

26 February 2010

Council shows commitment to Aboriginal people

Shoalhaven City Council has entered into a commitment with the Aboriginal people of the Shoalhaven in a special ceremony and raising of the flag in Council Chambers, Nowra.

The special ceremony was a proposal from the Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said the commitment comes two years after the National Apology to the Stolen Generations by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in February 2008.

"Today we honour the Aboriginal people of Shoalhaven City, a truly enduring people with a rich culture and history. I also acknowledge that much of that history has included injustices and mistreatments," Cllr Green said.

"Today we make a special commitment to Aboriginal people so that not just Council but all people of Shoalhaven City can learn more about the valuable contribution and richness that Aboriginal peoples offer to our city.

"On that I think it's healthy that we are starting to see Australian indigenous content in art, sciences, mathematics, and literacy in NSW schools now.

"Reconciliation Australia lists nine values including equality, respect, openness, integrity, learning and accountability, in its plans. As it happens these are similar values that Council aspires to. We are in the process of putting forward a new draft Community Strategic Plan and these values underlie the work we have done for this plan which will help to guide how we grow and develop the city over the next 10 years."

Council was joined with Elders Ruth Simms, Belle McLeod, Elaine Sturgeon, and other members of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee in celebrating the Statement of Commitment.

Photo Caption:

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green with Aboriginal Elder Aunty Belle McLeod and Auntie Elaine Sturgeon to raising the Aboriginal flag in Shoalhaven City Council chamber. Cllr Gareth Ward, Chair of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and Cllr Amanda Findley are assisting.

Councillor Paul Green and Deputy Mayor Councillor Gareth Ward with Bomaderry Public School students Tyson, Rayanna, Chloe and Jamie. The students were responsible for bringing the Aboriginal flag into the chamber.

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