

National Reconciliation Week

27 May - 3 June

Now More Than Ever

National Reconciliation Week theme, 2024

Did you know that **National Reconciliation Week** starts with the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and ends on the anniversary of the Mabo victory, which led to the Australian Government recognising native title, and acknowledging Indigenous Australians as the original occupants of Australia?

National Reconciliation Week celebrates the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and all other Australians. Every year, the week is held between the same dates, 27 May to 3 June. The dates draw attention to significant historical events. May 27 marks the day in 1967 when the referendum was passed for the Australian Government to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, and to allow for recognition in the national census. The 3rd of June marks the day in 1992 that led the Australian Government to legally recognise native title and acknowledge Indigenous Australians as the original occupants of Australia.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2024 **Now More Than Ever** is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will —and must —continue. Now more than ever, the work continues. In treaty making, in truth-telling, in understanding our history, in education, and in tackling racism. We need connection. We need respect. We need action. And we need change.

Now more than ever, we need reconciliation.

If your school does not already have one, consider developing a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) and include activities linking National Sorry Day and NRW, so that colleagues and students see how these days are inter-connected. Include students, colleagues and your [LAECG](#) where possible in its development.



To find out more about Reconciliation Action Plans ([RAPs](#)), and about planning events to celebrate National Reconciliation Week, contact [Reconciliation Australia](#). and/or download their Teaching and Learning Ideas resources for [National Reconciliation Week](#).



Read and view videos on the [NITV special: What is National Reconciliation Week?](#) Consider and discuss the various perspectives around what reconciliation means and the movement itself. The supplementary information is great background for the discussion.

With younger students read stories to encourage thinking about reconciliation such as the Broome-set [Two Mates](#) by Melanie Prewett (teaching [resources](#) available).



With local Koorie community members and colleagues organise a week of cultural activities such as performances, films, stories, workshops. Focus on the contribution that Aboriginal people have and continue to make to Australian society, and work with students to complete a variety of tasks that explore what reconciliation means for young Australians.

A host of events across the state for NRW can be found on the [Reconciliation Victoria Website](#). Here is a selection:

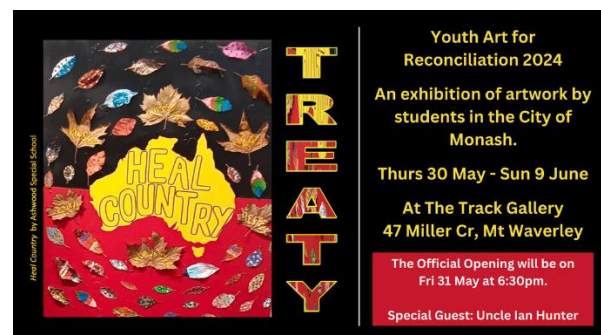
Free [Aboriginal Heritage Walk](#), Royal Botanic Gardens
May 26 @ 11:00 am - June 2 @ 11:00 am AEST



The [Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival](#) is back in 2024 to celebrate National Reconciliation Week. Experience a range of films, videos, activities and discussions in local venues and online. *Mon, May 27 Mon, Jun 3 2024, All day*



[Baluk Arts](#), 10am-2pm, Mt. Eliza, email [Baluk Arts](#).



Youth Art for Reconciliation 2024 at [The Track Gallery](#),
Wed-Fri 2-6pm & Sat-Sun 10am-4pm until 9 June.

Victorian Curriculum:

VCHHK076 Significance of days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia and the importance of symbols and emblems, including Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Harmony Week, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week and National Sorry Day: *History 3- 4*

VCCCC027 Examine how national identity can shape a sense of belonging and examine different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including **Aboriginal** and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives: *Civics and Citizenship 7-8*

VCHHK154 Significance of the following events in changing society: 1962 right to vote federally, 1967 Referendum, Reconciliation, Mabo decision, Bringing Them Home Report (the Stolen Generations), the Apology and the different perspectives of these events: *History 9-10*

And a final word ...

We are always seeking to improve this bulletin and to make it useful, relevant and highly readable. We invite you to email through suggestions including how you as educators incorporate Aboriginal perspectives, especially Victorian ones in your teaching and curriculum.

Produced by the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) May 2024.

Any enquiries, feedback and suggestions are welcome by contacting VAEAI on (03) 94810800 or by emailing the editor-curator vaso@vaeai.org.au.

For more Koorie Perspectives see the VAEAI [Koorie Education Calendar](#).



Two days before the 1967 Referendum, the Sydney Morning Herald published the photograph above, with the caption: 'Racial discrimination – what's that?' as a nation prepared to vote on a referendum to bring Aboriginal people under Commonwealth legislative power and included in the census. Significantly, it would give rights to all Aboriginal people to receive social-security benefits, war pensions, child endowments and children's pensions, like other Australians. In the style of the times, the photograph was a set-up, but sent a clear message.