

# DOUGLAS SHIRE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2021



MORE THAN A WORD



## MAY 27 - JUNE 2 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

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.

Reconciliation Australia's theme for 2021, *More than a word. Reconciliation takes action*, urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**WALK FOR RECONCILIATION | COLOUR FUN RUN | SEA OF HANDS  
CULTURAL FESTIVITIES | FILM NIGHT | NETBALL FAST 5  
KIDS CULTURAL PLAYTIME & MORE!**



# WELCOME!



## A MESSAGE FROM DOUGLAS SHIRE MAYOR



Welcome everyone to the Douglas Shire celebrations for National Reconciliation Week 2021.

Reconciliation is about moving forward with meaningful attitudes and actions. It's about developing an enduring and deep respect between wider Australians and our First Nations people.

The Indigenous Events Committee have done a wonderful job creating such a special program of community-wide events to celebrate National Reconciliation Week in our Shire, and we thank all the local businesses who have helped sponsor and support the week.

Douglas Shire Council acknowledges our Traditional Owners as the original custodians of the land, and we will continue to acknowledge the mistakes of the past and dedicate ourselves to an honest and open reconciliation.

Let's come out in force to celebrate and unite for this fun, special, inclusive and very important week.

## FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

For reconciliation to be effective, it must involve truth-telling, and actively address issues of inequality, systemic racism and instances where the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are ignored, denied or reduced.

While we see greater support for reconciliation from the Australian people than ever before, we must be more determined than ever if we are to achieve the goals of the movement - a just, equitable, reconciled Australia. As history tells us, this will only happen through continued and concerted action from those who are already part of the reconciliation movement to those who are yet to join.

Moving towards a braver reconciliation requires a vision for what a just equitable and reconciled Australia looks like. These actions are guided by the five dimensions of reconciliation: Race Relations; Equality and Equity; Unity; Institutional Integrity; Historical Acceptance.

## A BRIEF HISTORY ON RECONCILIATION

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities. In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first NRW. In 2000, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation.

In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of NRW, to show their support for reconciliation.

Today, NRW is celebrated by businesses, schools and early learning services, organisations, and individuals Australia-wide. Hundreds of NRW events are held each year.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE INDIGENOUS EVENTS COMMITTEE



The Douglas Indigenous Events Committee would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land that National Reconciliation Week 2021 is celebrated on. We also acknowledge and respect our Elders past, present and emerging.

The Indigenous Events Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and participation in National Reconciliation Week 2021. We also thank our emerging partners and supporters who have taken the initiative to start the healing process together towards the Reconciliation.

For the Douglas Shire the reconciliation journey has begun, and the Committee encourages all to remember the importance of amplifying and strengthening the voices of our First Nations people for reconciliation and social justice.



Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are the relationships, partnerships and friendships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Members of the Indigenous Events Committee will be in attendance at all of the events and are looking forward to seeing and meeting you during this week of celebration.

We hope you are able to participate in the week's program and most importantly, remember to enjoy your journey and have fun along the way.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NRW 2021 is proudly hosted by the Indigenous Events Committee in partnership with Douglas Shire Council, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation, and a wonderful representation of local community groups and businesses within the Shire.

The IEC would sincerely like to thank SES, Furies, QPS, QAS, ANTaR, Douglas Commerce of Chamber, TPDD, PDNC, MSS, MSPS, PDSS, MSHS for their support, assistance and involvement in organizing, acknowledging and celebrating National Reconciliation Week for 2021.

We also want to acknowledge and thank our Sponsors, Mr Trevor Tim and BBM, for invaluable support in bringing awareness, appreciation and respect to National Reconciliation Week 2021.

Finally, thank you to the wonderful schools and early learning centres across the Shire who have contributed to NRW 2021 in beautiful and meaningful ways.



## THE ARTIST

This year's theme graphics are drawn from the artwork "Action" by Jessica Johnson.

Jessica was born on Larrakia Country and is a descendent of the Warumungu/Wombaya people north of Tennant Creek.

The artwork reflects our connection and mutual obligation to one another, community and country.

Through commonality and difference, we have the ability to come together and achieve real change.



## THURSDAY MAY 27

### OPENING CEREMONY, 9AM DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL, FRONT ST MOSSMAN

NRW 2021 will commence with the Opening Ceremony before the Walk for Reconciliation.

The ceremony will be hosted by Douglas Shire Mayor, Michael Kerr and will involve Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony with traditional owners, Indigenous leaders, local politicians and community members.

9am      Flag Raising Ceremony  
            Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony  
            Mayor's Address & Guest Speaker

## WALK FOR RECONCILIATION

*Due to Sorry Business relating to a death in the Community, the Walk For Reconciliation and Sea of Hands planned for Mossman will not proceed as the community is in mourning. We apologise for any inconvenience, and look forward to seeing you at the Port Douglas Community Day.*

## HISTORICAL FACT

The Walk for Reconciliation across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the year 2000, along with similar events that took place around Australia at the time, were collectively one of the biggest demonstrations of public support for a cause that has ever taken place in Australia.

The march was a public expression of support for meaningful reconciliation between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Whilst the Douglas Shire Walk for Reconciliation can not take place as planned we urge you to keep cheering on the Reconciliation movement, and remember the 2021 theme, *More Than A Word. Reconciliation Takes Action.*



# SEA OF HANDS



ANTaR's (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation) Sea of Hands is an iconic symbol of reconciliation and a way forward for communities around Australia to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and events.

Hundreds of hands in the colours of the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian Flags will feature in the Douglas Shire Sea of Hands project in Port Douglas.



*Making waves of colour for the sea of hands - Port Douglas State School & Mossman State School lead the way with their messages of reconciliation*

Each hand, and its individual message, will contribute to creating a colourful display of unity and solidarity.

## GETTING INVOLVED

Everyone is invited to collect a hand and write their personal messages of reconciliation and healing before hands are planted in the ground in Market Park at the Port Douglas NRW Community Day.

Markers will be on hand at the Sea of Hands collection points so participants can write their messages of support.

For those wishing to write their messages of reconciliation in advance, hands will be available in the foyer of Douglas Shire Council's Administration Building, and at the Mossman and Port Douglas Libraries.

*Due to Sorry Business in the Community the Sea of Hands installation planned for Mossman will not proceed. We apologise for any inconvenience, and look forward to seeing you at the Port Douglas Sea of Hands!*





FRIDAY MAY 28

## NRW COMMUNITY DAY ON THE WATERFRONT, MARKET PARK + REX SMEAL PARK, PORT DOUGLAS, FROM 10AM

Come along and get covered in colour, plant your hand with a message of reconciliation, see Yalanji and Torres Strait Islander dancers in cultural performances, visit the Indigenous market stalls exhibiting and selling arts & crafts, and grab a bite to eat!

Bring your family and friends along for a great time!



## COLOUR FUN RUN, REX SMEAL PARK PORT DOUGLAS, 10AM

Grab your whitest t-shirt, put on your oldest runners, and grab your buddies to join us for a lot of fun in support of Reconciliation!

The Colour Run is an easy 1 kilometre untimed event. Runners and walkers will be covered from head to toe in coloured powder at the finish line. We suggest that all participants wear white at the starting line so you will finish the run covered in colour!

The Run is more about the fun memories you make rather than your time. You can walk, run or do a bit of both! It is accessible to everyone, no matter your experience, level or ability. Just be prepared to wear Colour! It does wash out!

From 9:30am  
10am

Registration Desk opens for those who have not pre registered  
On your marks...Get Set...Fun Run Starts!

Register now to join the run <https://www.trybooking.com/BRHND> and get involved in an engaging, fun and purposeful way to celebration Reconciliation!

OR VISIT COUNCIL'S WEBSITE TO REGISTER FOR THE FUN RUN

## SEA OF HANDS, MARKET PARK, PORT DOUGLAS, 10AM - 2PM

Be part of this very special community project! Come along to Market Park in Port Douglas, write your message on a hand at the registration desk, and plant it alongside other hands of support. Read more on previous page.





SATURDAY MAY 29

## NRW RAINFOREST MARKETS, MOSSMAN GORGE CENTRE, 10AM-2PM

As part of National Reconciliation Week celebrations, the Mossman Gorge Centre will be holding a special 'Rainforest Markets' at the Centre.

All Yalanji artists are invited to participate, and this is the perfect opportunity for our local Yalanji artists to express their culture, identity and connection to the land and their community.

## NRW FILM NIGHT, PORT DOUGLAS YACHT CLUB FROM 5:30PM

The Indigenous Events Committee are proud to be hosting a Reconciliation Film Club screening. It is hoped that this event will bring people together through film to develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, histories, and cultures and to ignite conversation and spark change.

Emcee, Mr Trevor Tim will engage the audience with a story or two about his Reconciliation journey and introduce and bring awareness about the chosen films.

From 5:30pm      Restaurant and bar open  
6:00pm          Screening commences

This is a Free event, and pop corn will be provided.

The bar and restaurant will be open for you to purchase dinner and drinks. Special thanks to the Port Douglas Yacht Club for providing the venue.

This is a night not to be missed!

Register now at  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BRCLK>



SUNDAY MAY 30

## RECONCILIATION CHURCH SERVICE, MOSSMAN SHARKS CLUBHOUSE, MOSSMAN SHOWGROUNDS, 10AM - 12PM

The Christian Mission Fellowship International (Mossman) would like to invite everyone to attend the NRW 2021 Church Service.

In its origins, National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 and was supported by Australia's major faith communities. In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

Keeping in the theme of Reconciliation, Pastor Lloyd Biehler will present a thoughtful sermon reflecting a combined meaning of Reconciliation and Christianity.

MONDAY MAY 31

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK DOUGLAS SHIRE FORMAL BREAKFAST

Local community leaders and dignitaries will come together for the official breakfast to be hosted at the Pullman Sea Temple Resort & Spa. This is an important opportunity for business and community leaders to come together and discuss how we can continue to improve the path to Reconciliation.

Kindly note that this is an invitation only event and not open to the public.



TUESDAY JUNE 1

CHILDREN'S COLOURFUL PLAYTIME,  
PORT DOUGLAS, 10AM - 11:30AM

The Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre is hosting a free mini colour fun-run for kids with cultural performances!

Aimed at kids 0-5 years this is sure to be hit!

Bring your kids, and join in the fun!

Meet us at the Park opposite the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre (the park is next to the Community Hall on Mudlo St, Port Douglas).





TUESDAY JUNE 1

MEN'S BBQ LUNCH, PORT DOUGLAS  
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, PORT  
DOUGLAS, 10AM - 1PM

One for the guys!

Calling on the fellas to join us for a free BBQ brunch in the spirit of National Reconciliation Week.

NETBALL FAST 5 COMP! (MIXED), PORT DOUGLAS  
SPORTS COMPLEX, WHARF ST, 4:30PM

## DETAILS

A mixed Fast 5 Netball Competition will be held as part of the NRW celebrations.  
Register now to play in the comp - there's a cash prize up for grabs!

\$10 entry p/person with all proceeds going to Reconciliation community events & activities.

5 people premitted on the court at any one time - 7 people per team. It's fast and fun!

First game at 4:30PM.

Don't miss out, Register Now!

VISIT COUNCIL'S  
WEBSITE TO REGISTER!



WEDNESDAY JUNE 2

YOUTH LUNCHEON, MOSSMAN 11:30AM-2PM

Calling our Douglas teenagers and young adults to join us for a very special and informal luncheon with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, and inspiring guest speakers.

Learn more about the importance of Reconciliation, be inspired, and fly the flag for our collective voice!

RSVP to Ashleigh Whyte, Mossman Youth Service on 07 4098 2836 or [youth@dscsa.org.au](mailto:youth@dscsa.org.au)



LADIES LUNCHEON, MOSSMAN  
GORGE, 11:30AM-2PM

Cultural storytelling over lunch with Yalanji Elders at Yalanji Arts Centre, Mossman Gorge. Come one, come all, and enjoy your time with the Elders.

RSVP to Sabine Hoeng on [arts@yalanji.com.au](mailto:arts@yalanji.com.au) or 0408868799



### EXTRA INFO

All events operate within the COVID-19 safe guidelines outlined by the Queensland Government.

We ask that all participants observe social distancing and register their attendance for events where requested.

To find out more visit:  
<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/covid-safe-event>

## GOT A QUESTION? CONTACT US - WE'RE HERE TO HELP

To find out more about our National Reconciliation Week program of events please contact Margaret Ross-Kelly or Kirsty Burchill:

Margaret Ross-Kelly: [Margaret.Ross-Kelly@douglas.qld.gov.au](mailto:Margaret.Ross-Kelly@douglas.qld.gov.au) | 0467806459  
Kirsty Burchill: [kirsty\\_burchill@hotmail.com](mailto:kirsty_burchill@hotmail.com)

To find out more the Children's Playtime and Men's BBQ at the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre contact Benita Williams: 07 4099 5518

## MORE ON RECONCILIATION

### RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANS (RAPs)

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a program that provides a framework for organisations to support the national reconciliation movement

A RAP is a strategic document that supports an organisation's business plan and includes practical actions that will drive an organisation's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which it operates.

The RAP Program contributes to advancing the five dimensions of reconciliation by supporting organisations to develop respectful relationships and create meaningful opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Each of the four RAP types (Reflect, Innovate, Stretch, Elevate) set out the minimum elements required from your organisation to build strong relationships, respect and opportunities within your organisation and community.

For more information about the Reconciliation Action Plan program, go to the following website:  
<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation-action-plans/>



**Reconciliation Australia**  
RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANS

## SORRY DAY, WEDNESDAY MAY 26

National Sorry Day, or the National Day of Healing, is an annual event that has been held in Australia on 26 May since 1998. It is a day of remembrance and commemoration held to highlight the impact of past policies of forcible removal on the Stolen Generations, their families, and their communities.

The event remembers and commemorates the mistreatment of the country's Indigenous peoples, as part of an ongoing process of reconciliation between the Indigenous peoples and the settler population. The date was selected because on that date in 1997 the Bringing Them Home report was published.

This Awareness Notice purpose is to bring awareness about Sorry Day - there are no events scheduled for this day.



The Douglas Shire program of events for National Reconciliation Week 2021 would not be possible without the commitment and support of our wonderful partners.  
Thank you!



visit [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) to download the program and discover more about National Reconciliation Week 2021