

Archdiocese Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-22

In 2020 St Patrick's Parish was invited by the Archdiocese to become a pilot parish for the RAP project. Cynthia Rowan from Evangelisation Brisbane addressed our Parish Council meeting and spoke to councillors about the project.

This is a document of our RAP pilot journey

[The Basis of the RAP Pilot Project](#)

[Project Launch & Activities 2020](#)

[Activities 2021](#)

[Activities 2022](#)

The artwork is from the [The Archdiocese of Brisbane Reconciliation Action Plan](#) document and was designed by artist Shara Delaney, a descendant of the Noonuccal, Ngugi and Goenpul clan groups of Quandamooka

Archdiocese Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-22



WHAT IS A RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN?



Why does the Archdiocese of Brisbane have a RAP?

Reconciliation, one of the seven sacraments of our faith, provides a foundation to guide us in our journey of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Like the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it is about the call to repentance after a process of conversion of heart. We can do this by formally undertaking a number of actions (outlined in the RAP) to build on the works of the Church in her relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Archdiocese. As a Christian people, we are called to forge the path of healing between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.



... Aborigines of the country – the first occupants of the lands over which your flocks and herds now roam – have a very strong claim upon you. Nor will the Lord hold you innocent if you have not used your best endeavours to promote their temporal and eternal well-being.

Archbishop John Bede Polding, 1849

A Reconciliation Action Plan is a strategic document with practical actions that drive an organisation's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which it operates.

Cynthia Rowan, Reconciliation Action Plan Project Manager, Evangelisation Brisbane

Watch the video where Cynthia explains what a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) action plan is.

[RAP Information.mp4](#)

To access the Reconciliation Action Plan, please click here:

[The Archdiocese of Brisbane Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

Who is this RAP for?

This RAP is for the Archdiocese of Brisbane as a whole – for all of its agencies, parishes and communities.

All are invited to read, absorb and implement the RAP in their own setting. What follows is an example of how you can start implementing the Archdiocese of Brisbane RAP.

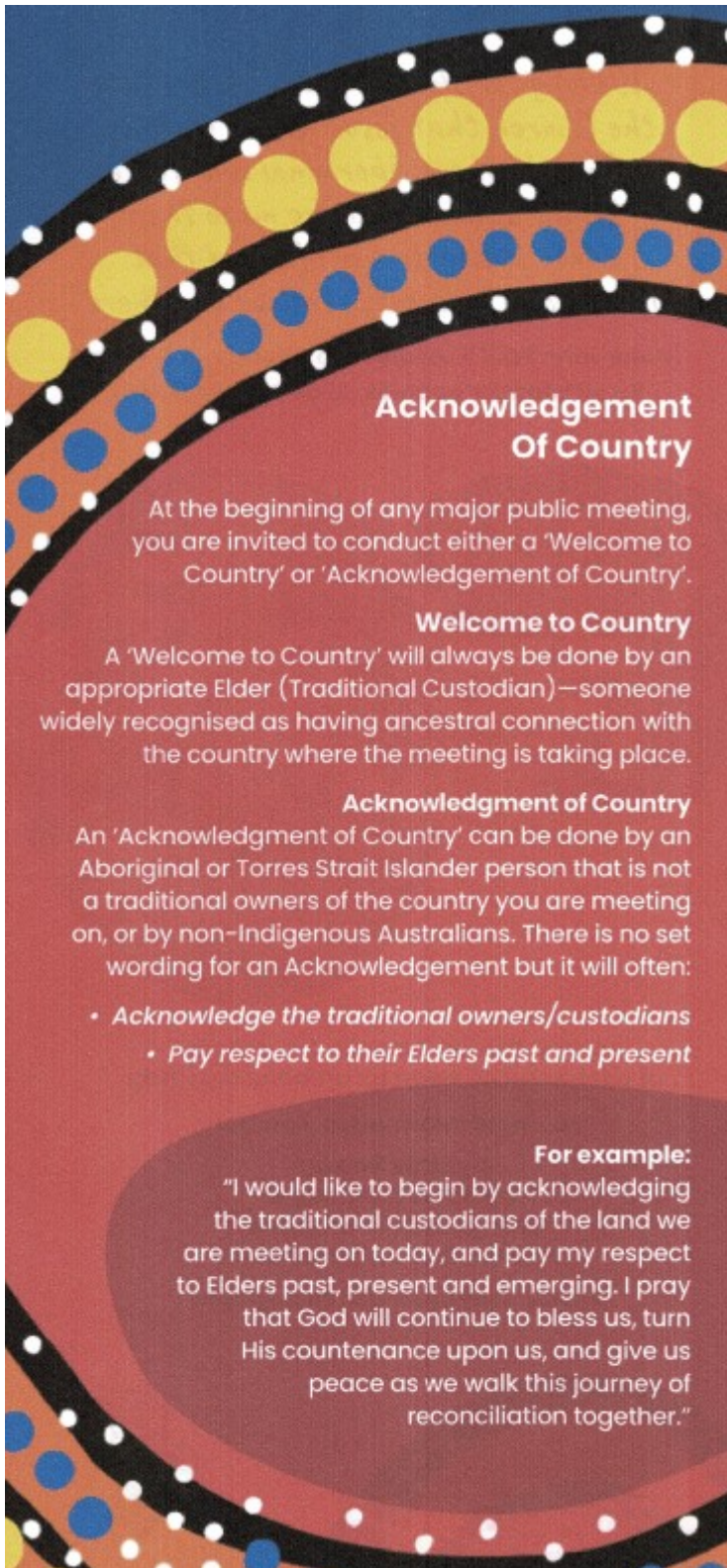
It should be acknowledged that, for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, churches contributed to the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Church missions and reserves often stir feelings of hurt and anger among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples because they contributed to their loss of cultures and connection to Country and peoples.

Their experience of missions was one of pain, humiliation and indignity.

From The Archdiocese of Brisbane Reconciliation Action Plan

Acknowledgement of Country



Acknowledgement Of Country

At the beginning of any major public meeting, you are invited to conduct either a 'Welcome to Country' or 'Acknowledgement of Country'.

Welcome to Country

A 'Welcome to Country' will always be done by an appropriate Elder (Traditional Custodian)—someone widely recognised as having ancestral connection with the country where the meeting is taking place.

Acknowledgment of Country

An 'Acknowledgment of Country' can be done by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person that is not a traditional owners of the country you are meeting on, or by non-Indigenous Australians. There is no set wording for an Acknowledgement but it will often:

- Acknowledge the traditional owners/custodians
- Pay respect to their Elders past and present

For example:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on today, and pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging. I pray that God will continue to bless us, turn His countenance upon us, and give us peace as we walk this journey of reconciliation together."



At St Patrick's Parish, Beenleigh, we acknowledge and pay respect to the land and the traditional families of the Yugambeh region of South East Queensland and their Elders past present and emerging. The Yugambeh region includes families that identify as Kombumerri, Mununjali, Wangeriburra and others.

The Yugambeh language groups of people are the traditional custodians of the land located in south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales, now within the Logan City, Gold Coast, Scenic Rim, and Tweed City regions. Their ancestors all spoke one or more dialects of the Yugambeh Language.

To find out more, please try the links below:

[Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre](#)



[Yugambeh Regional Aboriginal Corporation Alliance](#)



Yugambehnga Gaurema

The Yugambeh Story

The Yugambeh Aboriginal people live in one of Australia's most scenic and fertile regions – the areas now called the Gold Coast, Logan and the Scenic Rim.

Traditional life was in an environment abundant with seafood and wildlife. The communities trained dingos to help catch kangaroos and wallabies, and dolphins to help them harvest the fish from the sea.



The Yugambeh language area included a number of clans such as the Kombumerri, Mununjali, and Wangerriburra. United by a common language, they were known collectively as the Yugambeh people.

The first Europeans arrived in the 1820s. From this time, Yugambeh people found their survival options were very limited. Some openly opposed the new arrivals. Others hid in the remote areas of their lands or took refuge with the missionaries. The luckiest survived long enough to reach working agreements with local pastoralists and farmers.

All of them fought to stay on their country, as long as possible.



Yugambeh Museum
Language & Heritage
Research Centre

www.yugambeh.com

*ool – boat jeeoomgung – black snake koolumbil – bark
fish kowunday – porpoise kunniah – bind to n'ungum
n'gundaroo – another mee – eye moolaim – crayfish m*

Courtesy of the Yugambeh Museum Language & Heritage Research Centre
Cnr Martens St and Plantation RD Beenleigh 4207

The First Australians

Our Parish, like other areas of Australia, has been populated by Aboriginal people for an amazingly long time. Aboriginal culture forms one of the world's oldest continuous surviving societies. There is clear archaeological evidence that humans have been present in Australia as far back as 65,000 years and there are scientific finds suggesting that people may have used fire to clear land already 120,000 years ago.

In the early 1800's the people to the south and east of the Logan River spoke the Yugambeh language. Studies indicate that there were eight family groups within the Yugambeh. Of these, the one which lived closest to our present-day parish was the Gugingin. The junction of the Logan and Albert rivers, now the Beenleigh area was called 'Wobbumarjoo', or 'boggy clay' by the Gugingin people.

In the 1820's the first Europeans, surveyors, timber cutters and missionaries arrived. These early arrivals and Aboriginal people were able to live side by side, but when by the 1850's pastoralists and free settlers started to claim the land life became very difficult for the Yugambeh people. Those who opposed the new arrivals were killed or taken as Aboriginal labour. To survive, Aboriginal people hid in remote areas or took refuge with the missionaries.

Bilin Bilin, leader of his people and ancestor of many of today's Yugambeh, made a treaty with the early missionaries promising to bring the people to church, so long as they were given protection. His tactics worked and many of his descendants live in their traditional country today.

Warri, spouse of George Drumley, survived on her land by working with Lutheran missionaries in the Eagleby and Pimpama area. This allowed her to stay close to her children and in later life she lived with her daughter Jenny Graham.

Emily Jackie was the daughter of Bilin Bilin and Nellie. She married Willie Williams and they took children orphaned by the frontier wars to live in the mountains around Christmas Creek. They deliberately removed themselves from danger, by hiding in the most remote region of their land.

Descendants of these Yugambeh still live in our area and have played a part in our parish life by participating in our celebrations and providing training about Aboriginal culture.

The Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre is promoting the traditional knowledge of our region. It is open to the public on Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm and is well worth a visit for those who are interested in Aboriginal culture, present and past, and want to find out more about it.

An article from St Patrick's Parish 60th Anniversary Book
The source is an exhibition at the Yugambeh Museum
Courtesy of the Yugambeh Museum Language & Heritage Research Centre
Cnr Martens St and Plantation RD Beenleigh 4207
Compiled by Monica Boucek

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Formation of St Patrick's RAP Group



In May 2020, Cynthia Rowan from Evangelisation Brisbane approached Fr Subin Thomas and invited St Patrick's to become one of six parishes piloting the Archdiocese Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Cynthia and Fr Subin presented the plan to the Parish Pastoral Council, which decided to form a separate group for this purpose. A special working group was formed, St Patrick's Beenleigh RAP group. Fr Subin is one of two priests who are members of the Aboriginal Reconciliation Reference group.



As part of our fact finding and learning Cynthia pointed us to many useful resources, containing factual and easy to understand information. Some of it was very confronting.

[Reconciliation Australia](#)

[National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council](#)

[Share our Pride](#)

"The St Patrick's Beenleigh vision for reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is a Church where the community truly values and shows respect for and understanding of the First Peoples of Australia. It acknowledges the unique connection that Traditional Custodians continue to have with the land on which our Church is situated. It is a church where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are encouraged to participate in parish life and their contribution will be truly recognised and appreciated by all. It aspires to celebrate significant days throughout the year and continue this connection into the future."



The over-arching aim of St Patrick's RAP group is to educate. We will endeavour to broaden our own knowledge, understanding and appreciation of all things Aboriginal and respectfully share these things, where appropriate, with the wider community of St Patrick's parish.

In 1986, when Pope John Paul visited Australia, he pronounced that the Church in Australia would not be the Church it needed to be, until ALL peoples were accepted into it.

The St Patrick's RAP team will take some small steps to work towards this inclusivity by following the steps laid out in the Archdiocese Reconciliation Action Plan:

- *We will have an annual NAIDOC Mass with a culturally appropriate atmosphere.*
- *At Masses there will be an Acknowledgement of Country.*
- *When possible, local Aboriginal persons will provide a Welcome to Country.*
- *An appropriately worded wall plaque will be placed on the Church wall.*
- *An Aboriginal rock in the Church garden will be relocated and the Rock and the area it is in will be refreshed.*

Vin Russell

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St Patrick's celebrates NAIDOC Week 2020



The first event the group organised was a NAIDOC Mass. On the 4th and 5th of July we celebrated NAIDOC week at St Patrick's. Our church was beautifully decorated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artefacts, lovely native floral arrangements and of course our flags. Big thank you to everyone who helped prepare and who helped out during the Masses.

Special thank you to Vin & Prue Russell and to Therese Flynn-Clarke for letting us display the artefacts and for sharing your knowledge. Thank you also to Fr Subin for making it all happen.

Monica Boucek
From The Bugle, Issue 26



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PRAYER

Creator Spirit,
All creation once declared your glory,
Your laws were honoured and trusted,
Forgive us our neglect as our country approaches
the most critical moment in its history.
Listen to our prayer as we turn to you,
Hear the cry of our land and its people,
Just as you heard the cry of Jesus,
your Son, on the Cross.
Help us to replace our national shame
With true national pride by restoring the
dignity of our First People whose antiquity is unsurpassed.
May our faith and trust in you increase.
Only then will our nation grow strong and be
a worthy place for all who wish to make their home in our land.
Amen.

© Elizabeth Pike, September 1997
Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Melbourne.

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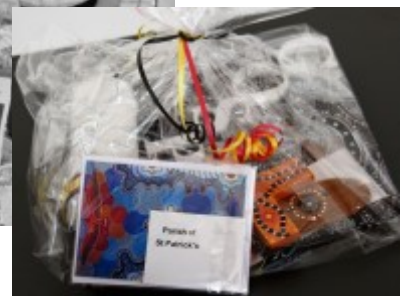
Celebrating the launch of the Archdiocese RAP

The Archdiocese of Brisbane officially launched its Reconciliation Action Plan, aimed at building strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, on the 17th November 2020, with a Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral. All the pilot parishes RAP groups were invited. St Patrick's participated in the entrance procession and in the readings and Fr Subin Thomas was one of the co-concelebrants.

The Mass was preceded by a Welcome to Country followed by a smoking ceremony. After Mass there were refreshments followed by presentations by the Arch Bishop and key leaders in the Reconciliation Reference Group.

Click the link below to view the video:

[Mass for the Launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan](#)



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Celebrating the RAP Launch at St Patrick's

As a member of the RAP team I had the privilege of being involved with the Celebrations of the launch, which included singing in the Choir. Our Choir leader Cathy Korzeniewski taught us to sing the Australian National Anthem in Yugambah language, which was such a great and delightful experience. The church was beautifully decorated with Aboriginal Artefacts, paintings and native flowers.

Prior to the RAP launch I was involved in many weekly meetings in the Truelson room, which on several occasions was attended by Cynthia Rowan (RAP Project Manager from the Archdiocese of Brisbane) who helped guide us on our journey towards preparing for the RAP launch. Cynthia spoke at the 7am and 9am Masses and she put together a video of herself speaking about the Plan, which was then played at the 6pm on Saturday night and then again at the 6pm Sunday night. Cynthia spoke beautifully at the two Masses and also on the Video. She explained the importance of us all working and walking together on our journey towards Reconciliation.

I attended Mass at 6pm on Saturday night, where I was delighted to give a brief overview of what the RAP was all about and how St Patrick's is one of the pilot parishes along with five other parishes who will implement the Plan over the next two years. Cynthia will continue to guide and support us throughout our journey.

A cuppa and light refreshments was served after each Mass and it was wonderful to see so many people stay back and meet Cynthia and also have a chat with one another.

Overall the Celebrations and the Launch, was I felt, a great success and I am really looking forward to being part of the RAP team over the next two years as we travel together towards having a better understanding and respect for our First Nation Peoples.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office if you are interested in joining the RAP team.

Marian Ward



Vin Russell and Pipo Ng planning the hanging of Aboriginal painting.



Cathy taught the Choir to sing the National Anthem in Yugambah language

National Reconciliation Week 2021



During National Reconciliation Week (NRW) Fr Gerry Hefferan from Bracken Ridge co-celebrated a special Mass with Fr Subin Thomas. Cynthia Rowan spoke after communion about the RAP. It was a proud moment in our parish.

After Mass the Acknowledgement of Country plaque was unveiled by Fr Gerry. The evening concluded with a light supper of soup and crusty bread. Click the link to see the [video](#) recorded by Adrian Taylor from the Archdiocese Communications group.



During NRW parishioners were part of a National Acknowledgement of Country. Click the link to see this [VIDEO](#).



The RAP group also accepted an invitation by Murri Ministry to a moving and informative Ecumenical Reconciliation Service at St Joseph's & St Anthony's Catholic Church. This gave us an opportunity to meet people from the other RAP groups and the people from Murri Ministry

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NAIDOC 2021

On July 11 Fr Subin celebrated NAIDOC Mass at St Patrick's. It was a beautiful Mass where Father was supported by a choir coming together for the occasion. Cathy brought the singers together and taught us to sing in the Yugambeh language.

The Lilly Pilli shrub, given to St Patricks at the launch of Archdiocese Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was planted in a ceremony after Mass. Vin Russell spoke about the Lilly Pilli being a significant resource for the Yugambeh people in this area, Pipo planted the shrub and Fr Subin blessed it. Thank you Fr Subin and everybody who helped.

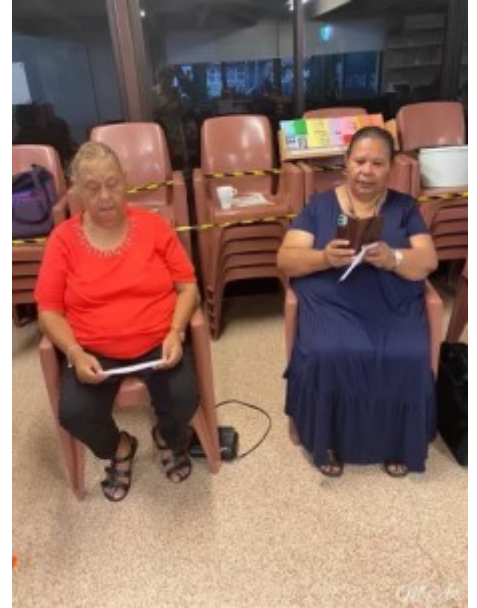


NAIDOC may be only celebrated for a week, but the ideas of "Heal Country" is something that should remain with us lifelong. For millenia the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders have protected this land with their traditional practices and it's about time we listen and make real changes, especially with the Earth hurting so much from centuries of mistreatment. Our children and our future deserve better.

*Erica Ng Philipps,
From The Bugle, Issue 32*

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Yarning circle with Local Community



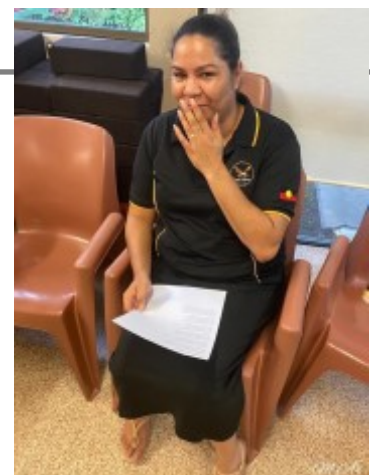
At the heart of the RAP plan is the building of relationships, opportunities and respect between First Nations people and the wider Australian community.

In our last RAP meeting we were fortunate enough to have a yarning circle with local Aboriginal elders and friends, including Aunty Robyn Williams, Yugambeh elder whose family has been involved in many celebrations at St Patrick's, and Will Davis, CEO of the Beenleigh Housing and Development Company, who was very keen to re-ignite the connection that he and his family have had with our parish in the past.

We discussed our reconciliation rock, what we could do to restore it and how we could achieve this through a combined parish and Aboriginal community working group. The group would be tasked with turning the front corner part of our garden which contains the rock into a beautiful space that can speak to us all of a hope-filled future permeated with love and respect. The details will be discussed and recommended in the working group and then presented to the parish.

Thank you to all parishioners who supported our Movie Night and Garage Sale fundraisers. The donations of items for sale made it a very worthwhile event and the two events together raised nearly \$1300. Thanks also to all those who helped out in any way at our recent working bee. We have a great community!

Cathy Korzeniewski & Monica Boucek, from the Bugle, Issue 30



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The Rock Working Bees

We had a number of working bees where we moved the Reconciliation Rock into the front corner garden, the Reconciliation Garden. The rock is quite large and very heavy.

The plan is to make the garden a beautiful space for reconciliation and meditation. Many parishioners turned out to help and offer advice. Thank you to the people helping to prep the ground and to move the rock into place.

Thank you also to everyone doing such great jobs with the many tasks that needs doing around our church, keeping our place of worship looking great.



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Movie Night



To inform and engage parishioners and to raise funds for future activities, such as the Rock and the Garden, the group hosted St Patrick's Movie Night Fundraiser, showing Rabbit Proof Fence.

It is a very inspiring but confronting story of a period of Australia's history told through the eyes of children.

The movie was shown with the encouragement and permission of the copyright owner, Christine Olsen. Thank you Christine.



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Garage Sale—Fundraiser



A Garage Sale gave parishioners an opportunity to support the project, while at the same time reduce and downsize.

We advertised in the church and school newsletters, on the Marketplace and on the street corners.

The garage sale was held on a Saturday morning, with perfect weather for it and it was very well supported by parishioners and neighbours. Thank you all.



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Trivia Night Fundraiser

Our Trivia/Fun Night gave parishioners and friends a night out at a very reasonable price. A three course meal was served and we were entertained by Bisdak Beenleigh Crew, a very talented group of St Patrick's Parishioners. Thank you guys.

Vin and Pru Russell had prepared Trivia questions about all sorts of general knowledge, including Aboriginal questions. Colleen Clune organised and ran the Cent Auction with great gusto and Cathy was our MC and ran the games.

The event was held with adherence to Covid-19 restrictions of the day and was greatly enjoyed. Thank you to all participants and to Trinity College and Allison Elcoat and family for great help.



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The Archbishops Endorsement of the Uluru Statement from the Heart



Through Cynthia Rowan, our RAP Project manager we received an invitation from the Archbishop to attend the public endorsement of the Uluru Statement From The Heart. The event was held in September at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre.

“Through our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the Archdiocese of Brisbane is on a journey towards reconciliation with First Nations peoples. On that journey, we want to endorse and support the move to enshrine in the Constitution an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice with government which includes constitutional acknowledgment of the rich cultural histories of our First Nations peoples”.

“Dean Parkin (Director, From The Heart) will speak to the Uluru Statement From The Heart, explaining why it matters for all Australians. Following Dean’s talk, I will endorse the statement on behalf of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. This will be an historic moment for the Church in Brisbane and for our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

Our group had a lovely day listening to the speakers and exploring the beautiful settings with a view over Stradbroke Island. We learned a lot by speaking to the lovely people we met and we enjoyed a scrumptious lunch.



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Yarning circle with Local Community & Schools

The RAP group also received a kind invitation to participate in yarning circles with the Beenleigh Housing Development Company (BHDC). The two first circles were held at the Eagleby Wetlands and another three circles have been held at St Patrick's, the last two with children from St Joseph's and Mother Teresa schools and Trinity College.

As a part of the Yarning Circles we were drawing art to reflect and describe reconciliation. Many beautiful images and words have appeared. During the yarning circles we have talked - yarned - about ways in which we can work together in a mutually respectful way.

Next year the yarning artwork will be put together to paint a mural, which will be a very special place in the garden. Thank you to Kevin Billion, principal of St Joseph's and to principals and teachers from the other schools for participating and allowing the children to attend and thank you to BHDC, Aunty Robyn Williams, Uncle Norm Sheehan, Will Davis and the Jinndi team for making this great experience possible.



Marian and Colleen working on the Rock Garden

Waterhole Exercise [Truth Telling]

On the 6th of October, 2021 we were invited to the Waterhole Exercise [Truth Telling] conducted in St Flannan's Parish primary school hall and hosted by Fr Rafal Rucinski.



It is a program developed and run since 1997 by KAIROS Canada, a movement of Indigenous, settler and newcomer peoples committed to ecological justice and human rights. Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) has entered into a formal partnership with KAIROS which has enabled them to adapt the content of the Blanket Exercise for the Australian context.

EREA has re-named the Blanket Exercise, the Waterhole Exercise (WE) to reflect the life sustaining significance of the waterholes and waterways in many Country/s across Australia. Waters in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are life-giving, renewing, cleansing, centering and sustaining. The Waterhole Exercise continues to wash over and wash through participants and facilitators alike.

In the 90 minutes workshop, participants step on blankets representing the land and into the role of First Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They are guided by trained facilitators, including Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers, who covers pre-contact, effects of colonialisation, resistance, history of the Catholic Church and First Nations Peoples and much more. The Waterhole Exercise concludes with a debriefing, conducted as a yarning circle, during which participants discuss the learning experience, process their feelings, ask questions, share insights, and deepen their understanding (KAIROS website).

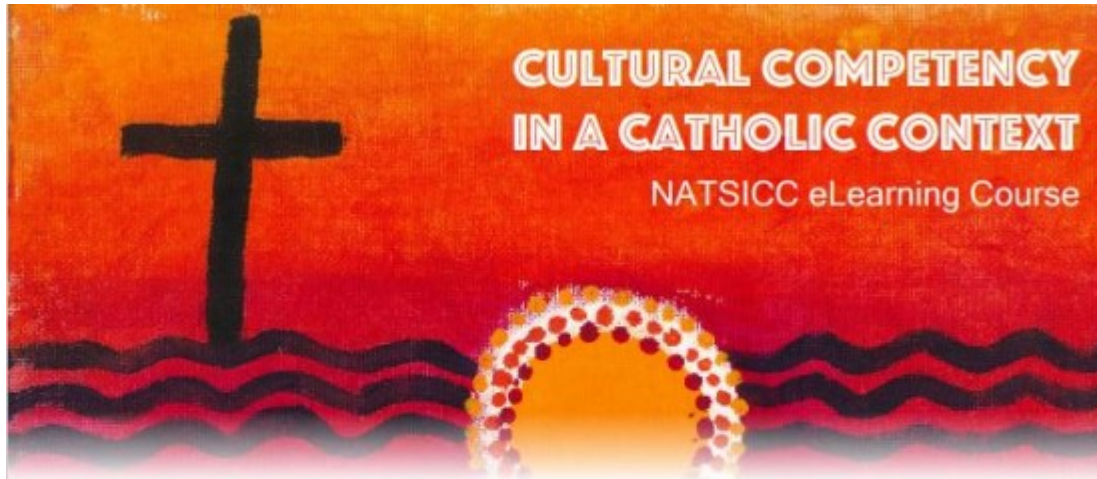
Cynthia Rowan

"We long for the day when we are fully the Church that Jesus wants us to be, a Church where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make their contribution to her life, and that contribution is joyfully received by others."

(Pope John Paul II, Address to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples, Alice Springs, 1986)

Cultural Awareness Course

We were invited to trial a new on-line cultural awareness course, Cultural Competency in a Catholic Context. It covered an extensive amount of material for us to explore in our own time, with a small test at the end.



What is Cultural Competency?

At its heart, Cultural Competency is learning about, acknowledging, and valuing the diversity and gifts that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures bring to Australia. On a practical level, Cultural Competence is the ability to work effectively alongside Australia's First Peoples and to make respectful, informed and appropriate decisions across cultural boundaries.

What does the Course cover?

NATSICC has designed the Course as a foundational step on the learning journey of all workers, volunteers, Clergy and Religious in the Catholic system.

It is the first training with a Catholic focus and equips participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A balanced mix of historical information combined with the impact that colonisation on First Nations Peoples, the course contains 4 core sections:

1. Our First Nations Peoples
2. Understanding our history
3. First Nations culture
4. Practice Tips



Created in Partnership with,
and supported by



The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. The council was founded in 1992 and the Secretariat is based in Adelaide. Visit us at www.natsicc.org.au

Who can complete the Course?

Anyone and everyone within the Catholic Church. It is our vision that any point of engagement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Church will have undertaken the Course and possess a foundational knowledge and appreciation of the oldest living Culture in the world.

It is hoped that by fostering greater awareness and understanding across cultural boundaries, the Course will lead to the building of more positive relationships and effective outcomes for all people in Australia.

How long does it take and how can I access the Course?

You can complete the module at your own pace, either in a single sitting or section-by-section as your schedule allows.

Set aside 1 hour for the core learnings – much longer if you wish to delve deeper into the additional resources at the end of each section.

Your progress will be automatically saved after each session and you can pick up where you left off.

Please contact your Parish, School or Organisation's HR Department and let them know you would like to access the course. You can also contact NATSICC directly at admin@natsicc.org.au

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RAP Pilot Parish Review

On the 17th November 2021, the anniversary of the launch of the Archdiocese Reconciliation Action plan Cynthia arranged the RAP Pilot Parish Review and Networking workshop, in the Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre. It was an opportunity for the pilot groups to come together, get to know each other better and share our experiences from the year gone.

“For each of us our experiences over the last couple of years has tested us in different ways. But your commitment to continue to work together to implement the Reconciliation Action Plan within your own challenges and opportunities is a testament to social teachings. Thank you. Cynthia”



Logan Deanery

Logan Deanery Family Fun Day

This event was an initiative by the Logan Deanery with representatives from the deanery and each parish participating in the preparations. It was a very successful and very well attended event, despite the weather not being the best, with each parish showcasing their church in their individual stands.

St Patrick's RAP group was invited to attend. We had a wonderful display of artefacts, information displays and handouts. Yugambeh elder, Uncle Ted Williams was saying a Welcome to Country with Fiona, Marian & William presenting Uncle Ted with a gift afterwards.



Addressing Logan Deanery Priests meeting

At the meeting on the on the 7th of February at St Pauls, Woodridge, we spoke about our experiences in terms of parishioners reactions, interest and acceptance. We would like to encourage any parish to take up the challenge. Although not easy it is very rewarding for the people involved. The Pope said that the church is not the church it could be without Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders participating in it.

It enriches the church and increases the knowledge and understanding of the Australian history, where we have come from and where we will hopefully be going.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) Mass 2022

The theme for NRW 2022 was: 'Be Brave – Make Change'. It is a challenge for us all to be brave, to step up and tackle the unfinished business of Aboriginal reconciliation.



NRW is framed by two very significant dates. May 27 is the anniversary of the 1967 referendum in which Australians voted to give the Commonwealth this power to make laws for, and for the inclusion of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the census.

June 3 marks the anniversary of the High Court's MABO decision. This recognised the Native Titles rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It overturned the myth of "terra nullius", that the country was empty prior to colonisation.

Fr Subin Thomas was celebrating our NRW Mass. He is a member of the Reconciliation Reference group and our Parish RAP Working Group. We welcomed Cynthia Rowan, RAP Project Manager from Evangelisation Brisbane. We also warmly welcomed staff, students and their families from St Joseph's and Mr Teresa schools and Trinity College.

At the conclusion of the Mass we were processing out towards the back where a special plaque, made by John Truelson was unveiled, followed by refreshments.

How might we be brave, make change and reach out to each other? How can we share each other's trouble, truly listen to each other and include each other in our prayer.



Spirit of the Red Sands Outing



Forty four St Patrick's parishioners and St Joseph's school staff members attended the Spirits of the Red Sands outing, organised by the St Patrick's RAP Group on the 25th of June.

Attendees were treated to a multi-media and multi-sensory 'roving' theatre experience through the Beenleigh Historical Village of the collision between the Aboriginal and British worlds during colonisation in Beenleigh in the 1800's.

The evening ended with a beautiful bush foods inspired three course meal and invitation for further reflection of how this history in Beenleigh influences our feelings and thoughts today and how we can work together for reconciliation in our community and Country. Thank you Fiona for all the effort involved in organising such a great combined parish and school event.



As part of the performance parishioners and teachers were invited to meet a new friend - an Eastern Coastal Python.

To explore more information, visit [Spirits of the Red Sand](#)

Extract from the Bugle, Issue 37, July 2022

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NAIDOC Mass 2022

Here at St. Patricks, on Sunday 10th July, Fr Subin celebrated a special 9am Mass and included in his homily the significance of being a welcoming community of which each of us has a responsibility.

This includes having an understanding of the strengths and resilience of the continuous challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It encouraged us to challenge our thoughts and beliefs to promote a welcoming community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our Parish.

After this Mass, we continued to celebrate with a BBQ, sitting around together, on the newly laid lawn in front of our Church. A beautiful morning.

NAIDOC events shed light on First Peoples cultures and affairs in the hope of bringing everyone together as a family and educating us about our fellow Australians.

Colleen Clune and Fiona Rowe Minniss

The harvest is plentiful,
but the labourers are few
Get up! Stand up! Show up!

A beautiful painting by well known N.T. artist Tommy Crowe was donated by a generous parishioner. Marian Ward organised a raffle and the happy first prize winner was Esther Thompson, congratulations!

The money raised will be used towards artefacts and events for the RAP project. We thank everybody for your most generous support and thank you Marian for your effort.

St Patrick's Bugle, Issue 37, July 2022



Laurel Blow Speaker Series: Truth Telling I



The Archdiocese of Brisbane was partnering with Australian Catholic University (ACU) in hosting two Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) dialogue experiences with First Nation speakers to create a common language and dispel misunderstandings in the implementation of the RAP across the Archdiocese.

The first was a Truth Telling - My Family's Story talk by Jackie Huggins on 4 August. It was hosted by Cynthia Rowan, RAP Project Manager from Evangelisation Brisbane alongside with Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane.

It was fascinating to hear Jackie's story about both sides of her family and how different her parent's circumstances were as they were struggling to make a life for their families under very difficult conditions.

After the talk there was opportunity to mingle with the other attendees and meet Aboriginal artists who were attending. We purchased artefacts for the church and spoke to the Aboriginal stall holders about a visit St Patrick's. We still need to work out a suitable occasion for this.



Far right: Cynthia congratulating Jackie on an excellent presentation.

Right: Ravina Waldren, Murry Ministry, Archdiocese of Brisbane, Marleine, Cathy, Dr Jackie Huggins, Marian, Fiona and Monica.

Laurel Blow Speaker Series: Truth Telling II

The second session of the Truth Telling series was called Truth Telling - The Foundation of Reconciliation. It was on 6th of October 9am-10:30am, also at ACU. In the words of our Arch Bishop Mark Coleridge, who co-hosted the session:

Last week we had the second in the [Laurel Blow Speaker Series](#) which focuses on questions to do with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme of the gathering was truth-telling, one of the three pillars of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This time we had not one speaker but three. Thelma Parker is a well known First Nations voice, and she told her own story in a way that opened out on to broader issues. Thelma was joined by two guests from Canada – online was Connor Sarazin, an Algonquin Indigenous man, and with us in person was Alfredo Barahona, who migrated from El Salvador to Canada. Connor spoke of the plight of the First Nations peoples of Canada, and it was plain to all how similar the issues were there to the ones we face here. Alfredo spoke of the situation of Indigenous peoples in his homeland and how this had helped him understand the suffering of the First Nations peoples of Canada and Australia. At the end he also picked up a guitar and sang a song of faith from the heart of his people's suffering. It always helps when words become song.

Mark Coleridge



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Laurel Blow Speaker Series: The Blanket Exercise

Following the speaker panel, there was an interactive session; The Blanket Exercise, which was an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Australian First Nations Peoples through storytelling and immersion. It was a very moving experience as told by one of the participants, Marian:

I recently had the opportunity to attend the First Nation's People blanket exercise which was held at the Catholic University in Nudgee. St Patrick's RAP Group members of Monica, Marleine, Fiona, Kathy and Emma all attended with me. There were around 60 people in attendance including Arch bishop Mark Coleridge and Bishop Tim Norton.

*The exercise involved Blankets being laid on the floor representing Australia. The participants were asked to stand on the blankets until the reader explains the process. Then they were asked to **step off their blankets when directed, symbolizing disease, war, and extinction.** Blankets are removed or moved to other areas, showing the way land was taken and the Aboriginal peoples relocated or killed. It was a powerful and moving experience. Although I will probably never fully comprehend what our First Nations people went through as a result of Australia being colonised by the British but it certainly moved me deeply. I would strongly recommend to you all if you ever get the chance to participate in this exercise I'm confident you would find it very rewarding. Marian Ward*



Fiona, Monica, Cathy, Cynthia , Bishop Tim, Marian and Marleine after the Blanket Exercise

Thank You to Cynthia & Fr Subin

On the 10th of October we had a Thank You get together with the whole group, including Cynthia Rowan and Fr Subin. It gave us a chance to talk about our RAP journey and for Cynthia to talk about the future. Thank you Cynthia for your many visits and all you support. Thank you Father for letting us be part of the pilot project.



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