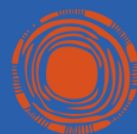


# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Reconciliation NSW



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## TO COUNTRY

Reconciliation NSW respects Aboriginal peoples as the First Peoples and Custodians of NSW. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout New South Wales and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present. We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the original Custodians of the land on which our office sits.

## TO FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

We acknowledge the diversity of views in how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people prefer to refer to themselves. Throughout this report, we refer to 'Aboriginal Peoples' and 'First Nations People' to include and welcome the distinct and diverse nations, clans and tribes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

*We wish to advise Aboriginal people that this report may contain the names and images of people who have passed away.*



## COVER IMAGE

Title: Barrway Yagari, Medium: acrylic paint

This piece was a collaboration created by Year 8-10 students at Coffs Harbour Learning Centre. CHLC is a School for Specific Purposes (behavior and emotional challenges). The students said of their artwork: piece represents our opportunity to contribute to an important story that is being written now- our story! This is a story of how we can face and overcome any challenges by working together, and change the narrative for young people in our community. The artwork has inspired a new uniform for our school - one that the students have ownership of, and will be proud to wear.

# LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

As we mark our 27th year, Reconciliation NSW continues to lead the charge in advancing reconciliation across the state. The year 2024 has been a period of exceptional growth, resilience, and reflection. We have experienced unprecedented momentum in our work, driven by a heightened awareness and commitment to the principles of reconciliation in Australia.

In 2024, we witnessed a sustained groundswell of support from Australians eager to support reconciliation and embrace a more inclusive future. Although the outcome of the 2023 Referendum did not result in a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice, it highlighted the desire for change among millions of Australians. This year, we have seen more passionate allies than ever, standing with us to amplify the importance of our mission.

Reconciliation NSW has risen to meet the growing demand for education, advocacy, and action. We celebrate the tremendous strides we have made. Guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, we have continued to advance in the areas of Voice, Treaty, and Truth, empowering and amplifying First Nations voices while educating allies across the state. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers remains passionate and motivated for the future.

## MARKING PROGRESS AND SUCCESS IN EDUCATION

Education has been a powerful driver of our success in 2024. Our flagship program, the Schools Reconciliation Challenge, in partnership with the Narragunnawali program, has continued to engage young people by bringing reconciliation into classrooms and shaping the next generation of changemakers.

This year, we expanded our Schools Reconciliation Challenge with the theme "Learning from Legacy, Healing Our Country." Over 6,500 students participated, reflecting on

the rich histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and envisioning the future stories of reconciliation they want to create. We achieved the following:

- Received over 533 competition entries
- Engaged over 31 schools
- Held regional, metro, and online events to showcase the submissions

Through our ongoing partnership with Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program, we strengthened our support for educators by providing workshops, webinars, tools and resources to support their ongoing commitment to their schools' reconciliation journey.

## EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING OUR IMPACT

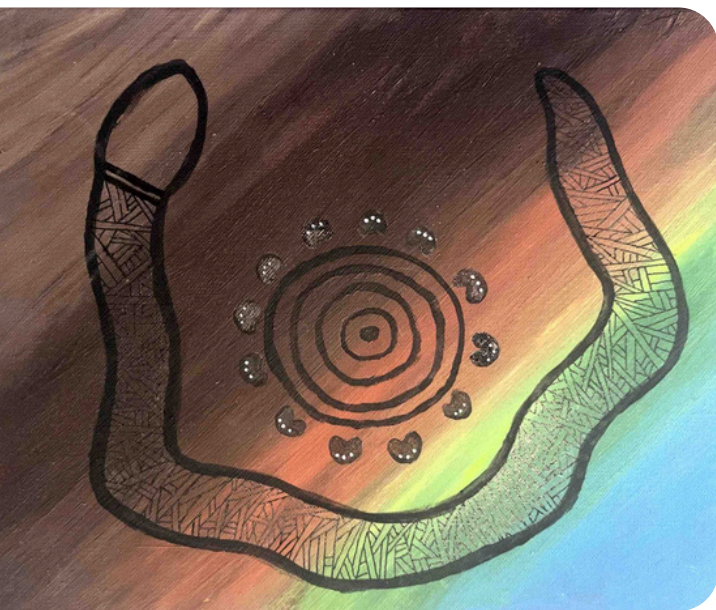
Sustainability remains a core focus for Reconciliation NSW. While we made progress in 2024, we continue to identify ways to diversify our income streams. In 2025, we will identify and secure new sponsorships and expand our partnerships with the corporate and government sectors. Although financial stability remains top of mind, these efforts have allowed us to continue to extend our reach into regional NSW, ensuring that reconciliation efforts are not confined to urban areas.

We have also worked on strengthening our internal infrastructure and expanding the teams' roles to better meet the increasing demand for our services. Our membership has grown, reflecting a broader range of communities and organisations engaging with us. While we are hopeful that this growth will advance our mission, we remain mindful of the ongoing challenges.

We appreciate the continued support of the NSW Government, which has committed to funding for 2025. This support underscores the importance of reconciliation as a shared responsibility. We continue to seek recurrent operational funding to expand our programs, particularly in regional areas, and remain optimistic about securing additional long-term support.

### **VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH: ADVANCING REAL CHANGE**

In 2024, Reconciliation NSW remained firmly committed to the pillars of the Uluru Statement from the Heart—Voice, Treaty, and Truth. This year, we have seen meaningful progress toward these goals, with an increasing number of individuals, communities, and organisations coming together to support substantive legislative and policy reform.



We celebrate the role Reconciliation NSW has played in supporting First Nations leadership and ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a voice in shaping the future of our country. Our advocacy efforts have resulted in greater awareness and engagement across the state, and we are proud to have been part of a movement that continues to push for genuine, lasting change.

### **A YEAR OF ADVANCEMENT AND REFLECTION**

2024 has been a year of incredible growth and change, and we are humbled by the dedication and passion of everyone who has contributed to our success. To our board, staff, volunteers, partners, and members—thank you for your unwavering commitment to the reconciliation movement in NSW.

As we look toward 2025 and beyond, we remain inspired by the work that lies ahead and are confident that, together, we will continue to advance reconciliation in meaningful ways.

**JOSHUA GILBERT**  
Indigenous Co-Chair



**ANNIE TENNANT**  
Non-Indigenous Co-Chair





# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

During National Reconciliation Week 2024, Reconciliation NSW hosted its annual National Reconciliation Week (NRW) Virtual Breakfast: on Wednesday 29 May. We invited organisations, local councils, government departments, schools and community groups across NSW to virtually join with other workplaces across the state to hear from leaders on this year's theme, "Charting a Path Forward: Empowering Communities - Now More Than Ever".

The breakfast was held on Gadigal Country, in partnership with our host firm Gilbert + Tobin Sydney and was livestreamed simultaneously to registered organisations across NSW whilst they hosted their own concurrent NRW events. Reconciliation NSW Co-Chair Joshua Gilbert said, "Now more than ever organisations should be listening to Indigenous leaders about how their Reconciliation Action Plans and organisational commitments can empower Aboriginal communities. We have a diverse group of speakers this year, sharing their knowledge and experience to help organisations consider how they can best influence change and create real and lasting impact for Aboriginal communities in NSW."



**3,315**

virtual attendees



**100**

in person attendees



**77**

organisations involved



**12**

events funded





The breakfast event commenced with Karen Mundine, CEO of Reconciliation Australia, talking about the theme, and the Hon. David Harris MP, NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, speaking about the NSW Government priorities. Reconciliation NSW Board Member Joshua Staines then facilitated a panel discussion and Q&A with Belinda Huntriss, Aboriginal Education Expert; Mitchell Beggs-Mowczan, Aboriginal Health Expert; and Stu Jordan, Sustainable Land Management Expert.

The 2024 NRW theme 'Now More Than Ever' serves as a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights will – and must – continue. Now more than ever, individuals and organisations have a responsibility to continue the journey of allyship, listening to, and learning about, what it means to walk beside and behind Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the pursuit of equity and equality.



Joshua Staines (Reconciliation NSW Board Member), Brenden Broadbent (Sustainable Land Management Expert), Mitchell Beggs-Mowczan (Aboriginal Health Expert), Belinda Huntriss (Aboriginal Education Expert), Annie Tennant (Co-Chair of Reconciliation NSW), Uncle Phil Dotti, Karen Mundine (CEO of Reconciliation Australia), Rowena Welsh-Jarrett (Director Rowena Welsh-Jarrett PTY LTD), Sam Nickless (CEO Gilbert + Tobin), Catherine Keenan (Reconciliation NSW Board Member).



# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENTS IN OUR LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS (LRGs)

Reconciliation NSW proudly supports a network of 23 Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs) across NSW, providing them with regular network meetings, e-newsletters, special event funding opportunities, and public liability insurance.

These groups meet regularly and host a diverse range of events, including workshops, concerts, walks, tours, and cultural gatherings. Many LRGs collaborate with local governments, schools, and early learning centres, sharing their invaluable knowledge of local Indigenous culture and history.

During National Reconciliation Week this year, we were pleased to support our LRGs with \$10,000 (from Reconciliation Australia) in funding for local events. Check out the fantastic events they held below (pictures provided for use by LRGs) and turn to page 19 to read more about their incredible work and shared stories.



**PRICELESS**

amount of conversations



**UNCOUNTABLE**

cups of tea/coffee



**\$10K**

funding



**12**

events



## ANTaR INNER WEST

held a virtual breakfast in Rhodes, in a Canada Bay Community Room. Uncle Jimmy (Smith), an Aboriginal educator and cultural practitioner, spoke to the audience before they joined the online link. There was unanimous agreement that this was a worthwhile undertaking, and has reminded people that reconciliation is an Australia-wide goal.



## FRIENDS OF MAYALL CREEK MEMORIAL

held a writing and art competition, with an exhibition of the entries showcased during National Reconciliation Week at the Myall Creek Massacre commemoration



## BLUE MOUNTAINS PEOPLE FOR RECONCILIATION

held a lunch provided by Aboriginal businesses with bird bingo and guest speakers on the National Reconciliation theme.



# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENTS IN OUR LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS (LRGS)



## DUNGOG RECONCILIATION GROUP

To mark National Reconciliation Week, two events were held at The James Cinema with help from local groups and volunteers.

Sixty-nine locals attended a screening of *The New Boy*, directed by Warwick Thornton and starring Cate Blanchett. Before the film, Reconciliation Dungog presented a \$2,500 cheque to Dungog High School for their mural project.

A merchandise table, featuring locally made items from Aboriginal fabric, was a sellout, with proceeds supporting local projects.



## HORNSBY AREA RESIDENTS FOR RECONCILIATION

held an afternoon tea with a viewing of Reconciliation NSW Breakfast live stream and a discussion promoting youth involvement in the Hornsby Library.



## MOREE RECONCILIATION GROUP

held a virtual breakfast at the Pius X Aboriginal Corporation.





# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENTS IN OUR LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS (LRGS)



## NORTHERN RIVER SISTERS FOR RECONCILIATION

held a National Reconciliation Week event with speakers and a breakfast.



## SUTHERLAND SHIRE RECONCILIATION

gathered in the morning on Silver Beach, Kamay, for a Sorry Day ceremony. Aunty Dolly Brown led the Welcome and Graham Avery performed a smoking ceremony. As the sun rose, a silent vigil was held, with reflections on the impact of the Stolen Generations. First Nations singer Kat performed a 'Sorry Day' song, and a light breakfast from Goanna Hut was served. The event concluded with a recording of Archie Roach's "They Took the Children Away" and complimentary coffee for attendees.

## OTHER EVENTS

More events were held at

- ANTAR ARMIDALE - Bridge Walk
- MT DRUITT & DISTRICT RECONCILIATION GROUP - Reconciliation Walk
- WOONJEEGARIBAY CONCILIATION GROUP - Family Fun Day
- MELVILLE HIGHSCHOOL - hosted a Reconciliation Breakfast to start conversations on reconciliation in classrooms

Thank you to all the Local Reconciliation Groups for providing us with photos from their great events and for creating these wonderful moments in our journey to reconciliation!



## SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE 2024

The 2024 theme “Learning from Legacy: Healing Our Country” inspired students and educators across NSW and ACT to reflect on the continuity of Aboriginal knowledges and cultures and how they have been passed down over time. First Nations methods have enabled a vast practical understanding of the natural environment, one that has ensured prosperity and unity with the land and all it encompasses for over 65,000 years.

Learning from Legacy: Healing Our Country highlights the deep need to reconnect with the ancient wisdom of this land, exploring Aboriginal knowledges in the areas of land management, sustainability, history, geology, community, and connection.

*This theme provides a great opportunity for students to learn about the true history of our country, especially relating to Indigenous knowledges and how they have evolved to adapt to contemporary contexts.*

Joshua Gilbert  
(Co-Chair of Reconciliation NSW)



**6,500**

students involved



**533**

artworks submitted



**84**

registered schools



**31**

schools entries



**17**

indigenous countries



**15th**

year



## 2024 SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE

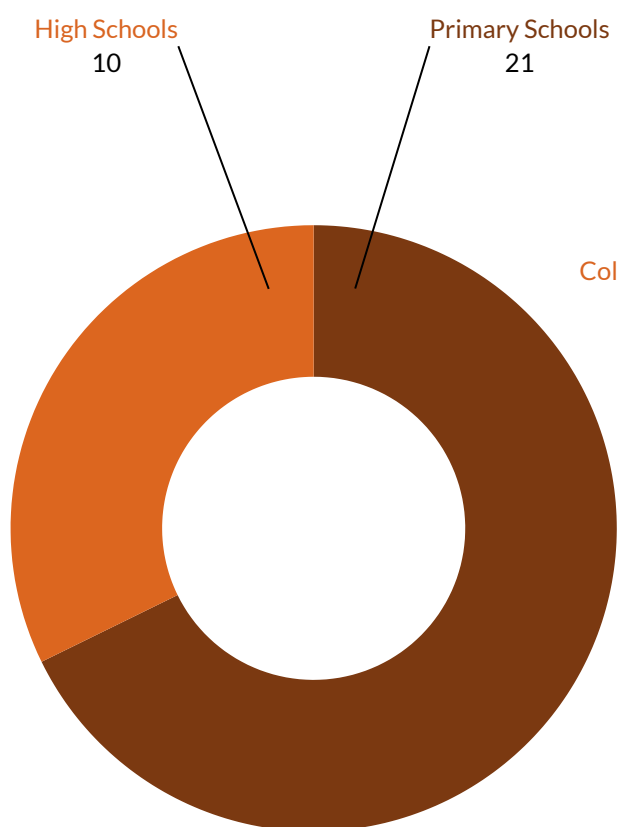
LEARNING FROM LEGACY  
HEALING OUR COUNTRY



“Indigenous expertise in agriculture and other land management practices are an under-appreciated resource that deserve greater attention. We were excited to see how students interpret their newfound understandings of Indigenous knowledge systems into art and writing pieces.”

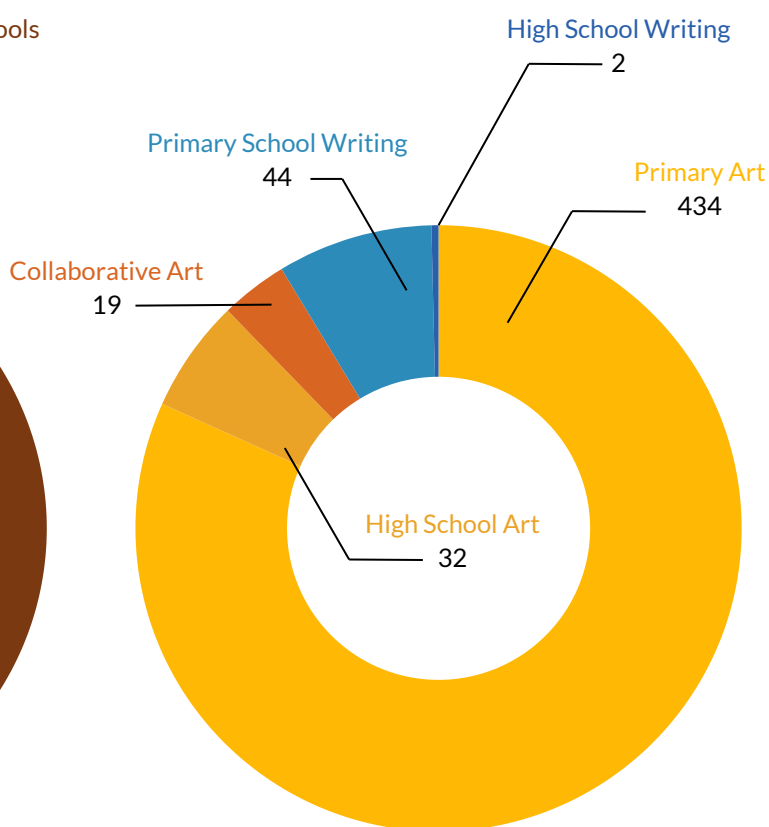
This year's awards ceremony will be a prerecorded event, to allow for schools across NSW and the ACT to take part.

We encourage schools to use this recording to host their own launch event at school during the month of December. This will be a great opportunity for staff, students, parents and community members to come together and celebrate reconciliation and the wonderful achievements of their students.



**31**

schools entered



**533**

artworks submitted



## SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE 2023 AWARDS CEREMONY

In 2023, the Schools Reconciliation Challenge explored the theme "What Stories Will You Dream?", celebrating the power of storytelling in shaping our understanding of the world and the rich history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These stories, passed down through generations, connect us to Country, culture, and the oldest living traditions on Earth. Especially during the time of the referendum, it was crucial to share these stories, as they foster understanding, unity, and recognition of Indigenous voices.

*"This year is a pivotal period in our nation's story, providing a critical moment for us to think about our identity and who we are as Australians. While the result of the referendum settles, it's important to reflect on the stories of the past and dream of the yarns for the future."*

Joshua Gilbert  
(Co-Chair of Reconciliation NSW)

The November awards ceremony, held at the Australian Museum, honored the incredible work of students across NSW, with 135 attendees celebrating their achievements. The event featured messages from Minister David Harris and Minister Prue Car, with the Reconciliation NSW Board presenting awards. One finalist shared her powerful story, highlighting the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



# 135

students present



# 550

Certificates



# 5

prize packs



# 2

Minister's videos



# 1

Exhibition Catalogue



Giving out prize packs to winners



Brolga Dance Academy performing



## SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

Each year, a collection of artworks created by high school and primary school students from across NSW and the ACT travels around the country, being displayed at various locations. These exhibitions convey the annual theme and reflect student learnings about reconciliation. Currently touring from 2023 to 2025 are the 2022 finalists (theme: From River to Sea) and the 2023 finalists (theme: What Stories Will You Dream?).

The exhibitions are showcased by Local Reconciliation Groups in regional areas, digitally displayed during National Reconciliation Week in Darling Harbour, and exhibited for one month at Parliament House.



3

regional exhibitions



2

exhibition launches



1

digital exhibition



1

exhibition at  
NSW Parliament



Above: Madeline Gerber speaking at Leura Launch.  
Right: Maitland Exhibition Launch.



Board and Staff of RecNSW at Parliament Exhibition: Cath Keenan, Tristan Tipps-Webster (former CEO), Danielle Sampedro, Carly Bush, Madeline Gerber, Natalie Smith.



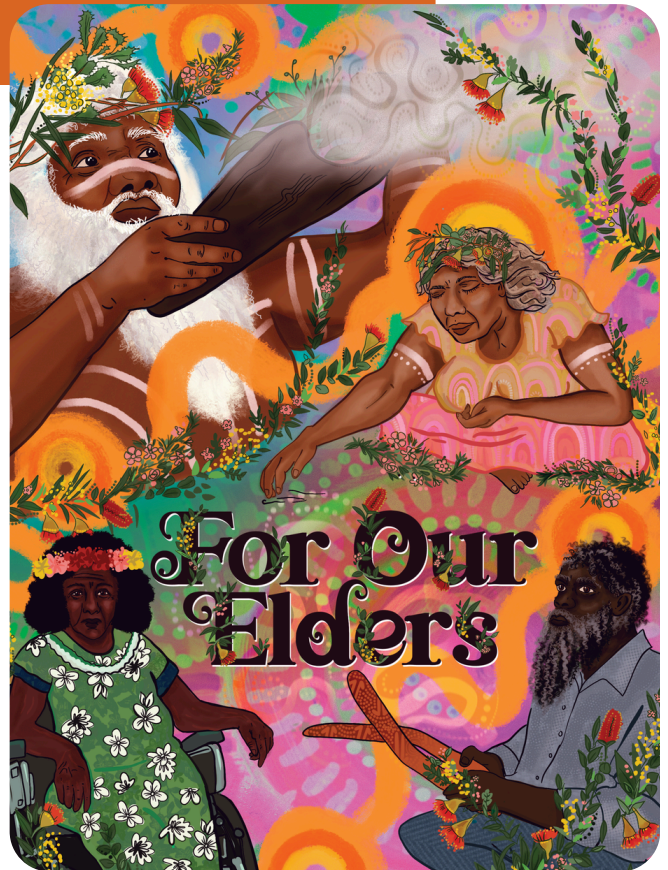


## NAIDOC 2023

In line with the 2023 NAIDOC theme “For Our Elders”, Reconciliation NSW produced a webinar ‘Engaging with Elders and Cultural Educators in Your Local Community’. This webinar included a panel discussion with an esteemed panel of Elders and Cultural Educators as well as a Q&A session with educators who attended the webinar live.

It is available on vimeo and covers topics as:

- the significant roles Elders play in our communities;
- ways to show respect to Elders and create a welcoming environment at schools/ services;
- ways to build authentic and meaningful relationships with Elders, Cultural Educators and community;
- potential barriers to Elders being involved in schools/services and ideas for overcoming these;
- creating culturally safe learning environments for staff and students.



You may also have met us at NAIDOC in the city.



Wayne Cornish (NGYMPAA – Operations Manager), Tristan Tipps-Webster (former CEO of RecNSW), Dennis Moran (Senior Culture Educator & Mentor), Jess Farrell (Vice-President of Local Yarramundi Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group Inc.), Ann Flood (Educator, Lecturer & Workplace trainer), Danielle Sampedro (former Education Officer RecNSW) Peter Williams (Aboriginal performer, Artist, storyteller)



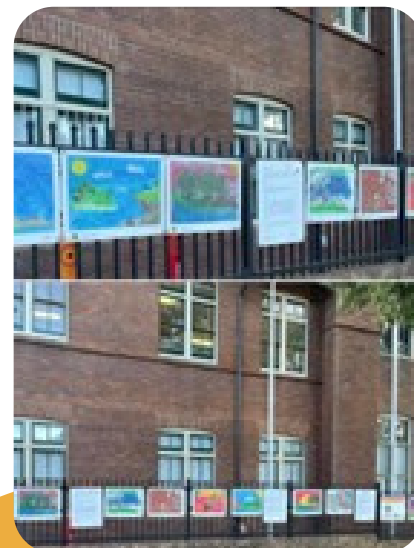
Our stall at NAIDOC in the City



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Pathways program was developed to promote reconciliation in education. The program brings together Aboriginal Elders and educators with Reconciliation NSW to explore art and storytelling as a pathway to reconciliation.

Reconciliation NSW has forged partnerships with Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program, The Burruga Foundation, The Aboriginal Learning and Wellbeing NSW Education Team, City of Sydney Council, Inner West Council, City of Parramatta Council and Cumberland City Council to promote and provide educational opportunities to local primary schools.



**87**

artworks



**66**

primary school students



**24**

high school students



**26**

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students



**4**

schools



**4**

fence exhibitions

## YOUTH FORUM



On 30 January 2024, young people and industry leaders gathered on Gadigal Country at Yirranma Place, Darlinghurst, for the First Nations Youth Voice Forum, a collaboration between The Y NSW and Reconciliation NSW. The forum aimed to elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, providing a platform for meaningful connection, reflection, and dialogue with key stakeholders.

The event was planned and led by The Y NSW's First Nations Youth Reference Group, who set the agenda, crafted discussion prompts for the roundtables, and facilitated the conversations. Members of the 2023 Youth Parliament Aboriginal Affairs Committee also presented their Bill, Bayala Ngara Wingara (To Speak, Listen, and Think), and other First Nations youth performed at the event.

## I AM NOT RACIST BUT... EVENT

'I'm Not Racist, But....' was a funny, edgy, and enlightening night tackling race, bigotry, and equity.

I'm Not Racist, But ... started as an open, interactive conversation about racism in Australia in 2012. Since then, it has evolved into a comedy and poetry night, showcasing some of this country's finest young comedians, musical performers, and poets, as they tackle conversations around racism, bigotry, and equity. This year, I'm Not Racist, But ... featured First Nations comedians and entertainers Dane Simpson, Leon Filewood and Hamani Tanginoa, as well as Antoinette Luu and Danielle Osifo, rising stars of the slam poetry circuit.



77

attendees



5

artists





## RECONCILIATION NSW IN COMMUNITY

Our vision is to create a reconciled, just, and equitable community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and all Australians. This means we have to be visible.

To collaborate and learn, we regularly connect with the Australian Reconciliation Network (ARN), comprised of state and territory reconciliation organisations.

Our efforts include participation in major community events like Yabun, the largest one-day festival celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, held annually on January 26th. We also engage with our members through regular meetings to support workplace reconciliation and educate students in workshops.

We actively back important campaigns such as #RaiseTheAge, #FamilyMatters, #UluruStatement, #ChangeTheRecord, and #FromTheHeart, advocating for meaningful change across the state.

Please see some highlights from the year below.



## MEMBERSHIP



**1,937**

individual members



**489**

educator subscriptions



**77**

organisational members







**23**

Local Reconciliation Groups

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

### Performance by Social Media Platform at 31.06.2024:

Facebook followers	10,915	6% ▲		<a href="https://facebook.com/reconciliationNSW/">facebook.com/reconciliationNSW/</a>
Instagram followers	4,673	3% ▲		<a href="https://instagram.com/nswrc/">instagram.com/nswrc/</a>
LinkedIn followers	2,060	5% ▲		<a href="https://linkedin.com/company/nsw-reconciliation-council">linkedin.com/company/nsw-reconciliation-council</a>
website users	36,000	67% ▲		<a href="https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/">reconciliationnsw.org.au/</a>



# LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS

We are pleased to showcase some of our inspiring Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs) and their work—each as diverse and vibrant as the communities they represent—highlighting their meaningful contributions to fostering reconciliation at the local level.

You can find more information at [reconciliationnsw.org.au/local-reconciliation-groups/](https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/local-reconciliation-groups/)

## ANTaR ARMIDALE

ANTaR Armidale has been operating continuously with monthly meetings since 1997 as an Unincorporated Association.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. An eight-page illustrated newsletter is published three times a year, featuring stories on local Aboriginal events, organisations, and achievements, as well as updates on state and national issues. With 500 copies distributed to subscribers, local Aboriginal groups, schools, and other LRGs, it reaches a wide audience.
2. The annual ANTaR Bridge Walk, now in its 14th year, brings together around 200 people during Reconciliation Week for a walk over Stephens Bridge, followed by speeches, refreshments, cultural entertainment, and live music. The event, held in a central park, is organised by ANTaR Armidale and supported by Armidale Regional Council and Reconciliation NSW.
3. Advocacy efforts, including letters to politicians on issues like Raise The Age and Change the Date, are conducted periodically.



**120**

people on mailing list



**12**

people attending monthly meetings

After the Referendum campaign, as well as widespread disappointment, there were stronger friendships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the ANTaR Armidale group. New members joined and there was a desire from old and new members to have some structured programs for learning local Aboriginal history, and opportunities for listening, plus more activities that are community-wide. This is in progress.



# HILLS YARNING



**What's the best part of being a member of your LRG?**

Being a voice for reconciliation in the Hills Shire

**What are you proud of achieving in the last 12 months?**

Working with The Hills Shire Council to get the first The Hills Shire Council community NAIDOC event

**How are your team feeling post the referendum?**

Still knocked

**Were new friendships formed?**

YES! Friendship with Murra Mittigar is forming and we hope NAIDOC in 2025 is bigger and better

**Do you think more people are hearing about reconciliation and what it means from your activities within your local community?**

Yes our NAIDOC event at Bella Vista ran out of food!!!!

Below is a wonderful example of how our beloved LRG Hills Yarning community celebrated NAIDOC Week, honoring tradition and embracing this year's theme with pride.

## HILLS YARNING CELEBRATES NAIDOC WEEK

The Hills Shire Council THSC with Hills Yarning and Murra Mittigar developed the inaugural NAIDOC event for the community at Bella Vista Farm on July 11th. This was a chance to celebrate and acknowledge First Nations culture during the school holidays with an action-packed day full of native cuisine, and cultural workshops. It was called Yarn at The Farm. Our Hills Yarning member Madii Page was MC.



**80**

people in the network



**5-15**

people attending monthly meetings



Madii reflected on NAIDOC 2024, "It's a privilege to be able to speak at events about not only how I get up, stand up and show up for mob but to demonstrate to others how they can too across our business. Closing the Gap is a two way street and it can't be left up to the 3.2% of the population to do it alone! We can do this together."

Hills Yarning had a stall where items crafted by the First Nation students at Oakhill College were offered for sale. The event also had musical performances, sporting activations, First Nations inspired food from the Wilka Thalta food truck and dessert from Wafflepopz.



# HORNSBY AREA RESIDENTS FOR RECONCILIATION

Hornsby Area Residents for Reconciliation (HARR), the Local Reconciliation Group (LRG) for Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents in Hornsby, is one of our most active groups, fostering community engagement and advocacy for Aboriginal issues. With a focus on recognition, respect, listening, truth, advocacy, celebration, and solidarity, HARR aims to:

- **Protect Progress:** Retaining and building on achievements for reconciliation in Hornsby;
- **Strengthen Government Ties:** Collaborating with supportive State and Federal members to advance local Indigenous issues;
- **Engage in Education:** Actively participating in the local Aboriginal Education Consultative group (AECG) to build partnerships;
- **Secure Funding:** Exploring Clubs and other grants for targeted community projects;
- **Support Local Government Efforts:** Working to maintain and extend Hornsby Council commitment to recognition and consultative processes, and encouraging Council to take new initiatives;
- **Promote Youth Engagement:** Developing youth-focused projects in collaboration with local secondary schools;
- **Consolidate the 40%:** Working to build on the core support for First Nations and the Uluru Statement shown in the 2023 referendum, through local work and partnerships with LRGs and other YES Campaign supporters across northern Sydney.

Through these efforts, HARR is setting a solid foundation for continued reconciliation and meaningful community partnerships.



132

LRG members



45

new members since the Referendum

## What's the best part of being a member of your LRG?

Being with like-minded people and being involved in Aboriginal Reconciliation

## How are your team feeling post the referendum?

We felt shame and grief at the new injustice done, but we take heart that 40% of Australians showed solid support. We aim to make that a majority! Thomas Mayo reminds us that Aboriginal people have been knocked back many times, but determination will win out!

## Do you think more people are hearing about reconciliation and what it means from your activities within your local community?

We have extended our footprint by starting an Instagram account. Our Facebook page has 531 followers. We are keen to attract youth to the group who are interested in reconciliation but not activity engaged so far.



## FRIENDS OF MYALL CREEK MEMORIAL (FMCM)

The Friends of Myall Creek Memorial raise awareness of the Myall Creek Massacre, to understand better the truth of our shared history. FMCM embraces all of us in the journey of reconciliation between Aboriginal and other Australians. There is an elected national committee, half Aboriginal, half other, where the Aboriginal voice has the final word. There are also Friends of Myall Creek groups in Sydney and Armidale, open to all.

### MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2023 -2024

**Annual Gathering** at the national and state heritage listed Myall Creek Memorial in June 2024 attracted over 400 people, both Aboriginal and non-Indigenous, to remember those murdered on the slopes below on 10 June 1838. Guest speaker this year was Boe Spearim, a Gamilaraay and Kooma man who hosts a podcast called 'Frontier War Stories' dedicated to truth-telling about a side of Australian history that has been left out of history books.

Friends of Myall Creek Memorial are grateful for the financial and promotional support from Reconciliation NSW towards the Gathering, and the security Public Risk Liability insurance cover provides for its hosted events.

The Annual Gathering was preceded on the Friday at the University of New England by a **Yarning Circle** with Boe Spearim and a **Law Symposium** hosted by the UNE Law School on the legal significance of the Myall Creek Massacre and subsequent trials.

FMCM annual **Thoughts 'n' Dreams** student art, writing and song competition again attracted interest from school communities across NSW and interstate. Reconciliation NSW's financial contribution of \$500 towards the awards was much appreciated.



62

LRG members



In September 2023 Sydney FMCM held a successful event, '**Truth-hearing: the unfinished basis of our nationhood**', at NSW Parliament House hosted by David Harris, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Leslie Williams, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Adam Marshall, local member for Northern Tablelands. The final call of the evening was for a parliamentary apology for the massacres in NSW and for proper memorialisation for the Frontier Wars, including Myall Creek.

The number of **school groups visiting the Memorial** continues to increase, but also includes school staff with a combined group of 75 teachers from Warialda HS and Bingara Central visiting the memorial as part of staff development. In October this year over 400 attendees at the NSW Catholic Schools Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference in Tamworth made a one-day visit to the Memorial and precinct to open the conference.

Our Aboriginal volunteer guides who lead visiting groups make a valuable contribution to Friends of Myall Creek Memorial aspirations for 'truth-telling' but also draw personal satisfaction and encouragement from the positive appreciation received from visitors.



## SUTHERLAND SHIRE RECONCILIATION (SSR)

### What's the best part of being a member of your LRG?

Being engaged with, and informed about our current activities and future events.

### What are you proud of achieving in the last 12 months?

Our continued engagement with Sutherland Shire Council, and our shared organisation of the National Reconciliation Week Picnic. Our continued work with Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation to develop a new edition of the Dharawal Picture Dictionary and make it available to educational institutions and community organisations at an affordable price.

### How are your team feeling post the referendum?

Our Indigenous and non-Indigenous committee members felt gut-punched, not just the result – but the division, racism, misinformation that surrounded the political elements of the campaigns.



70

LRG members



300

subscribers

Sutherland Shire Reconciliation Incorporated is a not-for-profit community organisation. They are comprised of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working together to advance Reconciliation in and beyond their local community.

They promote Reconciliation through advocacy, events, and projects that prioritise the needs of First Nations people's living in the Sutherland Shire, and that acknowledge our true shared histories and First Nations People's ancient knowledge and culture.

The focus of their advocacy in 2024 was to encourage all Australians to become good allies of Indigenous Australians as we journey together on a path to reconciliation.

They host a number of events each year including Yarning Circles where people get to know a little about each other and then hold a discussion on a set topic; commemorative events including a dawn vigil for National Sorry Day; picnics and BBQs with some cultural elements.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Income received for the 2023-2024 financial year totalled \$641,675. This increased income, compared to the previous financial year's income of \$536,315, is due mainly to additional grants and support for the referendum Yes campaign, as well as substantially higher membership fees and donations in kind (which facilitated increased SRC project costs). Non-government grants and donations (totaling \$254,008) increased by 13% to 39% of total funding with the extra support for the Yes campaign.

We continued to operate with a small but efficient team of staff and volunteers, all of whom are passionate and motivated. Our focus and expenditure were directed to the Yes campaign and continued support of our core programs, particularly reconciliation in education activities through the Schools Reconciliation Challenge and the Narragunnawali Program, along with National Reconciliation Week events. We continued to strengthen our internal infrastructure and processes, drive membership, and educate the public about reconciliation via our social media communications, events, and programs.

With total operational expenditure of \$664,001, there was an annual loss from our activities of \$22,326. This loss was taken up by the previous

surplus and is mainly due to higher staff costs to support the organisation's goals and an increase in specific project and stock costs to further facilitate the Yes campaign (note some reclassification of project cost centres). We continue to manage the budget efficiently and take care to direct both operational and project expenditure to where it is needed most.

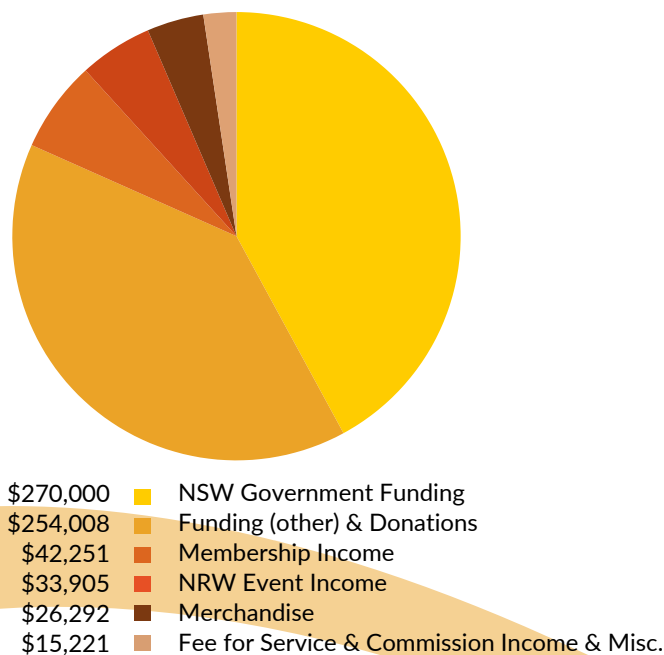
Differences in assets, liabilities, and cash flow movements between last and this financial year continue to be attributable to the timing of funding payments.

At year-end, our net asset position was \$123,459, taking us comfortably into the next financial year. This surplus, and ongoing secured funding from both non-government organisations and the NSW government, along with our continued building of new relationships with supporters and member organisations, will support our drive to grow our activities in 2024-2025 across all sectors of NSW.

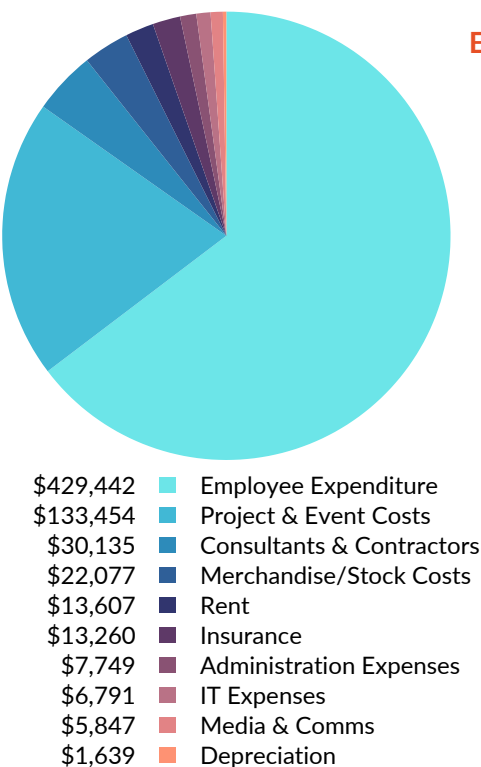
We acknowledge and thank our funders, members, and in-kind program partners for their continued and appreciated support.

Our accounts were audited by Byrons Audit Pty Ltd and are available to download in full from our website: [www.reconciliationnsw.org.au](http://www.reconciliationnsw.org.au).

**INCOME**  
**\$641.675**



**EXPENSES**  
**\$664.001**





# PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Our partners are vitally important in helping us create a more equitable and just NSW. Thank you to our current partners for their work to progress reconciliation in NSW.

- Aboriginal Affairs NSW
- ANTaR
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Australian Museum
- Australian Red Cross
- Catholic Education
- Centre for Cultural Competence Australia
- Clever Patch
- Cultural Perspectives Group
- Cumberland City Council
- Fred Hollows Foundation
- From the Heart
- Gilbert + Tobin
- Inner West Council
- International Towers at Barangaroo
- Just Reinvest NSW
- Hardie Grant Publishers
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Local Government NSW
- Magabala Books
- Narragunnawali
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Trust (NSW)
- Reconciliation Australia
- Sharing Stories Foundation
- Tresillian
- UNSW Indigenous Law Centre
- UTS Jumbunna Institute
- Wingaru Education

We're immensely proud of our efforts this year. Thank you to our board, staff, volunteers, partners and members for your commitment.

- Our Patron Aunty Joan Tranter

## BOARD 2023-2024

- Joshua Gilbert (Worimi)
- Annie Tennant
- Josh Staines (Wiradjuri)
- Nancy An
- Steven Collins (Pitta Pitta)
- Natt Smith (Wiradjuri)
- Carly Bush
- Dr. Catherine Keenan AM
- Dr. Amy Maguire
- Geoffrey Luke Winters

## STAFF 2023-2024

- Tristan Tipps-Webster (former CEO)
- Madeline Gerber (former Project Officer)
- Danielle Sampedro (former Education Officer)
- Sharni Watson (former Project Coordinator)
- Nikki Fasolo
- Martina Dittmer-Flachskampf

and all our fabulous volunteers throughout the year!







Reconciliation NSW Council Incorporated  
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[schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au](http://schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au)