept of Ageing Disability and Homecare through our auspicing organisation Thubbo AMS, in October.



Walgett expatriate Kenny Morgan brought a group of elders to Walgett from the Lismore Elders Group, on their way to attend Bourke's Yaama festival in September. They enjoyed afternoon tea with the Dharrivaa Elders Group.

Baayaami gimbila ngiyangu dhiyaan wilaygu milanda Dharrivaa. Giirru. *Biami let our people live as one through Dharrivaa. Amen.*

# Grassroots governance



Above: Lewis Beale (DEG member) and Virginia Robinson (DEG member and Chair Community Working Party) raised the Aboriginal flag outside Council Cham-



bers for NADIOC Day in July. Above: Walgett Council Administrator Vic Smith, Community Liaison Officer Gai Richardson and community members looked on.



Left: In October George Rose and Lewis Beale presided at the Walgett Community College assembly. Right: Lewis Beale welcomed participants in October to the Walgett Small Business Awards on behalf of the Group. Far right: Tim Creighton made a speech at the Presentation Night for Walgett Community College students in December.



## Pilliga Forest and Namoi CMA advising

Right: The November meeting of the Pilliga Forest Aboriginal Management Committee in Narrabri. Richard Lake represents the Dharriwaa Elders Group and Walgett community at these meetings.



Right: The Namoi CMA Aboriginal Advisory Committee met in Narrabri 22 November 2006. Richard Lake represents the DEG on this body as well. So far both bodies are tied up working out the roles they play.



# IT'S COOL TO STAY AT SCHOOL



## Bandit wins heritage award

NSW Heritage Minister Frank Sartor presented George Rose OAM with a NSW Heritage Volunteers Award in the Jubilee Room of NSW Parliament House in November. The award was made for George's role in his capacity of Speaker of the Dharriwaa Elders Group for its work to preserve and promote Aboriginal cultural heritage and language knowledge. The Dharriwaa Elders Group wholeheartedly congratulates its hardworking volunteer Speaker, and is proud of his work in this area. It can be hard battling government, mining interests and your own community when working in the cultural heritage area. Recognition like this can boost morale and help volunteers carry on with what they know is important work, knowing that it may not be valued fully until years after they have passed.



## DEG launches Walgett Elders Centre



Above: George Rose OAM welcomed visitors to the new Walgett Elders Centre that the DEG moved into in April 2006 and launched in July 2006. Above right: Thubbo AMS Chair Mrs Howie presents the DEG's new scooter and car



to the DEG Speaker George Rose. Both assets were purchased with funding from the NSW Dept of Ageing Disability and Homecare after years of lobbying from the DEG.



George Rose laid a wreath on behalf of the Group on Anzac Day at the Sheepyards Community War Memorial. The Women's Group of the DEG did the same in Walgett, but forgot to document the event by photograph.



Above: Lewis Beale assisted School Captain Margaret Ward to cut the Harmony Day cake in June.

# IT'S COOL TO STAY AT SCHOOL

# DEG archaeological survey

In May DEG worked with consulting archaeologist Lori Sciusco from Heritage Concepts. Lori was engaged by NSW Dept of Mineral Resources to report on cultural heritage in the OPA 4 area for its first Review of Environmental Factors 2004. We met her then, and so added to her work in our area by engaging her to produce a plan for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in the OPA 4 region. An important part of the plan is documenting what is on the ground - which hasn't been done by anyone system-

atically yet. We have found that evidence is needed to persuade governments to implement state and federal laws to protect areas of Aboriginal cultural significance in our region. Richard Lake accompanied Lori to rural properties in the Walgett district including Kia-Ora, Terewah, Kigwigil and Llanillo. They were greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic support of all landholders contacted. Thanks to Heritage Concepts for their financial contribution towards this important project.



*Left: Lori Sciusco and Richard Lake after completing their week of surveys. Right: Lori demonstrating documentation techniques.*



## Cultural mapping continues

DEG Project Officer Richard Lake continued his weekly monitoring and identification project mapping places of Aboriginal cultural value this year. He is seen here at a scarred tree near Walgett, making a GPS reading of its location near the Barwon River.

## Joint schools cultural awareness



Above left: Walgett Community College's Carmen Ryan with St Josephs School's new Principal Tony Spiller. In June DEG attended a meeting with Walgett schools to plan a combined schools teachers' induction program. This



is very important as many new teachers have had no experience working with Aboriginal children. Above right: DEG's George Rose with Fay Green, from St Josephs School, and Walgett Primary's Principal Jonathon Harvey.



## DEG works on its collection

In November Associate Member Virginia Robinson presented a certificate she received when attending a community archives course at the National Library on behalf of the Group. Her knowledge will be used by the Group to manage its archive.



Left: DEG staffers Stella Sands and Richard Lake worked with University of New England's Heritage Centre chief archivist Bill Oates in March, to develop a Collection Management Plan for the Dharriwaa Elders Group's archive. The National Library of Australia is funding Bill to train us to plan how to safely manage our collection and prepare it so that it will be accessed by the community in the future.



## Angledool meeting



Lightning Ridge LALC consulted Angledool elders for a submission they made to the Western Catchment Management Authority for remedial work to be undertaken around the old mission in May.

## Tools and weapons donated

Lightning Ridge elders Roy and June Barker were invited to join the Dharriwaa Elders Group for its final meeting for 2006, and Christmas lunch afterwards. They made a surprise donation of a full set of tools and weapons made by Roy. They said they had observed the growing strength of the DEG over the years, and decided to give them to the Group so that young people can learn from them in the future. In the future the items will be archived and displayed appropriately, according to the advice of our archivist consultant from UNE Heritage Centre, who will assist the DEG staff and members to develop the organisation's collection management plan.





# DEG organises local Aboriginal site training



The NSW Dept of Environment and Conservation held an Aboriginal Cultural Site Assessment and recording workshop at the request of the Walgett Dharriwaa Elders Group on the 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October. The course was held at Narran Lakes. Tim Creighton and Richard Lake (DEG) and community members Alan Rose, George Ashby and Neil Weatherall successfully completed the course. The DEG



hopes that these men will now be able to inspect areas within OPA 4 and report to the DEG so that it can better protect these places from opal mining and other damage. Above left: In August Brad Trindall and Simon Smith from the NSW DEC with TAFE officer Daniell Flakeler met with George Rose and Richard Lake to organise the course.

# DEG's multimedia site register



Stage One of the multimedia site register that was begun in 2000 was launched to a DEG meeting in September. The DEG decided to lodge a safety copy with the UNE Heritage Centre, a NSW State Records depository for north west NSW. Access will be granted in writing upon consideration of requests. Right: George Rose OAM travelled with Gladys Kennedy and Wendy Spencer to Armidale in October to lodge the safety copy. Chief Archivist Bill Oates received and accessioned the material. While we were there, we took the opportunity to research many valuable station records relevant to members of the DEG



## Human remains reburial project



In April Margaret Rose went with Project Officer Richard Lake and member Lewis Beale to select a suitable site for the reburial of Aboriginal human remains that were removed from what is now known as Bugilbone Quarry in the 20th Century. The Walgett Shire Council owns the land and readily agreed to the Dharriwaa Elders Group reburying the remains as close as possible to where they originally rested. Margaret Rose was the Group's expert for this area as her mother, Mary Buckalbone, came from there.

## DEG attends "In Living Memory" photo exhibition launch

Below: Tim Creighton and Lewis Beale with archivist Kirsten Thorpe and Sue Williams at the exhibition launch in September. Right: George Rose shows Tim the photos of his family in the exhibition.



## sights revisited

## Community volunteers



George Rose and Lewis Beale visited Mrs Macquarie Chair in September and admired the Sydney Harbour view while watching busloads of Japanese tourists do the same. They were on their way to the opening of the NSW State Records photo exhibition the DEG had facilitated and featured in.



Neville Beale and Fred Walford volunteered to BBQ for a Legacy fundraiser at the Walgett Sporting Club in September.



## DEG's ongoing voice regarding OPA



Left: In October the DEG's Elders Council met with NSW Primary Industries staff, and then staff of the Dept of Environment and Conservation (at right) regarding opal mining in the area known as OPA 4 at Narran Lake. The DEG is concerned to protect Aboriginal places and threatened species there, and had its legal advisers Gilbert + Tobin on speaker phone at the meeting.



## National media interest in Bandit



Above: Journalists for the Weekend Sydney Morning Herald and Weekend Australian interviewed DEG Speaker and founder George Rose in May. They both produced fea-



tures about Walgett and the region 30 years after the 1967 referendum and 20 years after the Inquiry into the Stolen Generations. DEG was very pleased with the SMH story.

## DEG visits Australian Museum



Above: Tim Creighton and George Rose visited the Australian Museum in September. They viewed a wooden tool taken from Narran Lake and message sticks displayed as part of the Aboriginal Australians permanent display which was opened in 1996 and is outdated in many ways. DEG



elders discovered that because the exhibition was made with limited resources it had a Sydney-centric flavour which needed correcting. Above right Aboriginal Education officer Cheryl Connors showed the DEG visitors the display she planned to update.





## DEG presented with archaeology report

Left: DEG's Speaker George Rose was presented with a copy of the 1996 Katrina Geering archaeological report on the opal fields by Debbie Frail, Simon Smith and Brad Trindall from

the NSW Dept of Environment and Conservation (previously National Parks and Wildlife Service) in October.

## Cuddie Springs work continues

Richard Lake (DEG) and Burt (Blackie) Gordon WCMA visited the excavation site at Cuddie Springs on 6 October. This is the site where prehistoric animal bones are being unearthed. Unfortunately the pits were being filled in as work had ceased and would not begin again until late in 2007. Judith Field, Archaeologist from The University of Sydney promised to notify both organizations before the next dig takes place.



## Intervention required at sacred site near Angledool

NSW Dept of Natural Resources staff and a community member informed DEG in October of clearing undertaken at the sacred Yuwaalaraay creation story site Gawurragiil Spring near Angledool. DEG checked that NSW Dept of Environment and Conservation (DEC), administrator of

the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act which protects Aboriginal sites, was aware of the problem. Since then DEC reported to the DEG that the sites have been fenced within a large buffer zone and are now protected by the landowner.



## Movement re AP Nomination

In 2002 the Dharriwaa Elders Group nominated Dungaleer and Narran Lakes to be gazetted under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act as "Aboriginal Places". We have been advised that gazettal will protect against mining and other threats. After letters were written by DEG's legal advisors regarding protecting places of significance in OPA 4 from mining, the NSW Dept of Environment and Conservation acted and began assessing in May 2007 the worthiness of the 2002 nominations.

# Another successful wills workshop



Law firm Blake Dawson and Waldron offered a second workshop in January for the Dharriwaa Elders Group

and its guests, for the writing of wills and related documents.

## donate or bequeath!

DEG is a tax deductible gift recipient [www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/donate.htm](http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/donate.htm)

## DEG produces & launches cultural awareness video



In September 2005 the Dharriwaa Elders Group began producing a cultural awareness video for non-Aboriginal professionals arriving to work in Walgett. It was launched in June 2007. The video script was written by Tim Creighton and Wendy Spencer, and produced by Heuristic Video Pty Ltd for Dharriwaa Elders Group. The NSW

Departments of Education, Police, Attorney General and Health were all involved and modified the script, and provided workers and locations for recording scenes depicting new workers coming to Walgett. The Dept of Environment and Heritage made a contribution to the costs of the project.





# DEG's video production continues



DEG's project manager wore her other hat as resource producer in June when she co-ordinated recording of the DEG's sustainable emu egg video. While cameraman Peter Oldham was here, she made the most of his time by organizing the recording of Community Service Announce-



ments during wet weather breaks. Below: Elders Colin Kennedy, Lewis Beale, Val Collis, Tom Martin, Richard Lake, Margaret Rose and George Rose participated in this production.



# Hi-tech elders go global

DEG set up Skype in March to take full advantage of its newly acquired broadband facilities. Lewis Beale and George Rose were shown by staff Richard Lake and Stella Sands how it can be used. We plan to use it mainly when working with linguists, archaeologists and other professionals when they can't travel to Walgett to work with us.



# Magazine volunteers

Volunteers Rose Simpson and Aunty Ruth Sullivan prepared the mail out of November's issue of Yundiboo magazine. Rose and Stella Sands were volunteers for the organisation before they were offered part-time employment.

## Mobile PCYC Launched

The launch of the mobile PCYC coming to Walgett for a year's trial two days a fortnight, was timed to co-incide with the Walgett Community Working Party's NAIDOC celebrations at No. 1 oval in July. Funding for the CWP's NAIDOC event was auspiced by the DEG for the community. The PCYC came to Walgett as a result of lobbying by the Inter-agency Youth Subcommittee which the DEG convenes.



## Youth Music & Video project

In March the Dharriwaa Elders Group took great pleasure in viewing the draft copy of the finished music and video clips made by Walgett youth during the MAD (Music Art Dance) project implemented by Sydney company Kezang.

## New teachers welcomed

Right: Carmen Ryan regularly introduced new teachers to the DEG (seen here in September).



## Youth arts encouraged

Two Walgett High School students and their teachers presented the work of their award-winning Yaama Maliya project to the March meeting of the DEG members. Yaama Maliya produces and markets Aboriginal arts and crafts. The DEG was very impressed and encouraged their enterprise.

## DEG meets the State Govt candidate

Right: Meryl Dillon, the ALP candidate in the March NSW State Election for the electorate of Barwon, visited the Elders Centre on two occasions in March.

We didn't see the National Party or Independent candidates at all.

