



RECONCILIATION UPDATE OCTOBER 2021

HEAL COUNTRY!

It was deadly to be able to come together during NAIDOC Week for a planting day.

Uncle Anthony Egan Welcomed the mob to Country before Ranger Shani Blyth led the team of eager volunteers in preparing guards and planting bush foods in the Womin jeka Welcome to Country area at the front of the new Penguin Parade visitor centre.

The Community members worked hard and also enjoyed a cuppa and morning tea. We all look forward to watching the plants in this area grow and to more gatherings in the future.



Art Exhibition

NAIDOC was also celebrated with an Art Exhibition at Wonthaggi Art Space. The exhibition was launched with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony led by Uncle Mik Edwards and speeches by artists including Safina Stewart.



Sorry Day

It was an honour to join Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community members as they generously shared of experiences and wisdom on National Sorry Day 26 May. The COVIDSafe event was held at the stunning Cape Paterson Surf Lifesaving Club and attended by over 100 participants. It began with a smoking ceremony led by Bunurong Land Council's Uncle Eric Edwards and followed by a Welcome to Country from his father Uncle Mic Edwards.

The truth telling that followed provided a unique chance to learn, heal and explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation through hearing personal experiences from the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community and broader Australian community.

Sadly, the planned Bridge Walk for reconciliation has been postponed until 2022 and we look forward to assisting in running this event when it is safe to do so.



Keep in touch on event updates at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation

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Employment Strategy

We are happy to share that *Indigenous Employment Partners* have been appointed to develop the Nature Parks' Aboriginal Employment Strategy, and other associated work to support the strategy. Thanks to everyone for getting this result and we are really looking forward to seeing this work progress and employment opportunities open-up for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples at the Nature Parks. All opportunities will be advertised in the Koorie Mail and on our website at www.penguins.org.au/about/work-with-us

THE NATURE PARKS' SHARED VISION FOR RECONCILIATION IS:

To walk together, side by side, respectfully caring for the Country, Waters and Sea of Millowl and to create a shared future of recognition, opportunity and true partnerships with Traditional Owner and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We also aim to create opportunities for healing through responsible and respectful truth telling and knowledge sharing and events such as these help us to move closer to this vision.

CONGRATULATIONS PATRICE!

We congratulate Patrice Mahoney OAM for being appointed to the Phillip Island Nature Parks Board. Patrice has been a part of our Reconciliation Advisory Committee for many years and we are delighted she is now part of our Board. Patrice will maintain a Community position on our Reconciliation Advisory Committee we look forward to seeing more of Patrice in her role on the Board including chairing the Community and Environment Advisory Committee.

Patrice Mahoney OAM (left) and Sally O'Neill NRW 2019.



Womin jaka PAUL PATTEN



It is wonderful to welcome Paul Patten, a Gunai/Yorta Yorta man from Lakes Entrance who has joined Bass Coast Health as their first Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer.

Paul has made an amazing difference to the Community already with his big smile and professional attitude. His passion shines through and he brings many years of experience working in health and administration for Aboriginal organisations in roles such as Regional Coordinator of the Gippsland TIS team based out of Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association. You may have also seen Paul on stage, as a talented singer and performer for almost 30 years!

The Bass Coast Health team is delighted to have Paul in this essential liaison role that builds on many years of community effort to improve their health service. Paul recently presented at the Nature Parks Reconciliation Advisory Committee meeting sharing his experience and knowledge with the Board and team.

We are very excited to welcome Paul onto to our Reconciliation Advisory Committee as a Community representative and to see strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices grow within our network and region. **Mob can contact Paul on 0490 665 673.**

THANK YOU SALLY

Sally O'Neill has been a driving force behind our Reconciliation journey for many years and has played a pivotal role in achieving our Reconciliation Action Plan deliverables since 2011. The dedication, time, care, respect and passion that Sally has given to the Community, the RAC and to Nature Parks is amazing! Sally is taking up a new and exciting career opportunity but will continue to support Nature Parks into the future as a community representative on the Reconciliation Advisory Committee.

We wish her all the best in her new adventure but don't worry she will still be around walking and working together with us towards Reconciliation.

YOUR RAC REPS 2021:

- Kevin Love (Chair)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Reps**
- Uncle Anthony Egan (TO Bunurong/Trawlwoolway)
- Patrice Mahoney OAM (Co-Chair)
- Aunty Bev Munroe
- Paul Patten (Gunai/Yorta Yorta)
- Yowengarra Bun Wurrung Balug Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Nature Parks**
- Michaela Salvato, Danielle Auldist (Board)
- Catherine Basterfield, Kate Adams, Shani Blyth, Ashley Reed, Rachael Ferguson, Rosanna Martino, Stephanie James, Ewan McLeod, Sue Keogh, Shaun Kenny, Brad Mentha.
- Sally O'Neill (community)

Want to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures?

LEARN:

Bunurong Land Council
www.bunuronglc.org

Healing Foundation
www.healingfoundation.org.au

Share Our Pride
www.shareourpride.org.au



WATCH:

NITV
www.sbs.com.au/nitv

ABC Indigenous
www.abc.net.au/indigenous

LISTEN:

The Mission:
www.rrr.org.au/explore/programs/the-mission

Still Here:
www.rrr.org.au/explore/programs/still-here

Away!:
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/awaye

