

NOW MORE THAN EVER



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2024

RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

TEACHING & LEARNING RESOURCES





DHARAWAL COUNTRY

Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Dharawal Country and recognises their continued connection to the land. We pay our respects to Elder's past, present and emerging and the contribution they make to the life of this city.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

**National Reconciliation Week is celebrated at the same time each year:
27 May to 3 June**

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NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024

TEACHING & LEARNING RESOURCE

This resource is designed to support lesson plans and foster classroom dialogues about reconciliation, with a specific focus on its relevance within a local community setting.

Students and educators alike are encouraged to engage in learning and commemorating reconciliation in various settings. Shellharbour City Council annually organises a Reconciliation Walk, uniting students, Aboriginal Elders, and the broader community to enrich student perspectives, empathy, and comprehension.

The concepts, themes, and visual elements featured in this guide are reflective of Aboriginal culture, drawn from a diverse array of reputable sources.

You can access free posters and resources for your classroom on the Reconciliation Australia website. <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/posters-and-resources/>

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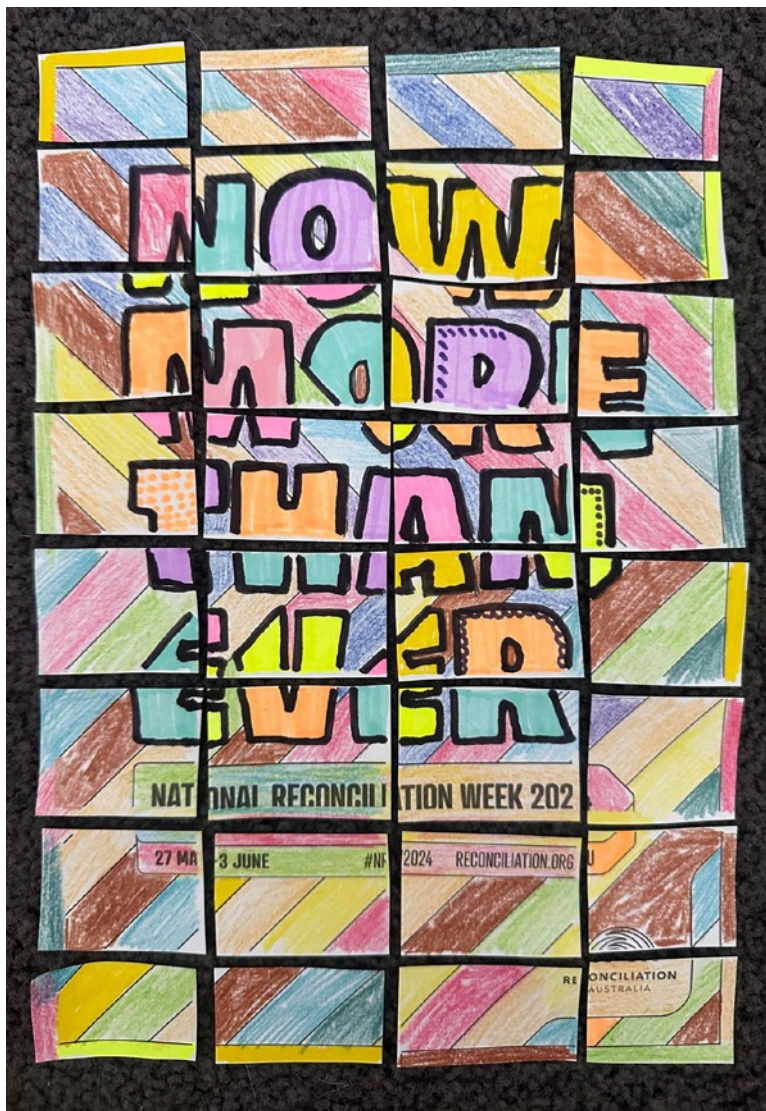


Reconciliation is about improving the relationships and understanding between Australia's First Nations' peoples and non-indigenous people. It encourages Australians to consider the impact of their own actions towards achieving reconciliation in Australia.

This year, Reconciliation Australia urges Australians to keep the momentum for change in our everyday lives. In doing so, Australians will honor the work paved by past generations who fought for justice.

CLASSROOM CREATIVITY

Casually effective hung in the classroom



WORKING TOGETHER NOW

Reconciliation is most effective when we work together for change. This classroom activity relies on the collaboration of the whole class to create a poster for reconciliation.

Use the link below to download the resource and instructions.

N.B. Poster image credit:
Reconciliation Australia

Resources:

[Reconciliation Week Collaborative Class Poster.pdf](#)



CLASSROOM CREATIVITY

Casually effective hung in the classroom


RECONCILIATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Download our free printable activity sheet for your classroom!

Resources:

[Reconciliation Week activity sheet.pdf](#)

national reconciliation week



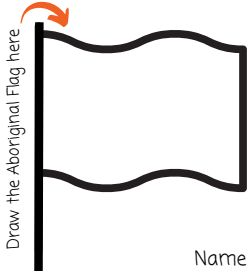
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AUSTRALIA
CULTURE
EDDIE MABO
EQUALITY
FUTURE
NATION
PAST
RECONCILE
FUTURE

NATION
PAST
RECONCILE
RESPECT
RIGHTS
TREATY
ULURU

VOTE

Can you solve the find-a-word? One word can be found in the grid that isn't on the list. Do you know what it is?




Draw the Aboriginal Flag here

NOW THAN *ever*

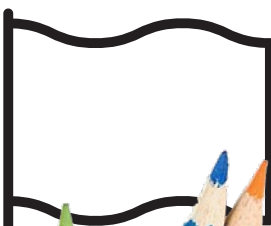
Name the two significant events at the start and end of Nations Reconciliation Week

27 May ↔ 3 June




What is the name of the Aboriginal land your school is on?

Draw a star on Australia to show where we live



Draw the Torres Strait Islander Flag here



RECONCILIATION WALK

Every year, Shellharbour City Council proudly hosts the Reconciliation School Flag Walk in partnership with our local schools.

This year's flag walk will be held on Monday 27 May 2024.

The event symbolises the shared journeys of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the non-indigenous communities of Australia.

On the journey, students will walk alongside Aboriginal Elders, Civic Leaders and community members. The event incorporates a Welcome To Country, Smoking Ceremony, dance and an official exchange of flags.





WALKING THE WALK

Students in Shellharbour will be invited to work together to create a Sea Of Hands installation.

This year, students will again be invited to work together to create a Sea Of Hands installation for the ceremony of the Reconciliation School Flag Walk. The Sea Of Hands collaborative project will represent our community's recognition of our past and our commitment to our future.

Schools are welcome to include contributions from students who are unable to attend the ceremony. Ask your students to colour hands from the template (below), attach a pop-stick to the back and bring them along with you to add to the installation.

The first Sea Of Hands was created in front of Parliament House, Canberra in 1997. Covering the lawn in a sea of colours, each hand was a physical representation of signatures on a petition shared by ANTaR to action non-Indigenous support of native title rights and reconciliation.

Why not create a Sea Of Hands in your classroom or home? Visit the link to download and print the free hand templates.

<https://bit.ly/SCCreconciliation>

A BRIEF HISTORY

National Reconciliation Week falls between the same dates each year; 27 May to 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant dates in Australia's history and journey toward reconciliation.

27 MAY 1967 | THE REFERENDUM

The Australian Constitution is a general law to govern the country that cannot be changed, except by the people of Australia who vote in a referendum. This document came into effect on 1 January 1901, establishing the Commonwealth of Australia and is notoriously difficult to change.

A referendum is a vote by the Australian people to change the constitution. A single question is proposed which usually carries a 'Yes' or 'No' answer. Before a referendum can take place, Parliament must approve the proposed changes that will be put to the Australian public. A referendum is only passed if the majority of voters are in favour from the majority of all states.

In 1967, Australia's most successful referendum took place, where more than 90% of Australians voted YES to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the census.

The 1967 referendum also gave the Australian government power to make laws specific to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that could aim to assist in addressing inequalities.

Unfortunately, the result of the referendum did not guarantee equality or end discrimination. It did, however, signify a change in the mindset of Australia's majority. This symbolised that change was possible and the people of Australia were willing to fight for it.

Although there have been 19 referendums and 44 proposed changes since 1901, the 1967 referendum is one of only 8 changes that have been approved to the Constitution.

3 JUNE 1992 | THE MABO CASE

The Mabo case, short for Mabo And Others v Queensland (No 2) (1992), was a significant legal case named after Eddie Mabo where the High Court of Australia recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have rights to the land.

Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo was a Torres Strait Islander who believed the Australian laws on land ownership were wrong and fought to change them. In 1981 he delivered a speech at James Cook University in Queensland where he explained his beliefs. His speech was heard by a lawyer who proposed that Eddie should challenge the Australian Government in the court system. The case would decide who the true owners of land on Mer (also known as Murray Island) were- his people or the Australian Government.

The legal case challenged the idea of 'terra nullius' in Australia. During the British colonisation, the land was deemed terra nullius- 'land belonging to no one', justifying the British occupation without treaty or payment.

The Mabo case, short for Mabo and others v Queensland (No 2) (1992), ran for 10 years. The High Court of Australia determined that terra nullius should not have been applied to Australian land and as such, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have rights to the land, rights that existed before the British arrived and still exist today.

The Mabo decision was an important moment in Australia's history. The ruling not only acknowledged the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples connection to the land, it also led to the Native Title Act being introduced in 1993.

Unfortunately, Eddie Mabo died before the court made its decision and he never found out the result of the case.

TIMELINE OF CHANGE

This activity takes students on a brief exploration of Australia's journey toward reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The timeline snapshots significant moments that stimulated change and evolution in Australia's culture and mindset.

Resources:

[Reconciliation Week timeline.pdf](#)

BEFORE 1770

For thousands of years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lived in distinct communities that each had their own language, culture, customs and laws. They are the oldest surviving culture on earth.

1901

The Australian Constitution is created, establishing the Commonwealth Of Australia.

1967

A referendum was held on May 27. More than 90% of Australians voted YES to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and that they may be counted in the census.

1975

The Australian Government passes The Racial Discrimination Act for all Australians to be treated equally regardless of their race, colour or national/ethnic origin.

1992

The Mabo Case challenged the High Court of Australia to recognise the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to the land. The court determined that terra nullius should never have applied to Australia.

1996

The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launches Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

2000

Walk For Reconciliation sees over 300,000 people walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge to show support and commitment to National Reconciliation Day.

TODAY

Draw a picture to represent how Australians are working toward reconciliation today.

1770

Captain Cook arrives at Botany Bay. The land is declared terra nullius—land belonging to no one—and is claimed by the British crown. The Aboriginal peoples rights to the land are taken from them.

1962

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are given the right to vote in federal elections. Enrollment was not compulsory, as it was for non-indigenous Australians.

1972

The Australian Government establishes The Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

1985

The Australian Government gives Uluru back to its traditional owners. The title deeds for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park are handed to the Anangu people who sign an agreement to lease it to the National Parks & Wildlife Service for 99 years.

1993

The first National Reconciliation Week started as the Week Of Prayer For Reconciliation and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

1998

Australia's first National Sorry Day is held to commemorate the suffering and injustices endured by the Stolen Generations.

2008

Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, delivers an official apology to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Government.

cutouts:

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CLASSROOM CREATIVITY

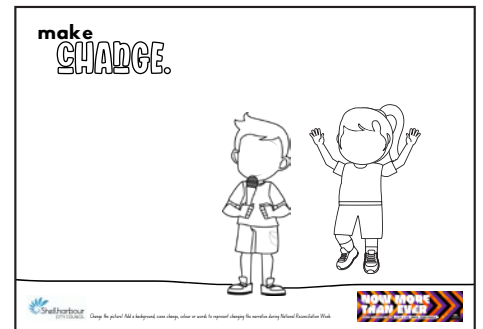
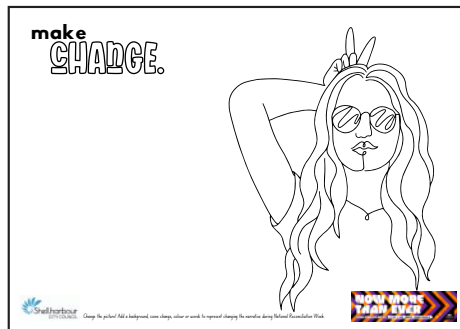
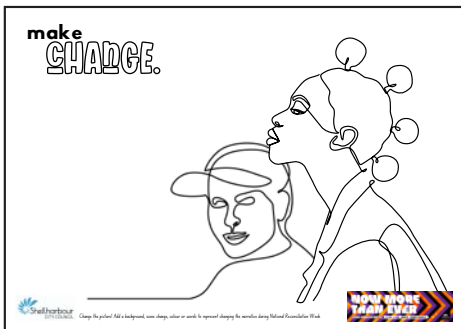
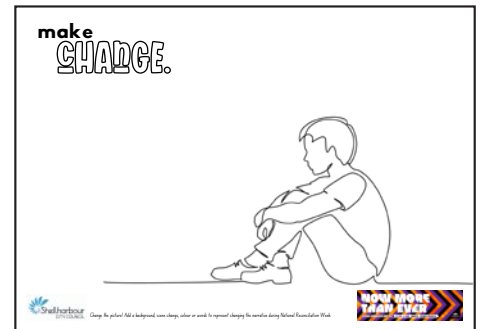
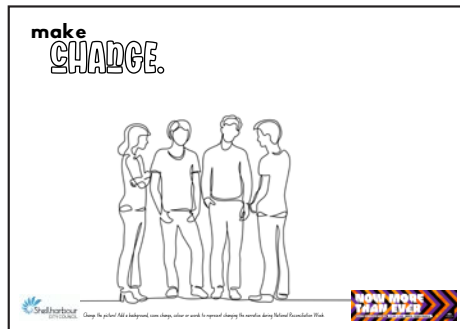
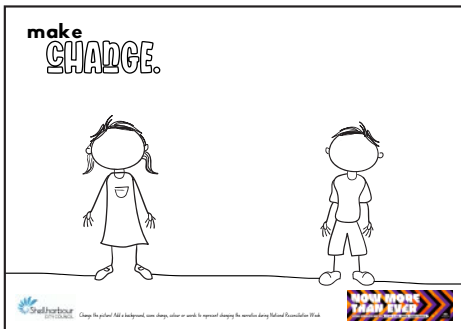
MAKING CHANGE IN AUSTRALIA

Understanding Australia's history and evolution towards reconciliation allows students to develop understanding and respect for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and experiences. To be effective participants in change, we must understand why change is important.

Download and print our free classroom activity! Students are asked to change the story by adding a background, scene, words or colour that tell a story of reconciliation.

Resources:

[Change The Picture - creative challenge.pdf](#)



ONLINE RESOURCE HUB

ABC Education – Free online teaching resources
<https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/topic/494038/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures>

AIATSIS – Free online resource
<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>

Australians Together – Free online curriculum resources
<https://australianstogether.org.au/education/curriculum-resources>

Bass Point Heritage Walk Brochure
Local historical information presented by Shellharbour City Council
https://cdn.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Living_here_documents/basspointheritagewalkbrochure_0.pdf

Behind The News – Free online teaching and learning resources
<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/indigenous-culture/10576610>

BOSTES – Free online teaching and learning resources
<https://ab-ed.nesa.nsw.edu.au/go/home>

Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation
Free resources, glossary & Dreaming Stories
<https://www.coomaditchie.org.au/resources>

Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation – Local information and services
<https://www.iac.org.au/official-artwork>

Indigenous Weather – Free online resource
<http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/index.shtml>

Narragunnawali – Free online curriculum resources
<https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/curriculum-resources>

Reconciliation Australia – Free information and resources
<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/>

SBS Learn – Free online teaching and learning resources
<https://www.sbs.com.au/learn/resources/explore-australian-identity-and-histories>

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