



PRESS RELEASE

MAY 2021

Each year hundreds of people from across the country gather on the Sunday of the June long weekend to commemorate the unprovoked massacre of twenty-eight Wirrayaraay women, children and old men by a group of stockmen on Myall Creek Station in 1838.

The Myall Creek Memorial on the Bingara-Delungra Road near Inverell, was erected in June 2000 by a group of Aboriginal and non-indigenous people working together in an act of reconciliation. In 2008 the massacre site and Memorial was included on the National Heritage Register and also received NSW state heritage listing in 2010.

We are pleased to advise that the Stage 2 development of the Myall Creek Memorial Precinct is complete. This includes an Indigenous bush garden, cultural performance space and visitor amenities. We wish to express our gratitude to the NSW Government for the very generous grant from its Regional Cultural Fund through Create NSW, which made the project possible. The new development will enable local Aboriginal dance groups and musicians to share their culture in the newly created space.

Our speaker this year is Professor Lyndall Ryan BA Dip Ed (Sydney), PhD (Macquarie) AM FAHA, she is a leading historian of the Australian colonial frontier. Her first book, *The Aboriginal Tasmanians* (1981) broke new ground in arguing that contrary to widespread belief, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people did not die out in 1876 or at any period in history. Her most recent book, *Remembering the Myall Creek Massacre*, was published in 2018. Her current project is the development of a digital map of massacre sites of Aboriginal people across the Australian frontier 1788–1930. As an important contribution to the truth telling about Australia's past, the map uses a concise definition of frontier massacre based on international scholarship and uses a rigorous methodology to investigate and verify the often hidden evidence. Stage 3 of the map released in November 2019 includes 300 sites of massacres of Aboriginal people across the Australian frontier and 12 sites of massacres of non-Aboriginal people. Stage 4 of the map which will include nearly 400 sites overall, will be released later this year. <https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/map.php>

We are delighted Roger Knox, the 'Koori King of Country', and Gomeri man, will also be with us to share songs that honour his people along with the Ngambaa Dhalaay Dancers, Tingha Nucoorilma Dancers and the Gomeri Dancers.

We will also be congratulating the winners of the 13th annual Thoughts and Dreams – Student Art, Writing and Song Competition – which encourages students from Kindergarten through to Year 12 across north-west NSW and the rest of the state, QLD and ACT, to address and express different concepts of Reconciliation. This year's theme is 'Caring for Country starts with me'. An exhibition of the finalists will be displayed in the hall.

The annual Memorial Service is open to everyone. Those intending to participate are invited to gather at the Myall Creek Hall by 9.00am Sunday 13 June for morning tea. A great local CWA lunch will be available for purchase after the ceremony.

WHAT: Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Commemoration
WHEN: 9.00am Sunday 13th June 2021
WHERE: Myall Creek Hall, then Memorial Precinct Bingara-Delungra Road, Bingara NSW

We are conscious COVID regulations relating to public gatherings can necessarily change at short notice. We therefore provide this information on the understanding that we may have to defer/cancel the gathering, but will ensure you are advised immediately of any change in plans.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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www.myallcreek.org

ADDITIONAL MYALL CREEK EVENTS

FRIDAY 11 JUNE 2021 – 2.00PM-4.00PM

Henry Reynolds Webinar – Yarning About Truth-Telling and Reconciliation

2.00pm–4.00pm. Kindly facilitated by the University of New England (UNE), Armidale

This event will be conducted as a Webinar via Zoom. Please register at <https://une.edu.au/henry.reynolds>

SATURDAY 12 JUNE 2021 – 1.00PM–4.00PM

'Sounds of Country' Free Community Concert –

Discover the music of our land and people at the opening of the Myall Creek Memorial Stage 2 Precinct.

1.00pm–4.00pm. Myall Creek Memorial Precinct cnr Bingara-Delungra Road and Whitlow Road, Bingara

Performers will include The Buddy Knox Blues Band, Radical Son, Roger Knox, the Ngambaa Dhalaay Dancers, the Tingha Nucoorilma Dancers and the Gomeri Dancers.

Lunch available for purchase on-site from 12.00pm.

Gold coin donations are greatly appreciated.



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