



**ALL  
STAFF/BOD  
NAIDOC CULTURAL LUNCH**



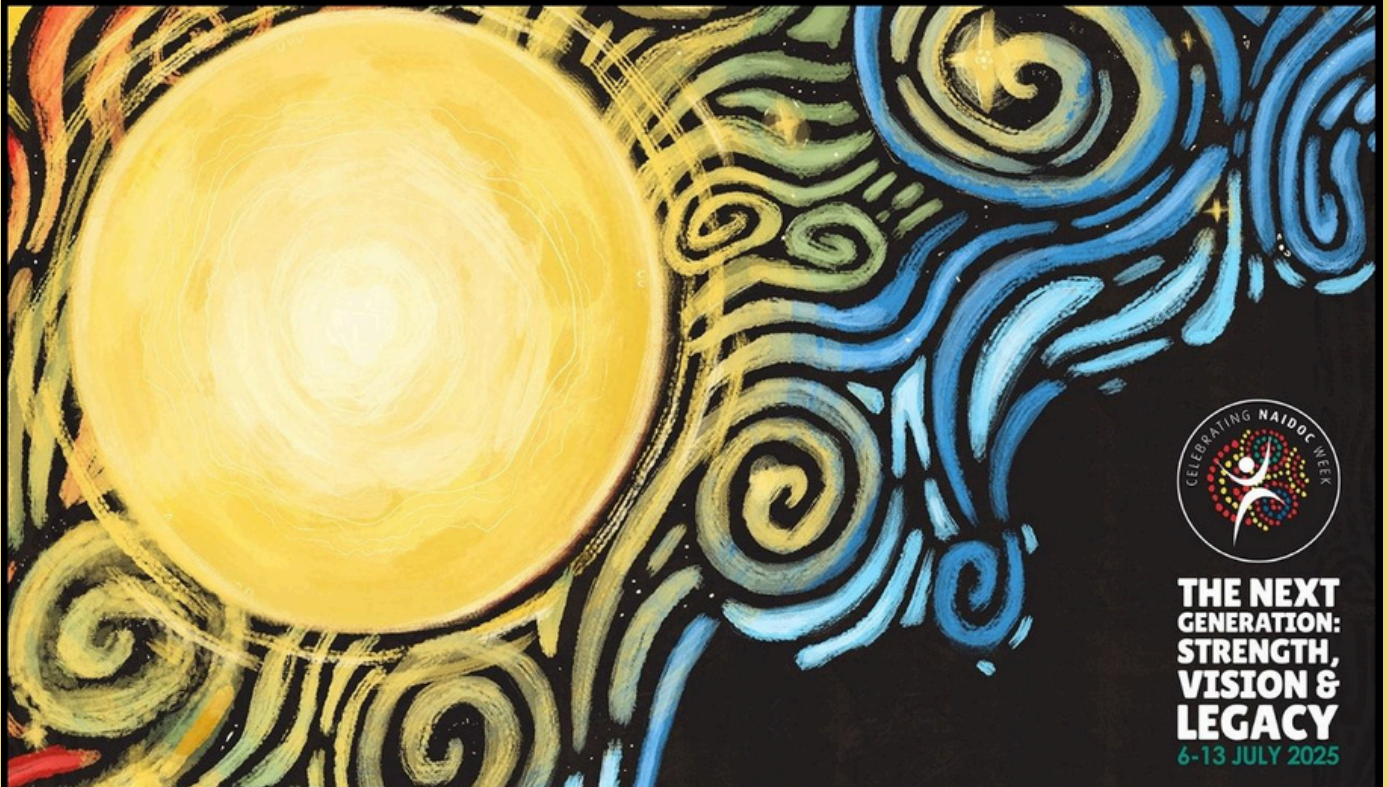
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025



12pm-2pm



Freedom Ride Memorial Park



**THE NEXT  
GENERATION:  
STRENGTH,  
VISION &  
LEGACY**  
6-13 JULY 2025



# AGENDA



**12.30pm - 2.00pm**

## **Smoking/Welcoming Ceremony**

Dr Aunty Fay Green OAM

## **Acknowledgement To Country**

Arhiarna Sullivan

## **Minute Silence**

Amy Townsend

## **Welcoming Address**

Amy Townsend

## **Native Grains Presentation**

Dianne Hall

## **Johnny Cake cooking with Native Grains**

Dianne Hall, WAMS Director Jenny Trindall & Aunty Fay Green

## **Preparing and Cooking Fresh Yabbies**

Luke Farr & Amy Townsend



Dr. Aunty Fay Green OAM Pictured above Opening Smoking Ceremony





# GULBIYAAY

Welcome by Amy Townsend



As the Culture and History Consultant here at Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited, I'd like to warmly welcome you all to today's special NAIDOC Week luncheon. It's a time for us to come together as community to reflect, honour, and celebrate the strength of our people.

This year's theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy", reminds us that our culture, our knowledge, and our stories don't end with us they're carried forward by those who come after. This theme speaks directly to the role we all play in guiding and nurturing our young people, who will one day walk in our shoes and lead with their own strength and vision. It's about building a legacy that honours our past while shaping a strong future.

We are deeply honoured to begin today's gathering with a Smoking Ceremony by our respected Elder, Aunty Fay. This ceremony welcomes us, clears the way for good energy, and grounds us on Country as we open our hearts to culture and connection. Following that, one of our inspiring young leaders, Arhiarna, will perform the Gamilaraay Acknowledgement Song. To hear our language sung by the next generation is both moving and powerful it's a reminder that our culture is alive, strong, and continuing.



We're also proud to showcase our traditional foods today. Dianne Hall will be demonstrating the use of native grains, these ingredients that our people have used for thousands of years to make bush bread and sustain community across Country. This knowledge is part of our legacy passed down through generations.

Alongside Dianne, Director Trindall, will be preparing and cooking Johnny Cakes on the fire a traditional food still loved today. Whether eaten with curry, or simply with some butter, honey, or golden syrup, Johnny Cakes are more than just a meal they're a connection to the past, a comfort in the present, and a tradition we proudly carry forward.

And if you're feeling keen, we welcome you to join in with Luke Farr and myself for a yabby cooking demonstration a celebration of one of our favourite local foods from the Namoi and Barwon Riverways. Preparing and cooking yabbies has long been a part of community life here, and it's a tasty way to engage with traditional practices that remain close to our hearts.

It was truly beautiful to hear the voice of young Arhiarna as she opened this special day with the Gamilaraay Acknowledgement Song. Her presence and pride in singing in Gamilaraay language perfectly embodied the meaning of this year's theme LEGACY. Young leaders like Arhiarna are not only carrying that legacy forward but actively reviving and keeping our culture strong and alive.

Today is a celebration of community, culture, and continuity. It's a moment to honour the voices of our Elders while uplifting and empowering the voices of our young ones. As we come together to share food, stories, and song, we strengthen the legacy entrusted to us and pass it on with pride and purpose. Enjoy the day, the culture, and each other.

Marubaa (Thank you)

Amy Townsend - Culture & History Consultant





# YUUL

## Food

### Entree

Dhinawan Dhii - Emu Meat

Roasted Emu Tarts with Davidson Plum and Bush Tomato

Baawul Dhii - Chicken Meat

BBQ Chicken Pieces with Fingerlime Aioli

Giiray- Yabbies

Freshly prepared and cooked on the Wii (fire).

### Mains

Bandaar Dhii - Kangaroo Meat

Curried Kangaroo Sausages served with Rice.

Dhimba Dhii - Lamb Meat

Lamb & Barley Soup

Chickpea & Cauliflower Hotpot

### Dhuwarr - Bread

Dhaamba - Damper / Binamayaa - Saltbush

Wattleseed & Saltbush Damper

Johnny Cakes with Ganalay (Mitchell Grass)

### Desserts

Guwadhaa - Quandong

Quandong Crème Brule Tarts

Warrul - Honey

Lemon Myrtle & Honey Dumplings







# Special Guests





# Dr. Aunty Fay Green OAM



Aunty Fay is a distinguished Gamilaraay Elder and a respected leader in the Walgett community, New South Wales. Born in Walgett on 27 February 1944, she has dedicated her life to education, cultural preservation, and community empowerment.

## Aboriginal Heritage and Early Life

Aunty Fay was raised on the Gingie Mission near Walgett, where she completed her schooling at the age of 14, as was customary at the time. Following her education, she worked on a sheep station as a housemaid. Despite limited formal schooling, she has become a prominent advocate for Aboriginal education and cultural revitalisation.

**Contributions to Education and Language Revitalisation** Aunty Fay has been instrumental in establishing Aboriginal language programs in local schools, particularly in reviving the Yuwaalaraay language and culture. Her efforts include developing language resources and supporting student performances at community events. Aunty Fay has been recognised for her work with an Order of Australia and an Honorary Doctorate from the Australian Catholic University. Even at 80, she remains committed to sharing her knowledge with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, exemplifying her lifelong dedication to cultural education and community empowerment.





# Young Leader

## Arhiarna Sullivan

Arhiarna Sullivan is a proud young Gamilaroi woman and an emerging leader in her community of Walgett. Arhiarna is currently in her final year of primary school at St Joseph's Catholic School in Walgett, Arhiarna stands out not only for her strong sense of identity, but also for her deep commitment to sharing and preserving her culture.

From a young age, Arhiarna has shown a remarkable passion for speaking and teaching her traditional language. She is already seen as a leader by her family and community, with her great-grandmother affectionately saying, "Our little Ahri is a strong leader already. She is teaching us our own language." Arhiarna's role as a language advocate carries powerful significance. Just a few generations ago, her Elders were not allowed to speak their language openly. Her great-grandmother recalls a time when the Aunties would quietly yarn in language, only for the children to be quickly moved along in the hope they wouldn't remember or repeat the words. Back then, speaking language could lead to punishment.

Today, Arhiarna proudly speaks the words her Ancestors were once silenced for an act of strength, resilience, and cultural pride. With her voice, leadership, and connection to her heritage, Arhiarna Sullivan is helping to ensure that the stories, language, and strength of the Gamilaroi people continue to grow and thrive for generations to come.



A colorful abstract painting featuring swirling yellow, orange, and blue patterns, resembling a traditional Indigenous Australian artwork.



# Dianne Hall

Dianne Hall is a Gamilaraay woman from the Yuwaalaraay/Euahlayi language group, and an Indigenous researcher, artist, and native grains specialist. With over a decade of experience across higher education, ecological research, and visual arts, she currently works as a Research Assistant at the University of Sydney's Plant Breeding Institute, focusing on native grains, gut health, and sustainable agriculture.

Her work bridges traditional knowledge with scientific research, including collaborations on robotics and seed innovation.

A passionate advocate for community engagement, Dianne leads workshops, harvest demonstrations, and the annual Native Grains Harvest Festival. She is also undertaking a PhD in Visual Arts at Griffith University and is committed to ethical, culturally respectful research practices.





# Jenny Trindall

Jenny is a proud Gamilaroi woman, born and raised in Walgett. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as Secretary on the WAMS Board of Directors.

Jenny holds multiple TAFE certificates across various fields and has built a strong professional background in administration, management and community driven work. Jenny generously shares her cultural knowledge and her famous Johnny Cakes, fondly known in the community as “Jenny Cakes.”





# Luke Farr

Luke is a proud Gamilaroi man who has called Walgett home for the past Twenty-seven years. Deeply connected to his culture and community, Luke dedicates much of his time to working with children within the local school, particularly in the area of agriculture, where he shares both practical knowledge and cultural insight.

Alongside his wife Carolyn and their family, Luke also runs Muddy Waters, a farm stay that offers visitors a chance to experience life on Country, learn about sustainable practices, and connect with Gamilaroi culture.

His commitment to community extends far beyond his own property. Luke has played a key role in the development of the Freedom Ride Garden, an important cultural and educational space in Walgett.

Through his leadership, generosity, and passion for sharing knowledge, Luke Farr continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of young people and the broader Walgett community.







# Photo Gallery





















# BREAD MAKING FACTS

Ever wondered who the world's first bakers were?

Most people credit ancient Egypt with the birth of baking around 17,000 BCE. But in Australia, grindstones used to make flour from native seeds have been dated to 30,000 years ago.

At Cuddie Springs in New South Wales, archaeologists uncovered a grinding stone used by Aboriginal people to process grass seeds into flour 12,000 years before the Egyptians even started experimenting with bread.

Visit: <https://australian.museum/blog-archive/science/food-culture-aboriginal-bread/>





# YABBIES



**Yabbies/Crayfish**

**Giiray** - Gamilaraay

**Yin.ga** - Yuwaalaraay

**Bugali** - Goodooga



**53 Staff Personnel in attendance**

## **4 Board of Directors**

Chairperson - Mary Purse

Secretary - Jenny Trindall

Director - Doreen Peters

Director - Carol Janissen

## **Community Members**

Aunty Fay Green

Luke Farr

Arhiarna Sullivan

Joanne Coleman

## **Guests**

Dianne Hall

## **Special Thanks**

Walgett Newsagency for the Catering

Narrabri Fish Farm for supplying the Yabbies

John Flack for the Firewood

**A SPECIAL SHOUTOUT TO WAMS STAFF  
MEMBERS THAT ASSISTED AND SUPPORTED  
THE EVENT**





