



HARMONY Day was celebrated at Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre last Friday, when people from different cultural backgrounds were invited to share food and culture from their homeland.

Cultural respect on Harmony Day

HARMONY Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre celebrated Harmony Day last Friday by hosting a "brunch" for people from different cultures in Gunnedah and surrounding communities.

Visitors from Shenhua and Better Be Thai joined Aboriginal Elders, Rhiana Martin from the Lands Council and an Aboriginal women's group from Muswellbrook.

The guests were welcomed by Winanga-Li staff, including Manager Wayne Griffiths, Tracey Towns (Family Con-

necter) and Chanoah Hazell (Finance and Administration Officer).

Samuel Griffiths delivered a traditional Kamilaroi Welcome to Country before everyone sat around the table and introduced themselves, talk a little about their culture, where they came from, and what dish they had brought to the meal.

An Australian Government program which coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the message of Harmony Day is "Everyone Belongs".

With around 45 per cent of Australians born overseas or with at least one parent who was born overseas, Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity.



PICTURED after the Harmony Day brunch are Shenhua Community Liaison Officer, Debbie Watson, left, Winanga-Li manager Wayne Griffiths, Shenhua receptionist Trish Easey, Commercial Manager Kathy Wu, book keeper, Sylvia Zhou, and Winanga-Li Finance and Administration Officer, Chanoah Hazell.