



# RECONCILIATION UPDATE APRIL 2023

## Reconciliation Action Plan development

- Consultation workshops have commenced with Traditional Owners, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community, the Reconciliation Advisory Committee (RAC) and staff on which actions and deliverables we should include in our fourth Reconciliation Action Plan (Stretch) for 2024-2026.
- The workshops will help us to identify key focus areas for the 3 years under the pillars of Respect, Relationships and Opportunities. The RAC will work with Reconciliation Australia throughout the process.
- If you're keen to learn more, have a yarn to your RAC representatives.
- The process can take 6-10 months, so we hope to launch our new RAP in early 2024.



## Reconciliation Events 2023

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network have commenced planning for this year's reconciliation events.

### Tunnerminnerwait Mualboyheenner Commemorative event

This event was held on 20 January in Wonthaggi and was an opportunity to remember the past atrocity of two Tasmanian Aboriginal men who were publicly hanged in Melbourne in 1842 after being convicted for the murder of two whale-hunters in the Western Port area. At the time they were labelled 'blood thirsty outlaws' but are now recognised as freedom fighters resisting colonial occupation and injustices.

### NATIONAL SORRY DAY

26 May

The Network will be supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community on this day to remember the ongoing impacts of colonization and government policies and practices on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community. Join us at the Cape Paterson Surf life Saving Club at 10am on Friday 26 May for a Welcome to Country and Smoking, yarns and a light lunch. For more details see [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation).

The Network will support other events across the year including:

#### National Reconciliation Week

27 May - 3 June

The Network are hosting a Reconciliation Forum where two panels will discuss how industry, business and community can support reconciliation. Stay tuned for more details and check out [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation).

#### NAIDOC Week

27 June - 6 August

including the NAIDOC Art Exhibition on 27 June - 6 August at the Wonthaggi Artspace

#### National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's Children's Day

4 August

#### Indigenous Literacy Day

1 September

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27 MAY — 3 JUNE

# BE A VOICE FOR VOICE GENERATIONS

## ACT TODAY FOR A RECONCILED TOMORROW

#NRW2023

NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



Phillip Island  
**NATURE  
PARKS**



*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.*

#### CONTACT US:

**E** [reconciliation@penguins.org.au](mailto:reconciliation@penguins.org.au)

**W** [penguins.org.au/reconciliation](http://penguins.org.au/reconciliation)

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## Western Desert Female Rangers visit

The Reconciliation Advisory Committee was proud to support the recent visit to Millowl by female First Nations Rangers from Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Willuna who joined us for a yarn and walk around the koala boardwalks before visiting the Penguin Parade...from all reports the ladies really enjoyed it.

PINP staff and RAC members found it enlightening to hear about the work they do on Country relating to biodiversity, feral animal control, fire management and protection of their cultural assets.

This amazing collaboration was supported by the Indigenous Desert Alliance, Thin Green Line Foundation, International Rangers Federation and the Phillip Island Nature Parks..... story-telling at its best through sharing, listening and learning from each other.



## Yarning Circle Project

The Yarning Circle project is about creating a multi-cultural space for everyone to enjoy and we have engaged three young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to help design and create some amazing artworks in the area out front of the KCR visitor centre.

Lenna Scholtmeyer, Arieta Fergie, and Rhylee Duell are the young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists that will lead the project and we met with them onsite on Saturday 1 April to check out the space and yarn about potential ideas and designs. The themes are creating a safe space for all cultures and educating people about the plants and animals of the woodland environment.

The project is linked to the Build a Brighter Future program that will engage youth volunteers in a number of activities including working with the artists to create the artworks.

We have the support of Andrea Love and Les Briggs (Field Services Officers), local Aboriginal artist, Patrice Mahoney, and local visual artist, Lizzy Rich to support, guide and mentor the young artists through the project.

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



## Cultural training

In April, we rolled out Cultural Awareness and Cultural Safety training for 129 staff and leaders with the support of Jill West, Bunurong Traditional Owner, and her niece Alex, both of whom are deadly facilitators. The training was informative, powerful and thought-provoking and the feedback from staff included "it was the best training I've ever done" and "Jillian West was so warm, open, and vulnerable. It was truly an incredible experience and something I will never forget. I feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate."

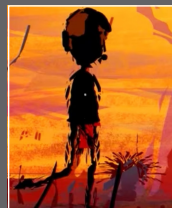
For those of you who didn't make it to a session, keep an eye out for our cultural learning News Posts where we'll share some points from the course plus more opportunities to learn.

## CULTURAL LEARNING HINTS AND TIPS

### WATCH

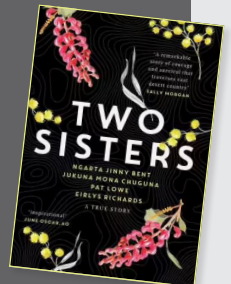
**DUST ECHOES**  
A series of 12 animated dreamtime stories from Central Arnhem Land produced in collaboration with the Djilpin Aboriginal Arts Corporation.

[www.abc.net.au/education/digibooks/dust-echoes/101734324](http://www.abc.net.au/education/digibooks/dust-echoes/101734324)



### READ

**Two Sisters** by Ngarta Jinny Bent, Jukuna Mona Chuguna, Pat Lowe and Eirls Richards. A true story of determination, strength and resilience presented in both English and Walmajarri.



## YOUR RAC REPS 2023:

**Kevin Love** (Chair)

**Patrice Mahoney** OAM (Co-Chair and Community member)

**Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community Reps**

**Uncle Egan**

(TO Bunurong/Trawlwoolway)

**Aunty Bev Munroe**

**Paul Patten** (Gunai/Yorta Yorta)

**Shani Blyth** (Bunurong Land Council)

**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)

## Reconciliation Advisory Committee

The RAC Committee met in February and were joined by Peter Puskic who provided an overview of the Short-tailed Shearwaters research on Millowl and Big Dog Island in Tasmania looking into plastic ingestion. Peter worked together with mutton birding families to identify the threats from plastic on this important traditional food source and commercial enterprise for the Traditional Owners. He also spoke about the Australia Fur Seal research project on Deen Maar Island with the Gunditji Mirring Traditional Owners and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, and how the results of the studies were shared and the future plans we have to work together and build on this relationship.

We discussed the plan for Community Open Day and what participation the RAC and Community would like to have in this annual event and the Yarning Circle project at the Koala Conservation Reserve.

The annual Reconciliation events calendar is getting closer, and Anna and Kate have been working with the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network to plan this year's public events.

Staff are encouraged to attend these events so if you are interested in coming along, please speak with your leaders.