

## Primary School trip to Angledool ancestors' home



*Above left: Tammy Murray, Kasey Sharpley and Tara Sullivan. Above right: DEG's Richard Lake with teacher at men's lock-up at Angledool Mission.* In August the Dharriwaa Elders Group hosted a primary school excursion to Angledool where there are many sites

of Aboriginal cultural significance to the Walgett Aboriginal community. It is also significant for the students as many of their ancestors lived there.



Left: NSW Dept of Education staff conducted a review of the Walgett Community College model in June with DEG members and other community interest groups.

The DEG hopes to resume its involvement with the schools more closely next year, once the changes have been made.



## Kids Excel pilot showcase

In September teacher Deborah Walford organized a presentation to parents and the community of the achievements of the Kids Excel program. This was the first and only time elders entered the schools during the year. This was particularly surprising as the DEG was heavily consulted about the program pilot before it was introduced.

## Aboriginal educ. consultant

Right: The DEG convened a meeting with elders and Aboriginal Education Consultant to the Walgett Community College, Tyson Yunkaporta, in August, so that he could receive direction regarding his Aboriginal cultural work. He is a murri from South Australia.



# DEG works to improve Walgett services



## Fair Trading advice re scams

NSW Dept of Fair Trading staff visited the DEG in September to give advice about dodgy funeral funds who were ripping off Aboriginal communities, and other valuable consumer advice.

## Library intro

After we discovered that most of our members had never used the local library, DEG organized for Walgett Library staff to introduce the library and its services to our members in January. Ted Thorne, Tim Creighton, Marj Weatherall, Thelma Thorne, Fay Sands and Richard Lake attended.

Hopefully now the library will be more accessible for our members.



## NSW Ombudsman consults DEG

Left: staff from the NSW Ombudsman's office visited the DEG in March, to explain to members about how their service can be accessed, feedback results of previous consultation with the DEG, and to listen to elder's issues they may be able to assist with.



## PM's follow-up housing survey

Right: Felicity Taylor-Edwards from FACSIA visited in March to announce research she was undertaking at the request of Minister Macklin and PM Rudd, into Walgett's housing needs.



## DEG aids Centrelink expo



Above: Brian Small, the Area Manager for Centrelink made his first visit to the DEG's office after Centrelink's Information Day in October. He bought a copy of our staff indication video "Welcome to Walgett" and discussed changes that may occur re welfare delivery in Walgett soon.

Below: Football legend Artie Beetson joined the Dharrivaa Elders Group for the day at its stall at the Centrelink Information Day in the RSL Hall. DEG was one of the few non-government services present.



## Centrelink mistake

Left: Ron Fuller of Centrelink was asked by the DEG to justify why Centrelink referred to DEG in the national press without permission and incorrectly. A letter was written to Centrelink in April explaining why this was a problem for the future relationship between the organizations.

## Youth and housing services consult



Above: Father Chris Riley met with the Dharrivaa Elders Group in August while he was in Walgett to launch his organization "Youth Off the Streets" new Walgett youth program. The DEG showed its support by its presence at their launch activities on Saturday 1 September in the No 1 oval.



Above Shona Barker (Kennedy) met with the Dharrivaa Elders Group in May to discuss the development of a NSW Housing project to address the housing shortage in Walgett. This initiative follows an (undocumented by DEG) visit by Premier Iemma in March to Walgett.

## Artists consult

Karin Thurston of Thorungulla art works worked with Walgett school students to complete the “healthy eating” mural at IGA supermarket in September. Before she started she consulted with the DEG regarding the use of totem animals and Aboriginal designs in the mural.



Below: Aboriginal artist Paul Taylor visited the DEG in October to discuss how he will be conducting an Aboriginal arts and crafts course at TAFE.



## Mackillop

Left: DEG members attended a special luncheon for them offered by staff of the Mackillop Rural and Community Services at their new facility in July. All staff were introduced, including Jess who has started a new teenage youth program in Walgett.

## DEG's women's group's fancy dress ball for children



In July DEG's women's group hosted a children's fancy dress ball. DEG would like to thank Walgett Police and Council for providing judges at the successful event. DEG's women's program was not funded this year.

# DEG's work to recover trust funds



Above: Tracey Bradshaw from Link-Up NSW visited the Dharriwaa Elders Group in March. She assisted DEG members with information about progress of the NSW

Stolen Trust Funds scheme, and her organization offered valuable support related to family research matters. Her on-going dedication and follow-up has been much appreciated.

## NSW Police new Local plan

Doreen Peters, an Associate Member of the DEG, is the ACLO State Co-ordinator of the Aboriginal Co-ordination Teams. She met with the local LACACC - Local Area Command Aboriginal Consultative Committee, to pass on information about the implementation of the new NSW Police Aboriginal Strategic Plan, in November. Local and Regional Plans will be developed by the local and regional Aboriginal Consultative Committees, and will be implemented by Police, Attorney General's and other NSW Govt departments. After attending this important meeting the DEG staff realized that participation in this Plan could provide the opportunity needed to improve the services of NSW Police for Aboriginal people in Walgett.



## LACACC meets

Under the new NSW Police Strategic Directions policy, Local Area Commands Aboriginal Consultative Committees meet to develop local action plans. They report to Regional meetings ("RACACC") which reports to the state-wide meetings ("PASACC"). Outcomes identified in the plans must be met by police, and there are opportunities for other NSW agencies to be involved at the state level when issues demand a more holistic approach. The DEG supports and works for a local implementation of the Policy and George Rose is seen at right welcoming community members from other towns in the Command to the Walgett meeting held in May.



# DEG commemorates Anzac Day with opal mining community



*George Rose was assisted by DEG staff member Kathleen Shields, and President of the Sheepyard Community War Memorial Association,*



*Norm to lay a wreath on Anzac Day at the Sheepyards war memorial plaque remembering Aboriginal soldiers who died in wars.*

## old friends

Project Officer Stella Sands accompanied George and Margaret Rose on a visit to Lightning Ridge in July. One purpose of the trip was to arrange the purchase of Roy's wooden tools and weapons for sale in the new DEG's Aboriginal arts and crafts shop. The other purpose was for old friends to catch up and swap information about the important community development activates both couples undertake in the Walgett and Lightning Ridge communities.



## Gordon Byers Memorial Cricket Day

DEG's Treasurer Fay Sands organized another cricket day in memory of her beloved grandson Gordon Byers, in October. She is pictured at left with family and friends who also miss Gordon and work together to organize this annual community event.



# Elder's health program



Sandra Suey continued conducting the Elders Health sessions this year. In October DEG received notice that a funding submission we made to the Commonwealth for this program's continuation was successful but wouldn't start until November 2008. We continued the weekly sessions with the Health Service and Outback Division of GPs regardless. Scenes pictured are in October and November 2007, and a meeting we convened with Walgett health service providers in April 2008 to plan the new funded program.



# Elders' cooking classes



Jodi McCloud conducts the popular elders weekly cooking class at TAFE. Lewis Beale is pictured with her here in September. Right: Kay Kennedy, Tim Creighton and Lewis Beale hard at work creating their latest culinary mas-



terpieces. DEG thanks TAFE for these classes which couldn't continue due to low numbers. Five DEG members regularly attended.

## Defamation workshop

DEG's Project Manager, Wendy Spencer was very pleased to be able to attend a workshop that Blakes Dawson hosted for their pro-bono clients (who were non-profit organizations of all descriptions). The march workshop was very enlightening - on the subject of defamation and other legal matters where prevention is a lot cheaper than a cure.



## Connecting Up conference



Two DEG staff attended a Brisbane conference in May that provide very useful for making contacts with future suppliers, and learning about ways for organizations like ours to use emerging internet developments. Above left: Darrell Burkey, President Computing Assistance Support & Education Inc, offers with volunteer techies a non-profit service supplying the non-profit sector with technical assis-

tance. The DEG has become a member and will receive network admin support from them in the future. Above centre: Beth Kanter gave a very useful presentation re social networking on the www. Above right: Richard Neville gave a thought-provoking speech about how we internet facilitators live where paradigm shifts in thinking and society occur.



## Risk assessment at Angledool

George Rose, the oldest Yuwaalaraay man alive, and one of the few survivors of the Angledool Aboriginal Station or reserve, travelled to Angledool in July with Walgett Primary School Principal Jonathon Harvey and Richard Lake, The purpose of the trip was to assess places the DEG will be taking students to in the future for any risks.



## NAIDOC week

Scenes here from the Walgett Community College NAIDOC Day observance at the Primary School were photographed by DEG's Kim Sullivan. Elder Gladys Kennedy raised the Aboriginal flag and cut the "Advance Australia Fair" cake. She is seen here with local teacher Chris Hunt and Principal Jonathon Harvey.



## Yetta visit

DEG members Ted Thorne, Lewis Beale and Aubrey Weatherall travelled to the minimum security jail, Yetta Dhinnakkal to witness NAIDOC week ceremonies there in July.

While there they enjoyed being entertained by some trainees and a staff member who performed playing guitars and singing. Another trainee had the audience in stitches as a gag man - this chap would give Steady Eddie a run for his money.



## Dharriwaa band plays Singleton for NAIDOC

Neville Beale, Richard Lake and Victor Beale (*see at right*), the Dharriwaa Country Music Band, played at NAIDOC ceremonies in Singleton. Also appearing were Noel (Poppa) Riley and Ron Latham.

The Dharriwaa Elders Group were please to support the band to take some Walgett culture to Singleton, where member Neville Beale has retired to. The members of the band took advantage of the opportunity to "hang out" with country music colleagues while they were there.



# Language program develops

The Walgett Yuwaalaraay Gamilaraay Language teaching Group, convened by the Dharriwaa Elders Group of language teachers and their superiors, met monthly during the year from August 2007. The Group developed a strategic plan to address the urgent issues involved in keeping local language knowledge in the community, and reviving it where it has lapsed. Each meeting members report on their implementation of parts of the Plan. Right: the Group meeting in December, and below, in September.



Below: Peter Nicholls, Walgett Community College, spoke with the members in November about the progress made by the school in developing more Aboriginal language teaching. The DEG later wrote to the NSW Dept of Education for funding support for the school to do this.

Below: Tyson Yungapurta, visiting Aboriginal Education Consultant who worked with the DEG to develop language teaching curricula for 2008, received a signed copy of the Yuwaalaraay / Gamilaraay dictionary from George Rose. These two initiatives are part of the DEG's Aboriginal language program strategies, which it develops with the Walgett Yuwaalaraay / Gamilaraay Language Group.



Below: Dr Emily Matters visited the DEG in June to discuss her proposal for developing a Yuwaalaraay / Gamilaraay and Latin curriculum for her students attending PLC Pymble. The DEG will consider how her proposal will benefit the Walgett community.

**IT'S COOL  
TO STAY IN  
SCHOOL**



# Language program boost



The Dharriwaa Elders Group is pleased to introduce its new Yu-waalaraay Gamilaraay Language Program Project Officer, Kathleen Shields. Sadie, as she is better known, is the granddaughter of Arthur Dodd, one of the main multi-lingual Yu-waalaraay/Gamilaraay, Wayilwan, Wangaybawn, Ngijam-baa language informants who was extensively recorded by Corinne Williams and Janet Matthews in 1972 and 1973. One of the first of

Sadie's tasks has been to develop a new language teaching program for Walgett high school students. She is seen here developing the Stage 5 language teaching curriculum with Tyson Yungapurtha, NSW Dept of Education Regional Aboriginal Education Consultant, and Richard Lake, DEG's Project Officer who resigned in early April this year. The DEG wishes him well in his future employment activities.

**Yaama ngiyaningunda  
(hello all)  
Nhalay ngiyaningu guliyaan  
(this is our news)**

## Dept. Education serious about Language



Above left: Carol McDiarmid and Jane Cavanagh, senior NSW Dept of Education staff, met with the DEG in May to continue assisting the sustainable development of Aboriginal language teaching

in Walgett schools. Above: DEG also met with principals of all Walgett schools in May to request they share Aboriginal language teaching resources.

# Seniors week “New” Faces



With financial assistance of the NSW Dept of Ageing and Disability the DEG hosted a Seniors “New” Faces talent quest in April. Trevor Simpson of the Simmos provided



the PA and MC duties and encouragement. Elders from Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge joined Walgett elders at the event.

## The Dharriwaa Elders Group was supported financially or in kind this year by:

### 1. the Commonwealth Government through

- \* the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records and the Indigenous Culture Support Programs of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
- \* the National Indigenous Heritage Program of the Department of the Environment and Heritage
- \* Indigenous Small Business Program of Dept of Employment and Workplace Relations

### 2. the NSW Government through

- \* Thubbo Aboriginal Medical Co-operative and NSW Dept of Ageing Disability and Homecare
- \* NSW Dept of State and Regional Development

### 3. and by the following companies and individuals

- \* Gilbert + Tobin
- \* Heritage Concepts
- \* Blakes, Dawson and Waldron
- \* Arnold Spencer, Julie Williams, Karen Rutterman, Glenda Simpson, Enid Coupe, Barry Simpson, Daniel Rose, Peter Fernando

**DHARRIWAA ELDERS GROUP INCORPORATED** - a charity endorsed by the ATO INC9883394 ABN: 26 795 240 948. <http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au>, PO Box 174 Walgett NSW ph: 02 6828 2619

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

- \* encourage and support Aboriginal elders to resume leadership roles in the community;
- \* assist Aboriginal elders to work for the development of the Walgett Aboriginal community;
- \* manage local Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural resources;
- \* 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;
- \* promote the voice and opinions of Walgett Aboriginal elders;
- \* conduct programs to promote community unity and improve the relationship between elders and other Aboriginal age groups; and
- \* do all things ancillary to the above.