

## Ngara Yura Program: judicial visit to Dharawal community at La Perouse

The Ngara Yura Program organised a visit to the Dharawal community of La Perouse last month. Mr Ray Ingrey, Chairperson of Gujaga and CEO of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, hosted the visit which focused on the importance of culture and family to Aboriginal communities and cultural communication. The key insight for the visitors is that Aboriginal communities will not function to their fullest potential if culture and Country are not healthy. The group was joined by Elders and representatives of local Aboriginal organisations and members of the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Alliance.

Aboriginal people have inhabited the La Perouse area for millennia. When the First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay in 1788, it has been estimated that around 1,500 Aboriginal people lived between Broken Bay and Botany Bay. Many descendants of the families continue to live within the La Perouse Aboriginal community, the longest functioning and only discrete Aboriginal community in Sydney.

Participants heard from Mr Chris Ingrey, who spoke about the work of the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Alliance, an impressive initiative connecting Aboriginal original community-controlled organisations that provide services to the community. The success of this model was borne out by presentations by Uncle Lloyd Walker, Ms Carrine Liddell and Ms Sally Walker who explained how the community is addressing access to a range of core functions including education, housing, child care and even burial rights. In addition to the types of services provided, the group heard about future plans for the La Perouse community and the significant work to preserve the local language. Two short workshops were then offered, one on weaving and the other on language.

In the words of one judicial officer, "we left feeling inspired and positive for the future".



Pictured (bottom photo) are the Chair of the Ngara Yura Committee, her Honour Judge Dina Yehia SC (centre) with the Honourable Justice Natalie Adams, Supreme Court (l) and the Honourable Justice Julia Lonergan, Supreme Court (r).

*The Judicial Commission acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which the Commission is based, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.*