



CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK

ADVERTISING FEATURE



• At last year's NAIDOC Week celebrations in Bega are councillor Liz Seckold, Pastor Ossie Cruze, Gjummurrah Moore and Charlotte Brodie. NAIDOC Week 2013 will be celebrated on Tuesday.



left to right Ossie Cruze, Faith Aldridge, Randall Mumbler, Russell Cook, b.J.Cruze

Celebrating rich culture, heritage

Tony Hastings

ALL are invited to attend the celebration of NAIDOC week on Tuesday at the Bega Showground.

NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Bega's celebration is for all people, and NAIDOC Week at the Bega Showground is planned as a family day, with lots of activities for kids.

"We really encourage non-Aboriginal people to come," Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council chief executive officer Russell Cook said.

"Because it's an opportunity to have a yarn with local Aboriginal people."

The event begins with a Welcome to Country by a local Indigenous elder at 10am.

During the day there will be entertainment, with guest local singers, a mini Olympics, traditional basket weaving, information stalls, and kids' activities including a jumping castle, toy library, boomerang painting

VISION'S VALUE LIVES ON

IN AUGUST 1963, the Yolngu people of Yirrkala in north-east Arnhem Land sent two bark petitions – framed by traditional ochre paintings – to the Australian House of Representatives.

The petitions protested the Commonwealth's granting of mining rights on land excised from Arnhem Land reserve and sought the recognition by the Parliament of the Yolngu peoples' traditional rights and ownership of their lands.

The petitions were the first traditional documents recognised by the Commonwealth and helped to shape the nation's acknowledgment of Aboriginal people and their land rights.

They were a catalyst in advancing changes to the Constitution in the 1967 referendum, the acknowledgment of land rights by the Commonwealth in 1976, and the overturning of the concept of terra nullius by the High Court in the Mabo Case in 1992.

and games.

The day will feature a mixture of the traditional and non-traditional stuff.

A full hot buffet lunch will have traditional flavour, with some bush tucker and spices on the menu, prepared by an experienced chef.

This year the theme is that "We value the vision of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963."

It has been 50 years since the Yirrkala Bark Petitions were sent by the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land to the Commonwealth Government, demanding their rights be recognised during consideration of mining leases.

The petitions provide the first

documentary recognition of Indigenous people in Australian law, but ironically the subsequent court case found the Yolngu had no land rights, citing the notion of terra nullius (that the land belonged to no one).

Contrary to the notion of terra nullius, Mr Cook explained that "we can date Aboriginal culture back approximately 70,000 years, and there's evidence of continuous culture since that period of time."

"That has to be one of the things taken into account; there was a culture here, and a sophisticated system of land management."

"That whole notion of main-

taining the country is integrated with their methods and beliefs."

Some of these methods and beliefs continue locally, such as the recent re-burial of Yuin warriors near Tathra, who are believed to have died around 1200AD.

The re-burial included traditional methods, and was performed in traditional language.

"The Yuin culture is alive and kicking," Mr Cook said.

During Tuesday's NAIDOC Week celebration, all of the service agencies involved with local Indigenous communities will have displays set up with information.

These will include the Katungul Aboriginal Community Corporation and Medical Service, Wandarma Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Service, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Federal Government's Indigenous Coordination Centre.

There will also be Elders fruit & veg baskets, kindly paid for by Alzheimer's Australia.

For more information, please contact the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council on 6492 3950.

BEGA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

WHO ARE WE?

Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council is one of about 120 Local Aboriginal Land Councils across NSW set up under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. We are funded out of Aboriginal Resources. Our membership is made up from the local Aboriginal community and they elect a Board of Management. We have a Chief Executive Officer and an Administrative trainee to look after the day to day business. Our area of responsibility starts from the coast between Merimbula and Aragunnu and extends across to the Murray River at Khancoban. In this area we have close to 1200 hectares of land.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Our main tasks are to protect and promote Aboriginal culture, manage Aboriginal lands in our area, provide social housing and support the development of the local Aboriginal community. We are currently:

- Working closely with the local schools to promote educational participation and outcomes for Aboriginal students.
- Developing land management plans for our Bega Valley land holdings.
- Conducting cultural heritage site assessments for developments such as the new Bega Hospital.
- Promoting Yuin Nation culture and traditions in conjunction with our sister land councils - Eden and Wallaga Lake.
- Developing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people through project funding from state and federal governments.

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WHO ARE WE

Wandarma staff include counsellors, Aboriginal drug and alcohol workers and staff with specific skills in working with men and women, families and youth.

Pictured above are Jo Norton Baker, Jody Lloyd and Raechel Wallace

WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide outreach drug and alcohol services including individual, family group and community programs.

HELP FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

We can help with:

- Counselling
- Community treatment programs
- Group training programs
- Relapse prevention
- Support with court and access to other services.