



Artwork excerpt: *I Am Because We Are* 2019, Safina Stewart, Wuthathi Country (QLD) and Mabuig Island (Torres Strait Islands).

RAP UPDATE MARCH 2024 LET'S TOOMBARA BY (TALK) RECONCILIATION

Tunnerminnerwait Maulboyheenner Commemoration

On Saturday 20 January, over 100 people joined together to be part of a significant moment in our shared history through truth-telling. The event serves as a commemoration of the lives of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner, two Tasmanian Aboriginal men who were tragically hanged in Melbourne in 1842.

A Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony was provided by Mark Brown from the Bunurong Land Council, followed by special guest speakers, Robert Ogden, Bunurong-Pakana Elder and Krishna Methven of the Pairebeenne-Trawlwoolway clan of north-eastern Tasmania (Lutrawita).

Robert shared their story providing an opportunity for others to learn about the circumstances around their capture, and the injustices experienced at the time. He explained that the complexity of the times, inconsistent accounts of what happened, and the obvious mistreatment of these men and their communities was wrong.

He said, 'They were only doing what we all would do to protect our families. The treatment of our country men and women during colonisation had a huge impact. That's why we came together in January to honour, pay respect and acknowledge all who suffered'.



Now More Than Ever #NRW2024

The National Reconciliation Week theme for 2024, **Now More Than Ever**, is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will—and must—continue.

Now more than ever, we need to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation. We know that the 6.2 million Australians who voted YES are committed to better outcomes for First Nations people.

Together, we must build on the work of the past and create a legacy for the future.

Now more than ever, the work continues: in truth-telling, in understanding our history, in education, and in tackling inequities. We need connection. We need respect. We need action. And we need change.

Now more than ever, we need reconciliation.

Watch out for details on events in the next Reconciliation News Post.

YANNIN NERLINGO (COME ALONG) ON A CULTURAL LEARNING JOURNEY

Explore the following recommendations to enrich your self-guided cultural learning journey and gain a deeper understanding of First Nations people and culture.

Reconciliation Australia is hosting a series of **Yarning Circles** to discuss plans for the RAP program in the post referendum landscape.

Yarning Circles are a key element across many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, where coming together and yarning supports communities to tell stories, share views and make decisions.

Reconciliation Australia invites key RAP partners and other reconciliation leaders to join these sessions. The aim is to gather the collective wisdom of the RAP network and listen carefully to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

You can select the sessions that work best using [this webpage](#).

Victorian Aboriginal News

The Victorian Aboriginal News, led by Charles Pakana, is a fully Aboriginal-owned and managed news and current affairs team focused on sharing reports and stories pertaining to Aboriginal Victoria.

Tune in to their recurring podcasts, delving into current subjects like treaty, cultural safety, and beyond. Alternatively, explore the Leader Tapes, a series of interviews featuring First Nations leaders, designed to foster effective and respectful leadership within Victorian Aboriginal communities.

Check it out at [Home - Victorian Aboriginal News \(vicaboriginalnews.com.au\)](#)

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA - RAP IMPACT

Did you know that...

- Over **5 million people** now work or study in an organisation with a RAP.
- **118,049 RAP employees** participated in face-to-face cultural learning **in 2023**.
- The number of **First Nations people** on **Boards** of RAP organisations has grown to **606**.
- There are **574 First Nations people** in **leadership** positions in RAP organisations.

As an organisation with a RAP we've contributed to the above achievements and more. You can learn more by reading [The Impact of RAPs | Reconciliation Australia](#).

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.

Embedding a collective voice into our 4th Reconciliation Action Plan

Following eight months of consultation with Traditional Owners, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, members from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, the Reconciliation Advisory Committee, and our Board, executive team and staff, we submitted the first draft of the *Reconciliation Action Plan (Stretch)* for June 2024–June 2027 to Reconciliation Australia in December 2023 for review.

This will be our second *Stretch RAP* and it will do just that—drive us as a business to *Stretch* the boundaries a bit further on our reconciliation journey.

Some of the key focus areas for this RAP are:

- Implementing our Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy to deepen our respect for culture, diversity, and inclusion in our workplace, and strengthen cultural safety.

- Continuing to work with the Bunurong Land Council's Tarbuk Biik team and other Traditional Owner groups on land management, conservation and research programs.
- Building on the collective impact of the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network to promote reconciliation, strengthen the voice of First Nations people, drive positive social change, and deliver *deadly* events for Sorry Day, NRW and NAIDOC.
- Continue to embed cultural considerations into our core business to demonstrate our commitment through on ground action and collaboration.

Once endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, our RAP champions will deliver a RAP Roadshow to all teams to celebrate and share the *Reconciliation Action Plan (Stretch) June 2024–June 2027* as the next chapter in our reconciliation story.



Australian fur seals, little penguin and shearwater at Deen Maar Island

Conservation scientists at Phillip Island Nature Parks have been involved in multiple research projects performed on Deen Maar Island over the past 20 years. This site holds paramount significance for wildlife studies, as many of its resident animals face threats from climate change and various human impacts, including interactions with fisheries and marine pollution.

Senior Scientist, Rebecca McIntosh, has written a document to communicate the findings of several selected research papers from Phillip Island Nature Parks that include Deen Maar Island. Acknowledging that the research was conducted without collaboration or support from Traditional Owners, Rebecca aims to share this knowledge with them to establish a new and collaborative relationship.

In Bec's words, 'it's an expression of our intention towards sharing past research, building respectful relationships, and how we want to do science into the future'.

Milingimbi School Visit

A group of students from Milingimbi School in the Top End, Northern Territory visited the Koala Conservation Reserve and Penguin Parade in December 2023 as part of a camp where they explored Wurundjeri, Yuin, Bunurong and Eora Country. They exchanged songs, games, dances and language with other students and tasted lots of new bush tucker. A highlight was seeing a diverse range of animals including the little penguins and other seabirds at the Nobbies.

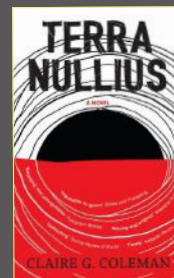


MYLI—My Community Libraries boasts an excellent collection of books featuring First Nations content. Here are just a few recommendations tailored for both adults and children to enjoy.

ADULT FICTION

Terra Nullius by Claire Coleman

The Natives of the Colony are restless. The Settlers are eager to have a nation of peace, and to bring the savages into line. Families are torn apart, re-education is enforced. This rich land will provide for all. This is not Australia as we know it. This is not the Australia of our history. This is Terra Nullius is something new, but all too familiar.



JUNIOR NON-FICTION

The First Scientists by Corey Tutt & Blak Douglas

In consultation with communities, Kamilaroi man, Corey Tutt, tells us of many deadly feats—from bush medicine to bush trackers—that are today considered 'science', and introduces us to many amazing scientists, both past and present. The breadth of 'sciences' is incredible with six main chapters covering astronomy, engineering, forensic science, chemistry, land management and ecology. The first scientists passed on the lessons of the land, sea and sky to the future scientists of today through stories, song and dance, and many of these lessons are now shared in this book.



Currently on SBS On Demand, enjoy viewing acclaimed movies, series and compelling documentaries that celebrate First Nations excellence called **Always Was, Always Will Be | SBS On Demand**

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