

Reconciliation in action

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Naa marni?

Gowrie SA's journey of reconciliation is characterised by listening, learning, reflecting, and growing together. Throughout this journey, our understanding has evolved, requiring us to recognise when past approaches no longer align with what we know today. This is especially relevant in our approach to learning Kurna Warra.

Recently, the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait Islander) Reference Group made a joint decision to adopt Kurna Warrapiipa as the language governance for Gowrie SA. Our shift to Kurna Warrapiipa commenced in June, and we are committed to minimising any confusion that may arise during this transition.

An important part of our growth as an organisation is our participation in significant events and supporting staff attendance at these. We support both new and long-serving staff to attend events such as the Reconciliation Week Breakfast, Reconciliation in the West, and the Walk of Apology, recognising that each member of our team is at a different stage of their reconciliation journey. These opportunities provide meaningful ways to deepen understanding, hear diverse perspectives, and connect with the histories, cultures, and experiences of Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes peoples. This and other planned learning throughout the year help embed reconciliation in our everyday practice across our programs.

Throughout this newsletter, we share photos from these events and highlight the learning opportunities embedded within the Children's Program that support reconciliation.



Gowrie SA Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group

The Reference Group was formed in 2019 and meets regularly to provide invaluable cultural advice and guidance to the organisation. Members of the group are:

- Kauwanu Ivan-Tiwu Copley
- Kauwanu Karri Tamaru Smith (internal Aboriginal Consultant)
- Gambarnu Alex Houthuysen (Hill)
- Rodney Welch
- Nicole Gollan
- Amy Graham

To find out more about each member, head to the Reconciliation page of our website:
<https://www.gowriesa.org.au/about/reconciliation> or follow the QR code



Walking Alongside

We continue to work closely with Family Day Care Australia, partnering together on the Teach Podcast in a session focused on Walking Alongside - Embedding Aboriginal perspectives in Family Day Care.

"The walking side-by-side is the Family Day Care community and the Kaurna community walk together to share language and culture. And it's been quite powerful over the time where I share my language in baby steps and we move forward."

Kauwanu Tamaru - Teach Podcast

On the podcast, Kauwanu (Uncle) Tamaru and Family Day Care Service Manager Liz Whitbread highlighted the collaborative work undertaken by Kauwanu, Family Day Care SA, and the Gowrie SA Inclusion Agency over recent years.

If you would like to listen to the podcast, find it on your favourite podcast app or read the full transcript on the Department for Education's podcast page:
<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/podcast/podcasts/walking-alongside-embedding-aboriginal-perspectives-in-family-day-care>

National Reconciliation Week Breakfast



We continued our tradition of sending a group of staff members, both new and long-serving, to the Reconciliation South Australia National Reconciliation Week Breakfast. It is a privilege to attend this important event, and hearing Auntie Ros share her tiyati (truth-telling) about her experiences as a Stolen Generation survivor was deeply moving. We were also grateful for the opportunity to hear from Eddie Betts, Casey Donovan and Nathan May.



We are 'all in'

Our annual Reconciliation walk at Tulya Wardli (Bonython Park) was a perfect morning walking on Country, learning history and hearing truth-telling from our Elders. Ngaitalya to Kauwanu (Uncle) Ivan, Kauwanu Tamaru and Awa (Uncle) Eddie for so generously sharing their time and knowledge with us.





Reconciliation in the Children's Program

As part of our commitment to Reconciliation and ensuring meaningful learning opportunities for children are embedded throughout our programs, we created a dedicated space where children could freely express themselves through art, allowing them the time, resources and opportunity to create and explore their ideas.

Exploring mixed media and multiple ways of accessing children's Hundred Languages (Malaguzzi 1988), educators worked with children to investigate and collage many years of NAIDOC posters.

Excursions to the nearby APY Gallery in Thebarton gave children the opportunity to explore the artworks that resonated with them. The Gallery is located right on our doorstep and is a significant and valuable local resource.



The gallery is an ideal environment for children to engage meaningfully with art. Artwork was displayed at the children's eye level, creating an accessible and inviting experience for children to engage with the colours and textures of the work. Children were welcomed into the studio space to observe artists at work and were fortunate to speak with an artist, learning about the stories and meaning behind their current painting. Observing the artists working on location was a mindful experience as children were mesmerised by the concentration of the artists and their slow, careful brushstrokes.



Connections was definitely a theme of this experience too, as children also had the unique opportunity to view artworks by Yankunytjatjara artist and musician Zaachariaha Fielding, whose artwork was featured on this year's NAIDOC Week poster. Following one particular visit, a child returned inspired by what they had experienced and immediately engaged with the art provocations. Selecting a pencil, the child slowly drew long blue strokes across a fresh page, focusing intently on what they were creating (pictured right).

This experience became a meaningful continuation of learning and naturally extended into NAIDOC Week. Children continued to explore art, artists and what makes artists deadly.



Walk of Awareness - Anniversary of the National Apology

The Walk of Awareness is an annual event held on 13 February to commemorate the National Apology to the Stolen Generations. We began on the Birkenhead Bridge and walked to Hart's Mill for the Smoking Ceremony, Welcome to Country and morning tea.

At the invitation of Gambarnu (Uncle) Alex, several staff participated in the Walk of Awareness alongside Kauwanu (Uncle) Tamaru. This year's event commemorated the 18th anniversary of the Apology.

"Seeing so many faces united for this cause reminds us change happens when community shows up. Your presence is more than support, it is a promise in which we will continue to stand together."

Gambarnu (Uncle) Alex

