

Reconciliation for Western Sydney

Reconciliation for Western Sydney Inc. is a community group that meets monthly to discuss and plan actions to advance reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. We engage with other groups concerned about justice for Indigenous people.

We initiate and support various public events throughout the year including during Reconciliation Week in May and NAIDOC Week in July. Building Bridges is also one of our major activities held each year since 1998.

For our monthly meetings we sometimes invite Indigenous guests to share with us some of their thoughts and stimulate action. They include health workers, lawyers, stolen generation survivors, teachers, environmentalists and others in virtually all walks of life.

We welcome newcomers to our regular 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.

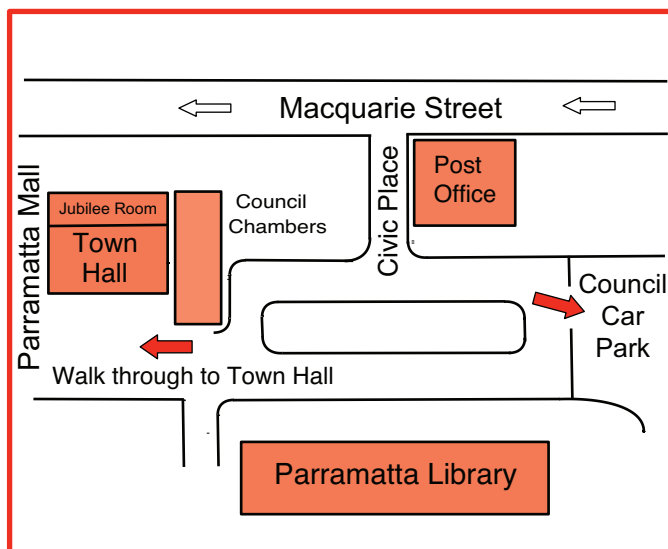
Building Bridges sessions are held in the Parramatta Town Hall.

Reconciliation for Western Sydney meets monthly.

Place: Reg Byrne Room, Karabi Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr Darcy Rd & Fyall Ave, Wentworthville off Cumberland Highway.

Time: 3rd Wednesday in the month, 7.30 pm .

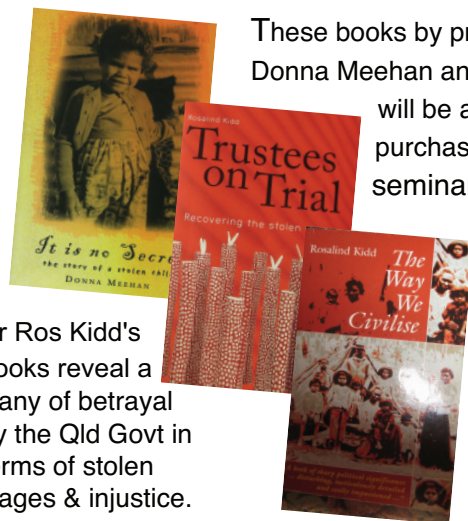
For further information, contact Lyn 9639 8394



Building Bridges is held in the Jubilee Room, attached to the Parramatta Town Hall. The entrance to the Jubilee Room is on the left hand side facing the Town Hall. The venue is only minutes from Parramatta station.

Parking

Metered parking is available in the loop in front of the library and in the larger area Council car park. Between 6 pm and 10 pm, the rate is \$1.10 per hour.



Dr Ros Kidd's books reveal a litany of betrayal by the Qld Govt in terms of stolen wages & injustice.

These books by presenters, Donna Meehan and Dr Ros Kidd will be available for purchase during the seminars. Donna's account of her removal and her subsequent reunion with her mother is truly amazing.



Building Bridges 2013

An initiative of
**Reconciliation for Western Sydney
(R4WS)**

Building Bridges is a series of four Wednesday evening seminars commencing 7th August at 7:30 pm Jubilee Room, Parramatta Town Hall (see map reverse side)

No charge - Free supper
Donation appreciated

Typical Topics that will be addressed

- ❖ *Justice Re-investment for young Aboriginal offenders.*
- ❖ *The Kimberley Gas Hub: What's it all about?*
- ❖ *Donna Meehan: The story of a Stolen Child.*
- ❖ *Northern Territory Emergency Response & Stronger Futures.*
- ❖ *Helping Aboriginal Communities achieve their aims.*
- ❖ *Where did the money stolen from Aboriginal Bank Accounts end up?*
- ❖ *Kinchela Boys Home: The Legacy*
- ❖ *Congress: What does it do?*

The Presenters

Reconciliation for Western Sydney

Donna Meehan was taken from her family in the 1960s. Unlike many stolen children, who were sent to institutions, Donna was fostered by a caring white couple who encouraged her to find her natural mother. What happened next will amaze you.

Ros Kidd spent years following the paper trail tracking down 'disappeared' money stolen from personal Aboriginal bank accounts in Queensland. It's hard to believe that around \$500 million was misappropriated by police and government officials.

Ray Minniecon is a Kabi Kabi man with a theological degree from a WA University. Ray has worked tirelessly for many years assisting men, who as young boys, were taken to the notorious Kinchela Boys Home where many were brutally treated.

Paddy Gibson is an organiser with Stop the Intervention Collective Sydney (STICS) and has studied the impact on those in the 'prescribed communities'. Since 2008 he has been a researcher for the UTS Jumbunna House of Learning.

Glen Klatovsky is the National Kimberley Campaigner for The Wilderness Society. Glen has been an active environmentalist for 20 years and has worked closely with Indigenous organisations and individuals across many regions

Steven Ross is P'matta Council's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Project Officer. He spent 2 years as Arts Coordinator for the Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Deniliquin & 6 years with the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Ind. Nations.

Jody Broun, Congress Co-Chair is a Yindjibarndi woman from the Pilbara. She has spent 30 years in senior public service positions serving First Nations peoples including as Director General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Megan Williams is a lecturer in the Muri Marra Indigenous Health Unit, School of Public Health & Community Medicine, UNSW. She has a background in health service delivery including in participatory action & community advocacy.

Program

Aug 7	Donna Meehan Glen Klatovsky	The Story of a Stolen Child Kimberley Gas Hub: For and Against
Aug 14	Roz Kidd Paddy Gibson	Stolen Wages: Queensland's Shame NT Emergency Response/Stronger Futures
Aug 21	Ray Minniecon Megan Williams	The Kinchela Boys Home: Its legacy Justice Re-investment for young Aboriginals
Aug 28	Steven Ross Jody Broun	Helping Communities achieve their aims Congress: The Task that lies ahead

Session Times

The sessions start at 7.30 pm and finish at 9.30, with a break for supper between the two presenters. Questions are invited and there's time during supper to engage the presenters in conversation

Parking: See Map

By Train: The venue is about 5 minutes from Parramatta station.

The Book, *A Decision to Discriminate: Aboriginal Disempowerment in the Northern Territory* will also be available during the program.

Building Bridges 2013

Building Bridges provides an opportunity to come and hear both Indigenous and non-Indigenous presenters sharing their knowledge, expertise and personal 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 supper and discover that there's more to Indigenous society and culture than is often negatively portrayed in the media.

While the Federal Government's 2008 apology was seen as overwhelmingly positive, the Northern Territory Intervention (the so-called Emergency Response) has created much controversy especially since it has been extended for another 10 years.

Many Indigenous Australians still experience unemployment, poor health, deplorable housing, poor education, violence and imprisonment at levels that would not be tolerated by other Australians.

Many Indigenous people are working tirelessly to address these problems. They are calling on the government and all of us to work with them to achieve justice and reconciliation.

Registration and Catering

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

For more information

Ring Lyn on 9639 8394 or Tom on 0425 250 360