

THE SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE 2020

Creating Art from the Heart



Indigenous at Heart, Casey Hayden, Winmalee H.S

For over 11 years students have been creating art and writing that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's cultures, histories, languages, stories and the call for all Australians to participate in reconciliation. [The Schools Reconciliation Challenge](#) is a free annual art and writing program open to all NSW and ACT primary and secondary students in stages 2-5. Teachers and students are encouraged to use the curriculum-based resources online to inspire, learn and create a culturally inclusive classroom. Each year we explore a different theme, in 2020 the theme is [Caring for Country](#).

Artworks and writing are showcased in an exhibition launched at the Powerhouse Museum and then exhibited in the public foyers of International Towers at Barangaroo in Sydney. The exhibition also travels to regional locations throughout NSW and the ACT supported by the National Trust.



Lansvale East PS holds a yarning circle each morning

FREE RESOURCES FOR THE CLASSROOM

Both the Schools Reconciliation Challenge and the Reconciliation NSW website offer online resources to support teachers and educators learn about a range of subjects.

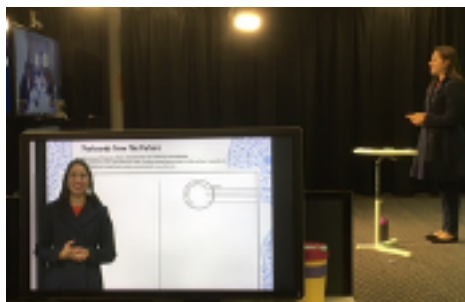
Students are encouraged

to express themselves and to engage in practical exercises such as participating in talking/yarning circles, reading and evaluating stories and articles, understanding truth telling and race-relations, as well as practicing their art and writing skills.

CARING FOR COUNTRY

In Australia, First Nations Peoples have cared for Country for over 60,000 years, maintaining Country by using a wide range of strategies, knowledges and technologies to manage land, water and resources to ensure that Country is cared for now and for generations to come.

When we use the term 'Country' we are referring to the specific areas of land, sea and sky with which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities have a custodial, cultural and spiritual relationship.



Kirli Saunders presents an online workshop

Red Room Poetry and Sydney Story Factory to present a range of contemporary and traditional understandings of First Nations cultures, Languages, Art and Technology and inspire students to create art and writing.

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Each year the Schools Reconciliation Challenge coordinates free online workshops. We have worked with the Department of Education's Arts Unit, the Powerhouse Museum,



HELP FOR TEACHERS

The Schools Reconciliation Challenge recognises that some teachers need support when teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, themes and issues. We offer guidance to culturally competent teaching, access to professional development

webinars and subject guides that covers the range of primary and secondary curriculum. Feedback from teachers demonstrates the value and benefits of participation, 75% of teachers surveyed had greatly improved *understanding* of reconciliation; 69% had greatly improved *confidence* to explore reconciliation themes in the classroom; 81% significantly more *inspired* to incorporate Indigenous perspectives in the classroom.

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL

Teachers can register their school now to receive email updates with useful resources, information, tips and news about reconciliation and new developments in reconciliation in education.

Create a more inclusive classroom and explore our lesson plans. Primary schools that enter have the opportunity to win a years' Wingaru subscription for the whole school to access online Aboriginal Education.

The closing date for all entries is Friday September 25 in Term 3. Judging will then take place and the finalists will be included in the exhibition and launch in November.

Visit the [Schools Reconciliation Challenge](#) website for more information and to access resources, activities and lesson plans as well as view the gallery of previous finalists.

The Schools Reconciliation Challenge



LAUNCHED IN
2009
THE 2020 THEME IS
CARING FOR COUNTRY



OVER **15,000**
PARTICIPATING
STUDENTS IN
WORKSHOPS, LESSON
PLANS & ACTIVITIES



5,000
ENTRIES IN
10 YEARS



10
YEARS OF ANNUAL
EXHIBITIONS &
REGIONAL TOURS
OF ARTWORKS

The Schools Reconciliation Challenge is coordinated by Reconciliation NSW, the peak body for advancing reconciliation in NSW. We promote a respectful, just and equitable community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians in NSW. We engage people in open and honest conversations to understand our diverse histories and experiences. Our work is guided by Aboriginal voices, with the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination at the forefront.

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education



We partner with Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education program to support all schools and early learning services in Australia to foster a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. [Narragunnawali's online platform](#) is free to access and provides practical ways to introduce meaningful reconciliation initiatives in the classroom, around the school and with the community. Through the Narragunnawali platform, schools and early learning services can develop a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP), and teachers and educators can access professional learning and curriculum resources to support the implementation of reconciliation initiatives.

TOOLS TO BUILD RECONCILIATION IN YOUR CLASSROOM:

- [Narragunnawali subject guides](#) to support your classroom teaching with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, understandings and achievements.
- Activities and classroom resources around a huge range of topics at the [Narragunnawali website](#).
- Get started on creating a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) in your school.