

# Reconciliation in action

Newsletter | Gowrie South Australia | Issue 2 2025



Naa marni?

As we reflect on the past six months, it becomes clear how deeply reconciliation is woven within the fabric of Gowrie SA. Our collaboration with Elders, the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes community, and our practices and connections are integral to our everyday activities.

Gowrie SA's reconciliation journey began with a long partnership with Aunty Leonie, who was the inaugural Elder in Residence. Aunty's work significantly deepened our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal cultures, allowing us to integrate this knowledge into our programs.

Aunty Leonie left a lasting legacy at Gowrie SA, sharing her culture, history and stories with both children and staff. A totem (as seen in the picture) stands proudly at the entrance of the Underdale Children's Program, featuring Aunty's artwork created with her granddaughter. This year, we were honoured to have Aunty's family join us for the unveiling of a plaque that now sits alongside the totem. We share the photos from this day in the newsletter.

We also highlight key moments from our recent Annual General Meeting presentation titled 'The ripple effect of Kurna language learning'. This presentation was a collaborative effort involving the Inclusion Agency, Children's Program, and Professional Learning Program, sharing how our actions ripple outwards and how they can inspire families, communities and the broader early childhood education and care sector.

Remember, even the smallest actions can influence others within and outside your circle, wherever you may be on your reconciliation journey.



## Honouring Aunty's legacy

To commemorate Aunty Leonie's remarkable contributions to Gowrie SA, we unveiled a plaque during NAIDOC Week, placing it next to Aunty's totem. The NAIDOC theme, 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy,' beautifully encapsulated the celebration of Aunty's enduring legacy, her family's strength, and our aspirations for the future.

This plaque will serve as a lasting reminder of her teachings, and we felt truly honoured to have her family present at this meaningful event.

The inscription on the plaque is written in Kurna (please see the photo below for the English translation by Kurna Warra Karrpanthi).

Ngarrpadla Leonie Brodie, Kurna, Dieri ngangki, ngangkipurka-alya, niipu Gowrie Saku

Ngarrpadla iyangka yarltirri-purka 2011-2017rlu

Ngarrpadla yaintya tura kamilyalityangka, Gowrie SAngka wakwakurnalityangka pintyathi

Itu 'moonie' parnuku kangkarlta

Ngadiurlu parnuka tuwila, parnuku numa yailtya mukapanthi





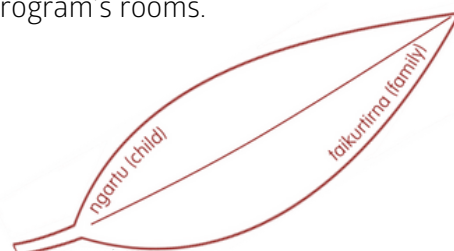
## The ripple effect - presentations from the Gowrie SA AGM

### Warri Kurna Warra (Wind Kurna Language) - Action Research in the Children's Program

The Children's Program presentation shared how 'padninthi kumangka' (walking together) strengthens our relationship with Kauwanu (Uncle) Tamaru and supports Kurna warra learning.

Educators recognised that deep listening, ngaitalya (respect), and a genuine understanding of one another would help them find a shared focus and embed Kurna warra within the program. 'Family' became their shared focus, and with this shared focus, the children's Kurna warra learning became purposeful for everyone, celebrating the children's lifeworlds.

'They began learning familiar taikurtirna warra (family words) that are inclusive and respectful of Kurna perspectives on family roles. As part of this learning, families and their children created a taikurtirna wirra (family forest) of leaves that was meaningful to each inquiry within the program's rooms.







## Walking alongside

The Inclusion Agency and Kauwanu Tamaru have been working closely with Family Day Care South Australia to support family day care educators in connecting with Aboriginal cultures, enabling them to develop their confidence in creating culturally safe programs.

During several hub group sessions held in Cuddly Creek and Scott Creek, Kauwanu shared Kaurna language, protocols, activities and strategies to support educators to embed Kaurna language in their programs and enhance interactions with children.

As a result of this work, Kauwanu Tamaru and Inclusion Professional Jemma Henley, were invited to give a joint presentation with Paula Pittam (Director, Family Day Care SA) and Hannah Griffeths (Family Day Care Co-ordinator) at the Family Day Care Australia Conference. Their session titled "Walking Alongside: Our Relationship with Kauwanu Tamaru Teaching us about Kaurna Language and Culture" shared their insights and steps forward on the journey towards reconciliation.



head

**Mukarta**



shoulders

**Kartaka**



knees

**Mampa**



toes

**Tidna**







## Yellaka Warra | Kumangka Tuyunthi Warri Kurna Warra

Today's word | Gather together for wind Kurna language

In collaboration with the professional learning team, Kauwanu Tamaru developed two Kurna language courses for the sector. Since the end of 2023, 136 educators have completed the 6-week Yellaka Warra course. And created by demand, our newly released advanced Kumangka Tuyunthi Warri Kurna Warra course, which builds on the learning in Yellaka Warra, has been completed by 12 educators.

Aligned with the Being, Belonging and Becoming themes in the Early Years Learning Framework, the courses aim to build educator understanding of their own cultural ties and connections so they can be open to learning about others. Each course also links to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

Bri Hughes, of Kate Cocks Community Children's Centre, describes how language is being used in practice in her service and how this learning has been shared with others:

*"Over the last year since attending Yellaka Warra, we have been incorporating more and more Kurna Warra in our everyday with the children, in the form of yarns, but most importantly through song. The children LOVE to sing Kurna and Zenadth Kes songs with me while I play the ukulele. We have also passed this on to teach their family and friends."*

We are so proud to see Kurna language in practice and embedded within the curriculum in Bri's service as well as others (as pictured below).



Hackham West Community Centre OSHC



Seaton Community Children's Centre



Aldinga Beach R-6 OSHC



Alive Early Learning Mt Barker

