



## Smoke and respect for Aboriginal culture

**MEMBERS** of the Wangaratta community took part in a 'cleanse' on Wednesday morning as Indigenous representatives Jo Taylor and Lyn Johnson (pictured) led the way in a smoking ceremony at NESAY Wangaratta.

The ceremony was part of National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week that celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Bpangerang elder Aunty Betty opened the ceremony with the welcome to country, before Lyn and Jo perfumed each room of the NESAY building with smoke, followed by the crowd of people who had come to take part in the occasion.

The Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS) organised the ceremony to further the partnership with the Aboriginal community,

Nurse Norman Dulvarie and drug and alcohol counsellor Adrian O'Callaghan from AWAHS were in attendance along with staff from Gateway Health Wangaratta and other members of the community.

PHOTO:

Leah Anderson-Byrne