

CONSTRUCTION OF THE WILLIAM 'BILL' FERGUSON STATUE HAS BEGUN

A long-time dream of a committed group of Dubbo residents is one step closer as the construction of the William 'Bill' Ferguson bronze statue commences.

Mr Ferguson was a proud campaigner for Aboriginal rights, setting up the Aborigines' Progressive Association at Dubbo in 1937 and playing a key role in improving the lives of Indigenous people.

An active group of citizens, including Rod Towney, William "Willie" Ferguson and Meg Huddleston have been working for many years to raise the necessary funds. They formed the William Ferguson Trust Fund and lobbied for a suitable memorial to commemorate this remarkable man.

"Bill Ferguson was an extraordinary man and the community drive to get this statue made has been strong so its an outstanding that this statue is now underway," Councillor Shields said.

Councillor Shields said it is important for the community that icons like Mr Ferguson were recognised and immortalised so that future generations would also learn of their achievements.

"It is important that we recognise the men and women who have played an important role in advancing Dubbo and its residents. I'd like to congratulate an active group of citizens have been working for many years to raise and secure the necessary funds to make this dream a reality," Councillor Shields said.

In 2018 Dubbo Regional Council applied for and received funding through the NSW State Governments Stronger Country Communities Fund to construct and install a memorial statue of Bill Ferguson.

Nationally renowned local sculptor Brett Garling was engaged to commission the work, and has been working closely with family and community to capture both likeness and spirit of the man.

The work will be erected at the Rotunda in Dubbo and unveiled in a celebratory ceremony on May 4.

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