



Artwork excerpt: *I Am Because We Are* 2019, Safina Stewart, Wuthathi Country (QLD) and Mabuia Island (Torres Strait Islands).

RAP UPDATE JULY 2025 - KIYANGANYIN (WE ARE ALL TALKING) RECONCILIATION

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Over one hundred community members and allies come together at Cape Paterson Surf Lifesaving Club on Monday 26 May to reflect on the impacts of past actions and policies on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In deep listening, we heard stories from members of the First Nations community and a key message of now more than ever we need to stand by First Nations people.



National Reconciliation Week

A week packed with activities across the Bass Coast. Bass Coast Health launched their first *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* and the partners of the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network joined the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's Strong Country team at their Rhyll property to learn about the plans for this site. The Nature Parks staff took the opportunity to discuss opportunities for how we can care for beak (Country) together and support the aspirations of the Strong Country team to protect the cultural values in this area.



The Nature Parks staff joined Bunurong Elder, Rob Ogden on a cultural walk at Swan Lake to learn about the history and cultural heritage of Milawul and Swan Lake. Learning about the struggles that Traditional Owners have with access to information and how that has impacted their ability to look after Country. Rob shared some interesting cultural insights about the use of oil from the stomach of bayadin (shearwaters) being used for medicinal purposes and the method of transporting fire from place to place using banksia cones.



Ngangga on Milawul - NAIDOC Week 2025

Ngangga (meaning to listen, to hear, to understand) was a free community event held on Sunday 6 July at Berninneit and with over 800 people attending across the day, the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network was happy that the event was a huge success. Thanks to sponsorship from Dhelk Dja, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and support from Barrithbarrith Gathering Place, we engaged 16 First Nations owned businesses to celebrate and share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and traditions. Music by Fonzie (Paul) Patten and Uncle Kutcha provided mesmerising and inspiring story telling to event attendees.



The **RAP Leadership Group** welcomed three new members: Simon Moule (Tourism), Sam Watson-Holmes (Infrastructure and Planning) and Jess Tayel (People and Culture). We are working on the next cultural learning experience for staff with some great options being explored. Our focus moves to the following deliverables in the RAP over the next six to twelve months:

- Support Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's Strong Country team in self-determined works at Swan Lake
- Community engagement on *Summerland Peninsula Masterplan*
- Delivery of cultural awareness training for new staff in August-September
- Delivery of a cultural learning experiences for staff
- Implementation of a Cultural Competence Program
- Develop and implement internal anti-racism activities
- Increase variety and sale of Indigenous products across retail stores
- Support local First Nations artist to connect with retail supplier for development of products with Milawul inspired designs
- Explore potential for annual Aboriginal art exhibition with Baluk Arts

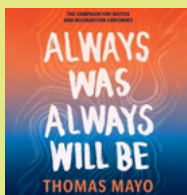
Yani (come along) on a cultural learning journey

WHAT TO WATCH: Check out the following top Australian films over the winter months, grab a hot cuppa, sit back and immerse yourself in some of the best Australian Indigenous Films including:

- Satellite Boy (2012)
- Sweet Country (2017)
- The Sapphires (2013)
- Toomela (2011)
- The Nightingale (2018)
- Ten Canoes (2006)

For more Indigenous TV about Country, Justice, Education and Entertainment go to [National Indigenous Television, News and Programs | SBS NITV](#)

WHAT TO READ: If you want to start somewhere, Marcia Langton's, *The Welcome to Country Handbook* is an accessible introduction to First Nations Peoples, history and culture. Drawn from the bestselling *Welcome to Country*, this guide is essential reading for every Australian, and an excellent resource for cultural awareness training in the workplace or classroom. The chapters cover precolonial and post-colonial history, language, kinship, knowledge, art, performance, storytelling, Native Title, the Stolen Generations, making a rightful place for First Australians and looking to the future for Indigenous Australia. A new introduction as well as a chapter on racism has been written especially for this handbook, and all information has been checked and updated.



Always Was, Always Will Be, by Thomas Mayo investigate's what's next for reconciliation and justice in Australia after the failed October 2023 Voice to Parliament referendum.

Always Was, Always Will Be is essential reading for those people who want to keep the positive momentum going and the number of allies growing. It's for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who are ready to do everything they can to close the gap.



ANNUAL DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

20 January - Tunnerminnerwait Maulbouyheenner Commemoration

13 February - Anniversary of National Apology to the Stolen Generation

20 March - National Close the Gap Day

26 May - National Sorry Day

27 May to 3 June - National Reconciliation Week

3 June - Mabo Day

7 to 14 July - NAIDOC Week

4 August - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

9 August - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

4 September - Indigenous Literacy Day