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PEOPLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES THROUGH  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDEPENDENCE

# media release

## NEW SOUTH WALES ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

28 January 2010

### **Saltwater-Freshwater Festival an outstanding success**

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council has praised the organisation and community spirit generated by the inaugural Saltwater Freshwater Festival.

NSWALC Chairperson Bev Manton says the festival exceeded expectations and said she was delighted planning was already underway for the next few years.

Ms Manton said NSWALC was one of a number of proud sponsors of the festival.

"It really was a wonderful event," Ms Manton said. "Thousands of people attended and I think I can safely say they were glad they did.

"It was an inspiring showcase of Aboriginal culture and identity. Everyone involved should be justifiably proud of their contribution.

"I want to pay particular tribute to Alison Page.

"She came to us with an idea three years ago that not many people believed in. To her credit, she backed herself, founded the festival and it's taken off from there.

"Alison is a human dynamo."

Ms Manton also acknowledged the fantastic work of Arts Mid North Coast.

"Their support and belief in this project, and of Aboriginal culture and heritage in general on the mid north coast has been outstanding," Ms Manton said.

"And last but certainly not least, I have to acknowledge the work of the Local Area Land Councils in my region, whose involvement in the festival has been crucial.

"Their hard work and dedication – along with the many other people involved - will help ensure that the Saltwater Freshwater Festival is the premium event of its kind in the country."

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