Students embrace indigenous showcase

CULTURE CELEBRATED

NAIDOC WEEK

- Marked annually in July
- Celebrates and recognises the history and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- Stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee

Allevins Carey

MARRICKVILLE High School celebrated NAIDOC Week recently with special guests, dancing, poetry and a smoking ceremony.

An assembly was held to acknowledge the cultural history and achievements of indigenous people.

It opened with a traditional smoking ceremony, followed by an address from principal Avery Bessaklin.

Aboriginal poet and writer Lorna Muir of the Warrajurru Gumburra people gave a very powerful recital and also read the poem ‘Aboriginal Charter of Rights’ by Keith Walker.

The Alexandria Park Community School Aboriginal dance group, Dandy Kids, performed traditional and modern Aboriginal dances accompanied by Brendan Kerin on the didgeridoo.

Other distinguished guests included Aboriginal elder Auntie Fay, Katrina Hough, from AMR, and students’ parents.

Ms Bessaklin said NAIDOC Week gave students an opportunity to understand and value Aboriginal heritage.

“It showcases indigenous achievement,” she said. “We have 35 Aboriginal students at our school.

Acknowledging past and present success in various fields sends a positive message to our kids.”

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