

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.

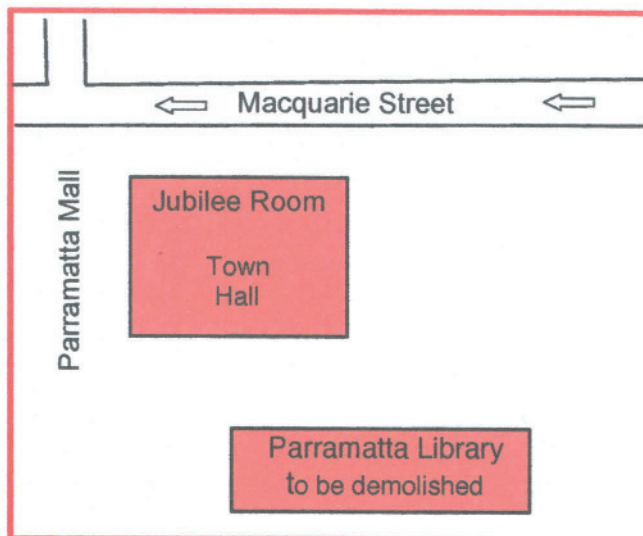
Building Bridges sessions are held in the Parramatta Town Hall.

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**, Parramatta Town Hall. The entrance to the Jubilee Room is on the left hand side facing the Town Hall. Because of demolition and construction work planned, entrance to the Jubilee Room will be only available from the Mall.

By Train

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

By Car

Because of demolition work, the Council Car park next to the Library is not expected to be available. Metered parking is available in Macquarie Street. Car Parks at 30 George Street and 1 Horwood Place marked for demolition may be still open in August, but check first. Otherwise the car park at 15-17 Wentworth Street should be available for \$9 for 3 to 3.5 Hrs.



Building Bridges 2015

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

Building Bridges is a series of four
Wednesday evening seminars
commencing 5th August at 7:30 pm in
the Jubilee Room, Parramatta Town
Hall (see layout diagram)

No charge - Free supper
Donation appreciated

Typical Topics that will be addressed

- ❖ *Treaty*
- ❖ *History of NSW Land Rights*
- ❖ *Intervention Update*
- ❖ *The effect of the Intervention on Aboriginal children*
- ❖ *Domestic Violence*
- ❖ *Myall Creek Massacre History & proposed Museum*
- ❖ *Closure of Remote Homelands and Communities*
- ❖ *Aboriginal Spirituality*

The Presenters

Natalie Cromb is a member of the Kamileroi Nation of Burra Bee Dee Aboriginal Reserve near Coonabarabran. She has law and history degrees and has worked for 10 years as a full-time paralegal. She is critical of current political & judicial systems.

Dr Heidi Norman is a descendent of the Gomeroi people of NSW. She is Senior lecturer in the Communications Program in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, UTS. Her research focusses on history, politics and the challenges of modernity.

Dr Anita Heiss a Wiradjuri woman is Adjunct Professor with the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, UTS & recipient of 2012 Human Rights & 2013 Australian of the Year awards. She describes herself as a 'Creative Disruptor' & is a prolific author.

Dr Howard Bath former Children's Commissioner, Northern Territory, has been highly critical of the NT government's responses to the continuing and unacceptably poor outcomes for children and families particularly in rural & remote areas.

Chris Burke and the Yarramundi Kids are dynamic storytellers and stars of stage and screen. Chris Burke, a Darug woman is their creative director and puppeteer, bringing a playful approach to serious problems.

Graeme Merritt is a Noongar man from WA. He is currently advocating against the WA Government's announcement that it intends to close down around a hundred and fifty remote Aboriginal Homelands and Communities.

Graeme Cordiner is secretary of *Friends of Myall Creek* and member of the national committee. As a non-Indigenous Australian he is an advocate for an apology for the frontier wars & massacres & is involved with the creation of a Myall Creek museum.

Leanne Tobin winner of 2012's NSW Parliamentary Art Prize with her 'Defending Country' only discovered her true identity as Darug while teaching at Jabiru. She believes education is better than fighting for recognition and teaches art in prisons.

Program		
Treaty	Natalie Cromb	Aug 5
	Heidi Norman	
	Anita Heiss	Aug 12
	Howard Bath	
Intervention Update	Chris Burke & the Yarramundi Kids	Aug 19
	Graeme Merritt	
Domestic Violence	Graeme Cordiner	Aug 26
	Leanne Tobin	
Closure of Remote Homelands and Communities		
Myall Creek History & Future Museum		
Aboriginal Spirituality: Feet on Country		

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 2015

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 full effects of the 2015 budget cuts to Aboriginal programs are yet to be felt but they are already considered to 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. You don't need to register for all sessions. Otherwise just turn up 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