

# Reconciliation in action

Newsletter | Gowrie South Australia | Issue 2 2024



Stretch RAP launch  
special edition!

Naa marni?

We promised in previous issues that the launch of our 2024-2027 Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan was coming soon. While our launch was later in the year than expected, the event was a great success.

The much-anticipated reveal of our Stretch RAP artwork created by Kauwanu (Uncle) Tamaru, Kurna/Narungga, and Warumunga/Yuggera artist David Booth was awe-inspiring. Observing the painting up close reveals its rich layers and the story it conveys.

*'Gowrie SA is located next to Karrowirra Pari. We offer early education and care, professional learning, parenting and inclusion programs.'*

*In the top left of the artwork, we have the spirit world keeping an eye on us. In the middle...we have the 2 collaborators, Tamaru and David Booth on Kurna Yarta-ana.*

*There are three grass trees in the middle which are our favourite plant. On the very bottom we are representing children aged birth to three with little feet coming into our Children's Program and leaving as five year olds with big feet.*

*On the top right, we have Tarnta with the seven entry points from around Australia to Kurna Yarta.'*

This special edition of the Reconciliation in Action newsletter shares with you photos from our launch - they reflect our valued relationships with our staff, our families, members of the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group and Gowrie SA Board and broader early education and care sector that create the Gowrie SA community.

Thank you to our special guests Mr Rod Buntin (attending on behalf of the Governor of South Australia), members of the Gowrie SA Reference Group and Gowrie SA Board.



The artwork, created by Kauwanu Tamaru and David Booth, serves as the cover image for our 2024-2027 Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan. We feel grateful to showcase a work that reflects the narrative of our organisation while celebrating and honouring Kaurna culture.

Each guest received a card displaying the artwork along with its description. While the printed version is impressive, experiencing the painting up close offers a deeper appreciation for the effort and meticulous detail within. It truly is a stunning piece of art. We plan to make this artwork a travelling exhibit throughout the organisation, allowing the Gowrie community the chance to view and appreciate it in person.



CEO Lynne Rutherford, Kauwanu Tamaru, David Booth



Our launch was a celebration of Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes cultures highlighting the positive impact of our work with children, their families and with educators throughout the early education and care sector.

Lyndsay and Chelsea shared the valuable learning experiences occurring within the Gowrie SA Children's Program, accompanied by a beautiful video featuring our kindergarten children expressing words and songs in Kurna and Zenadth Kes, which are woven into their daily rituals.

Tia and Olivia from Annesley Junior School delivered a surprise presentation for our guests. Tia and Olivia have been learning Kurna language with Kauwanu Tamaru, through the Gowrie SA and Deadly Mob Yellaka Warra sessions, and they also shared a delightful video of children from their program speaking and singing in Kurna. It was heartwarming to hear the children speak Kurna as they are playing.

We also welcomed Gowrie SA parent Gemma, and Board member Alycia, who each shared their personal experiences and the impact of learning Kurna language with Kauwanu.



Chelsea (ECT) and Lyndsay (Director)



Gemma, Gowrie SA parent



Alycia, Gowrie SA Board member



Tia and Olivia, Annesley College





The launch was an opportunity to share stage 2 of the Kurna mapping project. Kauwanu Ivan-Tiwu Copley and CEO Lynne have been working on together, with funding from the City of West Torrens. Stage 2 incorporates the history of Aboriginal sites and reserves, the development through history of Kurna Land and some important places throughout the City of West Torrens and adjoining councils.

We would also like to thank Kauwanu Ivan for providing a Welcome to Country for our Stretch RAP launch.

A very special Acknowledgement of Country was given by staff member Jade, Barngarla, (RAP working group co-convenor and Inclusion Agency Team Leader) and Jess (Inclusion Professional). While Jade delivered an Acknowledgement in Kurna, Jess interpreted this in Auslan.



Lynne Rutherford, CEO and  
Kauwanu Ivan-Tiwu Copley



Jess and Jade (Inclusion Agency)





We were fortunate to enjoy a performance by Awa (Uncle) Eddie Peters and Anthony Pak Poy, a perfect ending to the formalities of the launch surrounded by some artefacts and outcomes of our work over the last year. It was a wonderful evening and perfect opportunity to chat with members of the Gowrie SA Board, Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group members, staff, families and guests.



Anthony Pak Poy and Awa (Uncle) Eddie Peters Zenadth Kes member of the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group











Cecilia (Inclusion Agency) and Kauwanu Tamaru



Awa Eddie Peters



Gowrie SA families





Mr Rod Buntten (Husband of the Governor of South Australia, Kauwanu Tamaru, Gemma (parent), Sally (Assistant Director) (far right)



Gowrie SA staff



Sally (Gowrie SA), Gemma (parent), Kauwanu Ivan-Tiwu Cooley Peramangk/Kaurna (Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group member), Alex Houthuysen (Hill) Yamatji Nation (Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group member), Mary Scales (Professional Learning Program Leader) and Greg McCulloch, Ngarrindjeri (Turkindi)



Kauwanu Tamaru, Victoria Whittington (Gowrie SA Board)



Bouchra, Kauwanu Tamaru, Lyndsay (Director, Thebarton)