

Supporting, Educating & Inspiring

2018

RECONCILIATION NSW PROGRAMS & ANNUAL REPORT



CONTACT US

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 @nswreconciliation

 @nswrc

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Reconciliation NSW acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout NSW and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders both past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the original custodians of the land on which our office sits.

Dharawal

Nijunaliin ngaralanga
dharawalwulawala
nguradhanhay ngaliya

Dhurga

Ngayaga bundj nguumbun
muladha gumara muruul yuwinj
wanggan njin dhugandha

Gumbaynggir

Ngiyaala junga-ngarraanga
Girrwaanbi-biin gungnagulam
wajaarrgundi gilinggal-
wangaan-wiil

Gamilaraay

Dhayn ngiyani winangaylanha
NSWga ganunga-waanda
yanaylanha, dhaymaarr
ganugu-waanda nhama
ngarrangarranmaldanhi

Wiradjuri

Ngiyani Yindyamali Aboriginal
Mayiny Murrubandhda Mayinny
galangga NSW Ngangaagi

We respect Aboriginal peoples as the First Peoples and custodians of NSW.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES IN NSW & ACT



This map of Aboriginal Languages in NSW & ACT is available as a tote bag or as an A3 poster - perfect for home, schools and offices.

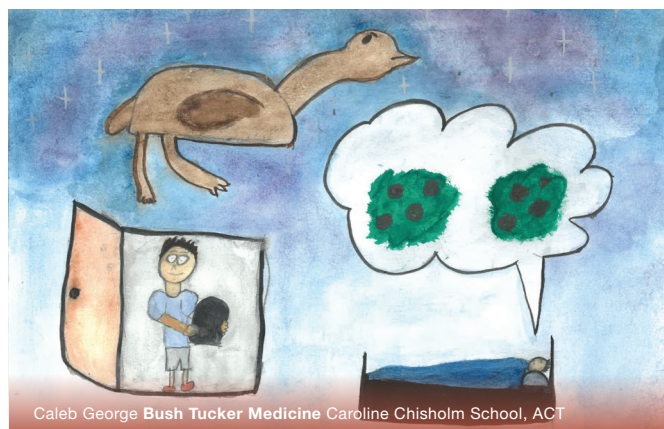
To purchase please get in touch or look out for us at Yabun and other events in 2019.

SCHOOLS RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE

The *Schools Reconciliation Challenge* (SRC) is an annual art and writing competition for young people across NSW and the ACT. Next year we will celebrate 10 years of the SRC. The SRC is one way for students from years 5-9 to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia and contribute positively to Australian society.



Every year students create artworks and stories inspired by a theme and reflect on what reconciliation means to them. In 2018, our theme was *Our Voices, Our Future*. This year's theme focused on listening to and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices within Australia's national story and empowered young people to dream big and share their visions for a reconciled Australia.



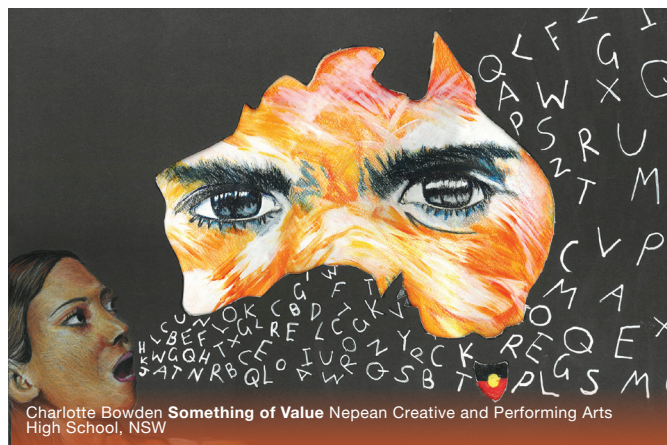
The [SRC website](#) provides teachers with online resources, lesson plans and activities to inspire students to develop a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions and engage students in reconciliation. We also encourage schools to collaborate with their local communities by participating in art, writing, language and culture workshops.

Check out our online gallery of art and writing and be inspired by the voices, stories, insights and creativity of our young people!

2018 SRC EXHIBITION LAUNCHES

This year we partnered with the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) and the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) to host exhibition launches in NSW and the ACT.

Minister Sarah Mitchell, the Hon. David Harris and Minister Yvette Berry attended the launches in NSW and the ACT respectively. They congratulated students for their contributions by presenting the 2018 SRC awards, together with representatives from our SRC partners; National Trust, Lend Lease, Wingaru Education, MAAS, NGA and Red Cross.



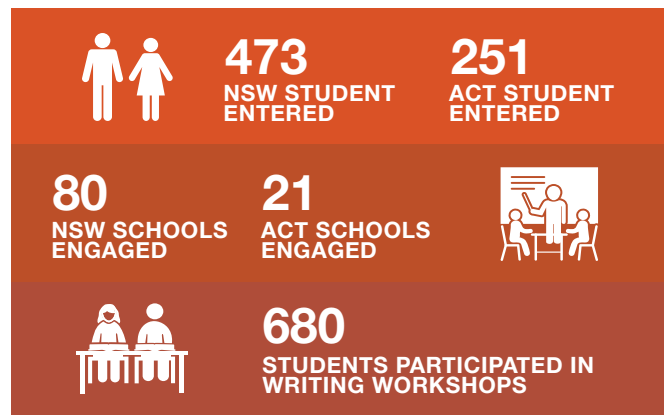
We extend our special thanks to Red Cross who were instrumental in our expansion of the SRC to the ACT this year.

REGIONAL TOUR

Every year the SRC exhibition tours NSW and the ACT with the support of our partners. Join us in 2019 as the SRC exhibition of art and writing finalists travels from Barangaroo to the Central Coast, Dubbo, Maitland, Armidale the Blue Mountains and Yass.

JOIN US

We welcome new partners to join us in the journey to educate and inspire young people and schools to participate in reconciliation and learn from and collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, educators writers and artists within their community.



WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE SRC



"SRC raised the profile of reconciliation within the school especially with teaching staff." - NSW Teacher

ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY

MEMBERS & LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS (LRGS)

It's easy to get involved in reconciliation. You can join us, the peak body for reconciliation in NSW, or join an LRG. There are currently 23 registered LRGs throughout NSW. Most LRGs meet regularly, create and host a range of events such as workshops, concerts, walks, tours and cultural gatherings. Many groups work with local government, schools and early learning. They have invaluable information about local Aboriginal histories and cultures and are happy to share it. Reconciliation NSW regularly engages with the LRG network to share information and support. Reconciliation NSW holds an Annual General Meeting where registered individuals and groups can meet and share stories about the work they are doing for reconciliation in NSW. You can join up or find your LRG on our website.

2018 LRG STORIES AND EVENTS

Wingecarribee Reconciliation Group travelled to Myall Creek to be part of the 180th commemoration of the Myall Creek massacre on the lands of the Gomeroi people, between Bingara and Inverell in the New England region of NSW. The LRG has been established and working towards reconciliation since 1988. Many other LRGs also participated and attended this important memorial including Friends of Myall Creek and the Bennelong Reconciliation Group.

“If people, black or white, descendants of perpetrators or descendants of victims or survivors, speak truly and openly from their hearts this will lead to healing and true reconciliation” Kel Brown, Aboriginal committee member of the Friends of Myall Creek.

The Women's Reconciliation Network celebrated 22 years this year with a spirit centred event that incorporated a smoking ceremony and recognised the enormous contribution of mentors Aunty Beryl Van Oploo (Gamilaraay elder) and Aunty Ali Golding (Biripi elder).



“Without the guidance and support of our Koori elders, we cannot make progress on mending the wrongs of the past.” Elaine Telford, Founding member of the Women's Reconciliation Network.

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

Welcome to our Reconciliation NSW Programs and Annual Report 2018.

In 2018 we focussed on growth – of staff, supporters and our organisation. Increasing staff and resources meant we could focus energy on diversifying our supporter base, and revitalising our organisation with a new name, new website, and a closer working relationship with the Australian Reconciliation Network.

Meaningful partnerships are crucial to our increased reach. Big thanks go to our new partners Australian Red Cross, National Gallery of Australia, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, YMCA Canberra, YWCA Canberra, Woden Community Service and Catholic Education our partners in expanding the Schools Reconciliation Challenges into ACT, as well as Giant Dwarf, PWC Indigenous Consulting and Red Room Poetry.

Our work supports, educates and inspires individuals and organisations to advance reconciliation. We ran a hugely successful 2018 program including the sell-out *I'm Not Racist But...* comedy night, the *10th Anniversary of the National Apology* with Kevin Rudd, and the Schools Reconciliation Challenge.

In 2018 we continued to advocate and influence policy discussions. We are working to build support for Makarrata, truth-telling and treaty-making in NSW, and held a panel on treaty and agreement making for Reconciliation in Parliament. In October we appeared before the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition.

Our focus remains on our sustainability – working to increase and diversify our revenue so we can deliver on our strategy to support and promote genuine reconciliation in NSW.

Please read about our achievements in 2018 and get a snapshot of our current programs.

Lindon Coombes
Co-Chair

Cecilia Anthony
Co-Chair





ABOUT US

Reconciliation NSW is 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.

We work closely with local reconciliation groups and other community groups, the education sector, and state and local government partners. Each year we organise the *Schools Reconciliation Challenge*, produce an anti-racism event *I'm Not Racist But...*, encourage bipartisan commitment to reconciliation through *Reconciliation in Parliament*, and promote National Reconciliation Week activities across NSW.

We also respond to queries and connect individuals with groups which are already doing work to promote reconciliation in their local area.

Reconciliation includes

- Acknowledgment and acceptance of our true shared histories
- Acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia
- Valuing and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as a proud part of a shared national identity
- Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and cultures to thrive
- Developing relationships of trust and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, rights and experiences
- Increased understanding of the ongoing impact of racism and systemic disadvantage
- Supporting organisations and communities to be culturally competent, value diversity and be free from racism
- Progress towards institutional and legal mechanisms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination

2017-18 FINANCES

Income received for the 2017/2018 financial year totalled \$306,429. This includes the NSW State Government grant of \$245,000, of which we only utilised \$132,349. The balance of this grant, totalling \$112,651, will be spend in the subsequent year. In the accounts, this amount is shown in the Balance Sheet as 'payment received in advance'.

Our expenditure was focused on maintaining our core programs and events, in particular the *Schools Reconciliation Challenge* and *I'm Not Racist But...*

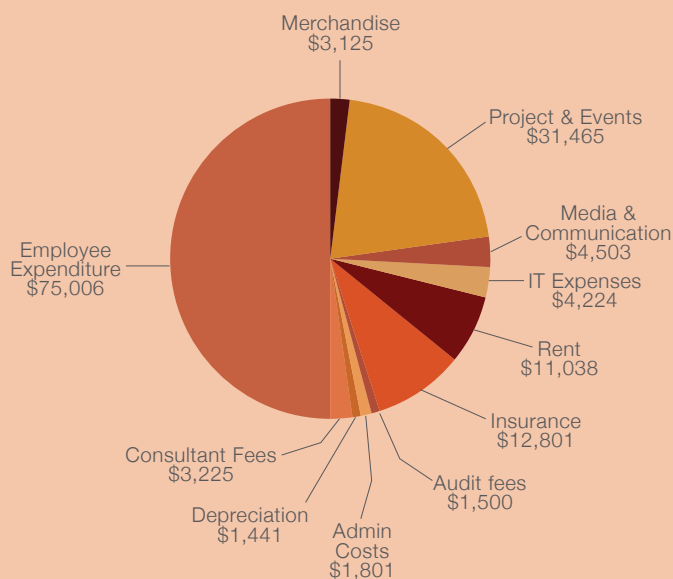
For much of 2017/2018 we were operating with minimal staff, which influenced what we could achieve. With total operational expenditure of \$150,129, we achieved an annual surplus from our activities of \$42,649. This surplus is a result of prudent budget planning and management, mainly derived from non-government income stream such as donations, event fees and commissions.

As at year-end, our net asset position was \$106,759. This essential surplus has allowed us to increase our activity and presence in 2018/2019 including engaging much needed additional staff.

We gratefully acknowledge and thank our funders: Department of Education, Aboriginal Affairs; Reconciliation Australia; and Lendlease.

We sincerely thank our members and partners for their continued support.

Expenditure 2017/2018



Our accounts were audited by Horwood Partners and are available to download in full from our website reconciliationnsw.org.au or from our office: 02 8095 9600.

ADVOCACY

This year we continued to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to advocate and influence policy discussion to advance social justice, equity and self-determination. This included justice reinvestment, reparations, freedom of speech, Constitutional reform and treaty.

In 2018 Reconciliation NSW appeared before the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition, pressing the case for the case for Constitutional reform and supporting the recommendations made by the Referendum Council and in the Statement from the Heart.

We supported the priorities of the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations, by advocating for mechanisms for those representing Indigenous communities to be able to negotiate and reach agreement on the new Closing the Gap framework and for a continued role in its implementation.

Treaty-making has been clearly and consistently communicated as a significant aspiration of Aboriginal people in NSW. In October 2018 Reconciliation NSW hosted, Reconciliation in Parliament: Treaty and agreement making options for NSW. This event brought a panel of Indigenous thought leaders together at NSW Parliament House to encourage politicians to consider possible strategies for implementing treaty/ies in NSW, and what agreement making actually means for government and community. If you missed the event you can hear it on our [website](#) at Projects and Events.

EVENTS

I'M NOT RACIST, BUT...

Our annual program *I'm Not Racist, But...* is an interactive forum that generates an open discussion around racism in Australia, through the personal reflections and perspectives of a diverse group of Australians.

I'm Not Racist, But... has developed a reputation for being funny, edgy and enlightening and has featured a diverse range of speakers including Nakkiah Lui, Nazeem Hussain, Benjamin Law, Jennifer Wong and Tasnim Saied.

In 2018 we partnered with Giant Dwarf to host a comedy event where Luke Carroll, Matt Okine, Shiralee Hood, Kevin Kropinyeri, Diana Nguyen and Bjorn Stewart took a hilarious and satirical poke at Australian society through their own observations and experiences.



In 2019 *I'm Not Racist But...* will be a part of the Vivid's program of events and a great way to support National Reconciliation Week. Sign up to [Reconciliation NSW](#) for more info.

"I am still on a high from last night and to have an organisation that advocates for the arts during National Reconciliation Week is a huge way to continue the conversation and healing" - Comedian

YABUN 2018

Yabun Festival, held on the 26 January, is an important day for healing and acknowledging the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

Each year Reconciliation NSW is honoured to be a part of this celebration of Australia's First Peoples. Festivals like Yabun are important opportunities to celebrate our shared national identity in inclusive and respectful ways that enhance community wellbeing.

Our Yabun stall enabled us to meet with community and other organisations, share our programs and sign up new members. We sold \$1500 worth of merchandise, with our tote bags displaying the NSW Aboriginal language map being particularly popular.

10 YEARS ON FROM THE APOLOGY



To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations Reconciliation NSW were thrilled to partner with PWC Indigenous Consulting to host an event where former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd reflected on the historic day and shared his thoughts on the future of reconciliation in Australia.

"Reconciliation remains an outstanding issue for Australia, and after 20 years of working towards this goal, Reconciliation NSW remains passionate and committed to working towards a better Australia for all of us."

Lindon Coombes – Reconciliation NSW Co-Chair and Professor of Indigenous Policy at UTS Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research

SCREENING OF GURRUMUL

As part of our National Reconciliation Week activities this year we partnered with Golden Age Cinema to present a screening of *Gurrumul*. Celebrated by audiences across Australia and internationally, the film *Gurrumul* shares the profound story and music of Yolngu artist Dr Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu.

The event was a great success with all allocated tickets sold and attendees joining us from a broad range of community sectors to listen to the story of one of Australia's most important voices and gifted musicians.

OUR PEOPLE

The extent of our work would not be possible without the ongoing commitment of our voluntary Board Members (Management Committee), our wonderful patron Aunty Joan Tranter, and our small but dedicated team of volunteers. We are extremely grateful for their invaluable support, enhancing our capacity to engage in the important work of reconciliation in NSW.

Reconciliation NSW's operations are carried out by a small team of staff, contractors and volunteers at our office in Leichhardt, Sydney. We currently have a part-time Director and two part-time Project Managers. The team is currently seeking an Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer.



OUR PARTNERS

Reconciliation NSW could not operate and do all that we do without our amazing partners and supporters. We believe that all our relationships are important and we listen, collaborate and reciprocate to ensure that everyone benefits. We would like to thank the following organisations for their work and support in furthering reconciliation throughout NSW.

- Aboriginal Affairs NSW
- Reconciliation Australia
- Lendlease
- Cultural Perspectives Group
- Narragunnawali
- National Trust
- National Gallery of Australia
- Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences
- Australian Red Cross
- Mountains Outreach Community Service
- Centre for Cultural Competence Australia
- Red Room Poetry
- Sydney Story Factory
- Tuggeranong Arts Centre
- ANTaR
- Catholic Education
- National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
- Just Reinvest NSW
- PWC Indigenous Consulting
- Giant Dwarf
- Wingaru Education
- Woden Community Service
- YMCA Canberra
- YWCA Canberra

We are active participants in the Australian Reconciliation Network and contribute to a national reconciliation agenda, alongside our state and territory partners. We are also supporters of the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations: NSW Aboriginal Land Council, First Peoples Disability Network Australia, AbSEC, Aboriginal Legal Service, Link Up and NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.



ONLINE

Visit our new website at reconciliationnsw.org.au



RECONCILIATION,
INFO AND NEWS



VOLUNTEER



WHAT'S ON



VOICE, TREATY,
TRUTH



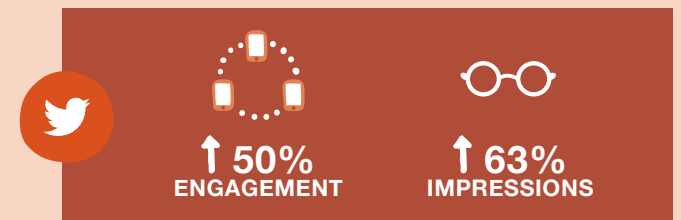
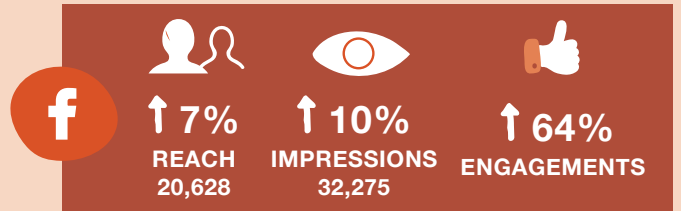
JOIN US



RESOURCES,
RAPS & CULTURAL
COMPETENCY

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on our social channels



Our social media platforms are an important part of our strategy to engage our audience in our activities and events, current affairs and reconciliation-related discussions on a state and national level. Our member and non-member engagement has increased over the past 6 months.

In 2018 Reconciliation NSW has continued to focus attention on expanding community outreach. Specifically, we have prioritised reaching those outside the existing reconciliation space to engage new community members and stakeholders. We work hard to engage a new and digitally advanced membership through our social media platforms. Reconciliation NSW is sharing and increasing awareness of the reconciliation agenda as well as current affairs, issues and celebrations that matter to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Join us, share our posts, and engage in reconciliation [online!](http://reconciliationnsw.org.au)