



Media release: Hundreds to commemorate Indigenous massacre at Myall Creek

Friday, 9 June 2016

More than 400 people are expected to gather near Inverell on Sunday, 12 June, to commemorate the massacre of 28 Aboriginal people in the region in 1838.

A memorial service, to be held at Myall Creek Memorial Hall, will remember [the killing of 28 Wirraraay children, women and men](#) by a group of stockmen on Myall Creek Station.

The event has been organised by [the Friends of Myall Creek](#), a local reconciliation group supported by the NSW Reconciliation Council.

NSW Reconciliation Council Director Gilly Dempsey said that the event was an important opportunity to reflect on a long history violence against Aboriginal peoples across New South Wales.

“It is absolutely vital that we acknowledge and discuss all aspects of our state’s history. This memorial will give people in north-west New South Wales a chance to remember the Aboriginal people who died in the region as a result of colonial violence, and to stand in solidarity with their descendants.”

Ms Dempsey said that ongoing commemoration of historic wrongs committed against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was important in shaping public opinion and government policy.

“The systemic disadvantage that we see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples facing today is the direct result of violence, discrimination and neglect perpetrated against their ancestors. Until we as a society grasp the full extent of the wrongs that were committed in the past, we will not be able to achieve the real, practical outcomes needed to address this disadvantage today.”

The memorial will include a presentation from Aboriginal historian [Aunty Noeline Briggs-Smith OAM](#), music from renowned Aboriginal singer [Roger Knox](#), and a dance performance by the Traditional Tingha Dancers.

Anyone wishing to attend is invited to gather at the Myall Creek Hall by 9.30am Sunday 12 June for morning tea. A CWA lunch will be available after the ceremony for a small charge.

The New South Wales Reconciliation Council is the peak representative body for reconciliation in NSW. Our vision is to create a reconciled, just and equitable community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. Our membership is currently made up of Reconciliation Groups and individuals across NSW – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working together to advance reconciliation in their communities.

For further information, interview requests or enquiries, please contact Georgia Behrens at georgia.behrens@nswreconciliation.org.au or on (02) 8095 9600.