



MEDIA RELEASE

Synod of New South Wales and the ACT
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Kev Carmody to speak at Myall Creek memorial service

The annual memorial service for those who died in the 1838 Myall Creek massacre will be held at Myall Creek, 150 kilometres north of Tamworth on the western edge of the New England Tablelands, on Saturday, June 6.

The service will be held at the Memorial on the Bingara-Delungra Road, with people gathering from 10 am at the nearby Myall Creek hall.

Guest speaker this year will be gifted singer-songwriter Kev Carmody.

From the wealth of his varied life experience, Kev Carmody has been able to address contemporary issues facing Aboriginal people through his music, giving encouragement to his people and expression to his oral tradition.

The Myall Creek Memorial was erected in June 2000 by a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together in an act of reconciliation. It commemorates the unprovoked massacre of about twenty-eight Wirrayaraay women, children and old men by a group of stockmen in 1838.

In 2008 the massacre site and Memorial received national recognition when it was included on the National Heritage Register.

In announcing its inclusion at the last annual gathering, Mr Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, said the Memorial was “a sign ... that we come to terms with our past, acknowledge it, identify it and then move forward together, sharing the future.”

Organisers have been encouraged by growing interest in the memorial and support from the local community. Winners of locally-organised schools' creative writing and art competitions regarding Myall Creek will be announced at the gathering.

Lunch will be available after the ceremony for a small charge.

In the afternoon a public meeting will be held to discuss plans to build an Education & Cultural Centre in close proximity to the memorial. Architectural drawings for the proposed centre will be displayed.

Visit www.myallcreek.org and www.newagemultimedia.com/isaacs/MyallCrk.html.

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