

VC: GR

8 March 2011

Dear Councillor/Sir/Madam

You are invited to attend an **ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** of Ashfield Council, to be held at the Town Hall Foyer, 260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield on **WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2011** at **5PM**.

Yours faithfully

VANESSA CHAN  
General Manager

**SEE ATTACHED AGENDA**

**AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LOCAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY**
- 3. APOLOGIES/REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Disclosures to be made by any Councillors who have a pecuniary / non-pecuniary interest in respect of matters that are before Council at this meeting.  
(16/03/2011)

- 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEES**  
**ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - 02/02/2011**

- 6. STAFF REPORTS**

8.1 General Update on issues relating to Aboriginal Reconciliation in Ashfield

- 7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 8. CLOSE**

# ASHFIELD COUNCIL

ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - 16 MARCH 2011

## 8 SUMMARY OF STAFF REPORTS

- 8.1 General Update on issues relating to Aboriginal Reconciliation in Ashfield. Gerard Howard - Manager Community Services. Report submitted with attachment 1.  
(01/03/11) Community - Aboriginal Issues  
h:\reports.bp\Committees\Reports\ACC160311SR\_1.doc  
**ACC 8.1 Attached**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1/5 That the information in the report be noted.
- 2/5 That Meaghan Devane be thanked for information provided to the Committee.
- 3/5 That Mr Jason Wing be thanked for his presentation to the Committee.
- 4/5 That the Committee determine if an exhibition of work from the NAIDOC Week Schools initiative should be held within the new Civic Centre later this year.
- 5/5 That the Committee determine any Motions for Council consideration in relation to the National General Assembly of Local Government.

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>GENERAL UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATING TO ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION IN ASHFIELD</b>
<b>File Ref</b>	Community - Aboriginal Issues
<b>Prepared by</b>	Gerard Howard - Manager Community Services
<b>Reasons</b>	To keep the Consultative Committee informed on local Reconciliation and cultural awareness raising initiatives.
<b>Objective</b>	To obtain feedback and direction from the Consultative Committee.

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### **Overview of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on matters relating to the Reconciliation Action Plan & other related initiatives.**

### **Background**

#### Council email acknowledgement

Item 17 of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan states "Incorporate an Acknowledgement statement at the base of all email correspondence from Council." As a result, the following email acknowledgement is soon to be placed at the bottom of all email correspondence from Council:

*"Ashfield Council acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land, the Cadigal and Wangal people. We acknowledge their living culture and unique role in the life of this region".*

#### International Women's Day 2011

International Women's Day celebrates the economic, political & social achievements of women.

At Council's International Women's Day breakfast on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Ms Jasmin Herro will be the guest speaker. Ms Herro spoke to the Aboriginal Consultative Committee at its February meeting. Also, Ms Patricia Blackman will give the official 'Welcome to Country' at the event which starts at 8.30am at the Haberfield Centre.

#### Mental Health Respite Program.

The target group for this project is Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander(ATSI) Mental Health Carers from Inner West Sydney. Information and consultation sessions will be organised to promote Respite services. The Commonwealth Carelink service and other Inner West Mental Health services are to engage the ATSI community and create a dialogue around appropriate service delivery for ATSI Carers and those for whom they care. Meaghan

**General Update on issues relating to Aboriginal Reconciliation in Ashfield**

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Devane from Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre will attend the Consultative Committee meeting to discuss this project.

**Names for Civic Centre Community Rooms.**

At the February meeting of the Consultative Committee the following recommendation was adopted:

*“That suggestions in the report for Community Rooms be noted but that further suggestions be brought back to the Committee with a preference for names of significant Aboriginal people.”*

Val Attenbrow from the Australian Museum has been contacted in the process of researching this issue & has been helpful in suggesting sources for further research. A review of literature to date suggest that the following people figured in various ways in the history of the Eora nation: Bennelong, Barangaroo, Dilboong, Pemulwuy, Colbee, Daringa, Nanbarry, Caruey, Arabanoo, Yemmerrawanie, Narabee, Abaroo.

The Consultative Committee may wish to put forward an opinion as to the suitability or otherwise of any of these names. Additional context as to how the people listed above feature in the history of the Eora nation can be tabled at the Committee meeting. Further research will continue & information provided to the Committee.

**Carnival of Cultures**

The Carnival on Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> will feature an official ‘Welcome to Country’. Koomurri didgeridoo and drummer will perform on the main stage of the Carnival at 10am. Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTAR) are to hold a stall & members of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee will also attend the stall, amongst other things to make available copies of Council’s Reconciliation Action Plan.

**Dreamtime Storytime**

It is anticipated that the new Ashfield Library will begin to conduct Dreamtime Story-time in June of this year, very soon after opening of the new library facility.

**NAIDOC Week School Initiative**

The NAIDOC Week School Initiative is co-ordinated with support of various Government and Non-Government agencies including the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet. The initiative takes the form of a competition aimed at children at various stages of their school life. Different categories apply such as Colouring-In, Writing, Creative Writing and Essay Writing. In regards to the initiative the Prime Minister has said “I am delighted that every school student in Australia has the opportunity to use their creative skills to prepare an entry for the competition.”

In 2010 eight primary schools from the Ashfield LGA participated in the initiative, as did one local secondary school. The eight primary schools submitted a total of 497 entries to the competition and the secondary school submitted 62 entries.

## **General Update on issues relating to Aboriginal Reconciliation in Ashfield**

Support from a local Council is used towards the design, printing and distribution of material relating to the initiative to schools across the LGA. Council has made a contribution to the 2011 program, within existing budget allocations. Contact can be made with local schools with a view to having a selection of the results displayed in the new Ashfield Civic Centre.

### 'Gateway' Sites in the Municipality

Action fifteen(15) of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan(RAP) states:

*"Strive to have 'gateway' locations to the Municipality depict Aboriginal symbolism."*

Jason Wing is a Sydney based artist & art therapist. He has both Chinese and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Jason is one of two artists preparing concept designs for two gateway sites in the Municipality. These sites are the timber frontage to the Brown Street carpark and the open space located at the corner of Frederick Street and Liverpool Road. Jason will attend & present information at the March 2011 meeting of Council's Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

### National General Assembly of Local Government.

The National General Assembly of Local Government is to be held between 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2001, in Canberra. The theme for the Assembly is Growing with our Community – Partnership, Place and Position.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is calling for motions under the three major themes:

- Partnership
- Place
- Position

To be eligible for inclusion in the National General Assembly business papers, motions must:

- Fall under one of the themes
- Be relevant to the work of local government nationally; and
- Complement or build on the policy objectives of state or territory associations.

The Committee may wish to consider any relevant motions concerning Aboriginal issues and Reconciliation which could be put to the Assembly. Are there partnerships between the Commonwealth Government and Ashfield Council that can be considered eg Australia Council funding for significant public sculptures depicting Aboriginal culture? Does living in the Inner West have particular issues regarding Place, for example, provision of affordable housing for all, including people of Aboriginal heritage? Can Ashfield Council position itself with other Inner West Councils to assert greater influence on the Commonwealth Government? What key issue might be relevant in this regard eg additional employment & training opportunities funded by the Commonwealth?

The ALGA website – [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au) – has a link to the discussion paper on this matter "Growing with our Community – Place, Position & Partnership."

### NSW Aboriginal Lands Council and the Shires Association of NSW.

**General Update on issues relating to Aboriginal Reconciliation in Ashfield**

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The Shires Association of NSW is currently considering options regarding Aboriginal Land Council(ALC) membership. These options include to:

- Treat each Regional Aboriginal Land Council in the same way as individual council's are treated, and provide them equivalent voting rights, and charge equivalent subscriptions.
- Treat the NSW Aboriginal Land Council(ALC) as a single Council.
- Provide the NSW ALC with a permanent Board Seat on the Shires Association
- Allow the NSW ALC to become Associate members of the Shires Association
- Disallow separate ALC Membership in any form

The Aboriginal Consultative Committee may wish to put forward an opinion/recommendation on this matter to the Shires Association of NSW.

**Sister Community**

Discussions on a Sister Community Relationship will be reported on verbally at the Consultative Committee meeting. The librarian from Parkes Shire has provided detailed information and references regarding the Wiradjuri people of the Parkes district. This will be invaluable should any formal arrangements eventuate regarding the Peak Hill Aboriginal community.

**National information for the Committee**

Attached to this report for the information of Consultative Committee members are two media releases from Reconciliation Australia relating to the Race Relations Barometer and National Reconciliation Week.

Also attached is a copy of the official NAIDOC Week Logo. NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. The Committee may wish to discuss a suitable local activity to be held during NAIDOC Week.

**Financial Implications**

No financial implications beyond existing budget allocations.

**Other Staff Comments**

N/A

**Public Consultation**

N/A

**Conclusion**

Implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan is gradually taking place, as is evidenced in various initiatives listed above.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1** Further Information

5 Pages

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NELLETTE KETTLE  
Director Corporate & Community Services





3-10 JULY  
2011

**Change:**  
the next step is ours



Media Release – Embargoed until 1am, Monday 14 February 2011

## **NEW RACE RELATIONS BAROMETER RELEASED: WHERE IS THE LOVE?**

A new social barometer has revealed that relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are improving and that the majority of Australians are optimistic about the future.

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer provides a detailed snapshot of the views of Australians about reconciliation and tracks how Indigenous and other Australians feel about each other.

The landmark study, which is designed to be repeated every two years, also shows that we still don't trust each other and there are high levels of prejudice between the two groups.

Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair Prof Mick Dodson said the research tells us that overall attitudes are positive and that we value the relationship.

"The data from the Barometer provides an indication of where Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are currently positioned in relation to each other.

"The report will also help shape discussions around Constitutional reform and we'll be briefing the expert panel chosen to discuss the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the Constitution later this week," Prof Dodson said.

Key findings of the 2010 Australian Reconciliation Barometer:

- 87% of all Australians agree the relationship is important and 48% say it is improving
- 58% of Indigenous people agree the Apology has improved the relationship
- The general community's knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures is fairly low (only 39%)
- However, around 4 out of 5 Australians believe it is important to know about Indigenous history and culture and are open to learning more
- 91% of Indigenous Australians believe past policies still affect Indigenous people
- 59% of all Australians believe in the special place of Indigenous people, connection to the land and family relationships but only 44% say Indigenous people are open to sharing their culture
- Only 9% of Indigenous people and 16% of the general population think the media presents a balanced view of Indigenous Australians
- We still don't trust each other. Just 9% of all Australians feel that trust between the two groups is good
- There was also a strong acknowledgement, particularly from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (93%), that there are high levels of prejudice between the two groups.

Media Contacts: Kylie Thompson 0418 633 277 Karen Mundine 0401 119 998

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The first Barometer was conducted in 2008 five months after the *Apology to the Stolen Generations* when there was a strong feeling of optimism within the sample groups.

"The 2010 Barometer did reveal a slight drop in some areas but it is important to look at the findings in context.

"Over the last two years, particularly with the Global Financial Crisis, there has been a general feeling of apprehension," Prof Dodson said.

"It is not surprising that responses are slightly down but it's more to do with a change in the broader social landscape than what we feel about reconciliation."

An encouraging finding is the fact that Indigenous respondents are less likely to believe they are disadvantaged or affected by race-based policies of the past. There was a 10% drop from 35% in 2008 to 25% in 2010.

"Every single Australian has an important role to play in reconciliation—particularly improving relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians," Prof Dodson said.

"While there are leadership roles for government and industry in promoting shared pride and ensuring successful policies and programs are delivered, individuals can also make a difference by learning more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, histories and cultures.

"Events like National Reconciliation Week can provide a focus for all Australians to reflect on reconciliation, learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures—and strengthen the relationships."

National Reconciliation Week is an annual celebration from 27 May – 3 June. In 2011 the theme is 'Let's talk recognition'.

Reconciliation Australia is the peak body promoting reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.

To read the full Barometer or download the media kit: [www.reconciliation.org.au/barometer2010](http://www.reconciliation.org.au/barometer2010)

Ends





## National Reconciliation Week 2011 - *Let's talk recognition*

Recognition. Think about how much you value it. When you are sincerely recognised for who you are and what you contribute, you feel proud, validated and connected. Being recognised is good for your self esteem. It energizes you and encourages you to recognise the best in others.

Recognition comes in all sorts of ways and means different things to different people but everyone likes it when they get it. In what ways do you recognise people around you and in what ways do they recognise you?

For National Reconciliation Week 2011, Reconciliation Australia invites you to join a national conversation about the value of recognition.

### What is National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is an annual celebration from 27 May – 3 June and is a time for all Australians to reflect on our shared histories, contributions and achievements. The week is framed by two key events in Australia's history which provide strong symbols of the aspirations for reconciliation.

May 27 marks the anniversary of Australia's most successful referendum and a defining event in our nation's history. The 1967 Referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and *recognise* them in the national census.

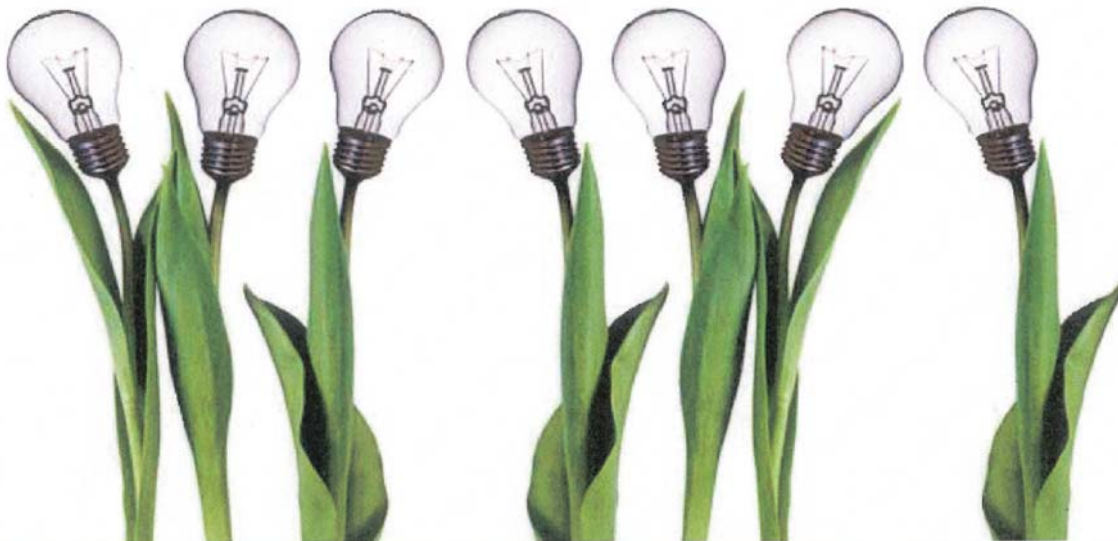
On 3 June, 1992, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally *recognised* that Indigenous people had a special relationship to the land—that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This *recognition* paved the way for Indigenous land rights called Native Title.

### Join us in a national conversation

The theme for NRW 2011 is *Let's talk recognition*. How you interpret it is entirely up to you. You might like to hold an event that *recognises* the important contributions that Indigenous Australians are making to your community. Or perhaps engage students, staff or friends more deeply in a conversation about the value of *recognition* and why it is of particular importance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Over the next couple of years *recognising* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution will be on the agenda as the Federal Government has indicated that there will be a referendum on it, on or before the next election. When people go to vote, we want them to feel confident and capable of making an informed decision. To do this it is important to start the conversation about the value of *recognition* for us all and why it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in particular.

But *recognition* isn't just about the referendum, it's much broader, and has a lot to do with reconciliation. During NRW 2011 we're asking all Australians to think about the value of *recognition*, what it means to you personally and its importance to the nation.



## International Women's Day 2011

### Ashfield Council celebrates 100 years of International Women's Day

IWD is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women. It is a day when women are recognised regardless of divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

### We invite you to join us for breakfast with:

Vanessa Chan  
Mary Britton  
Jasmin Herro

General Manager Ashfield Council  
Ashfield Youth Committee  
Indigenous Businesswomen



#### When

Tuesday 8 MARCH, 2011

Haberfield Library  
78 Dalhousie St.  
Haberfield

Start: 8.30am  
Finish: 10.30am

#### RSVP

Carolyn Walker  
9716 1902  
Carolynw@ashfield.nsw.gov.au

1 March 2011

**Bookings essential**