



Reconciliation Tasmania North West Members' Meeting 5.30pm to 7pm on Monday 10TH December 2018 LINC Burnie Library – 30 Alexander Street

Minutes

1. **Welcome:** Mark; **Acknowledgment of Country:** Mark Redmond and Fiona Hughes

Present: Bill Lawson, Fiona Hughes, Mark Redmond, Karen Smart, Felicity Howell, Wayne Lindsay, Valentino Surjan, Margaret Shearer, Nick Shearer, Geoff Woods, Matthew Williamson, Margaret Benson, Lindsay Benson, Juanita Wood, Ant Dry, Sandra Rowden-Rich, Geoff Woods, Karol Fontaine.

Apologies: Norm Richardson, Beth Richardson.

2. **Previous Meeting minutes – any action items from August meeting:** Margaret, Fiona and Norm

No actions from previous meeting carried over.

3. **Summary of recent activities:** Mark

- *Narragunnawali*

This is an online curriculum platform available to teachers and educators. The workshops were held in the South, North and North West in 2018 and will be held in these locations again next year. We are hoping to involve Tertiary Institutions and reach a greater number of educators in the Independent, Catholic and Government Education Systems. The framework supports the Tasmanian Government Education Curriculum, The Orb.

- *Youth Speakout*

A programme aimed at secondary students around how we can achieve better reconciliation outcomes for Tasmania. We received entries from around the State, including poems, speeches, art pieces, short films and a musical item. Students travelled from around the State to gather at Parliament House and present to the Premier, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Greens. Students were then invited to present at Town Hall to the public and finally, students were invited to afternoon tea at Government House, hosted by Her Excellency, the Honourable Professor Kate Warner.

- *Mannalargenna Day*

Mannalargenna is a celebration involving the local community in the North East and draws an audience from across the State. The day involves cultural activities and traditional dances. There were guests from New Zealand who come each year. Bruce Pascoe, author of 'Dark Emu' was a guest. People had the opportunity to speak with Bruce about his novel. The food included crayfish, abalone, wallaby, to name just a few of the delicious dishes on offer. *Reconciliation Tasmania* has an agenda to replicate a similar festival in the North West and the South. We will be continuing to approach the Government to ask for their support in funding these celebrations.

4. **Appointment of Board and AGM:** Mark

We had three new Board appointments at the recent AGM. Kim Mcleod from the Sociology Department of the University of Tasmania is a non-Aboriginal Board Member from the North. Karen Smart is an Aboriginal

Woman from the North West and Clair Anderson is an Aboriginal woman from the North. A link will be provided on the RT website to the official minutes from the AGM.

5. Financial: Bill

It is vitally important that RT remain independent and neutral. Having received start-up funding from the Tasmanian Government, RT will not be accepting any further funds moving forward. So how does RT raise funds? Through Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs).

6. Reconciliation Action Plans: Bill

The first RAP was undertaken by the Essendon Football Club. This RAP then extended to the Australian Football League and resulted in the 'Dreamtime Round'. There are currently two RAPs existing in Tasmania. RT currently has three orders for RAPs; Macquarie Point Development Corporation, RACT, and the Salvation Army. RT has several RAP proposals in the pipeline including the Tasmania Police, Circular Head Council, Banjos and Burnie Council.

RAPs will be RT's income stream and will seek to achieve numerous reconciliation outcomes across the State. For example, Mark Saxby from Banjos was asked how many jobs are available across a year; how about a percentage of those jobs be allocated to First Tasmanians. It was suggested by a member that hospitals might be suitable organisations for a RAP.

7. Aboriginal Employment: Bill

There are a number of Aboriginal Tasmanians who are caught in a cycle of welfare and unemployment. It's not as simple as finding jobs for First Tasmanians, we need to provide support for the employees and the employer. This support needs to be ongoing and take into consideration the challenges facing a person who is seeking employment for the first time. The question was asked as to whether employers would be sensitive to a First Tasmanian's needs such as time off for mutton birding? The response was that employment conditions would depend on the individual employer. This is where it becomes so important for RAP 'Opportunities' to be built around the needs of the First Tasmanians and consultation is a necessity in building this process.

8. Cultural Tourism Working Party: Bill

There is a huge opportunity for cultural tourism in the State. Recent surveys have show that the interest in cultural experiences is at an all-time high.

9. Volunteering: Fiona/Margaret

RAPs – Bill, Fiona, Monique, Kim, Felicity, Mark,

Narragunnawali workshops - Yabbo

Youth Speakout project – Margaret Shearer, Margaret Reynolds, Marie Stannus Fiona, Felicity and Mark

NAIDOC – Fiona, Felicity and Mark

Reconciliation Week – Jane Unwin

On Country Event – Fiona and Felicity

Breakfast Event – Felicity, Fiona, Bill and Mark

Membership Register / Company Secretary – Julian Type

Book-Keeping / Treasurer – Graham McLean

Website – Valentino, Monique and Ben

Performance notifications – Angie Reid

Social event hosting – Stephen

We need to establish Reconciliation Volunteer groups in all three regions to support the Reconciliation in Education Projects (*Narragunnawali* and *Youth Speakout*) and NRW Events. Active volunteers are now being sought – if interested and available, please contact **Fiona Ph. 0458 653 319**.

#1 Mark spoke to the volunteers at RT. Margaret Benson suggested engaging The Advocate to spread the work and to subscribe to The Koori Mail.

'*Beyond Awakenings: The Aboriginal Tribes of North West Tasmania*' by Ian McFarlane was suggested as a reading text by Margaret.

10. Other business:

Geoff Woods – Rhododendron Garden Proposal

Ant is the Chairman and Geoff is the General Manager of the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. Juanita is the Horticultural Manager. The Gardens are referred to as the Emu Valley Garden so that people understand that the Garden is open throughout the year. Geoff noted the age of the attendees at the NRW breakfast earlier in the year. He noted the inspirational words of Mick Gooda and how individuals such as he, are opening peoples' eyes to reconciliation. Geoff noted there are approximately forty cruise boats visiting Burnie this season.

Providing a cultural experience at the Garden would help to educate people from Australia and around the world. Working in partnership with RT, in offering a cultural tourism experience, would provide positive financial outcomes for both parties. There are a range of opportunities for employment within the Garden. The Garden already supports placements for people in 'Work for the Dole'.

Ant talked about 'branding' the product so that it is recognisable as a product from 'The Garden'. Bill talked about running a native menu. Kris Schaffer, a member of RT is an expert in native bush foods.

#2 It was agreed that more discussion between RT and the Garden might be beneficial in furthering the ideas raised at the Meeting tonight.

Mark – talked to 'Treaty'

We have a unique opportunity in Tasmania to engage partisan support in the process.

Mark – presented John Coulson's paper

#3 Sandra would like to establish a memorial (acknowledgement) of First Tasmanians living in and around Latrobe.

Action #1 – **Mark** to subscribe to the Koori Mail and ensure the Editor of The Advocate is aware of RT

Action #2 – **Margaret** and **Fiona** to facilitate further discussions with Geoff from the Garden

Action #3 – **Karen** to contact Sandra Rowden-Rich around furthering the establishment of an acknowledgement of First Tasmanians in and around the area of Latrobe.

Meeting closed at 7:08pm.