



NGOONBI CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH COMMUNITY



The Ngonbi 50th Anniversary celebration was held on Thursday 25 September, marking another significant event in Ngonbi's rich history. Over 200 guests attended including Elders, community members, Ngonbi staff, partners and sister organisations and various other stakeholders. The formal event was held in the Kuranda and Mossman Ballroom at the Pullmans International Hotel, Cairns.

Throughout the night historical and cultural presentations celebrated the heart and soul of Ngonbi. Presentations by Miriki and Djabugay dance groups were touching performances encapsulating the resilience of our predecessors and Ngonbi's foundational values of caring for community.

Inspiring speeches from Gimuy Yidinji Elder Neville Reys, local Member of Parliament Bree James, Mareeba Shire Councillor Amy Braes, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Qld (ATSIHQ), Deputy Chair Angie Ahkee and ATSIHQ Director Donna O'Chin, Ngonbi Chair Kelvin Coleman and CEO Judi Enoch highlighted the strength of organisations that are leading and shaping community for better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and all peoples across this nation.

The night's entertainment was a line up of local and national talents. Master of Ceremonies and Comedian Sean Choolburra from the Yalanji nation and local Yalanji Comedian Leon Filewood engaged the audience with lots of laughter. Participants commented that the night was filled with good spirit and they needed this night of laughter and goodwill. One comment made; "You mob was deadly! Brought people together the right way --- strong,

warm and full of respect, with lots

of laughter from Seanie and Leon. It was deadly to be a part of it, honouring the legacy and showed what's still to come."

Local performer Shavonne Hansell, gave a strong rendition of the song "Goodness of God" after the showing of the historical Kuranda Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Choir video singing Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus which was a tribute to the Kuranda SDA Founding Elders who established Ngonbi in 1974 and incorporating the organisation in January 1975.

Rising 15-year-old singer, songwriter Daisha Auda celebrated the night with her awe-inspiring vocal performances along with popular local band Night Shift, a regular feature at Ngonbi events.

We would like to thank all of the organisers of this event, and those who attended the celebrations. As part of the Ngonbi family, we are blessed that you have celebrated this milestone with us. We dedicate this celebration to the 50 years of resilience, empowerment, leadership and vision of our strong Elders, staff and community members throughout the years.

**Judi Enoch, Ngonbi CEO
and Donna O'Chin, Executive Support Manager.**



Top left: The ongoing success of Ngonbi is a tribute to the vision and resilience of the Founders of 1975, and all who have followed them for the past 50 years.
Top right: Every generation celebrated culture and community on the night.
Centre left: A wonderful night for all to celebrate together.
Centre right: So many wonderful memories.
Bottom left: Elder Neville Reys delivered the Welcome To Country on Gimuy Yidinji Bulmba.
Bottom Centre: Sean Choolburra (MC and Comedian) kept the laughs coming.
Bottom Right: So much to smile about.

Photos by Heather Miller Photography.