

National Reconciliation Week

27 May - 3 June

All In for Reconciliation!

National Reconciliation Week theme, 2026

Did you know that **National Reconciliation Week** (NRW) 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 Federal Government to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 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 2026 **All In for Reconciliation** is a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day. **All In for Reconciliation** makes clear that reconciliation is not a spectator sport and that all of us must step away from the sidelines and take action to make change.

This year's theme also reminds us that reconciliation and advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights isn't a passive activity, and it is not solely the responsibility of First Nations people, who have carried the weight of championing, explaining and acting for far too long. Reconciliation will not happen by itself, and it will not happen without all of us.

Now more than ever, we need reconciliation.



Reconciliation is everyone's business. It's what happens where we live, work and play. There are many different ways you can contribute, be it in your home, community, business or school.

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 Australia](#) website – *use the filter and select Victoria*. Here is a small selection:

Kulin Seasons & Buniya (eel) Workshop in Geelong: Wadawurrung artist Dr. Deanne Gilson hosts a hands-on cultural workshop at the Geelong Gallery on May 26.

NRW Family Art Workshop hosted by Wadawurrung artist Jenna Oldaker from Murrup Art at [Corio Library](#), June 1, 4-5PM



In Greater Bendigo, the [Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival](#) is back in 2026 to celebrate National Reconciliation Week.

Experience a range of films, videos, activities and discussions in local venues and online. This year's festival showcases an exciting range of First Nations films, documentaries and videos starring and telling stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from Central Victoria and across Australia. [Select the link](#) to view the full Greater Bendigo National Reconciliation Week Indigenous Film Festival program, activities and venues.

Victorian Curriculum:

[VC2HH4K03](#) significant events, symbols and emblems that express Australian identity and diversity and how they are celebrated, commemorated or recognised, including Australia Day, Anzac Day, Harmony Week, the Australian flag, the Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander People's flag. *History 3-4 Historical Knowledge and Understanding > Community, remembrance and celebrations.*

[VC2HH4K04](#) the changing ways Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' knowledge, understandings and experiences are recognised, including Acknowledgement of Country, NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and National Sorry Day. *History 3-4 Historical Knowledge and Understanding > Community, remembrance and celebrations.*

[VC2HH4K05](#) the significance of national, religious and cultural celebrations and commemorations in Australia and other places around the world. *History 3-4 Historical Knowledge and Understanding > Community, remembrance and celebrations.*

[VC2HH6K11](#) continuities and changes in the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples during the 20th century. *History 5-6 Historical Knowledge and Understanding > Australia (1900–2000).*

[VC2CP6O02](#) behaviours and attitudes that demonstrate sensitivity to individual, social and cultural differences, and why sensitivity to difference is important. Personal and Social Capability 5-6 Social Awareness and Management > Relationships and diversity

[VC2CP6O03](#) the characteristics of respectful relationships and ways in which respectful relationships can be achieved, maintained and rebuilt. *Personal and Social Capability 5-6 Social Awareness and Management > Relationships and diversity.*

[VC2CP6O05](#) strategies and skills for preventing, defusing or resolving conflict, considering possible causes and effects of conflict in different situations. *Personal and Social Capability 5-6 Social Awareness and Management > Relationships and diversity.*

[VC2CP8O02](#) the nature of human rights and responsibilities and how respect for human rights and responsibilities contributes to social cohesion. *Personal and Social Capability 7-8 Social Awareness and Management > Relationships and diversity.*

[VC2HC8K12](#) various experiences and perspectives of national identity and citizenship, including the connections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country and Place, and of different migrant groups. *Civics and Citizenship 7-8 Knowledge and Understanding > Citizenship, diversity and identity.*

[VC2HH10S09](#) evaluate the significance of individuals, groups, movements, events, developments and ideas. *History 9-10 Historical Concepts and Skills > Historical significance.*

[VC2HH10K31](#) the significant events, developments, campaigns and movements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' rights and freedoms. *History 9-10 Historical Knowledge and Understanding > Investigation: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' rights and freedoms (1938–present).*

[VC2HH10K32](#) the experiences and perspectives of significant individuals and groups that contributed to or denied Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' rights and freedoms. *History 9-10 Historical Knowledge and Understanding > Investigation: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' rights and freedoms (1938–present).*



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.

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 2026.

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](#).