Pemulwuy

Newsletter of the NSW AECG Inc.

December 2017

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Have your say

Want to have your say?

Let everyone know the great things happening in your Local or Regional AECG. To be published, send your photos and stories to: info@aecg.nsw.edu.au

The NSW AECG Inc. would like to Acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

President's Message

Well, it has been another big year for the NSW AECG. Our membership continues to grow along with the services we provide. This year we have organised five camps encompassing STEM, dance, Language and Culture which where hugely successful. Our professional learning continues to gain numbers and this year has seen us expand into the Early Childhood space.

Unfortunately, we continue to have conversations concerning the achievement of our young people in school. The advocacy of the NSW AECG is critical and sadly still needed to influence policymakers and school leaders in what are our expectations and aspirations for our children. Perhaps, one day it won't be needed, but that day has not come yet.

Congratulations to all our members who have recently been elected to executive positions in your local and regional AECG's. I look forward to continuing to work and support your tireless effort in advancing Aboriginal education and the education of our children.

Finally, I would just like to say a very big thank you to Aunty Pat Lester for the deadliest looking hat I have ever owned. 2018 is the year of the bunny, I'm sure!!

Merry Christmas to you and your families and I hope you all have a safe and festive holiday!! Rest up because 2018 is shaping up to be another big year!!!

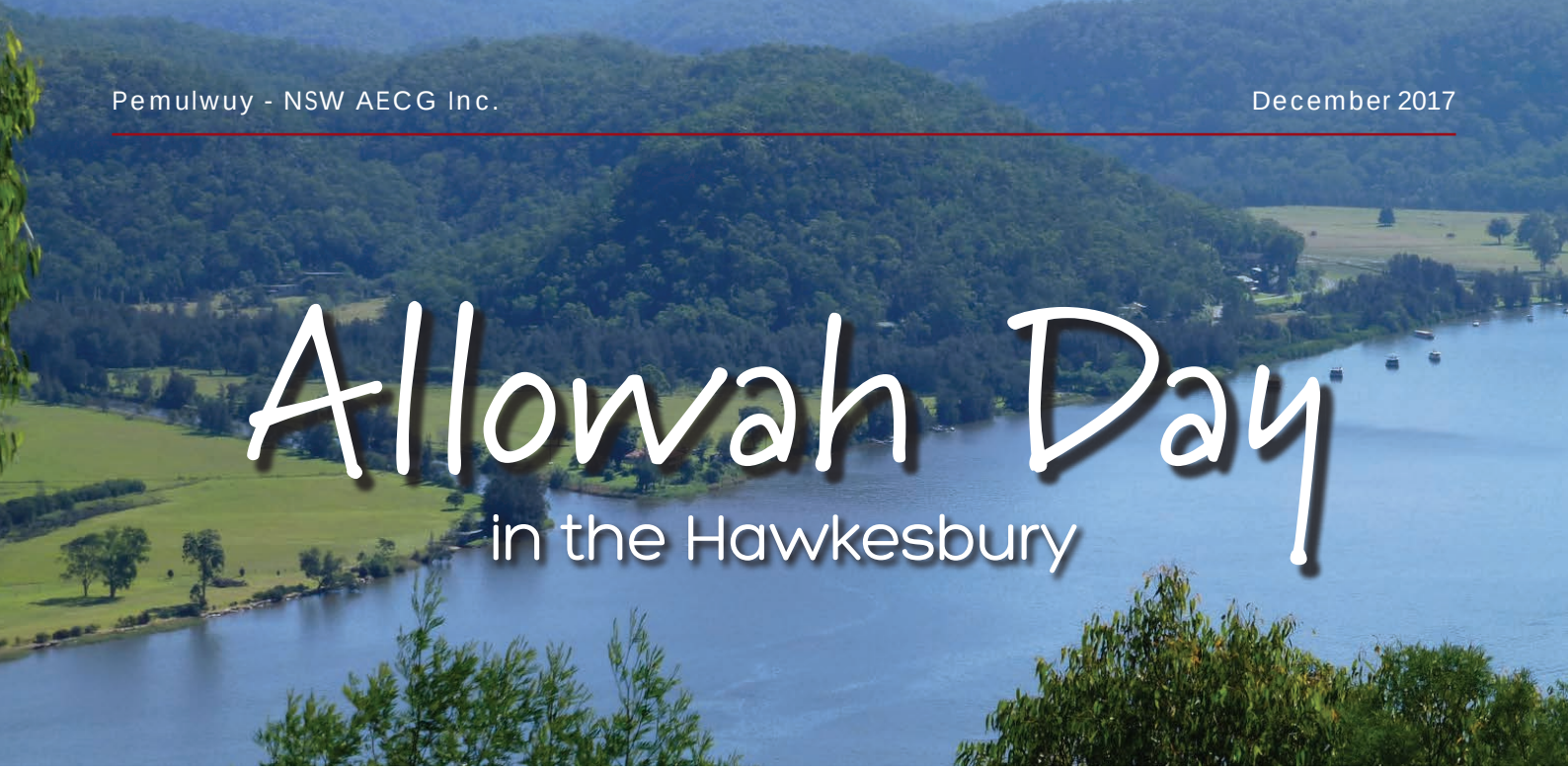
Pemulwuy

Pronounced: "Pem-ool-we"

The newsletter has been called *Pemulwuy* in honour of one of the first Aboriginal people known to have resisted the invasion of Australia.

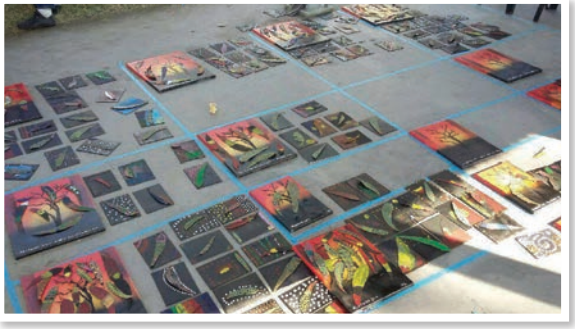
Pemulwuy and his son, Tedbury, were both outlawed while leading resistance to the invasion for 20 years after 1788. They led a form of guerilla warfare right around the area of modern Sydney and were perhaps the first Aboriginal people to resist attacks on their culture and identity.

Editor: Dave Lardner
Photographs: Jamie James
Graphic design: Wallula Munro

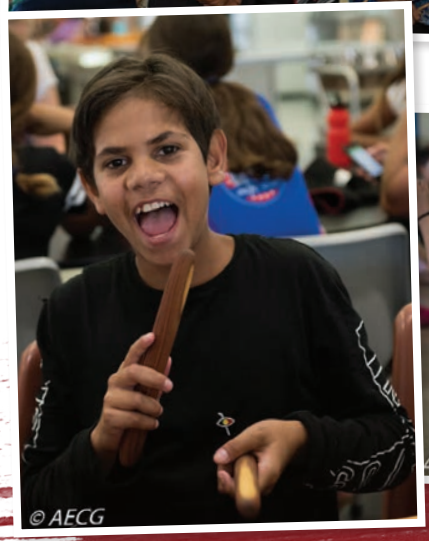


Allowah Day
in the Hawkesbury

Da Murrytoola Local AECG in partnership with the Hawkesbury schools, community associations and National Parks and Wildlife hold a combined schools day (Allowah Day), in the Hawkesbury for years 5-12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. This event has been running for around 8 years and started with high schools but now includes years 5 and 6 from their feeder schools. It has continued to grow over the years with approximately 200 student that attend.



Gomeroi Language, Culture & Dance Camp & Gaay Guumaldahna



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GamilaraaYuwaalaraayYuwaalayaay
Language and Culture Nest
awun dhaymaarr ngiyanigu gaay
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CALICO BAG
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Walking Together on Country

Respect Elders and Tradition, Learn always and all ways, Unite and lead by example

Being here today in Collarenebri means we keep our culture alive and acknowledge always, all the ways we Connect to Country. By walking together, we start the year we mean to continue – walking the walk and not just talking the talk and that's the only way we can address the real issues we have in our school. Together side by side with respect for culture. These ceremonial grounds we will visit today are where teaching has been carried out by generations of our ancestors and here today we again commit ourselves to learn in order to be better teachers of our young students.

Not far from here is a site (Gundablui) that has historical significance as the place where one of the last known ceremonies carried out in Western NSW was documented. Aboriginal people travelled from all around to attend that ceremony, from St George, Goodiwindi, and Hebel to name a few. We have to teach our kids that no matter where they're from – whether you come from Walgett, Collarenebri, Goondiwindi or the North Coast that coming together on country is part of our cultural tradition. And the same goes for us as teachers and members of the school community. Now we come together, not only, (as it was in the past) to teach the young boys to be men but also the young girls to be women, and to learn from each other.

I know many of you had reservations about coming to Colly from Walgett today, and to those of you who had reservations for whatever reasons and came anyway, thank you. This is an opportunity today to reflect on that reluctance carefully and to ask yourselves – how far are you prepared to travel, physically and mentally to honour the responsibility you've been given – to teach our children and to help our people? Many of you have come a long way to teach in Walgett – one of the first things to understand is that Gamilaraay country is all around you. Modern day maps don't define us. We learn from one another in different ways and in different places.

Today we will be in places that are a continuation of the connections we have always had through songlines, stories or the stars in the sky. We will see the wells of water that link us from Bundabarina Falls at Eurool to the Narran Lakes. We will see bottle burning, a contemporary expression that speaks to the importance of our burial ground rituals. We will see the trees at Collymongle that show our tradition, (not as dot painters) but as carvers of trees, ground and stone.

Think about the keys words we have used here today.

WALKING TOGETHER COUNTRY

Learn Unite Respect

Walking means you are in action, moving through time towards a destination, a goal. Walking together means keeping pace with one another. And if someone lags behind, don't leave them there, slow the pace so we can walk together. And if you see people striding ahead, don't be jealous or despondent, reach out, ask them how they did it and try it.

CREATING A PUZZLE

The jigsaw is an activity to remind ourselves that individually we are only part of the picture – so we have to work together to solve the puzzle. Not one of us is more important than the other and together we are both part of the problem and therefore part of the solution.

The aim is that the artwork on each part of the puzzle will come together to create a cohesive roadmap of how to take what we learn on country today into the classroom. This is us, setting our learning and teaching goals. The puzzle will be displayed at Walgett Community College all year so we can all check our goals and how we might need to adjust or change what we're doing to make them happen. What does achieving your goals look like? Describe on your puzzle piece the success criteria you need to remind yourselves of.

Too often days like today are great in themselves but as the challenges over the school year grow, memories of understandings and knowledge gained today fade. Don't be afraid to connect again to Elders, community, country – it's not something to be afraid of, in fact it can be a guiding principle in your classroom.

There are many different sized feet on the puzzle and they represent us in all our diverse shapes and sizes. How can we help those little feet to walk with confidence, stride with pride and grow in stature? Like signatories to a treaty, we will sign those feet today, united to walk forward together into this school year on sacred ground, paying respect to the culture that surrounds us.

Ros McGregor

STEAM Camp

Rathane, Royal National Park

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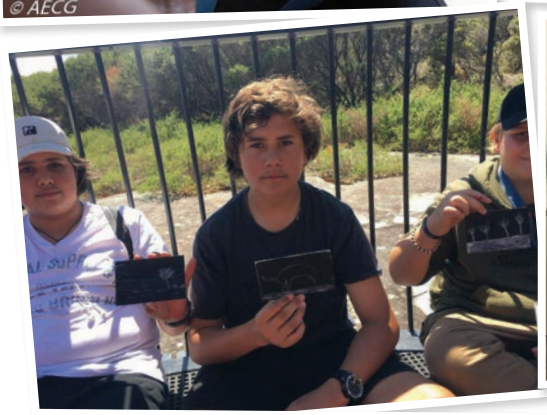

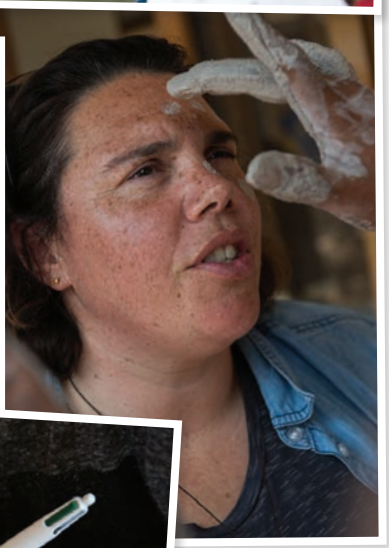

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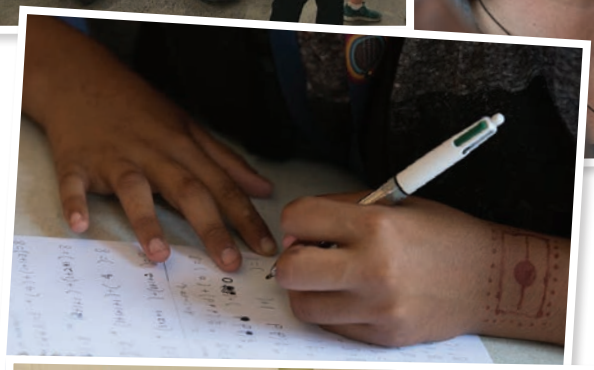

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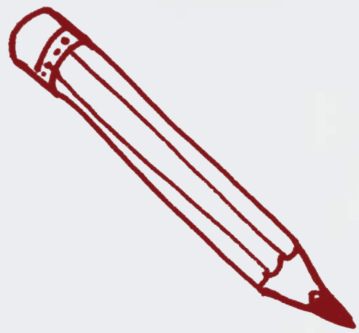
The NSW AECG is now registered as a

WORKING DEVELOPMENT ORDER

Organisation



The NSW AECG recently became an approved Working Development Order (WDO) organisation. This means we can support people who are experiencing financial hardship and difficulties paying off their fines with the State Debt Recovery office. If you are in this situation you can now get in touch with the NSW AECG Secretariat and do some volunteer work or participate in an educational course with us in exchange for your State Debt Recovery fines being reduced at a rate of $30p/hour.

New South Wales Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.

Remembering the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games

Cathy Freeman: Track and Field

A Teaching and Learning Resource

Cathy Freeman was born in Mackay in Queensland in 1973. She is best known for achievements on the track in running and sprinting, with her highlight winning the 400m Gold Medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

From an early age, Cathy Freeman dreamt of being an Olympian and raced for the first time at 8 years of age. She won scholarships to the Queensland schools of Fairholme College and Kooralbyn International School where she was able to be attain professional coaching in athletics.

In 1990, Cathy Freeman won her first Commonwealth Gold Medal in the 4 x 100 metres relay time. In the 1994 Commonwealth Games, she won the 200 and 400 metre Gold Medals. At the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Cathy won a Silver Medal.

The highlight for Cathy Freeman was the honour to light the Olympic Flame at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. It was at these same games, she fulfilled her childhood dreams by winning Gold in the 400-metre race. The huge crowd in attendance along with the entire nation went into an enthusiastic applause at this great achievement. In her victory lap, she carried both the Australian and Aboriginal Flags.

Source: http://www.50yearjourney.aiatsis.gov.au/stage6/item6.htm

Teaching Learning Activities

A. The Sydney Olympic Crowd

A crowd of 100,000 people watched Cathy Freeman win Gold in the 400-metre race at the Sydney Olympic Games. The crowd attendance consisted of the following people:

35% from Australia and Oceania
25% from Other Commonwealth Nations
10% from North America
15% from Europe
10% from Asia
5% from Other Nations

Construct a pie graph using the above figures (remember 1% = 3.6°). Use a suitable title for your graph.

B. The Sydney Olympics Gold Medal

Cathy Freeman's Gold Medal Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. **Source:** smh.com.au

a) Assume the radius of Cathy's Gold Medal is 5 cm, what is the surface are of her medal?

Cathy Freeman's platform presentation at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.
Source: www.sporting-heroes.net

b) What is the area of the platform if it measures 100 cm long, 70 cm wide and 60 cm high?

BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!

8-15 JULY 2018

2018 National NAIDOC Theme: Because of her, we can!

NAIDOC Week 2018 will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made – and continue to make - to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation.

Under the theme - *Because of her, we can!* - NAIDOC Week 2018 will be held nationally from Sunday 8 July and continue through to Sunday 15 July.

As pillars of our society, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have played – and continue to play - active and significant roles at the community, local, state and national levels.

As leaders, trailblazers, politicians, activists and social change advocates, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women fought and continue to fight, for justice, equal rights, our rights to country, for law and justice, access to education, employment and to maintain and celebrate our culture, language, music and art.

They continue to influence as doctors, lawyers, teachers, electricians, chefs, nurses, architects, rangers, emergency and defence personnel, writers, volunteers, chief executive officers, actors, singer songwriters, journalists, entrepreneurs, media personalities, board members, accountants, academics, sporting icons and Olympians, the list goes on.

They are our mothers, our elders, our grandmothers, our aunties, our sisters and our daughters.

Source: http://www.naidoc.org.au/2018-national-naidoc-theme

INUIT CULTURAL EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP Q&A

WIPCE 2017

Interview with Dr. Shayne Williams

WALLULA: Firstly, from all of the other kinds of activities you could've attended, why did you choose the Inuit Cultural Experience Workshop?

SHAYNE: Well, I hadn't met an Inuit person before so I thought to myself that this would be an ideal opportunity to do so.

WALLULA: Who facilitated this workshop?

SHAYNE: The workshop was facilitated by Dion Metcalfe, an Inuit man from Ottawa and his young son. Dion works for the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre (OICC), but he did tell me that his traditional homelands are actually in Northern Canada across the provinces of Labrador, Nunavut and Nunavik. He also told me that he was soon going back to Labrador for the very first time and that he was feeling really excited about it.

WALLULA: Was there any history lessons to be learnt from this workshop?

SHAYNE: I learnt that the impact colonisation has had on Inuit culture is no different to the impact it has had on Aboriginal Australian cultures, especially here in NSW. A residential school system was set up to remove Inuit children from their parents, families and communities just as our children were removed and taken to Cootamundra and Kinchella. This residential school programme was purposefully set up to totally wipe away Inuit cultural knowledge from the minds of Inuit children. The residential school system has undoubtedly been devastating for Inuit people and their culture.

WALLULA: What was one of the most encouraging aspects of this workshop for you?

SHAYNE: On a more positive note I've learnt that cultural education is very important to Inuit peoples as it is for us here in NSW. Dion made it abundantly clear to us that the cultural programmes IOCC runs for young Inuit learners is having a very positive impact on them. As Dion emphasised, "Inuit cultural lessons instil a deep sense of pride in Inuit students...you

can see them standing taller with their chests out...you can see a new generation of Inuit growing up proud in who they are."

WALLULA: What did you find particularly interesting about this workshop?

SHAYNE: I had no idea that foundational Inuit tools etc. were only made from animal bones or that their foundational lands are typically entirely iced landscapes with no flora whatsoever. One would think that Inuit people would've probably utilised some trees and plants, but foundationally this obviously wasn't so. I can only imagine what it would be like having to survive on such an expansive frozen landscape of ice as far as the eye can see.

WALLULA: Did you learn anything interesting about Inuit social organisation?

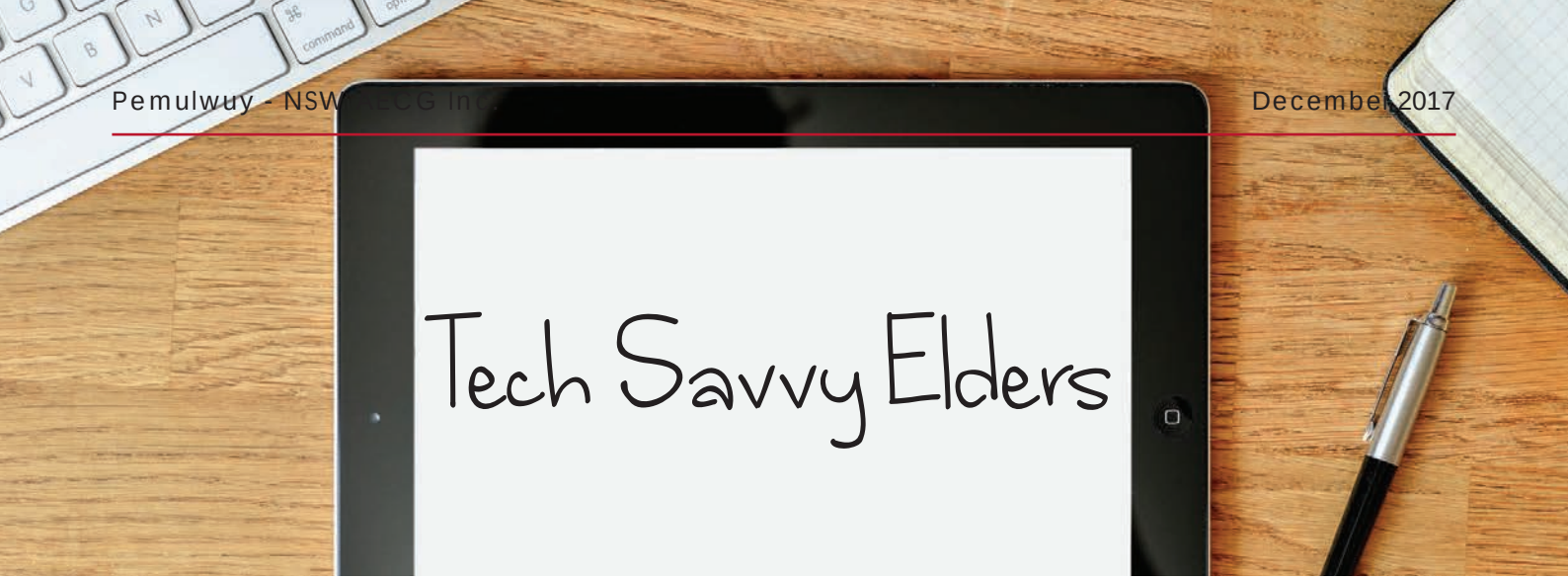
SHAYNE: It was certainly interesting to learn that Inuit people are not divided into separate tribal groups. Considering that they're living across an extremely vast landscape, including Greenland, you'd think that distinct tribal groupings would've emerged over time, but this hasn't happened. What this tells me is that Inuit people wherever they may be would have to all be related in one way or another. They're quite obviously monolingual; that is, they speak the one language as Maori do in Aotearoa, which is commonly known as New Zealand.

WALLULA: What message did you get from this workshop in terms of education today?

SHAYNE: Clearly, Inuit people's educational aspirations are no different to ours. Like us, Inuit people want their children to do well in Maths and English etc., but at the same time they want their children's Inuit identity to keep on growing strong too going forward into the future.

WALLULA: Is there one last topic you'd like to finish with?

SHAYNE: Yeah, the construction of Inuit language was a most interesting topic to be introduced to. As I previously noted they're monolingual, their language is made up of 60 sounds, yet there are still 10 different ways of speaking it. The various kinds of diversities inherent in these global languages are truly remarkable.



Elders in New South Wales are learning about technology from the younger generation and recording their stories under a 'Tech Savvy Elders' program touring regional and remote communities.

NSW Minister for Ageing Tanya Davies and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Sarah Mitchell said the digital literacy program was back by popular demand.

It is set to visit 10 locations across the state in the coming months, including Queanbeyan, Taree, Dubbo, Peak Hill, Muswellbrook, Walgett, Wagga Wagga, Bega and Lismore.

"Being able to connect with friends and loved ones, and have access to services and information more easily, is what Tech Savvy Elders is all about," Mrs Davies said.

Mrs Davies said the program, designed for older Aboriginal people, offers lessons in using computers, tablets, email, smartphones and other forms of digital literacy.

"There are huge benefits to being online, particularly for older people in rural areas.

"I encourage elders across NSW to visit the roadshow coming to a location near you."

The Tech Savvy Elders program is a NSW Government initiative delivered with the Burraga Foundation and the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.

"This initiative is important because it ensures Aboriginal Elders in our communities are connected with our young ones in this age of digital technology," NSW AECG President Cindy Berwick said.

"It also provides another medium in which to communicate our culture."

Source: https://nit.com.au/youngsters-talk-tech-elders/

Tech Savvy Elders: Redfern

Tech Savvy Elders: Taree

Snapshots from across the State

Deadly Encouragement Awards - Northern Illawarra Local AECG

Western Sydney University pre-service teachers visit Moree East Public School

UTS pre-service teachers doing work placement at the AECG Secretariat

Riverina 1 Regional AECG Meeting

Healthy Culture Healthy Country with the Tamworth Schools Services Team

Inner City Local AECG Connecting to Country

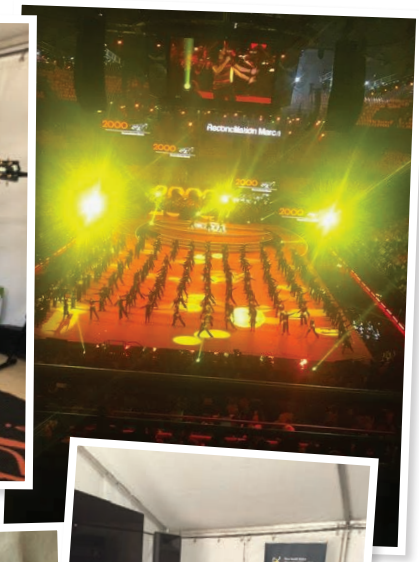
Snapshots
from across the State

Callaghan Education Pathways Aboriginal Recognition Assembly

Muloobinbah Local AECG Connecting to Country

Schools Spectacular

Looking Spectacular at the Schools Spectacular Specfest!! The show was awesome and the students were just too deadly!!! Congratulations to all involved



What position have you held with the AECG?
President of my Local
Delegate to the Region
Delegate to the State

What was your favourite thing to do growing up?
Making mud pies and hanging out with my granny

Do you have a favourite sport (person/team)
Football - Parramatta Eels

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
A vet

What's are your favourite TV shows/Movie?
At the moment all I watch is Thomas the Tank Engine - my boy is obsessed!

Are you reading anything at the moment?
Outlander

Who is your hero/role model?
My granny

Who is your favourite singer or band?
Bon Jovi

If you can have a super power what would it be?
To duplicate myself

What is your favourite food?
Chilli chips with lemon

https://fineartamerica.com/featured/jon-bon-jovi-art.html

Are you looking for the perfect gift?

Looking for some gift ideas? We now have a variety of merchandise items for sale on our website. Head over to check them out: https://www.aecg.nsw.edu.au/shop/

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