



Walgett Shire Council

ABN 88 769 076 385

MEDIA RELEASE

RADIO

- ABC Western Plains
- ABC New England
- ABC National
- 2WEB
- NOW FM/2VM
- Opal FM

PRINT MEDIA

- ** Walgett Spectator
- Mungindi Matters
- Daily Liberal – Dubbo
- Western Magazine
- North West Magazine
- Sydney Morning Herald

TV

- Prime (Dubbo)
- WIN (Dubbo)
- Southern Cross 10
- Imparja
- NBN

DATE: 20-05-2022

EMBARGO: Nil

COLLESS GRANDSTAND OPENING

The long awaited return of the Colless Grandstand to the Walgett Showground finally came to fruition on Saturday 7th May when the Hon. Dugald Saunders Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales officially opened the refurbished facility as part of the 83rd Annual Walgett Show. The Minister congratulated Council on its effort in returning the grandstand to its former glory for the Walgett Shire community, he said the improvements will no doubt stimulate the local economy with many more people attending events at the showground.

Mayor Jane Keir OAM agreed with the Minister saying “grandstands play an important role in cementing the success of many events that require large undercover seating for race days, shows and musical events.” The Mayor went on to say, “the refurbishment had been a long-time in the planning and it was a credit to everyone concerned to see such a transformation from a derelict shell to a modern high quality building for the community to come together and enjoy the many events on offer at the showground. This is just another example of Council’s commitment to continue with its long-term asset renewal plan and refurbishment of community facilities throughout the shire.”

The Colless Grandstand was originally opened in November 1961 when the previous grandstand was demolished after being damaged by a wind storm. Over the next 53 years the Colless Grandstand was the centre piece of the showground, however a lack of preventative maintenance saw the facility fall into a state of disrepair and was finally closed to the public in May 2014.

General Manager Mike Urquhart said “over the past few years Council staff have investigated a number alternatives for the building, and it was in 2020 when a grant of \$191,363 became available by the NSW State Government as part of a NSW Showground Stimulus Program that Council finally bit the bullet and allocated a further \$608,000 from accumulated reserves to jointly fund the refurbishment”. This was a huge project carried out by Dubbo firm David Payne Constructions. The General Manager went on to say that Council could see the long-term benefits for its community and further upgrading of the showground carpark and surrounds was scheduled for the coming month.

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