Reconciliation for Western Sydney

Reconciliation for Western Sydney is a community group that meets monthly to discuss ways of advancing reconciliation between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians.

Various activities are planned throughout the year including during Reconciliation Week in May and NAIDOC Week in July. Building Bridges also, is one of our major activities held each year.

During our regular monthly meetings we invite, as the occasion permits, Indigenous guests to come and share with us some of their thoughts. Such guests might include health workers, lawyers, stolen generation survivors, teachers, environmentalists and others in virtually all walks of life.

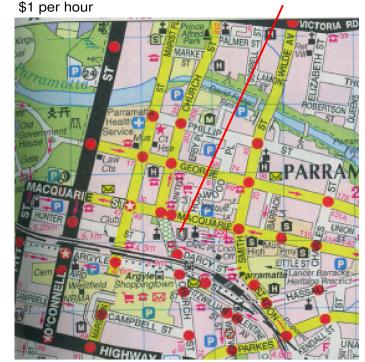
We welcome new-comers to our regular monthly meetings which are friendly and informal and where supper is provided. Details are in the block below. A nominal subscription of \$10 a year is charged to help offset running costs.

Place: Byrne Room, Reg Karabi Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr Darcy Rd & Fyall Ave, Wentworthville (off Cumberland Highway) **Time: 3**rd Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm Further information: Contact Lyn Leerson on 9639 8394

The Jubilee Hall, Parramatta Town Hall

Parking: Council car park behind Town Hall and Library Enter from Macquarie St. Turn left at Post Office.

Parramatta Town Hall (opposite St John's Cathedral in the Mall)



Come along and bring a friend and meet Indigenous people in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Building Bridges is an initiative of Reconciliation for Western Sydney, a community group that has been hosting such occasions for more than twelve years

In 2007, Parramatta Council presented Reconciliation for Western Sydney with the Community Event of the Year award for its contribution to reconciliation. Parramatta Council's on-going support is greatly appreciated.







Building Bridges

An initiative of Reconciliation for **Western Sydney**

Building Bridges is a series of six Wednesday evening free seminars run over August to September.

No charge: Free supper: Donation appreciated Program commences 4 August at 7.30 pm to be held at Parramatta Town Hall (see Map)

Note change in location from last year

The Program will include topics such as:

- The Criminal Justice System and Circle-Sentencing
- Indigenous Higher Education
- Aboriginal Astronomy
- Indigenous Entrepreneurs
- Mentoring and Hierarchy Indigenous Health
- A Woman's 'Stolen Father' story
- Black Diggers-Indigenous Soldiers
- Northern Territory Intervention
- Climate Change & Communities

The presenters

Jacinta Tobin traces her Darug history back to Yarramundi of the Richmond Boorooberongal. Her mother is descended from the Warmuli people of Prospect. Working with Aboriginal communities since 1997 her music depicts a struggle to retain Darug identity.

Melissa Williams is a Bundjalung woman with 20 years in IT and Telecommunications - research, marketing and sales. Currently she is Director, Indigenous Employment & Engagement at UWS where she is equipping potential leaders.

Maree Jennings has lived in Darug country all her life but with family ties to the Darumbal Nation, Rockhampton. In 1970, her father was conscripted into the army. Maree is currently Project Officer for Circle Sentencing in the Attorney General's Department

Jo Anne Rey is a Darug woman and former teacher/librarian. Her company, *Indigo Voice* assists communities develop stories and literature to sustain and enrich their identities, languages and culture. She works with communities in pre-school education.

Tarunna Wilson is an Anmatyerre/Pitjantjatjarra woman working as a mathematics teacher in the western suburbs. Her interests include climate change & sustainability & how this impacts on Indigenous communities and whether they can tell us something.

Ray Norris is an Adjunct Professor in the Dept of Indigenous Studies, Macquarie University and an astrophysicist at CSIRO's National Facility. He holds a Degree in Theoretical Physics from Cambridge and a PhD from Manchester University, UK.

Colin Watego is a Warrant Officer Class One in the Defence Force. He led the march of the 'Black Diggers' through Redfern on Anzac Day. Colin is actively involved in initiatives to attract Indigenous people into the Australian Defence Force.

Julie Welsh is a Gamilaroi woman, originally from Gunnedah. Her family moved to Sydney where she identifies with the Redfern community. As Project Officer with World Vision she oversees programs for disadvantaged youth. She has an MA from UTS.

Jeff McMullen ABC Foreign Correspondent for almost two decades and prize-winning Four Corners documentary maker, longest serving 60-Minutes reporter & now, best selling author, Jeff needs no introduction. His particular passion is Indigenous justice.

Lola Forester is a Yuibera woman. She worked in SBS TV for 21 years before moving to SBS Radio covering Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander networks in many parts of Australia. She helped organise the 1st National Aboriginal Women's Music Conference.

Karen Vaughan is a Wiradjuri woman who grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney. She is currently a lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney, in the areas of Indigenous Australian Studies and adult education.

Marie Wilson is a Yalangi woman from Queensland growing up on Palm Island. She has worked in various nursing situations including with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in the NT. Currently she is State Manager for Aboriginal Oral Health in NSW

		Program
Date	Presenter	Topic
04 Aug	04 Aug Jacinta Tobin	Finding Identity through music
04 Aug	04 Aug Melissa Williams	How to mentor people in a hierarchy
11 Aug	11 Aug Maree Jennings	Community engagement with Circle Sentencing
11 Aug	11 Aug Jo Anne Rey	Helping communities develop stories & literature
18 Aug	18 Aug Ray Norris	Aboriginal Astronomy
18 Aug	18 Aug Colin Watego	Indigenous Servicemen (Black Diggers)
25 Aug	25 Aug Julie Welsh	Tracing my father's Stolen Generation history
25 Aug	25 Aug T Wilson & K Vaughan	Higher education, climate change & other issues
01 Sep	01 Sep Lola Forester	Why Communication matters
01 Sep	01 Sep Marie Wilson	Indigenous Health
08 Sep	Jeff McMullen	Trust or Treachery: The Future of Race Relations in Australia
08 Sep	08 Sep Jeff McMullen	Trust or Treachery: The Northern Territory Intervention

The sessions commence at 7.30 pn and finish around 9.30 with a break for supper in between the two oresenters. During the supper break and following the second peaker, there is usual time for informal

Parking
(See map)
By Train
The venue is about 10
minutes walk from
Parramatta Station

Parramatta Station

Building Bridges 2010

Building Bridges provides an opportunity to come and hear Indigenous and non Indigenous presenters sharing their knowledge, expertise and personal and community experience in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

Many people have never met an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian. Here's your chance to meet them over a cup of coffee and supper and discover that there's more to Indigenous society and culture than is often negatively portrayed in the media.

Following the apology in 2008, which had wide public support there has been growing disillusionment over the Northern Territory intervention. Even though the Racial Discrimination Act has been reinstated, income management will remain in force for another twelve months.

Many Indigenous Australians still experience unemployment, poor health, deplorable housing, poor education and domestic violence at levels that would not be tolerated by the majority of Australians. Indigenous leaders have long since realised that the answer doesn't only lie with governments but with the people themselves and many are working tirelessly to address the problems.

For further information about the seminars ring Lyn on 9639 8394 or Tom on 0425 250 360

Registration & Catering

While registration is not essential we encourage you to register (no charge) with the Parramatta Evening College on 9687 2072 since this helps us with catering needs. Otherwise just turn up when you can. A donation on the night would be appreciated to help cover costs of hall hire and publicity.