

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 regular 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.

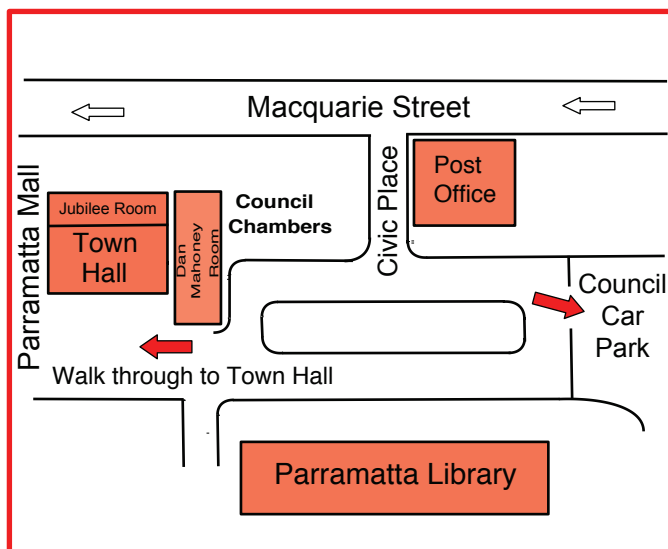
Building Bridges sessions are held in the Parramatta Town Hall.

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



The Venues

Building Bridges will be held in the **Jubilee Room**, attached to the Parramatta Town Hall for the three meetings on 6th, 20th and 27th of August.

The entrance to the Jubilee Room is on the left hand side facing the Town Hall.

The meeting on the 13th of August will be held in the **Dan Mahoney Room, Level 2** of the Council Chambers at the rear of the Town Hall.

By Train

The venues are only minutes from Parramatta station. Exit the station on the Darcy Street side and walk to the Parramatta Mall.

By Car

Metered parking is available in the Council car park. From 6 pm to 8 pm, the rate is \$1.10 per hour. Free after 8 pm. Metered parking is also available in Macquarie Street.



Building Bridges 2014

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

Building Bridges is a series of four Wednesday evening seminars commencing 6th August at 7:30 pm Parramatta Town Hall (see layout diagram)

No charge - Free supper
Donation appreciated

Typical Topics that will be addressed

- ❖ *Black Diggers: Their History*
- ❖ *Reconciliation Post Apology?*
- ❖ *Constitutional Recognition*
- ❖ *Aboriginal Enterprise and Collaboration including the Rooty Hill Burbaga Project*
- ❖ *Parramatta Girls : Past and Present*
- ❖ *Indigenous Issues in the Media*
- ❖ *Reconciliation & Aboriginal Affairs in Western Sydney*
- ❖ *Reconciliation Action Plans*

The Presenters

Professor Dennis Foley has a PhD and is a member of the Burbaba Aboriginal Corporation. His research focuses on discipline of Indigenous enterprise and entrepreneurship. He teaches at Newcastle University and at universities overseas.

Steven Ross is a Wamba Wamba man & P'matta Council's ATSI Community Project Officer. He has worked as Arts Coordinator for the Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre & the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Ind. Nations.

Bonney Djuric spent 9 months in the notorious Parramatta Girls Home when she was 15. About 300,000 girls have passed through the Home since 1887. Today efforts are being made to preserve the precinct as an international Site of Conscience.

Linda Holden was born on Gumbaynggirr land and is a descendent of King Bobby. She has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law and is currently involved with domestic violence issues. She is currently embarking on a PhD.

Pastor Ray Minniecon is a Kabi Kabi man with a theological degree from a WA University. He has been involved in raising awareness about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen who participated in all of Australia's overseas wars.

Carla McGrath, is an Indigenous woman from Thursday Island and although raised on the mainland, retains strong links with the Torres Strait Islands. She is the business development manager at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence.

Sean Brennan is the Director of the Gilbert & Tobin Centre of Public Law and teaches and writes mainly in the area constitutional law, native title and Aboriginal land rights. He has authored and co-authored numerous books on constitutional law.

Anna Jovanovic is a proud Walbunja woman employed by Reconciliation Australia. Previously Anna worked for the Corporate not-for profit sector. She is currently completing a Bachelor of Business Management at Charles Sturt University.

Program

	Dennis Foley	Aboriginal Enterprises & Collaboration & Burbaga Project
Aug 6	Steven Ross	Reconciliation & Aboriginal Affairs in Western Sydney
Aug 13	Bonney Djuric Linda Holden	Parramatta Girls Past and Present Reconciliation Post Apology?
Aug 20	Ray Minniecon Carla McGrath	Black Diggers: Their History Aboriginal Issues in the Media
Aug 27	Sean Brennan Anna Jovanovic	Constitutional Recognition Reconciliation Action Plans

A selection of Books and other literature will be available for sale covering a range of Indigenous issues.

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

Building Bridges 2014

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 a 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 to the Stolen Generations was seen as overwhelmingly positive, both major political parties have ruled out any form of compensation (unlike Canada's conservative government which has provided \$1.2 billion) to its stolen generations 'Canadian Natives').

The affect of the budget cuts to Aboriginal programs is yet to be felt but they may well be detrimental to 'Closing the Gap'. The Northern Territory Intervention (the so-called Emergency Response) which will likely continue until 2023, has created much controversy and it too seems to have had little effect on improving the lives of Aboriginal people.

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