

Reconciliation in action

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Lynne Rutherford (Gowrie CEO), Awa (Uncle Eddie), Kauwani (Uncle) Tamaru, Mary Scales (Gowrie SA RAP Champion)
Yitpi Yartapuultiku opening day

Naa Marni?

Our previous newsletter was a special edition highlighting the wonderful event we hosted to launch our 2024-2027 Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan . If you missed it, along with other editions, please scan the QR code to stay updated on our reconciliation journey.



Since the launch of our RAP, we have been actively engaged, including attending the opening of Yitpi Yartapuultiku - the Soul of Port Adelaide. Yitpi Yartapuultiku is truly an extraordinary venue, described by the City of Port Adelaide/Enfield as 'a space where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can come together to learn, reflect and grow'. The opening event, which we were honoured to attend with members of the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes (formerly Torres Strait Islander) Reference Group, drew more than 10,000 people, illustrating the immense value this space will provide. You can find additional photos from our visit included in this newsletter. We look forward to returning to Yitpi Yartapuultiku later this year with all Gowrie SA employees for our Closure Day.

Many of our activities occur annually, such as our reconciliation walk during National Reconciliation Week. We are committed to thoughtful planning to avoid complacency, guided by the insights of the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group members, to ensure our events are meaningful. The feedback we received from a new employee, which we have shared in this newsletter, highlights the ongoing impact of this regular event.

Reconciliation is everybody's responsibility, and National Reconciliation Week's 2025 theme, 'Bridging Now to Next', emphasises that reconciliation is an ongoing journey that requires continued effort, action, and Tiati (truth-telling). Please read through our newsletter to see how we walk alongside community and step forward together.



Zenadth Kes culture returns to The Gov for fourth Adelaide Fringe

Meriba Sagul, Meriba Wed (Our dance, Our songs)

Awa (Uncle) Eddie returned to The Gov for his fourth Adelaide Fringe appearance, bringing together a line-up of talented artists to celebrate Zenadth Kes culture. It was an incredible crowd and a wonderful evening presented by Awa Eddie & the amazing band, supported by: Bec Gollan Music, Jamie Butler, Vonda Last Music, Katie Aspel, Kenny Willson, Michael BigBoss Collard, Nunga Wangga Radio, Deadly Beats Radio Show, The Collective & Cat Beaton, Deadly Mob and Nharla Photography.

Mary, one of our RAP Champions, and Awa Eddie collaborate each year to showcase Zenadth Kes culture at the Adelaide Fringe. Their dedication has entertained us across four years of fantastic Fringe performances that leave a lasting impact on those who attend, making each event not just memorable but genuinely special. Big thanks to The Gov for their support in planning and promoting Awa Eddie's show at their venue and for helping to bring the show to life.

Awa Eddie's performances are supported by an Adelaide Fringe Arts Unlimited Grant. We were thrilled to learn that Awa Eddie received the weekly Best of Community Events Award for his Fringe show this year!



Walk of Awareness - Anniversary of the National Apology

Employees from the Inclusion Agency, the Professional Learning Program, and the Children's Program participated in a walk across the Port Adelaide Birkenhead Bridge. The Walk of Awareness, attended each year by several Gowrie SA employees, commemorates the anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

The event reminds us of the importance of our reconciliation focus at Gowrie SA.



Mourning in the Morning

The Mourning in the Morning held by the City of Adelaide on 26 January was attended by several employees.

The event offers a time for reflection and Tiati (truth-telling), recognising that the 26th of January is a challenging time for Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes peoples. It is also an opportunity to support and appreciate Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes histories, cultures and perspectives.

This year's event highlighted the significance and centrality of language. Gowrie SA recognises the importance of preserving the Kurna language for future generations, ensuring that it is not only taught but also valued within our communities. To support this, Gowrie SA continues to offer Yellaka Warra - Kurna Language for educators, in collaboration with Kauwanu (Uncle) Tamaru from Deadly Mob. Kauwanu also teaches children the language of his father and family, Kurna language, during his regular visits to the Children's Program.



The ripple effect - sharing the work of our programs with members of the Turkindi Board



RAP Champion Mary joins Turkindi Board

Gowrie SA is honoured to have representation on the Board of Turkindi for 2024-2025. This Aboriginal community controlled organisation is the place to share and find information relating to opportunities, services, vacancies, jobs and community events and connects people to members across SA and Australia.



Scan the QR code to find out more about Turkindi Network

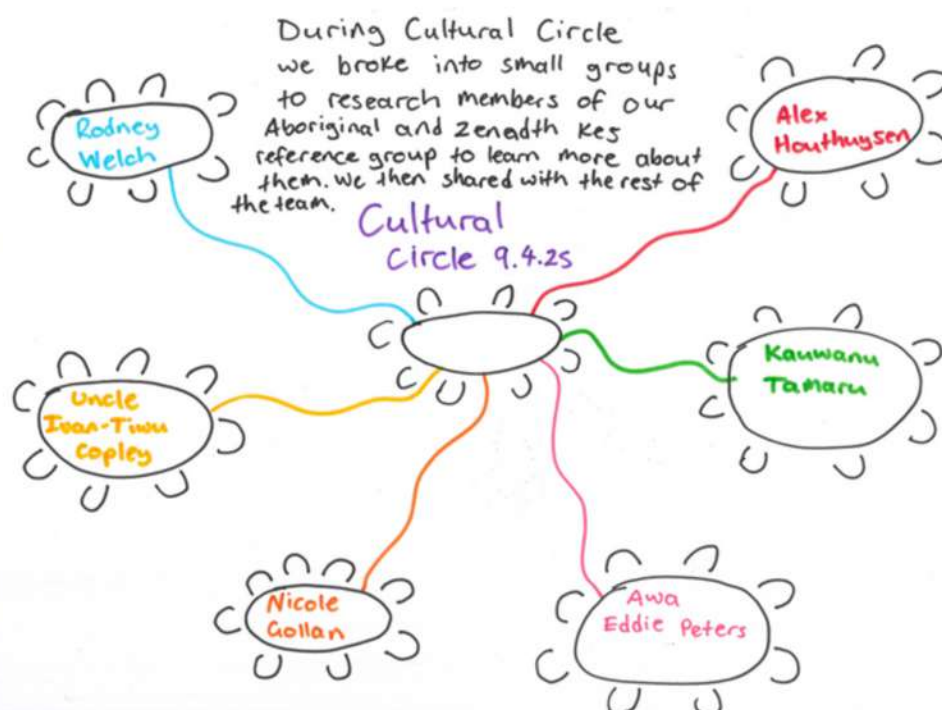
Embedding Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes knowledges, cultures and ways of being in the Children's Program

Our time spent with Kauwanu Tamaru in the garden is a perfect example of how we strategically incorporate Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes perspectives and ways of sharing knowledge through the curriculum. Kauwanu shares his connection with nature and knowledge of native plants with children and educators, and challenges our westernised pedagogical approach that views plants as separate from humans. From our work creating and tending to native food plants with Kauwanu, children's engagement has increased, their care for our plants has grown, and our garden has become more sustainable. Native foods and ingredients are featured in our weekly menus, and our knowledge is shared across the centre environments.

Families also have opportunities to share in this learning, including a family day at Belair State Flora Nursery hosted by Kauwanu, and regular sharing of recipes to incorporate native foods at home.

Strengthening internal relationships in the Inclusion Agency

The Inclusion Agency Cultural Circle recently focused on strengthening internal relationships, which led to the group engaging more deeply with learning about members of the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group. Who are they, and how do we seek their cultural guidance? The map below is the beginning of the Cultural Circle's journey, and through ongoing work, has now led to a Reference Group Display being installed across all Gowrie SA programs.





Ivan-Tiwu Copley, Alex Houthuysen, Mary Scales



Rodney Welch, Ivan-Tiwu Copley, Alex Houthuysen,



Lynne Rutherford, Karri Tamaru Smith and
RAP Co-Convenor Jade Martin

Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group

We continue to receive invaluable guidance and insight from the Gowrie SA Aboriginal and Zenadth Reference Group: Ivan-Tiwu Copley, Karri Tamaru Smith (internal Aboriginal Consultant), Eddie Peters, Nicole Gollan, Rodney Welch, and Alex Houthuysen.

The Reference Group was formed in 2019, and in that time our relationship has become one of reciprocity, requiring deep listening on our part and ensuring we reduce the cultural load by doing our own research and learning, rather than only relying on members of the Reference Group and other Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes peoples for our ongoing learning.

(Eddie Peters and Nicole Gollan not pictured)



Kauwanu Tamaru - sharing Kurna culture with Gowrie SA children

Quite often, Kauwanu sits at the front desk in the morning, with children responding to Kauwanu's 'niina marni' with 'marni ai' and many making sure they get a 'fist bump' from Kauwanu before settling in for the day.

Kauwanu was very happy to receive a gift of appreciation for the work he does in the Children's Program. His efforts create a ripple effect, empowering children to carry their learning of culture and language into primary school.





Gowrie SA Annual Reconciliation Walk

Children, their families, and Gowrie SA staff are invited to join our annual Reconciliation Walk. This year, we gathered with Kauwanu Ivan, Kauwanu Tamaru and Awa Eddie at the South Australian Museum to celebrate National Reconciliation Week. Kauwanu Ivan's Welcome to Country reminded us of the deep cultural connections to this land and the importance of walking together in respect and Tiati (truth-telling).

Kauwanu Ivan and Kauwanu Tamaru then took us on a guided tour of the museum's galleries, where stories, artifacts and art brought history to life and deepened our understanding of Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes cultures.

Awa Eddie put on a beautiful show with his voice, guitar and array of musical instruments played by the children.



"It is such a privilege to be able to work with Kauwanu Tamaru & to learn so much from him. I feel so incredibly fortunate that he shares his culture with me to support my learning when I had previously been too fearful to take steps within my previous role.

I have shared my new found knowledge with my family but it means so much more coming from Kauwanu Tamaru himself, like it did on Sunday along with Kauwanu Ivan & Awa Eddie. For our families to be able to have that experience is just so valuable & I wanted to share my appreciation.

Thank you sincerely for the opportunity Gowrie SA provided us on Sunday & every bit of time shared with the Uncles. It means so much."

~ Gowrie SA staff member





National Reconciliation Week Breakfast

As part of our ongoing commitment to reconciliation, Gowrie SA attends the Reconciliation SA National Reconciliation Week Breakfast. By supporting this event and having staff attend, we continue to strengthen our understanding, build respectful relationships, and walk alongside Aboriginal and Zendath Kes peoples in the reconciliation journey.

#BridgingNowToNext



National Reconciliation Week in the Children's Program

Children and educators from the Melaleuca room used loose parts to map their ideas about Reconciliation, Ngaitalya (my respect) and the important messages they want people to know about caring for people, land and animals.

A group of children also travelled to Tauondi College in Port Adelaide to attend the Reconciliation in the West event, interacting with an animal art exhibition, making puppets, and connecting with the wider community to learn more about reconciliation.





Yitpi Yartapuultiku - the Soul of Port Adelaide

After a busy and enjoyable morning hosting the Gowrie SA annual Reconciliation Walk, CEO Lynne and RAP Champion Mary, along with Kauwanu Tamaru and Awa Eddie, attended the opening of the incredible Yitpi Yartapuultiku site located in Port Adelaide. There is so much to see here, and we encourage everyone to visit and enjoy the nature-based play areas, wander the nature trails and view the sculptural art and living shoreline.





Senior leaders enjoyed a cultural immersion experience with Kauwanu Tamaru at Warriparinga wetlands with guests from the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Education. With Kauwanu's permission, guests retrieved bark from a sacred tree on which they could write their Acknowledgement of Country.





25th anniversary of Corroboree 2000

Kauwanu Ivan, as chairperson of the Turkindi Inc. Information Network, shared with Gowrie SA historical photos and information as we reflected on the theme of National Reconciliation Week this year: 'Bridging Now to Next'.

Pictured right is the year 2000 Walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge (National Library of Australia), considered a 'defining moment' in Australian history. Other events like this took place across Australia.

On May 27th the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation gave non-Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes leaders the 'Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation' and the 'Roadmap for Reconciliation'. This was at a meeting of Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes and non-Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes leaders. Together with the Sydney Harbour Bridge Walk, these events are known as Corroboree 2000.



Find out more about Corroboree 2000 by scanning the QR code

Straight from the heart of Australia

This article shares the story of the Journey of Healing, which was part of Corroboree 2000 and narrated by Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE.



Find out more about the Journey of Healing by scanning the QR code

'Everyone and their dog' walks in Adelaide



Scan the QR code to read about the Adelaide People's Walk for Reconciliation towards King William Street Bridge.

The untold stories of Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes soldiers

As ANZAC day approached earlier this year, we turned our minds to the contributions of Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes peoples who served/are serving in the Australian armed forces.



We encourage you to watch a short video sharing the story of Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes servicemen from NITV by scanning the QR code.



We also invite you to explore the Virtual War Memorial Australia, which shares the stories of service men and women from across the country.

