



RECONCILIATION UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2023

Reconciliation Action Plan development

- Consultation with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the broader First Nations community is completed and we will now commence writing the draft *Reconciliation Action Plan (Stretch)* with consideration of the input we've had from key stakeholders and alignment with our strategic and business objectives.
- The draft will be reviewed by the Board and Management team before being submitted to Reconciliation Australia for review and endorsement, a process that can take up to three months.
- Once endorsed, we will organise a formal event to launch the RAP and celebrate our continued commitment to Reconciliation. We will then do a Roadshow of the RAP to share it with each team across the business as well as volunteers.



Indigenous Literacy Day — 6 September 2023

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation seeks to improve the lives and opportunities of First Nations people through literacy programs and an annual initiative is Indigenous Literacy Day.

Australia's First People have a deep knowledge of community, culture, and land. These are concepts of "literacy" that the western world may not understand. We must redefine what literacy means for different communities and their needs and create forward-thinking spaces without losing roots. Indigenous Literacy Day advocates people's right to an education in the languages they speak at home. It celebrates indigenous freedom of expression and participation in public life just as they are.

What can you do to support this?

There are several ways to support Indigenous Literacy Foundation, for more information check out the opportunities [here](#).

Its online store has a variety of wonderful children's books available so check it out to add to your personal library.

The University of Queensland Press has developed a respected, richly diverse backlist of First Nations literature and has created a series that celebrates the legacy of ground-breaking First Nations writing, offering readers a sense of discovery. You can purchase the series at [Pack of eight First Nations Classics | UQP](#).

Indigenous Literacy Foundation

Indigenous Literacy Day

Celebrating Stories, Cultures and Languages

6 September

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and waters of Millowl, the Bunurong. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

RECONCILIATION UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2023

Reconciliation Advisory Committee

The Committee met on 9 August at the Nobbies, covering the following agenda items:

- An overview of the 2023 Reconciliation Events — overall attendance of over 1200 people to four major events.
- Results of implementation of the *Reconciliation Action Plan (Stretch) 2019-2022* – we successfully completed 75% of deliverables with work continuing on 12 deliverables.
- An update on the RAP development process.
- Progress and achievement on the Yarning Circle project — keep reading for more information.

The Committee supported Kate Adams and Dion Triptree to attend a Reconciliation Roadshow event on Tuesday 22 August, hosted by Reconciliation Australia. It was a great opportunity to meet and yarn with people from other organisations that have Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP). Key speakers at the event spoke about the role that organisations can play in achieving a just and reconciled nation, reflection of performance by organisations with RAPs, and how to support mob in self-determination. They also gained valuable tips and insight into how to effectively implement RAP actions in our business.

Yarning Circle Project

The Yarning Circle project commenced in April 2023 and has been progressing nicely with First Nations artists, Arieta, Lenna and Rhylee doing some great work on the painting and mosaic artworks for this cultural space. We've also held a Community Planting Day where they got to meet and work with Traditional Owners and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.

One of the aims of the project is to teach Arieta, Lenna and Rhylee about the process of working as a professional artist, and through mentoring from local Aboriginal artist, Patrice Mahoney OAM, mosaic artist Heather Fahnle and local visual artist, Lizzy Rich, they are learning about:

- Commissioning process (application, agreement, commitment)
- Research, design, planning and safety
- Exploring artistic techniques (colours, textures, motifs, mosaic, materials)
- Decision making, leadership, teamwork, working in a public space
- Intergenerational cultural learning by working with other First Nations people

The project is supported by a Parks Victoria Volunteer Innovation Fund grant to engage youth volunteers; Jesse and Mia have also

been contributing to the artworks in creating beautiful mosaic pavers and tiles that will feature in the space.

Ash Reed, Andrea Love and Les Briggs from the Conservation team are supporting the project to create the surrounding garden beds that will feature native plants including threatened species as well as species that are significant to Bunurong. We will hold another planting day in the coming months to continue our work with youth volunteers and Community.

We hope to have the area completed and an official opening in December!

Watch this space as we work together to create this colourful, engaging and educational yarning circle!



YOUR RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPS 2023:

Kevin Love (Chair)

Patrice Mahoney OAM (Co-Chair and Community member)

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community Reps

Uncle Anthony Egan

(TO Bunurong/Trawlwoolway)

Paul Patten (Gunai/Yorta Yorta)

Beverley Munro (Board)

Phillip Island Nature Parks

Jane Jobe (Board), Catherine Basterfield, Kate Adams, Anna Eggleton, Ashley Reed, Rosanna Martino, Sarah Hain, Steven Sippel, Stephanie James, Ewan McLeod, Sue Keogh, Lyndon Firmin, Shaun Kenny, Stefan Poll Sally O'Neill (community)

CULTURAL LEARNING HINTS AND TIPS

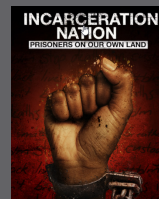
In a meeting with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation mid-August, we asked for permission to use more Boon Wurrung language words and are currently working on updating the Style Guide. Once completed, we'll be sure to share it with staff.

To learn about the Referendum and Voice to Parliament you can stream live sessions on NITV at [here](#).

WATCH

INCARCERATION NATION

An examination of the connection between relentless government intervention since colonisation and the trauma and disadvantage experienced by First Nations Australians.



THE FIRST INVENTORS SERIES

Rob Collins and a team of First Nations investigators delve into 65,000 years of Aboriginal Australian invention, looking at how landscapes were transformed, how events were recorded, the use of navigation tools, and how societies were organised.



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