

Reconciliation in action

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It has been a busy 6 months since publishing our inaugural newsletter last year!

We have been working on a number of initiatives since the launch of our second Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, aimed at furthering our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and community members, while continuing to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of reconciliation among our staff, families and broader community.

It is an exciting and promising time with new governments at state and federal level each committing to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, with an Indigenous Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution a real possibility. Here in South Australia, our state government has committed to implementing a state-based version of the Uluru Statement, a treaty process and truth process. Gowrie SA will continue to be a strong advocate in our sector and support young people in their learning of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, share significant events and learning with the community and demonstrate our commitment to the Uluru Statement of the Heart and truth telling.

We were fortunate to join Reconciliation SA for the 20 year anniversary of their tireless work towards a reconciled and just South Australia. We extend our congratulations to Reconciliation South Australia and appreciation of our ongoing partnership and opportunities to work together.

Our vision for reconciliation is an Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and all other Australians participate in a fair and equitable society

In this newsletter we share our actions for reconciliation these past 6 months. More information about our reconciliation activities can be found in our [Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2023](#), on our [website](#) or by following us on social media @GowrieSA

Training in the APY Lands

Professional learning facilitator Jess Shaw travelled to the APY Lands with Ivan-Tiwu Copley to deliver RRHAN-EC training. Jess commented that Ivan is the best tour guide and described the APY Lands as 'truly magical'. A fantastic effort by Jess, who delivered her usual high quality training to approximately 20 educators in collaboration with 3 Anangu Language interpreters. Ivan was instrumental in ensuring cultural safety for all those who attended and had connections with so many at the training.



A fantastic night with Eddie Peters

Congratulations to Eddie Peters on holding his successful Adelaide Fringe event Island Night in Iparriyi Whitmore Square. Families, friends and community joined Eddie and other First Nations artists for a wonderful evening of music and entertainment.

This event was made possible by Adelaide City Council Quick Response funding, a Fringe grant, Gowrie SA funding and the voluntary efforts of #TeamEddie. We are supporting Eddie in the planning for a two day event later in the year - keep an eye on our socials for details.

Images: Little Feet Big Dreams Studio



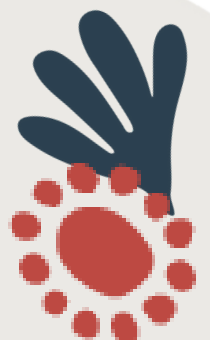
Lord Mayor morning tea, Mabo day

We had the privilege of attending the Lord Mayor's Civic Reception at Adelaide Town Hall with Eddie Peters and the South Australian Torres Strait Island Community to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the historic Mabo decision and the anniversary of the Torres Strait Islander Flag.



Supporting staff to attend significant events

Several staff attended Reconciliation SA's National Reconciliation Week Breakfast on behalf of Gowrie SA. We have been supporting staff to attend this event for approximately 8 years and encourage staff to share their experience afterwards with the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. Our CEO Lynne Rutherford has attended a Turkindi meeting on behalf of the organisation.



Supporting young Aboriginal students in their career exploration



Our professional learning team participated in the Department for Education's Workabout Centre activities, supporting young Aboriginal students in their career exploration.

During the Aboriginal student career expo more than 400 students in years 10 to 12 could visit the Gowrie SA booth to talk with staff, answer questions, take part in an activity and listen to two Gowrie SA presentations.

Gowrie SA will also be hosting an Aboriginal Career Industry Immersion session in August, which we will share in our next newsletter.

#BeBraveMakeChange - Celebrating National Reconciliation Week

Staff and families joined Ivan-Tiwu Copley on a beautiful sunny day at Karrawirra Parri for our annual reconciliation walk. During our walk along the river bank we learned about the history, trees, plants and animals of the river and its importance to Aboriginal people.



Yarn-bombing by the children in Jacaranda Kindergarten during NRW



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group

We are fortunate to receive cultural guidance and advice from members of the Gowrie SA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group: Ivan-Tiwu Copley, Eddie Peters, Karrl Tamaru Smith, Nicole Gollan, Rodney Welch, Rosemary Wanganeen.

We have come together twice this year and they have shared their aspirations for Gowrie SA for 2022, with particular interest in language being learnt and incorporated across all roles within the organisation.

Weaving cultural practices in our program

Children in the Wisteria Kindergarten room at Thebarton worked with an Aboriginal staff member to learn about the history and purpose of Coolamons, which was part of a broader project exploring cultural tools. They made this paper mache Coolamon as part of their learning (below).



Change Makers

Through the children's research in the community, the Jacaranda children noticed a big problem at Tulya Wardli - Bonython Park. We asked the children to share their concerns with the community. This was done through pop art inspired posters with a big message!

Supporting cultural learning in other services

Ivan-Tiwu Copley and one of our professional learning program facilitators worked with a family day care service on a project focused on learning about Kaurna culture through stories, food and cultural walks. It provided such rich learning and reflection on how we can integrate Kaurna perspectives in all areas of children's learning.

Image: Care Bears Family Day Care



We connect children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture, community and Elders in our programs



Cooking with native ingredients!

We enjoyed a fabulous afternoon sharing our Cooking with Native Ingredients professional learning session with a passionate group of involved participants. We worked collaboratively with St John's Youth Service, Edible Reconciliation, Bush Tukka, Meridian Vocational College, Chef Andrew Fielke, Chef Anthony Julianto, Alex and Ivan Tiwu-Copley to deliver a very popular and in demand session for the sector.





Encouraging services to develop their own Reconciliation Action Plan

A small but very engaged group of participants attended our professional learning session on Developing a Reconciliation Action Plan. During this session educators learned how to get started, what resources will support their journey and how they might involve their team and community in their reconciliation journey.

Launch of the first Reconciliation Action Plan by Rural Support Service

At the suggestion of Aunty Sharon Gollan, Rural Support Service invited Gowrie SA to share our learning and to inspire others at the launch of their inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. It was a privilege to be on Country in the beautiful Barossa Bushgardens building relationships and making connections with others who are committed to reconciliation.



Reconciliation in the employee induction process

We were thrilled to be invited by Early Childhood Australia to write an article for their inaugural national reconciliation newsletter to share how our induction processes ensure new employees are part of our reconciliation journey.

"Importantly, we acknowledge that new employees may have minimal or no experience learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander histories, cultures or reconciliation. This is why Gowrie SA thinks about the induction of new employees as more than a single induction event and considers a successful induction as one that begins with the recruitment process".

This has not been published yet, but we are looking forward to sharing it when it is!

