

Chatham High marks NAIDOC

CHATHAM High School NAIDOC celebrations included a culturally rich, informative and interactive assembly.

Students, staff and community visitors were kept entertained throughout the event with samples of traditional and modern dance, award presentations and some special guests who shared their stories with the crowd.

Former student, Charlene Davison delivered the NAIDOC address, recalling her time at the school and where her career has taken her since.

Charlene has worked her way up through the public service system and spoke about the importance of education as well as family support.

"I've taken every opportunity that I've been given and I've run with it, but you've got to work hard," Charlene said.

"Go to school, be grateful for the opportunity to be educated and work hard because

people fought for us to have the opportunities available to us now."

Charlene said this year's theme for NAIDOC Week was particularly important.

"This is one of the most powerful themes we've had for Naidoc week," she said.

"It's so important to reflect on the Aboriginal men and women who fought on our land and for our land.

"We need to honour and acknowledge our history and continue to learn and find out more."

Biripi Elder, Dave Russell also spoke at the ceremony, revealing some of his own family history, including the story of his three uncles who fought in World War I.

Chatham High had a full day of cultural activities to mark the occasion, with Indiji Games on the oval after the assembly and concluding with a concert from indigenous entertainers The Last Kinection.