

WATER COOLERS LAUNCH

Tuesday 24th March 2015

The Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS) held a Launch at the Walgett Primary School to pay tribute to the Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal, the Rotary Club of Dee Why, Warringah and Healthabitat, who had all contributed to a water cooler being purchased and installed at the school.

The Water Cooler was the idea of the WAMS Dental Team, led by consultant, Dr Sandra Meihubers, to bring fluoridated chilled water – because chilled water tastes better – to the children of Walgett. Representatives from each organisation were invited to attend the Launch which was held at 10 am on Tuesday, 24 March 2015.

MC for the occasion was the Acting School Principal, Mr Jason Horan, and he invited the school's Aboriginal Education Officer, Ms Deborah Walford, to begin proceedings with a minutes silence, after which the School Captains, Clive Murray and Catherine Dennis, performed the 'Welcome to Country' in language with an English translation.

Mr Horan then welcomed Dr Meihubers to the lectern, who thanked everyone for attending before providing a project overview, acknowledging the donors and emphasising the message to students that 'water is best'.

Healthabitat representative Mr. Paul Pholeros recognised the importance of 'small steps' because they really do make a difference.

Mr. Colin Bradford, President of the Rotary Club of Dee Why, Warringah and past member of the Freedom Ride that came to Walgett 50 years ago, reiterated the significance of 'closing the gap' in health and the water cooler was a great incentive for kids to have the option of drinking 'chilled water' whilst at school.

The Dental Therapist, joined by the Dental Team, spoke at length on the importance of drinking water, cleaning teeth and the value of visiting the WAMS Dental clinic regularly. The Dental Team handed out water bottles which the children filled with clean chilled water.

WAMS Directors, Ms Iris Hall and Ms Carol Jannisen, along with Mr Pholeros and Mr Bradford, were invited to cut the ribbon followed by trays of fresh fruit, provided by WAMS, being offered to the children and guests.

The Launch was closed by the School Captains and the School Principal who thanked everyone for attending.



WATER COOLERS LAUNCH



FACILITATOR:

WAMS Dental team and Acting Deputy Principal Jason Horan

WAMS ATTENDANCE:

Kayla Thurston	Dental Team Leader
Sandra Meihubers	Dental Consultant
Suman Kavooru	Bila Muuji Oral Health Promotion Coordinator
Sarah Dowse	Dental Assistant
Nichole Kennedy	Dental Assistant
Alyssa Walford	Dental Assistant
Jis George	Dental Assistant
Lynne Turner	Dental Therapist
Roberto Aurel	Locum Dentist
Christine Corby	CEO
Leigh Leslie	DCEO
Iris Hall	Director
Carol Janissen	Director
Deb Walford	Administration Assistant
Naomi Barrett	Admin Team Leader
Lyn Rummery	Executive Support Officer
Jessie Richardson	Clinic Practice Manager

INVITED GUESTS:

Paul Pholeros	Director, Healthabitat
Colin Bradford	President, Rotary Club of Dee Why Warringah
Jenni Floyd	Oral Health Program Manager, Western NSW LHD
Helen Clooney	Principal, St Josephs School

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

Years 4, 5 and 6
Students,
Teachers,
ALEO's, support staff

