

Reconciliation in action

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Gowrie
South Australia



Warriparinga (windy place by the river)

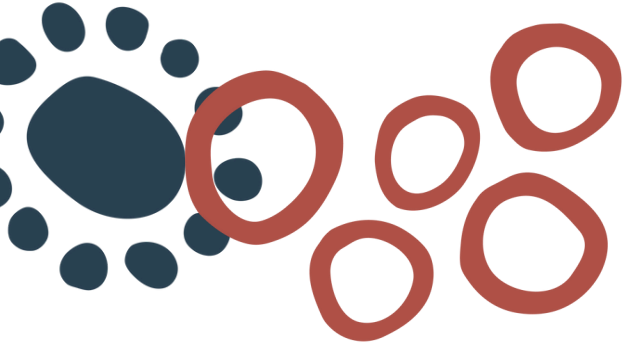
Naa marni?

The first half of the year was filled with wonderful events! Mary, our RAP Champion and some of our staff teamed up with Awa (Uncle) Eddie for the third year to support his Adelaide Fringe show 'Zenadth Kes Meriba Wed (Our Songs)'. Several Gowrie SA staff and some families enjoyed Kauwanu (Uncle) Tamaru's event 'Beyond the Trees: Reconcile and Nurture.' We also enjoyed hosting a Turkindi meeting at Gowrie SA and sharing some of our work.

Several staff attended the Reconciliation South Australia National Reconciliation Week Breakfast and shared their experience with colleagues afterwards. We are proud to be a community table sponsor for the breakfast. We also held a very special event for National Reconciliation Week this year, welcoming Brenda and Mark Matthews of The Last Daughter documentary to Gowrie SA, along with Brendon and Simon from Gravity Films. Hosted by Kauwanu Tamaru, several staff and families listened to Brenda's story in the spirit of tiati (truth telling) and heard about Kauwanu's role as the film's cultural consultant, before enjoying an afternoon tea together. Photos from this moving event and other Gowrie SA events and activities are shared in this newsletter.

As a mark of respect, and under the guidance and encouragement of Awa Eddie we now use 'Zenadth Kes' in our written and spoken references to Zenadth Kes peoples (formerly known as Torres Strait Islanders). 'Zenadth Kes' reflects the island's geographical location, region, culture, and connection to land and sea. You will find 'Zenadth Kes' in this newsletter, across our social media platforms, and in all other forms of Gowrie SA communication.

Our new Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 is soon to be launched after receiving endorsement! This plan has exciting new initiatives as we continue to lead and prioritise reconciliation as a fundamental part of our philosophy. We look forward to sharing updates from our launch in our December newsletter.



Awa Eddie's visits to the children's program

Awa Eddie Peters regularly visits our children's program to share his music and culture. Children dance and clap to his music and enjoy using the kulups (Zenadth Kes shakers made with Entada Phaseoloide seeds) and tapping sticks. We are grateful for Awa Eddie's sharing of his knowledge, traditions, culture and lore.



Turkindi Network meeting

We welcomed the Turkindi Network Board who held their meeting at Gowrie SA. They were joined by some of our staff, who shared information about, and provided a tour of, our programs.





Yellaka Warra with Kauwanu Tamaru

Our new Kurna language class, Yellaka Warra, was successfully completed by two groups of educators across 6 sessions with our Ngukuntalya Kauwanu Tamaru (dearest brother Uncle Tamaru).

Throughout these sessions educators learnt about correct protocols, tiati (truth telling) and each session added to their growing Kurna language folder.

Educators left feeling confident to share an Acknowledgment of Country in Kurna language and have a good grasp of common phrases! They can take this learning to share with children and families within their services.





Walk of Awareness - Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations

Some of our Inclusion Agency staff joined Kauwanu Tamaru on the Walk of Awareness to mark the Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

They experienced a cleansing as they walked united as a community along the Yartapuulti (Port Adelaide) Birkenhead Bridge. It was a privilege to meet with Alex, who is on the Gowrie SA Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group (pictured right with Kauwanu Tamaru), who led the minute of silence and reflection of the National Apology.





Reconciliation Australia RAP Learning Circle

Mary, our Professional Learning Program Leader and RAP Champion, joined Kauwanu Tamaru to speak at the Reconciliation Australia RAP Learning Circle. It was a fabulous opportunity to connect and collaborate with people across different sectors, and to share ideas and learning while reflecting with our Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes colleagues.

During both days of the event, a significant amount of food was left over. Through our connections, we had the surplus food delivered to youths living in crisis care accommodation. After the event, our RAP officer from Reconciliation Australia sent this email:

I just wanted to email and personally say thank you for all your amazing words shared during the Q&A, and assistance to facilitate those donations. It really fills my heart knowing we got to share that with the youth.

When you know, please share the details of your RAP launch. Super keen to hear more on this!

We too, are excited to launch our newest Stretch RAP and continue our efforts in promoting and furthering reconciliation across the sector.



Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group

It's an honor to have the guidance and insight of the Gowrie SA Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Reference Group: Ivan-Tiwu Copley, Karri Tamaru Smith (internal Aboriginal Consultant), Rosemary Wanganeen, Eddie Peters, Nicole Gollan, Rodney Welch and Alex Houthuysen. Their cultural advice is invaluable to us.



More information about our reconciliation activities can be found in our [Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2023](#), on our [website](#) or by following us on social media @GowrieSA



Warriparinga tour with Kauwanu Tamaru

Our leadership team accompanied Kauwanu Tamaru on a guided walk of Warriparinga (Windy Place by the River), a beautiful spot in the City of Marion with deep cultural significance to Kaurna peoples. During the walk, we experienced Kauwanu's profound connection to the land and waterways as he shared stories of his childhood and ancestors.



National Reconciliation Week



Reconciliation in the West

Despite the rainy weather, Reconciliation in the West at Tauondi Aboriginal College was a wonderful day filled with learning and reflection on reconciliation.

The event was attended by Gowrie SA inclusion professionals, facilitators, educators, and children, who all enjoyed the fantastic entertainment lineup on the main stage and the opportunity to be out in the community.

Reflecting on the theme: Now More Than Ever

Children and educators in Gowrie SA's Correa room in Underdale designed their own special t-shirts for National Reconciliation Week. It was a fantastic way for them to reflect on the theme 'Now More Than Ever' and its personal significance to each of them.



Yarn wrapping and a visit from Trent Hill

Children, educators and staff wrapped our gardens with colours representing the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes flags: red, black, yellow, green, blue, and white. This collective effort created a strong sense of community as we honoured and celebrated the histories and cultures of the Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes peoples.

The children also had a wonderful visit from Trent Hill, who shared traditional tools, animal skins, and their purposes. The demonstration of the yidaki (didgeridoo) was a highlight!





Reconciliation SA NRW Breakfast

Ten staff from our programs began the day with a Smoking Ceremony led by Kauwanu Tamaru. Following this, Auntie Rosalind Coleman delivered a heartfelt Welcome to Country, speaking the truth on our shared history and emphasising the importance of moving forward; like kangaroos, we can only move forward, not backwards, in our shared journey towards reconciliation.

During the event, Rob Edwards moved many with his rendition of 'searching,' inspired by his family's experience during the Stolen Generation.

Keynote speaker Adam Briggs shared candid reflections on peace and reconciliation, urging us to consider the impact of future generations in our reconciliation efforts. A touching tribute to the late Dr. Lowitja O'Donoghue underscored her significant contributions to Australia.

This event was a wonderful start to National Reconciliation Week, resonating with the theme 'Now More Than Ever' and reminding us of the collective role we play in the reconciliation process.



Gowrie SA annual reconciliation walk

This year both Kauwanu Ivan-Tiwu and Kauwanu Tamaru shared history along Karrawirra Pari gleaned from the City of West Torrens Kurna mapping history project we have been working on these past 12 months. The first stage of this project, which involved interviewing Kurna Elders to hear their stories and identify significant sites along Karrawirra Pari, is complete. Lynne and Kauwanu Ivan-Tiwu are now mapping these stories against historical records and we look forward to sharing the next stage of this work with everyone soon. We are so fortunate to walk on Country together.





Gowrie SA special event with Brenda - The Last Daughter

What a pleasure and such a moving experience for us as we welcomed Brenda and Mark Matthews from The Last Daughter and Simon and Brendon from Gravity Films, organised by Kauwanu Tamaru from Deadly Mob, the cultural advisor for this film. Beginning with a Welcome to Country around our new firepit and Acknowledgement of Country from the children, several staff and families gathered to hear Brenda's incredibly moving story, recognising the inner strength it takes to share. Brenda left us with her inspirational words: "If you want to see change, be the change."



One of our
new
firepits!





Supporting Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes Adelaide Fringe and Festival shows

Awa Eddie's Adelaide Fringe event Zenadth Kes Meriba Wed (Our Songs) was a memorable and joyful experience! Our RAP Champion Mary worked closely with Awa Eddie and the team from The Gov to bring a fabulous lineup of artists to the local community to share their culture and stories through music.

Likewise, Kauwanu Tamaru's Beyond the Trees: Reconcile and Nurture event, hosted by Nature Play SA, was a beautiful evening among friends and family. It was lovely to return to Belair National Park for another year for an evening of music, art and celebration of Country.

Gowrie SA purchased discounted tickets to the Adelaide Festival through Open House's Tix for Next to Nix program to support Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes staff, our stakeholders and our parent community to attend shows like Guuranda and Baleen Moondjan. We are grateful to have the opportunity to support community to attend these events and to support Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes artists.



Beyond the Trees



Beyond the Trees



Beyond the Trees



Zenadth Kes Meriba Wed

