

## Official opening brings together a thankful community

Following three years of planning and construction, a large crowd gathered at the Molong MPS in late October to celebrate and officially open the redeveloped facility.

Former Matron of the hospital Margaret Starr led the ribbon cutting, and was joined by Rick Colless MLC, Andrew Gee MP, Phil Donato MP, Health Service Manager Deb Kenna, Dr Robin Williams, and Board Chair of the Western NSW Local Health District, Scott Griffiths (photo below).

The opening also featured staff presentations and the unveiling of local art. Artist Sandon Gibbs-O'Neill presented his painting "Warrambul" which reflects the belief that as long as people are remembered their stories are passed on.

Sandon also completed three paintings for the Yuranigh House residential aged care section of the MPS. These incredible paintings depict the

history of the area, including the role Aboriginal guide Yuranigh played, as well as the relationships that have been built between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Some of Sandon's paintings are included in the opening photo gallery over the page.

The redevelopment is part of a \$300 million state-wide program to upgrade or build new MPS facilities. At Molong, this included an additional residential aged care section, new dining room, activity spaces, hairdressing salon/multipurpose room, and kitchen, as well as upgrades to the existing residential aged care, acute areas and entry.

The Molong MPS will now be back to business as usual. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding while the MPS has been a construction zone.





### Photo gallery from the official opening



*Above: long serving staff were presented with foundation bricks from former buildings.*

*Right: a traditional smoking ceremony.*

*Below: HSM Deb with Health Council members John Bush and John Farr.*



*Above: attendees enjoying a delicious afternoon tea from the new kitchen!*

*Right and below: Artist Sandon Gibbs-O'Neill with some of his paintings.*

