

Indigenous history, nature in spotlight

Community encouraged to have their say on our CBD's future

Apex Park the place to be this Saturday



BY LEAH ANDERSON-BYRNE
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WANGARATTA is celebrating and recognising its First People, the Bpangerang tribe, at a community nature day this weekend in conjunction with the Wangaratta Farmers Market.

The event, organised by Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group and the Sustainability Network, seeks to inform the community and provide the opportunity to celebrate the region's "amazing natural diversity".

As well as a number of environmentally themed displays and a free barbecue, Ian Davidson, president of the Urban Landcare Group, is particularly excited about the Indigenous culture parts of this year's event.

"We have been in planning for nearly two years for this year's event after the respected Bpangerang elder Uncle Freddie Dowling spoke at our AGM in 2016," Mr Davidson said. "His stirring personal



CELEBRATING CULTURE: President of the Urban Landcare Group Ian Davidson with elder Uncle Freddie Dowling and his son Rodney are getting prepared for Wangaratta Nature Day being held this Saturday. PHOTO: Leah Anderson-Byrne

accounts of his people's historical and spiritual stories of this region left a huge impression on many of us, and we thought this is something the Wangaratta community would love to know, and Uncle Freddie was generously prepared to share."

The free event invites members of the community to watch Bpangerang dancers, learn about indigenous history in Wangaratta,

Bpangerang traditional culture, a walk along Bullawah trail, and many more activities.

Mr Davidson said this year's Nature Day "promises to be bigger and better than ever and a great opportunity for the public to get an understanding of our region's unique cultural history and natural world".

The event will be held this Saturday at Apex Park from 10.30am-2pm.

Program of key activities

11am - Official opening with Uncle Freddie, Bpangerang dancers and Indigenous music.

11.30am - Winners announced for the Bpangerang sign competition and unveiling of new sign for Bpangerang recognition.

12pm - History, spiritual story-telling and Q and A session with Uncle Freddie.

1.30pm - Bulluwah Cultural Trail guided walk.

Other displays

- Discover the microscopic world of the Ovens River.
- Information on native bees and other amazing insects.
- Native fish information.
- Environmental activities at Kaluna and Mullinmar.
- Queensland Fruit Fly control information and products.
- Kids games, native plants, free barbecue lunch.



BELLISSIMO: Students (from left) Asha Comey-Harvey, Jamie Fitzgerald and Rory Comey-Harvey preparing the bolognese for the Wangaratta Carevan. PHOTO: Tate Spiteri

Young chefs cooking for Carevan

By SHANE DOUTHIE

IT seems the proliferation of cooking shows is inspiring even the youngest of chefs and two local primary schools have joined together to use their culinary skills to help others.

Carragarmungee Primary School students visited their friends at Everton Primary School last week to create three dishes for the Wangaratta Carevan.

The students have all

experienced the Stephanie Alexander Garden Program where they have not only learned about the benefits of fresh garden produce but also how to translate that joy onto the plate.

"It's a way for the students to utilise the skills they've learned through the program and help the community as well," Lyne Newton, the Stephanie Alexander teacher said.

The children prepared pumpkin soup, penne

bolognese and penne carbonara and then packed them for the Carevan to freeze and use when required.

Back in August the Everton Primary School students prepared a five course meal as a fundraiser and later this month they will be catering for approximately 30 people visiting the Everton hall.

"It's about healthy cooking and eating, and getting involved with the community along the way," Ms Newton said.



RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA



Australia Day

Who's your hero?

Nominate them now for Wangaratta's Australia Day awards.

Forms at www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au and at Wangaratta Library and Wangaratta Government Centre.

Nominations close 10 December