



RECONCILIATION WA
ANNUAL REPORT
2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Reconciliation WA acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures, contribution; to elders both past and present.

Ngala kaaditj Whadjuk moort keyen kaadak nidja boodja – We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the original custodians of the land on which our office sits.

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ABOUT US

Reconciliation Western Australia's (RWA) vision is to create a better future for our First Peoples and the wider Western Australian community.

RWA is a not-for-profit organisation, established in 2013 with purpose to provide leadership, advocacy and support to people and organisations driving the movement for reconciliation in Western Australia.

RWA engages the broader community of Western Australian in the journey of reconciliation. A positive consequence of that journey is to create pride and respect in our First Peoples culture and contribution whilst assisting them to achieve social and economic parity.

RWA is a key player in implementing a range of initiatives that progress reconciliation outcomes for Western Australia. The key to our success and to achieve these goals is through collaborative partnerships across corporate, government and community sectors.

RWA has strong established relationships with the Australian Reconciliation Network (ARN), which is formed by Reconciliation Australia and the other State based secretariats.

The ARN drive the National and State reconciliation agenda and work to foster collaborative efforts across all sectors of the Community. Within our own State, RWA work towards the five inter-related dimensions of reconciliation; Unity, Race Relations, Equality & Equity, Institutional Integrity and Historical Acceptance.

To facilitate a reconciled Western Australia, RWA's Board commissioned 11 goals which serve these five dimensions of reconciliation and our own best practise standards to attain sound governance moving ahead into our 2018 – 2021 Business Plan.

Through Relationships, Respect and Opportunities with our First Peoples, we build a stronger Western Australia.

CO-CHAIRS REPORT



Carol Innes
CO-CHAIR

Reconciliation WA (“RWA”), whilst still considered youthful in its tenure, has enjoyed a very busy and formative 2017.

Emerging from our incorporation in only July 2016, we have immediately applied our resources to the benefit of reconciliation advancement across Western Australia, and we plan to continue and expand our leadership with regard to this key objective in each coming year.

This year was a year of major change and important opportunity to reflect, learn and celebrate. The many anniversaries acknowledged this year in National Reconciliation Week, including the 1967 Referendum, the 1992 Mabo Native Title outcomes, and the 1997 Bringing Them Home report, all gave us sober and powerful opportunity to share history, exchange stories, increase our understanding, and focus on healing – all of these actions are critical components of a reconciliation movement.

2017 also saw the handing of the baton for Co-Chair (Non-Indigenous) from Alan Carter to Gary Smith. We would like to publicly acknowledge and applaud Alan’s tireless work as a founder of Reconciliation WA and am delighted that Alan remains an influential and passionate Director.

During the year, we have turned our attention to the future. The development of a 4 year business strategy, supported by a business plan for our operations, will be a key guide for us in the years ahead, given the immense and broad agenda that is posed by the worthy aspiration of Reconciliation.



Gary Smith
CO-CHAIR

RWA’s strategy is developed to support a Western Australian contribution to the five dimensions of Reconciliation, as defined by Reconciliation Australia. Our focus for the future will be to make a difference in our State to the agendas of Unity, Race Relations, Equality and Equity, Institutional Integrity and Historical Acceptance.

For the first time, we look forward to sharing this strategy with our members and stakeholders across 2018, and intend to create a coordinated and collaborative focus around a number of key projects that will advance our journey of Reconciliation.

We would like to thank our members and sponsors that have stood with us to-date as we have developed our early momentum. Current discussions are progressing positively with the WA State Government around the provision of core operational funding for the future - again we hope to have this important element of sustainability resolved in 2018, allowing us to focus on our projects.

We also acknowledge the commitment and dedication of our Board and Executive team in the formation of our strategies and the impact we are already making on Western Australia’s celebration of Reconciliation.

RWA is geared to face 2018 - proud of its strategy, clear in its planned activity, resolute in its funding intent, and committed to providing both its members and the State a clear pathway for us all to enjoy Reconciliation as a wide community of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People.

CEO REPORT



James Beck
CEO

This year has been marked by the anniversaries of so many pivotal achievements and acknowledgements for the reconciliation movement and its drive to ensure parity and equity with our First People.

Reconciliation WA (RWA) has been instrumental in providing opportunity for the Western Australian community to engage powerfully with these anniversaries – to respect their impact and acknowledge the work still ahead to address the challenges and barriers in our State.


It is with clarity and purpose that RWA moves into the new year. RWA's Board and Executive will shortly launch our second Business Plan with our revitalised brand, messaging and communications strategy and website. Our team will be announcing exciting new partnerships which will value add to our reach and membership value proposition significantly.

My key highlight this year was during the Run for Reconciliation project - meeting two young Yamitji girls (6 and 4 and a half respectively) completing the 12 km run. Their 18 month old sister was in a pram beside them, being pushed along by their foster parents: "It's a team game and our collective effort will get us to the finish line, when we get there!" said their foster dad. What a powerful statement from such a courageous young family - so aligned with our movement – a story of hope and aspiration that is demonstrating the positive change now shaping a

better future – towards a WA which celebrates with pride and respect the culture and contribution of our First People.

Our member base grew significantly over this past year – we have had strong support from the Corporate and Community sector and are now focusing our efforts to grow the number of State and Local Government members. For your part in this, I want to thank you; our members and stakeholders, that travel this journey with us. For that invite you give us into your community to work with you, your family, your teachers, your council, your workplaces to build the champions of tomorrow that will enable this important movement to punch above its weight; driving reconciliation in WA. Your investment in us makes all of this possible.

This work could not have been done without a committed and able team. It is with a big and full heart, that I thank the Board and staff of the Association for their effort, at times, well above and beyond the call of duty – it is their professionalism, creativity and passion to see a better future for



our State that ensures RWA is well positioned to drive our vision and purpose across the Western Australian community beyond our next Business Plan.

This, our Inaugural Annual Report, shares with you the significant footprint our organisation has driven this year and gives insight into the strategic direction of RWA moving forwards. I hope you enjoy reading of our highlights from the year and I look forward to sharing the next one with you.

Thank you for your commitment on this journey with us and we look forward to your ongoing support into the future.

2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

There has been significant milestones and anniversaries over the past 12 months. This has given us plenty of opportunity to celebrate, respect, mourn, aspire and hope. We did this by collaborating with you. Following are some of our reflections:



SORRY DAY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Reconciliation WA in partnership with the Bringing Them Home Committee hosted Australia's largest Sorry Day experience. This year respected the 20th Anniversary of the tabling of the Bringing Them Home Report to Parliament. The event hosted 2000 students and 1500 members of the community in a day consisting of entertainment, cultural activities and healing opportunities, with the highlight being the performance from famous Indigenous songwriter Archie Roach.

It is an important day of healing for many of our First People who belong to the Stolen Generations and their families who were consequently impacted by this trauma. It is an opportunity for all to not only understand the significance of such a commemoration but to also foster relationships, build respect and create opportunities of reconciliation between themselves and our First Australians.

Many thanks to the Sorry Day organising committee; The Bringing Them Home Committee, Caritas, Catholic Education WA, ICEA Foundation, AIME, Poly Farmer - Follow The Dream, AISWA's Future Footprints and the Department of Education and of course, Archie Roach.



Archie Roach
performing at Sorry Day
20th Anniversary 2017.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

Between 27th May and 3rd June each year National Reconciliation Week (NRW) presents opportunity to build on the respectful relationships shared between our First People and all other Australians.

Core to our purpose is the engagement of NRW, with five significant anniversaries in 2017:



RECONCILIATION BREAKFAST

In line with the NRW message of “Let’s Take the Next Steps Together”, RWA hosted high-profile event targeting leaders from all walks of the Western Australian community. The 250 attendees were challenged to engage more deeply in the reconciliation movement and to champion this through their respective communities. The breakfast consisted of inspiring and insightful speeches and a panel discussion from prominent authorities who contribute significant leadership and passion to state and national matters of reconciliation importance.



250 Attendees at the 2017 Reconciliation Breakfast.

TERRACE WALK FOR RECONCILIATION

The Inaugural Terrace Walk for Reconciliation commenced from Stirling Gardens, and concluded at Government House in Perth's central business district. It offered a fantastic conclusion to a meaningful day of events, with 1000 people participating during their lunch break to demonstrate the strength and appetite of the reconciliation movement in the state.

Dr Richard Walley OAM led an amazing display of significant cultural performances. A raft of powerful messages from joint Director of the Recognise campaign Mark Yettica Paulson and RWA Co-Chairs Gary Smith and Carol Innes marked a great event which will form part of RWA's annual calendar. We would like to thank Rio Tinto, BHP and Woodside who helped to make the event possible.



LEADERSHIP IN RECONCILIATION PROJECT



The Leadership in Reconciliation Project brings together leaders from across the Western Australian community to explore ways to work towards and achieve a reconciled Western Australia. Six groups of leaders were identified; Corporate, Community, Education, Government, First People and Young & Emerging Leaders. Over the past year 4 of the 6 groups have met and convened with the RWA Board and Executive to explore challenges, barriers and successes to reconciliation in their sector and share stories of hope and aspiration to shape the direction of the movement in WA moving forwards. A symposium will be held in the 2017/18 financial year, where the six groups of leaders will meet to explore how we can target our efforts to maximise our collective impact for the movement and enlist the broader Western Australian reconciliation community.

YOKAI ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT & RETENTION AND SUPPLY & PROCUREMENT FORUM

'Yokai' is a well established bi-monthly forum exploring the challenges, successes and barriers to addressing the economic disadvantage of our First Peoples. It brings together over 140 organisations from across all sectors of the community, and business interested in sharing learned lessons.

These organisations can apply these lessons and succeed more swiftly to achieve our shared vision and purpose of social and economic parity for our First People, enabling them to participate fully in the Western Australian Economy.

We would like to thank our host organisation's during 2016/ 2017; Curtin University, RAC, and Main Roads.

OTHER RECONCILIATION WA PROJECTS AND EVENTS 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

PROGRAMS

SGIO Reconciliation in Schools Grants. *Thanks to our sponsor SGIO.*
Social Reinvestment. *We support the Social Reinvestment WA Coalition.*

EVENTS

Run for Reconciliation	RWA Own	<i>Sponsors Newmont, IAG, Shell, Curtin University and Department of Communities</i>
Australia Day	RWA Collaborate	<i>In partnership with Australia Day WA.</i>
Apology Day	RWA Own	
Rob Riley Memorial Lecture	RWA Collaborate	<i>We support Curtin University to deliver this powerful event.</i>
Indigenous Veterans Commemorative Service	RWA Collaborate	<i>Supported by Lotterywest for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Indigenous Veterans Committee.</i>

RECOGNISE AND THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Following the 2017 National Constitutional Convention held in Uluru, the Referendum Council tabled the Uluru Statement from the Heart to Federal Parliament. A collective First People's vision seeking a voice to parliament to empower self-determination and positive change.

This voice, a tabled report to Parliament, has led to the Recognise campaign completing its efforts and being amalgamated into Reconciliation Australia. As such, the Recognise Campaign has now ceased.

Moving forwards, RWA believe achieving this is central to our shared journey of hope and aspiration as Western Australians. We must work with purpose and solidarity to support this voice in the face of an Australia which has a seemingly stifled appetite to achieve the stated intent.

Our close partnerships in the community are essential if we are to have a truly reconciled Western Australia built from relationships, respect and opportunities.

The statement reads as follows:

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from ‘time immemorial’, and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a *spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or ‘mother nature’, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty.* It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia’s nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is *the torment of our powerlessness.*

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take *a rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: *the coming together after a struggle.* It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

DRIVING WESTERN AUSTRALIA FORWARDS ON THE RECONCILIATION JOURNEY

Through our next Strategic Business Plan (2018-2021), RWA will invest in 4 program areas to effect meaningful and sustained reconciliation outcomes. This will be explored with you in detail early in the new year:

“Australian Truth (First Peoples true history), then justice should prevail. Without truth and justice, there will be no healing. Healing of all Australians is essential to reconciliation.”

Jim Morrison – Board member

BRINGING THEM HOME (WA)

CULTURAL EQUALITY PROGRAM

The Cultural Equality Program will make Reconciliation information, including appropriate, localised First People's information available and accessible to the broader Western Australian Community. There are four projects which are central to the Cultural Equality Program-

1. Knowledge Clearing House
2. Story Telling
3. Wadjemup Project
4. Social Reinvestment



ELEVATING RECONCILIATION

The purpose of this program is to raise the profile and engagement of government, corporate and community organisations in the reconciliation movement by empowering them to champion collective effort. RWA's advocacy and mentorship will expedite their success and achieve our shared vision and purpose. *The four Projects areas of this Program include:*

1. Elevate RAPS (E-RAPS),
2. Leadership in Reconciliation,
3. Yokai First People's Employment, Retention, Supply & Procurement Forums
4. Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Ready.



"Government is the biggest player so a whole of government commitment is essential to reconciliation."

Fred Chaney – Board member

RECONCILIATION IN SCHOOLS



The Program seeks to include our First Peoples' culture and contribution in the business (including school curriculum) and life of all schools' communities. It recognises and affirms the significance and relevance of the reconciliation movement across Western Australia. *This is done through two key project areas:*

1. Nintirri
2. Narragunawali (Reconciliation Australia's RAP in Schools Program).

"The movement allows us to come together to share our stories and have respect for each other and develop relationships and friendships."

Carol Innes – Co-Chair

RECONCILIATION EVENTS



Through the provision of community events we aim to elevate the reconciliation movement in Western Australia. RWA will own, collaborate and endorse the delivery of reconciliation based events. Activation of events during National Reconciliation Week will continue to be core to our purpose.

“All Western Australians have an opportunity to celebrate an Indigenous culture that is uniquely Australian. In that spirit, both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People can enjoy the celebration of a Reconciliation which both acknowledges the past and looks forward to a bright future together.”

Gary Smith – Co-Chair

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2016/17

RWA received from corporate sponsors, Lotterywest grants and members a total amount of A\$413,100 in 2016/17 Financial Year. The income received was invested towards 9 events (National Reconciliation Week Events, Run for Reconciliation, Sorry Day, Apology Day, Rob Riley Memorial Lecture, Indigenous Veterans Commemoratives Service) and 4 programs (Reconciliation in Schools, Leadership in Reconciliation, Yokai Employment & Retention and Social Reinvestment).



RWA BOARD

A very big thank you to our wonderful Board, who include the following people:



Carol Innes
INDIGENOUS CO-CHAIR



Gary Smith
NON-INDIGENOUS CO-CHAIR



Ian Hobson
TREASURER



Alan Carter
INAUGURAL & PAST CO-CHAIR



Verity Sebire



Irina Cattalini



Barry McGuire



Fred Chaney AO



Ezra Jacobs



Jim Morrison

THANKS TO ELDERS AND LEADERS FROM THE FIRST PEOPLES COMMUNITY

Reconciliation WA would like to thank the following Elders and Leaders of the First Peoples community whose contribution in the past 12 months has significantly grown the reconciliation movement in WA:

Rev Sealin Garlett
Richard Walley OAM
Walter McGuire
Barry McGuire
Carol Innes
Jim Morrison
Shaun Nannup
Colleen Hayward
Len Collard

Mark Yettica-Paulson
Robyn Walley-Smith
Bree Yarran
Jessica Nelson
Sherri Bagshaw
Dot Bagshaw
The Baldja Moort Dance Group
Whadjuk Yorgas Dance Group

Ezra Jacobs
Verity Sebire
Danny Ford

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS & MEMBERS

Reconciliation WA would like to thank its partners - those whose sponsorship has enabled our footprint to reach over ten thousand people face to face in the past year of our operations and close to 100 000 interested Western Australians. Your sponsorship is critical to the growth of our movement. We are very keen to explore such an investment with you: Our thanks go to our:

Key Partners

Lotterywest
Wesfarmers
St John of God
Landcorp
Bankwest

Project Partners

KPMG
Newmont Mining
SGIO
Woodside
Rio Tinto
BHP
Mission Australia
Life Without Barriers
Save the Children
Shell

Department of Communities
Anglicare
Red Cross
Reconciliation Australia
Uniting Care West
St Vincent de Paul
City of Perth
Caritas

We look forward to your organisation joining this list next year!

MEMBERS

Life Member

Mariette Cowley

Organisational Members

Youth Affairs Council of WA
King & Wood Mallesons
Blue Lab Learning Spaces
Uniting Care West
Community Legal Centres Assn (WA)
MercyCare
Rio Tinto
RAC WA
Lavan Legal
Woodside
Child and Adolescent Health Services
Jackson McDonald
Indigenous Consulting Group
Save The Children Australia
Life Without Barriers
Caera Projects
Ruah Community Services
Commincare.org.au
Water Corporation
Broadspectrum
Avivo
Department of Community – Aboriginal Affairs
Australia Day Council
One World Centre
St John of God
Thiess Pty Ltd
Early Childhood Australia WA Branch
Wanslea
Curtin University
St Patricks Community Support Centre
Schumberger Australia Pty Ltd
KPMG

Individual Members

Marim Abdulelhadi
Sharon Andrews
Jim Atkinson
Suzanne Brown
Alan Carter
Hon. Robin Chapple
Angela Chaney
Fred Chaney
Frederick C Chaney
Gervase Chaney
Craig Collas
Jane Dalton
Ross Elliot
Carol Elliot
Janine Freeman
John Gherardi
Linda Goncalves
Thomas Rex Henderson
Holi Jackson
Natalie Kendall
Gareth KingSarah Mumme
Debra PedleyJonathon Small
Robert Plummer
Helen Todd
Janette Where
Robert Wilson
David Stewart
Mike Quinsee
Kristen van der Spoel

Reconciliation is a team game. We welcome your contribution and look forward to exploring this with you:

For all other enquires please contact:

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Reconciliation
WESTERN AUSTRALIA