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Number 1164

Wee Waa, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015



CELEBRITY IN PILLIGA: Back, Mila Doolan, Gail Naden, Maude Smith, Mark Olive, Middle, Caleb and Linda Doolan, Tommy Leonard and Janet Nicholls, front, Jai Dooland and Esther Knowles.

Celebrity chef visits Pilliga

Over 100 visitors and locals gathered at the Pilliga Bowling Club last Thursday for a Cultural community day organised by the Gunidah Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation based in Gunnedah. Visitors travelled from Burren Junction, Narrabri, Gunnedah, Taree and Dubbo to attend the day, which featured celebrity indigenous chef Mark Olive.

Nationally recognised indigenous dance droup Koomurri performed traditional dance and painting demonstrations.

Koomurri Dancer, Jahmarley Dawson, 19, was excited to visit Pilliga for the first time.

"We've never experienced this type of landscape before so it's really nice to see mother earth in her natural state, it's really peaceful here," he said.

"It's also great to spread the word of culture and get people involved in traditional dance and painting.

"I've been painting all my life, taught by my great aunts, uncles and my great grandma so I enjoy it when people are able to take home a piece of

that history and tradition."

Mark Olive took time out from his television series 'The Outback Cafe' to run the barbecue lunch at the cultural day.

Kangaroo was on the menu, as well as regular steak and sausage sandwiches with coleslaw.

Mark said he enjoyed visiting rural and remote communities like Pilliga.

"I haven't been to Pilliga before, but it's been great to be with the community here today cooking up a storm," he said.

"I think it's important for the young ones to see faces that are on TV and connect with those people.

"They have the opportunity to come up and chat to me about anything, talk about how I got into the industry.

"I've found that I've become a role model for a lot of aboriginal people, and that's why I do it and I love connecting with them so it's been amazing.

"A lot of these people have talents but aren't given the opportunity to realise those talents, so it's really

important to showcase what I do."

Mark included kangaroo steaks on the menu to try and encourage more people to make kangaroo a regular part of their diet.

"I'm trying to show people that it's a great meat and a great protein source," he said.

"It's important for kids to get kangaroo on their palate at a young age and the kids have been loving it today, they just think it's a normal meat.

**Story continued Page 5.
More photos Page 4 and 5**

Visitors flock to Pilliga for cultural day

People travelled from far and wide to gather in the small town of Pilliga for a cultural community day held last Thursday by the Gunnedah Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation based in Gunnedah.

School holidays meant visitors could spend a few days in town and visit the Pilliga Bore Baths, which were packed with travellers.

People travelled from as far away as Dubbo and Gunnedah to meet celebrity chef Mark Olive, who ran the barbecue for the day.



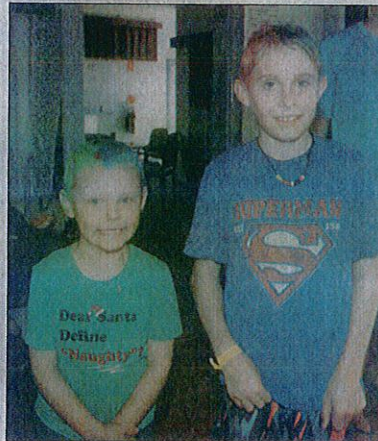
ABOVE: John, Azalia and Bridget Roberts (Gunnedah).



Tammy Bush and Michael Sanderson (Gunnedah Gunyah, Gunnedah).



Gabriella Barrett and Peter Chapman (Red Cross, Dubbo).



Ejay Colbran and O'Shea Roberts (Gunnedah).



Retta Smith and Deb Briggs (Narrabri).



Karen Linich (Breastscreen NSW, Tamworth).



Kirren Apthorpe and Chris Southwell (Narrabri Healthwise).



Fiona Robertson and Chloe Orman (Narrabri Healthwise).



Kelly Hall (Breastscreen NSW, Tamworth).

Traditional dance, art and cooking at Pilliga Cultural Day

Continued from Page 1

"Over the years people have been uncomfortable being the only country that eats our coat of arms, but the message is that this meat is important to our country and it's important to aboriginal people."

"Aboriginal people didn't name it the coat of arms, it should be considered a viable food and clothing source."

"We need to change the attitude of the next generation that's coming through because that's who is going to utilise this meat and give it a market in this country."

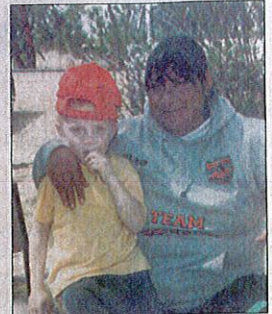
"At the moment, kangaroo and crocodile are being hoovered up by overseas markets, but the next generation in Australia needs to change attitudes towards kangaroo meat."



Back, Pilliga Yowie, Owen Atkins and Cidgem Watson (Centacare), Pilliga Platypus, front, Koomurri dancers Billum Brown, Jahmarley Dawson and Robert Ebsy.



Back, Esther and Natasha Knowles and front, Bryan Knowles (Pilliga).



Djardi Mac Walford and Cassandra Peters (Collerenebri).



Maude Smith (Wee Waa), Bobby Murphy (Narrabri), Ros Sampson (Narrabri) and Audrey Sevil (Narrabri).



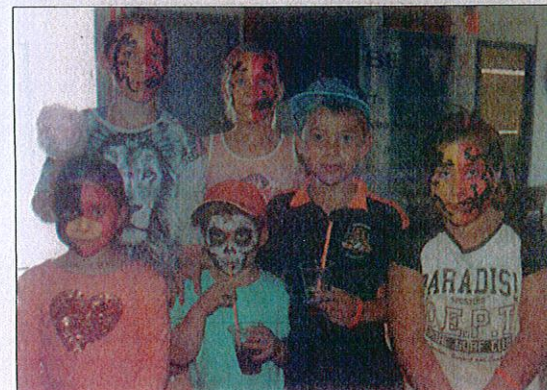
Back, Ella, Natasha and Bobby Murphy, front, Kokoda and Lewis Murphy (Burren Junction)



Faye, Josie and Alana Gallagher (Wee Waa).



Ronald Ruttley and Jade Prysizlak (formerly Barradine).



Back, Zarli and Lowana Ruttley, front, Lelah, Leon, Ruben and Jayla Ruttley.

RIGHT: Back, Reg Rutene (Drug and Alcohol, Walgett) and Shirin Richards (Healthy for Life, Walgett), front, Bet Ineke (Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service).



Back, Mattea Ferguson, Tyisha Buchanan and Aunty Margaret Peters, and front, Corey Buchanan (Collerenebri).

