

Toast to new addition to Narran Lake Nature Reserve



In October 04 Rob Smith, the new Manager of the Narrabri Office of National Parks and Wildlife Service, Paul McGuinness, the new Narran Lakes Nature Reserve Ranger and Catherine Watt NPWS Fire Management Officer arranged to meet with the Dharriavaa Elders Group. They announced Group the purchase by the NSW Government of the

property East Mullane. This property will be added to the Narran Lakes Nature Reserve. The Group, including senior Yu-waalaraay elder George Rose, celebrated with a toast and cake. All discussed future working relationships between the DEG and the Narran Lake managers. Above right: Cath-

erine Watts, Fire Management Officer explained to the DEG her plans for fire management in the Narran Lake Nature Reserve. She then asked the DEG for their opinion and advice, which they freely gave, including memories of traditional fire management in the past.

DEG monitors sites



Left: On the 1 September 04 DEG travelled to Brewarrina to help Brewarrina elders celebrate their project to put interpretive signs up at the Brewarrina Mission so that people will know more about what life was like there. Some DEG members lived at Brewarrina Mission, including those whose families were moved there from Angledool Reserve in the 1930s. Right: DEG elders on one of their regular site-monitoring trips - here on the Narran River in July 04.



Plans for CDEP & DEG joint projects

Right: members of the DEG invited the Walgett CDEP in May 05, represented here by Glenda Green, Tom Steiber and Ernie Sands, to join in a partnership with the DEG to undertake regular maintenance of burial sites including the Walgett cemetery. We are pleased to announce that they accepted the invitation.



Staff training

In May 05 DEG staff attended First Aid classes organised by the Walgett AMS at Walgett TAFE. In Sept 04 DEG staff travelled to Bourke to attend a workshop organised by the NSW Premiers Dept for skill-ing up Community Drug Ac-tion Teams (CDATs). The workshop was giving skills to people working with commu-nity to help design and plan

community projects and is pic-tured below left. Below right: DEG staff attended a Project Evaluation workshop in Bre-warinna in October 04 also or-ganized for CDATs. Bottom left and right: In May 05 DEG staff attended the National Aboriginal Telecommunications Conference in Alice Springs at the invitation of the Dept of Communications, Information Technology and the



Arts. While there, DEG staff visited the Deadly Mob internet centre in Alice Springs. Wendy



Spencer was really impressed with the centre and tried to learn as much as she could about its best practice, for implementation in Walgett. Check out www.deadlymob.org.au.



WWW site goes live

The Dharriwaa Elders Group produced a www site in May and June 05 with assistance from the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. The aims of the exercise were to promote the work of the Group to potential funding sources and sponsors, and to encourage elders' familiarity with the internet.

The www site has an area where you can email the DEG to make a donation to the Group.



DEG work re alcohol, drugs & gambling



During the year the DEG continued to work to address the community's needs. One result of underlying issues is misuse of alcohol, gambling and drugs, which ties in with many of our community's social problems. The DEG became actively involved in the Walgett Community Drugs Action Team, (CDAT), and in November 04 members contributed to developing a plan for how the

community will manage alcohol, gambling and other drugs in the future. Above: CDAT Chair Virginia Robinson and community including DEG members develop the "Grog, Yarndi and Pressin Recommendations". Below: George Rose OAM attended the Talking About Grog II forum in Sydney August 04 and presented a valuable regional, elders perspective to proceedings (see below).



Treatment for Walgett's "inebriates"

In March 05 some Walgett families decided they wanted long-term proper treatment programs for their alcoholic family members unable to help themselves. DEG supported the family's decisions, met with police regarding the Inebriates Act process and escorted the men to Bloomfield in Orange where they received the only specialist treatment available in the region.

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Walgett fundraises for tsunami victims



Walgett AMS Directors, staff and their friends organised a benefit concert in Walgett on Survival Day January 2005, to raise funds for the Asian Tsunami survivors. As Dharrivaa Elders Group Speaker and

WAMS Director George Rose said, "Aboriginal people are used to having nothing and losing everything. We know what they are going through and so we want to help". Trevor Simpson and friends provided

the PA and the performances. Walgett raised over \$2,500 during the day. The DEG recorded the event and researched legal advice which it provided to Walgett AMS (DEG's auspicing body at the time), re the recordings.

DEG's Anzac Day - Sheepyards & Walgett



Speaker of the Dharrivaa Elders Group George Rose, presented Patrick Fletcher and Norm Jones of the Sheepyards & Community War Memorial Association, with a fresh Aboriginal flag to fly for Anzac Day. Right: Margaret and George Rose are seen here with an army enthusiast. DEG elders were keen to attend the Sheepyards War Memorial on Anzac Day, after the small community's welcome to the DEG last year. DEG staff and members also attended Walgett's two ceremonies. Right: Elder Tom Lake marched in Walgett with son Richard Lake.



Aboriginal Trust Fund Reparation Scheme Panel Visits Walgett at request of Dharrivaa Elders Grp



In March 2004, the NSW Government agreed to pay Aboriginal people who are owed money from the Aboriginal Protection Board trust funds and set up an independent panel to provide advice to the Government by October 2004 on how the payment scheme should work. Sam Jeffries, a panelist, visited Walgett on the invitation of the Dharrivaa Elders Group in August 04 to inform the Walgett community about the Panel and to solicit opinions about how the scheme should proceed.

DEG meets Lightning Ridge elders

In August 04 Dharrivaa Elders were invited to the Lightning Ridge Central School to meet with Lightning Ridge elders and the Coonabarabran Skywatch Observatory, to discuss the making of a resource for visitors to the Observatory. The resource would contain Aboriginal language and creation stories about the stars. School students were going to make the CDROM. Issues of ownership, copyright and production company corporate structures were discussed.



The collection of elders which met with the Skywatch Observatory at Lightning Ridge Central school.

DEG written policy work

DEG began lobbying for a local dialysis service for Walgett in July 04. In December 2004 DEG it made a submission regarding the NSW Draft Native Vegetation Regulation 2004, and in January 05 it completed its first draft of a submission regarding the "Opal Mining within the Narran-Warrambool Reserve, Lightning Ridge –

Review of Environmental Factors" by Parsons Brinckerhoff, 2004, for the NSW Dept of Mineral Resources. On 30 June 2004 DEG posted a submission to NSW Cabinet re its Review of the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998. For more information or copies, see the DEG [www site](http://www.dharrivaaeldersgroup.org.au). <dharrivaaeldersgroup.org.au>

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DEG assists Far West Area Health production of cultural awareness book

Rebecca Crawford, consultant to the Far West Area Health Service, workshopped a book she is producing with the DEG in March 05. The book will educate new employees of the Health Service about life in Aboriginal north west NSW. The DEG has been lobbying for more cultural awareness training for Walgett professionals.



Yundiboo editorial committee processes backlog

Due to factors beyond the control of the DEG, DEG's monthly magazine Yundiboo was unable to be released from January 2004 - March 05. The backlog continued to be produced, and edited by the Yundiboo editorial committee. Left: the editorial committee meeting meets at least once monthly, in March 04. Yundiboo promotes cultural knowledge, language and reading to the Walgett Aboriginal community.



Australian Museum and State Records Office visit



Wendy Spencer arranged to undertake research Aboriginal Welfare Board files in the State Records Office in July 04 for the information of Yundiboo readers at the same time as George and Margaret were in Sydney for an eye operation and George's son Dan covered travel-

ling and accommodation costs. Above left: Margaret Rose, Richard Aldridge (Dept of Aboriginal Affairs), George Rose and Kirsten Thorpe (State Records Office). Before leaving Sydney, DEG organized a quick visit to the Australian Museum to view some of the



objects from the Walgett region. Above right: George holds a walking stick made from Dunglear gidjiirr. Arrangements were made for future visits to the Archives and the Museum by other DEG elders, funding permitting.

DEG safeguarding its archives



The Project Manager of the Dharrivaa Elders Group spent time in the State Library of NSW January 05 looking for his-toric material written about Aboriginal people in the Walgett area, for the infor-mation of the DEG, the Walgett commu-nity and Yundiboo readers. While she was there she investigated the possibility of using the NSW State Library as an archive for the DEG's language and culture re-cordings, photo archive and Yundiboo archives. The NSW State Library is in Sydney and their Aboriginal employees have been enthusiastically receiving, cata-logging and displaying Yundiboo for the last 5 years. The DEG began to negotiate an agreement with the library which will include an elders' trip to view its facilities in person. The DEG takes very seriously its responsibility to safeguard its valuable cultural assets for the Walgett Aboriginal community.

Youth re-enact Freedom Ride and visit Walgett

A group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth from Syd-ney "Reconciliation" visited Walgett in February 2005 to retrace the steps of the original Freedom Riders in 1965. Beforehand, representative Emma Torzillo who's parents have a long association with the communities of the north west, contacted the DEG, which helped her organise their visit. The DEG met the bus outside the Walgett RSL club, scene of action in 1965 when Aboriginal people were not permitted to become members. The President and a Direc-tor welcomed the visitors and then George Rose OAM, DEG Speaker, welcomed them on behalf of the Group. He explained that in 1965 he wouldn't have been allowed to enter this club, but now he believes that Aboriginal people keep it alive. Then the DEG sat down to eat dinner with the young people. A screening, BBQ and meeting with the Interagency were also undertaken.



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DEG Christmas activities



The Coolibah Motel generously donated to the Dharriwaa Elders Group lollies for Christmas. The DEG decided to present them to every pre-

school student in Walgett. An assembly line was set up in the DEG office to wrap and gift-label the lollies, and then Thelma Thorne and Fay Sands

delivered them to the children at the Koolyangarra Pre-school, the Birraleelegal Pre-School and the CWA Pre-school. DEG aims for this to be an annual event.



Dharriwaa Elders Group members who hadn't already left Walgett for Christmas celebrated another year over a Christmas lunch at the Walgett Sporting Club December 04. The Dharriwaa Country Music Band provided musical entertainment.

Funding for the various projects of the Dharriwaa Elders Group was received through the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service during the 2005 financial year from the Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the Commonwealth Department of Environment And Heritage and the Commonwealth Dept of Family and Community Services.

DHARRIWAA ELDERS GROUP INCORPORATED - a charity endorsed by the ATO INC9883394 ABN: 26 795 240 948. <http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au>

The primary object of the Association is to promote Aboriginal interests and in particular to:

- 1. encourage and support Aboriginal elders to resume leadership roles in the community;*
- 2. assist Aboriginal elders to work for the development of the Walgett Aboriginal community;*
- 3. manage local Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural resources;*
- 4. record, protect and promote local Aboriginal knowledge*

and cultural heritage including to establish a collection of local Aboriginal cultural heritage information that is accessible to the local Aboriginal community;

- 5. promote the voice and opinions of Walgett Aboriginal elders;*
- 6. conduct programs to promote community unity and improve the relationship between elders and other Aboriginal age groups; and*
- 7. do all things ancillary to the above.*

