



Registration and Catering

We encourage you to register with the **Parramatta Evening College on 9687 2072** since this helps with preparation and catering. You can turn up to any of the sessions when you wish. A donation on the night would be appreciated to help cover costs.

The Venue

Building Bridges will be held in the **Jubilee Room** of the Town Hall. The entrance to the Jubilee Room is on the left hand side when you face the Town Hall.

Directions

Train: The venue is only minutes from Parramatta station. Exit the station on the Darcy Street side turn left, walk to the Parramatta Mall and turn right.

Car: Limited metered parking is available on nearby streets. The rate is \$1.50 per hour from 6 pm to 8 pm; free after 8 pm. Parking is also available at the nearby City Centre Car Park between Macquarie and George St.

Reconciliation for Western Sydney

Since 1997 Reconciliation for Western Sydney Inc. has met monthly to discuss and plan actions to advance reconciliation and justice for Indigenous Australians. We engage with many organisations to further this cause.

We initiate and support larger public events throughout the year, such as Reconciliation Week in May, NAIDOC Week in July and Building Bridges in August.

For our regular monthly meetings we sometimes invite Indigenous guests to share their thoughts and stimulate action. Guests include health workers, lawyers, stolen generation survivors, teachers, environmentalists, artists and people from all walks of life.

We welcome newcomers to our regular meetings which are friendly and informal and where supper is provided. A nominal subscription of \$10 a year is charged to help offset running costs.

Join us at one of our monthly meetings

Time: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm

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

For further information, contact Lyn 9639 8394



Building Bridges 2016

Four Wednesday Evening Seminars

to grow community understanding and dialogue towards justice for Indigenous Australians

3, 10, 17, 24 August at 7:30 pm

**Parramatta Town Hall
Jubilee Room**

No charge - Donation appreciated

An initiative of
Reconciliation for Western Sydney

Topics will include

- *Aboriginal Spirituality*
- *Northern Territory Intervention*
- *Child Removal*
- *Treaty with Indigenous Peoples*
- *Justice Re-Investment and Indigenous Incarceration*
- *Education-What Works?*
- *Local Aboriginal Language*
- *Relations with Local Councils*

The Program

Aug 3	Padraic Gibson Tony McAvoy	Why the NT Intervention & Basics Cards Can't Work Options for Treaty
Aug 10	Steven Ross Kim Naden	Strengthening Councils & Community Relations with First Nations People Education of & for Aboriginal People – What Works and What Doesn't
Aug 17	Kaleesha Morris Catherine Jackson	Overcoming Incarceration through Justice Re-Investment Child Removal – What changes are needed?
Aug 24	Jacinta Tobin Ray Minniecon	Importance of language Indigenous Spirituality and Belonging

The sessions start at 7.30 pm and finish at 9.30, with a break for supper between the two sessions. There is time for conversations with the presenters and each other.



The Presenters

Padraic Gibson is a Senior Researcher at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology Sydney. He has extensive experience working with Aboriginal communities targeted under the NT Intervention. He is active in protest movements for Aboriginal rights and an editor of the Solidarity magazine.

Tony McAvoy SC, a Wiri Man, is a barrister of the Supreme Court of NSW and a Senior Counsel. He focuses on native title and also works in administrative law, human rights and discrimination law, coronial inquests and criminal law.

Steven Ross is a Wamba Wamba man with cultural and familial connections to the Mutthi Mutthi, Wiradjuri and Gunditjmarra peoples. For the last 4½ years he has been the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Capacity Building Officer with the Parramatta City Council.

Kim Naden is a Kamilaroi and Weilwan woman from western NSW who pursued interesting human services roles in various towns and places before moving to Sydney, getting diplomas and becoming head of student services at Tranby in Sydney, the oldest Aboriginal run College.

Kaleesha Morris is a Gumbaynggirr and Kulkalgal woman from the NSW Clarence Valley. Kaleesha studied Arts/Law at UNSW and has worked at Kingsford Legal Centre for the past four years in client and community engagement, teaching and law reform.

Catherine Jackson is a Gidgup Aboriginal woman with Irish genealogy. She lives in Redfern and is a founding member of Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR). Catherine advocates for the families of stolen and removed Aboriginal people, and for caring for Mother Earth.

Jacinta Tobin is a Darug woman and descendent of Yarramundi. She is a singer, songwriter and student of the Darug language. She was the Events Coordinator of Burramatta NAIDOC celebrations in 2015 and is planning an even more exciting NAIDOC event this July for Parramatta – down by the river.

Ray Minniecon is a Kabi Kabi man with connections to the Gurang Gurang nation of South Queensland and the Ambrym Island of Vanuatu. Pastor Ray is a Director of Bunji Consultants strengthening Aboriginal leadership. He has a BA in Theology and supports Indigenous ex-service personnel and survivors of the Kinchela Boys Home.

Building Bridges provides an opportunity to come and hear Indigenous and a few 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 and discover that there's more to Indigenous society and culture than is portrayed in the media, often negatively.

While the Federal Government's 2008 apology to the Stolen Generations was seen as overwhelmingly positive, both major political parties have so far ruled out any serious compensation (unlike Canada's conservative government) to its stolen generations.

The Northern Territory Intervention and similar programs, along with budget cuts, have created much controversy and had little positive effect on 'Closing the Gap'.

A move toward constitutional recognition, along with possibilities of treaty, needs extensive community discussion and deep change.

It's time to learn from Aboriginal people themselves.

For more information

Ring Lyn on 9639 8394 or 0421 188 770

