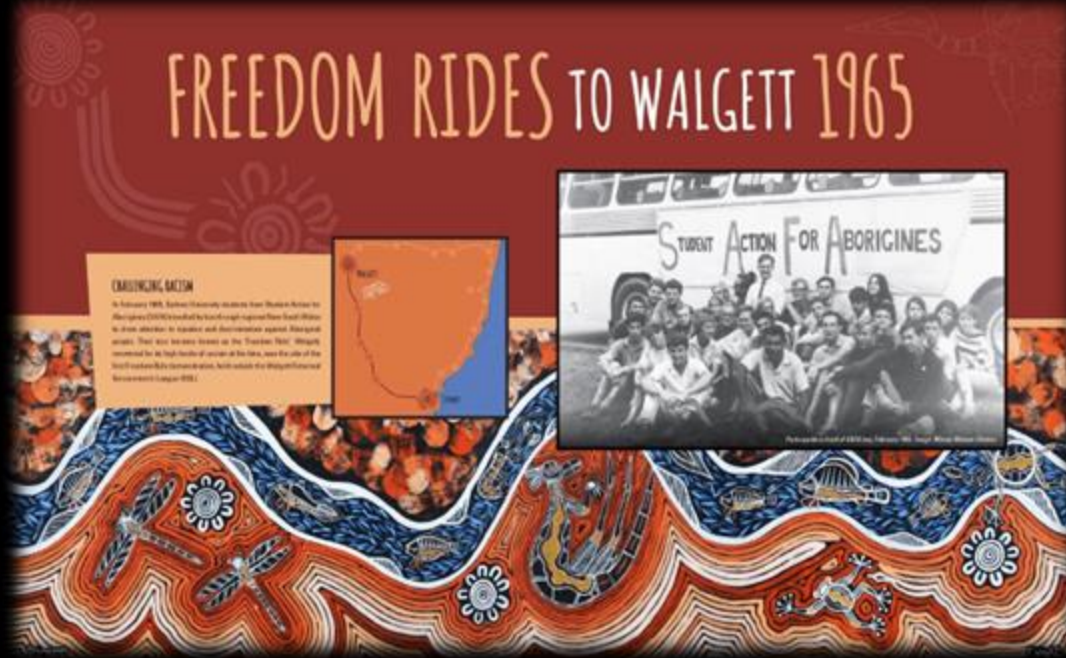


From Recognition to Legacy

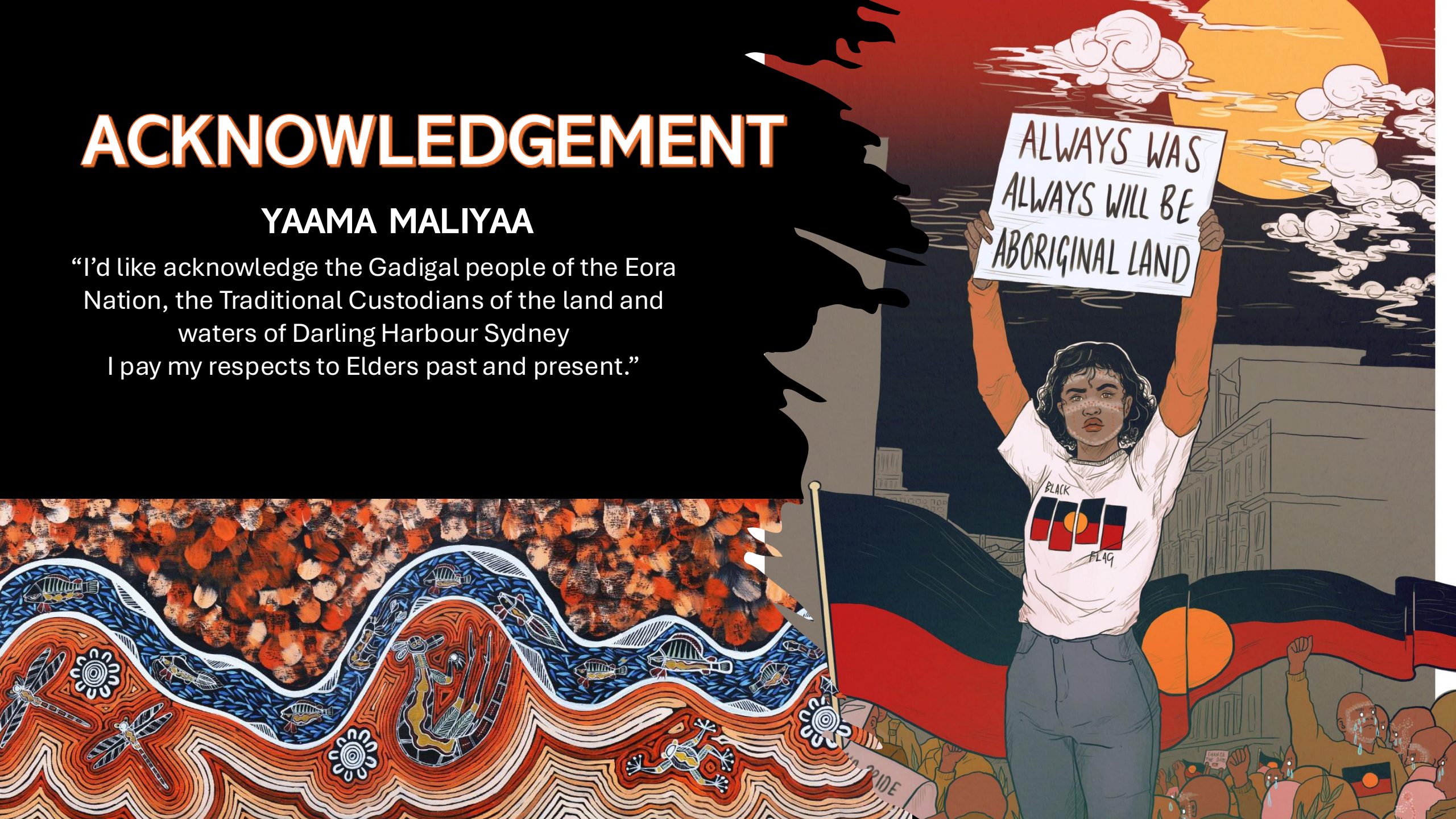
The Journey of the Freedom Ride Memorial Park, Walgett



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

YAAMA MALIYAA

“I’d like acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora
Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land and
waters of Darling Harbour Sydney
I pay my respects to Elders past and present.”



CULTURAL WARNING



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander people should be
aware that this presentation
contains images, voices,
and names of deceased
persons**

Ngaandi ngaya

Who am I

Gayrr Ngaya

AMY TOWNSEND

PROUD GAMILAROI YINARR

CULTURE & HISTORY CONSULTANT

WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE



WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE

Established in 1986

Celebrating 40 YEARS

**Born from COMMUNITY activism and the
vision that Aboriginal People should
have control over their own Health and
Wellbeing**





Gulbiyaay (Welcome)
To Walgett
To Our Country
To the lands of the
Gamilaroi people



In the 1960s approximately 1000 Aboriginal people resided in Walgett from the Gamilaraay and the Yuwaalaraay and the nearby Weilwan nations

Before the 1967 referendum, the lives of Aboriginal people (predominantly the Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay people) in Walgett, New South Wales, were tightly controlled through a combination of state legislation, institutional segregation, and systemic social exclusion

Aboriginal people were not served alcohol in local pubs, segregated to Aboriginal-only seats in the local cinema, and were not served in shops that were owned and operated by white business people



HOW THE PROJECT BEGAN

*Remembering
The Freedom Rides
to Walgett*





RESEARCH TEAM

- Johanna Perheentupa
- Christine Corby AM
- Andy Methner
- Lyn Rummery
- Dr Laurie Crawford
- Mary Purse
- Amy Townsend

REMEMBERING THE FREEDOM RIDES OF 1965

A community-led project that looks into the history of the Freedom Rides of 1965 that took place across New South Wales

The Walgett Freedom Ride project was initiated by Mary Purse a proud Gamilaroi Woman and daughter of the late Harry Hall a Yuwaalaraay Man who was a staunch Aboriginal leader of the community



AIM OF THE PROJECT

The aim of this project is to record and make public the history of the Freedom Ride to Walgett in 1965 from the local Aboriginal perspective (Purse 2022)

The project also identifies significant events and the local Aboriginal people who had a key role in the protests against segregation in Walgett on 15 February 1965



Christine Corby AM & Mary Purse



Desmond Hall & Mary Purse



PROTESTS WALGETT RSL & SHEEHAN'S FROCK SALON

"It hurts you white people in Walgett to see the whites from Sydney up here and do that to you, doesn't it. Trouble is it is hurting to see other whites fighting for the Blacks." - Pat Walford-

NO Black women could enter the shop unless they had money to buy something but they were not allowed to try on the frocks before purchasing





PROTESTS REVISITED IN AUGUST 1965

The LUXURY THEATRE (CINEMA)



Walgett again – the Cinema

- The Cinema at Walgett was segregated- Blacks and Whites could not sit together.
- The Freedom Riders went to the movies Black and White together – They were arrested.





DEVELOPING THE PARK

ARTWORK FREEDOM RIDE MEMORIAL PARK

THE ARTIST FRANK WRIGHT

Gamilaraay/Eualaraay nation

Raised on the Namoi Reserve in Walgett, Frank Wright draws deep inspiration from the traditional campfire stories passed down by his parents and grandparents. His contemporary Indigenous artwork intricately captures the river systems of the Namoi and Barwon, alongside local wildlife and totems.



Establishing a Native Garden





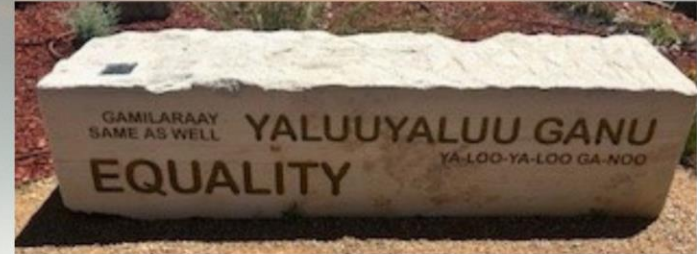
GAMILARAAY LANGUAGE



WALGETT FREEDOM RIDE MEMORIAL PARK



ARTWORK FRANK WRIGHT ©



EQUALITY / YALUUYALUU GANU
embodies the shared humanity
and fairness that the Freedom
Ride called for, expressing in
Gamilaraay the enduring hope for
a community where everyone
stands on equal ground.

Scan the QR code to listen

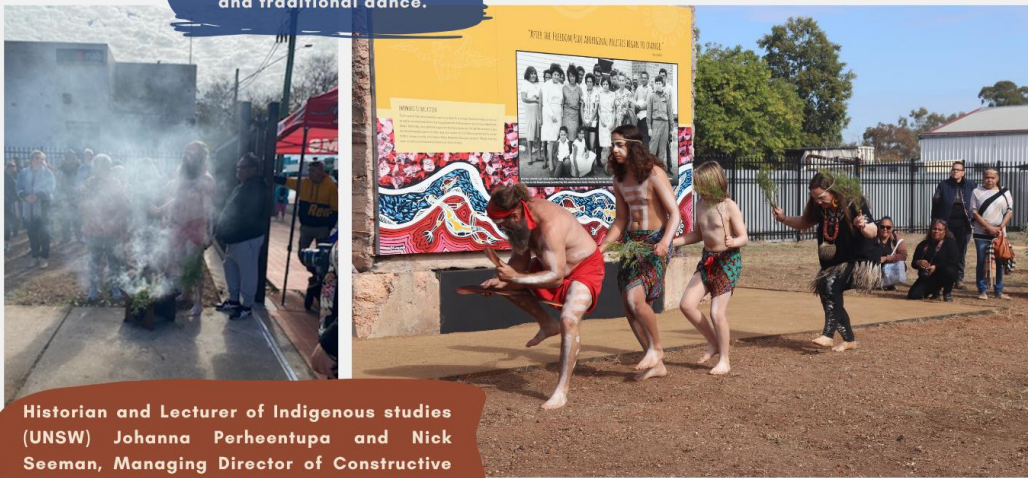




THE LAUNCH



Locky Dennis and family performing smoking ceremony and traditional dance.



Historian and Lecturer of Indigenous studies (UNSW) Johanna Perheentupa and Nick Seeman, Managing Director of Constructive Dialogue Architects also contributed to the day's events by each providing an overview of their involvement in the project, as part of the WAMS freedom Ride Team.



Local Gamilaraay artist, Frank Wright, provided an overview and the story behind his artwork which are depicted on the four panels surrounding the vault.



REMEMBERING THE FREEDOM RIDES: HONOURING WALGETT'S HISTORY





WAMS ESO Leanne Beton with original Freedom Riders.

SPEAKERS

Following the cultural presentations, attendees were treated to insightful speeches delivered by the three original freedom riders, whose words echoed the spirit of resilience and unity.



Original Freedom Riders - Beth Hansen, Alec Mills, Chris Page respectively.

SPEAKER - MICHAEL ANDERSON

Renowned for advocating Aboriginal rights and founding the Aboriginal Tent Embassy at Parliament House in 1972.



Phillip Hall, Lorna Raymond, Doreen Peters, Laurence Crawford respectively.



WAMS Freedom Ride Team



WAMS Staff

FREEDOM RIDE WEBSITE LAUNCH

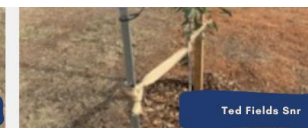
Following the conclusion of the park launch, attendees were invited to convene at WAMS Community Hall for refreshments and to explore the newly launched Freedom Ride Website. UNSW Lecturer Johanna Perheentupa, alongside Amy Townsend, provided an insightful overview of the website, underscoring their integral involvement in the project.



Harry Hall



Charles Perkins



Ted Fields Snr



SAFA Students



Lorna Raymond (nee Hall), Patricia Crawford (nee Hall) and Marie Cohen (nee Peters)



Walgett Community Members



Hall Family with SAFA students



Hall Family



The first tree planted was for Harry Hall who is the father of WAMS Chairperson, Mary Hall. The tree was planted by the family and the community.

CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD





... Reported entry on national ...
... and the 1987 Referendum to give ...
... people and to include ...
... people in Wapiti that they

Bobby Thorne, unidentified, ...
... 1987 Referendum to give ...
... people and to include ...
... people in Wapiti that they

We Were Children then!

EWING



RACIS
STRUC
RECEI

Stage 1 of the Freedom Ride Memorial Park and Website has concluded successfully. WAMS is actively seeking additional funding to initiate the next phase of development, which will encompass the construction of a covered walkway, establishment of a gift shop and café, and incorporation of native plants into the landscape.



OTHER SUCCESSES

UNSW Lecturer Johanna Perheentupa, WAMS Chairperson Mary Purse, Amy Townsend, Ngemba Dr Laurence Crawford, and WAMS CEO Christine Corby AM presented a paper on the Freedom Ride Project at the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Historical Association (AHA) Conference

UNSW Lecturer Johanna Perheentupa, Culture & History Consultant Amy Townsend, Ngemba Dr Laurence Crawford, WAMS Chairperson Mary Purse and WAMS CEO Christine Corby AM presented a paper on the Freedom Ride Project at the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Historical Association (AHA) Conference in Melbourne in July 2023



MANY STUDENTS AND VISITORS



STAFF & COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS





STREET ACTION FOR ABORIGINES

OPENING CEREMONY
Community March
9.45am
Official Opening Ceremony
10.00am
Freedom Ride Memorial Park
followed by refreshments
Walgett RSL Hall

BBQ & FREE CONCERT
Featuring local entertainers FREE
BBQ
5.30pm - 9.00pm
No1 Oval Walgett

For further information contact Amy Townsend 68203777



60 YEARS ON

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional
Custodians of country throughout
Australia and their connections to
lands, and rivers.

We pay our respect to their Elders past
and present and extend that respect to all
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander peoples today.
Walgett Gamilaraay Nation.



An Historic Milestone Unveiled

Minister Penny Sharpe joins WAMS Chairperson Mrs. Mary Purse and CEO Mrs. Christine Corby AM to formally unveil the NSW Blue Plaque at the Freedom Ride Memorial Park, honoring Walgett's enduring civil rights legacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WAMS Board of
Directors

Mrs. Christine
Corby AM Chief
Executive Officer

Charles Perkins
& Family

Students SAFA

Johanna
Perheentupa

Laurence
Crawford

Mrs Lyn
Rummery

Andi Methel –
Zest Events
International

Frank Wright

Nick Seemann -
Constructive
Dialogue
Architects

Ann Curthoys

Pat Healey

Frances Peters-
Little (Dec)

**Acknowledging all the Supporters
of the Walgett Community that
includes family and friends for all
your valued contributions and
sharing of information of the
Walgett Freedom Ride
Thankyou**



The Freedom Ride Memorial Park signifies the importance of passing the knowledge down to the younger generations, sharing the narratives of the history through truth-telling and honouring those as the heroes that struggled for change for fairness and equality.



Sunday 3rd September, 2023
The Sun-Herald

Mary holds the dress and shares her story of being 10 years old at the time of the Freedom Rides

Imagine being 21yrs old and having the opportunity to be able to enter a frock shop and buy your very first dress to celebrate being 21 and even getting to try it on to make sure it fits



WHATS COMING TO THE PARK IN 2026

- EDUCATION
- MEETING PLACE
- HISTORY & DISPLAYS



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE
SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS VIDEO MAY CONTAIN IMAGES,
VOICES AND NAMES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Q&A TIME

Mrs Christine Corby AM

CEO Walgett AMS

Mrs Mary Purse

Chairperson Walgett AMS

Mrs Amy Townsend

Culture & History Walgett AMS

<https://walgettamsfreedomride.com/>

