



Reconciliation Tasmania Members' Meeting 5.30pm to 7pm on Tuesday 11TH December 2018 51 York Street – Level 2 Conference Room

Minutes

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

Present: Ben Bowring, John Coulson, Sam Bailey, Monique Case, Marie Stannus, Vicky Dewsbury, Gabrielle Dewsbury, Haley Tristram, Bill Lawson, Fiona Hughes, Mark Redmond, Felicity Howell.

Apologies: Brad Taylor, Kim McLeod, Lorraine Riggall, Melissa Carter, Russell Reid, Clair Anderson.

2. Previous Meeting minutes – any action items from August meeting: Fiona

No Actions from the previous meeting.

3. Summary of recent activities: Mark

- *Narragunnawali*

Narragunnawali is a framework for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture. We held workshops in August in the North, North West and South of the State. We are trying to engage educators from early childhood to secondary school. The framework works in tandem with the Tasmanian Government Education curriculum, The Orb.

We were fortunate to visit the Wynyard Early Learning Centre which has the first RAP in Tasmania. The Early Childhood Centre was involved in *Narragunnawali* workshops in Burnie this year and we have asked them to be a poster school for the workshops in 2019.

- *Youth Speakout*

Students from around the State (North, South and North West) submitted entries in *Youth Speakout*. Entries included a song, short films, poems, speeches and artwork. A number of students from the North and North West travelled to Hobart to participate in the *Youth Speakout* Event.

Nine students were asked to present at Parliament House in front of the Premier, Opposition Leader and Leader of the Greens. Students were then invited to present at the Town Hall, followed by an afternoon tea with the Governor, Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner.

Next year, we are hoping for many more entries. This may require us to select finalists to participate in the *Youth Speakout* celebrations in September. We are hoping to publish the

entries from *Youth Speakout* this year in a book. We are currently seeking funding for this to happen.

- *Mannalargenna Day*

Mannalargenna Day was celebrated on December 1st. There were four hundred people in attendance, including the Governor and Bruce Pascoe, the author of 'Dark Emu'. A large number of these people were from the local communities. The numbers have been increasing each year. RT was successful in achieving funding for the day and is seeking funding to stage a similar celebration in the North West (King Billy?) and the South (Truganini?).

Can we organise sponsorship of a bus to transport people who cannot afford to make the trip?

4. Appointment of Board and AGM: Mark

Three new Board Members were appointed: Clair Anderson (North), Karen Smart (North West) and Kim McLeod (North).

5. Financial: Bill

The goal was to make to the end of 2018 with philanthropic donations and a one-off Government grant of \$70 000.

From now on, we are responsible for making our own money. RAPs will provide an income. We are independent and neutral and depend on raising our own funds to remain so.

6. Reconciliation Action Plans: Bill

Already we have RAPs with Macquarie Point Development Corporation, RACT and the Salvos. We have proposals with Circular Head City Council, Burnie Council, Tasmania Police and Banjos.

7. Aboriginal Employment: Bill

We are confident that through RAPs, a number of employment opportunities for First Tasmanians will be created. We recognise the challenge of unemployment and the necessity to provide support along each step of the journey. Employment is not just about 'finding jobs', it's about providing mentors, ensuring employers have completed cultural awareness training.

The question was asked, why aren't we finding jobs for non-Aboriginal people too? It was explained that First Tasmanians are disproportionately represented in unemployment statistics. First Tasmanians are over-represented in nearly all areas of social disadvantage. There is a difference between RT's Mission to engage all Tasmanians and RT's mission to further the welfare of First Tasmanians.

There is a difference between equity and equality. Equity is about providing tools to 'close the gap' so First Tasmanians have equal access to employment. RT needs to make it their core work to educate communities about the lack of equity that exists between non-Aboriginal people and First Tasmanians.

8. Cultural Tourism Working Party: Bill

Following on from the success of the 'On Country' Days, tourists have declared an appetite for cultural tourism. Tourists visiting the State would like to engage in cultural activities while they are here.

We met with staff from the Emu Gardens to discuss the possibility of offering cultural experiences, selling product, Aboriginal food etc. They discussed the high number of cruise ships (40) visiting the port and the opportunities of a 'captive audience'.

'On Country' days will be run in conjunction with National Reconciliation Week (NRW). These will be run by Fiona and Jason with the support of RT.

The driver of reconciliation, albeit in cultural tourism or employment, requires consultation with the communities of First Tasmanians. We have to ensure that we are seen to be in support of existing First Tasmanian businesses not in competition with them.

9. Volunteering: Fiona

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

Cultural Tourism – Ben Bowring, Matthew Williamson

Employment – Ben Bowring

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 – please **contact Fiona** if interested and available.

10. Other Business: John Coulson

Discussion paper presented by John Coulson discussed:

Acknowledgment / Welcome to Country – why are white settlers not included in the greeting? It was suggested that because we are on First Tasmanian's land, we pay respect to that. The example was given of taking your shoes off before entering a Japanese person's house. Acknowledging one culture does not exclude any other. Perhaps we have different ideas of what reconciliation is? The reconciliation process is about white people reaching back and pulling first Tasmanians to the same

place. If 'Welcome to Country' is frustrating people, we need to look at how we are educating those people.

The change of date for Australia Day. *Reconciliation Australia* shared their position with all reconciliation councils to support the move to change the date several years ago. The invasion marches only came in the last three years. The anger divides the community; it should be about coming together to celebrate who we are. Perhaps changing the date wont change peoples' hearts and minds but symbolism matters.

11. Actions:

Action: Post minutes from the Member Meetings to the website (**Felicity**).

Action: Send members from the meetings on the 10th and 11th December, information about Youth Speakout (**Felicity**).

Action: Investigate NGOs and the use of their transport vehicles in 'off-duty' hours (Volunteer from the North, nominated by **Fiona**).

Action: 'Deadly questions' website (send link to John – **Felicity**).

Action: Look for the survey carried out by the Tasmanian Government regarding racism towards First Tasmanians and make this available on RT's website (**Felicity**).

Action: RT needs to be more transparent with the type of volunteers they are looking for (**Mark** to speak to Valentino about including this information on the website).

Action: RT needs to investigate the use of video-conferencing in meetings (discussion between **Mark** and Stephen).

Meeting closed 7:10pm.