



July 1 2011

NOWRA COURT CELEBRATES NAIDOC WEEK

A ceremony will be held at Nowra Courthouse during NAIDOC Week to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and recognise the contributions of Indigenous people to the justice system.

“Nowra’s Aboriginal Elders and other respected community members have pioneered programs such as Circle Sentencing and Care Circles to give our people a voice in the justice system and to help offenders turn their backs on crime,” said Gail Wallace, project officer for Circle Sentencing and Care Circles in Nowra.

“Circle Sentencing is now operating at 11 locations in NSW, with the successful Nowra program providing a model for other locations.”

The NAIDOC ceremony will be held on Tuesday, July 5. The event will include a welcome to country, guest speakers and a spiritual blessing with a didgeridoo player.

Nowra Courthouse registrar Craig Cockburn said the ceremony has the full support of the court.

“The court has developed a strong and positive working relationship with Nowra’s Indigenous community, particularly with the Aboriginal Elders who have provided invaluable advice on cases involving Indigenous victims of crime and offenders,” Mr Cockburn said.

“The Elders perform the work voluntarily and are driven by a desire to address the difficult and often complex issues facing members of their community.

“I encourage local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, the legal profession and other community members to show their support for Indigenous culture by attending the NAIDOC Week event.”

NAIDOC ceremony details

Where: Courtroom 3, Nowra Courthouse

When: 12pm-1pm, Tuesday, July 5

For more information about NAIDOC Week, visit www.naidoc.org.au