



Moving beyond the divide, join the journey

The past year has been very challenging and at the same time very interesting with the RQI Management Committee having to be very responsive and flexible in the decision making process to ensure that Reconciliation in Queensland continues to advance in a positive way.

At last year's AGM the Hon Mark Furner MP, then Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, announced the State Government's decision to fund Reconciliation Queensland Inc. with \$100,000 per year for the next three years.

By the time the formal Service Agreement between DATSIP and RQI agreeing to undertake a range of activities needed to expand, develop and support Reconciliation in Queensland and the Queensland Government's Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021 was finalised, 2018 was already upon us.

Although the increase in funding is very welcome it has also meant a corresponding increase in Reconciliation activities throughout Queensland.

26th January 2018

Reconciliation Queensland's Australia Day event was titled *Lets Talk about Homelessness* and was hosted by Senator Andrew Bartlett at the Arana Leagues Club in Brisbane. It was a Q&A-style panel discussion with an audience of around 180 participants. Entertainment was also provided by Auntie Ruth Ghee and the Hummingbird Collective, as well as the Songlines Community Choir.

24th March 2018

Reconciliation Queensland invited the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Board Member Glen Miller, to speak to an audience at the Mitchelton Library in Brisbane about the work of the Foundation in Queensland.

16th April 2018

As part of the *2018 Yarnin Together Reconciliation Series*, Reconciliation Queensland conducted a Forum in Cairns.

The series included a Q&A-style panel discussion on the topic "What does Reconciliation mean to You?"

17th April 2018

The 2018 Yarnin' Together Reconciliation Q&A-style panel discussion was also conducted in Townsville.

18th April 2018

The Forum including a Q&A-style panel discussion was held in Mackay.

2nd May 2018

As part of the ongoing 2018 Yarnin' Together Reconciliation Series, Reconciliation Queensland conducted a Forum in Brisbane.

20th May 2018

Cherbourg Ration Shed Museum's Reconciliation Fun Run which was initiated 5 years ago by the people of Cherbourg, held it's annual event and welcomed people of the South Burnett and beyond to run (or walk) 10, 7 or 3kms in the name of friendship, in the name of hope and in the name of new possibilities.

This year the RQI Management Committee partnered with the P&C at Mabel Park State High School in Logan to support a large student cohort from the school to participate in the 2018 Reconciliation Fun Run.

Mabel Park State High School was the winner of the 2018 Premier's Award for Reconciliation.

27th May 2018

Reconciliation Queensland in partnership with the Queensland Multicultural Council celebrated National Reconciliation Week in Logan Central. There was an informative discussion around the NRW 2018 theme, followed by presentations about Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander culture and the shared history of the early settlers such as the Chinese, Indian and the cameleers from Afghanistan. Some of these people married aboriginal women and had children to them and many of the children were marginalised from both parent's cultures. This aspect of Australia's recent and much hidden history was also discussed.

27th May 2018

Reconciliation Queensland supported the Balaangala Community Group in celebrating their 10th Anniversary during NRW 2018 by holding a 'yarning circle' and inviting 3 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people to be guest speakers and to facilitate the yarn. Over 80 residents from The Gap were in attendance.

30th May 2018

Reconciliation Queensland acting Co Chair (Indigenous) Uncle Bill Buchanan attended the Queensland Reconciliation Awards ceremony in Cairns. The Queensland Reconciliation Awards program recognises businesses, community organisations, educational institutions and partnerships that are taking positive steps towards reconciliation across Queensland

01st June 2018

Reconciliation Queensland supported the Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Coastal Walk. This annual event was followed by a community barbecue and guest speakers

01st June 2018

Reconciliation Queensland partnered with Life Without Barriers and Cairns Regional Council at a NRW event held at Council's Civic Reception Room and provided a Guest Speaker who spoke about the importance of the role reconciliation has in our community.

16th June 2018

Reconciliation Queensland conducted the 'Defying Boundaries' – Boundary to Boundary Street Reconciliation Walk. This RQI annual event comprises a Yarning Circle for community members and Elders which lead off a conversation around the Boundary Street Aboriginal curfew system in Brisbane. Over 100 participants then walked between two of the streets

that comprised the Boundary Street system (Boundary Street, Spring Hill and Boundary Street, South Brisbane).

Activities conducted in the Logan and Ipswich Region:

Aunty Heather Castledine and other members of Reconciliation Queensland have continued to maintain a formidable pace in promoting Reconciliation throughout the Logan Region including:

- *Yarnin with our Mob* sessions at Logan central Library throughout the year
- *Elders Yarnin Circle* at Springwood
- Pathways Cultural Training
- NAIDOC Awards
- *Big Super Day* at Musgrave Park
- Seniors Week Events at Jymbelungra Eagleby and Inala Elders
- *Sharing the Future* Morning Tea in Logan
- *World First Nations Knowledge Conference* at Kupidabin
- *PASIFIKA Festival* at Goonda
- Candle Lighting Ceremony at ACCESS
- ICPCG (Indigenous Community Police Consultant Group meetings throughout the year
- Nyeumba Meta Meetings at Logan Central Library bi-monthly
- Community Leaders Forum at ACCESS
- *Muslim Women's Conference* at Stockleigh Mosque
- Reconciliation Queensland Inc Australia Day Event
- Working on The PAWS and WOW Gatherings(Purple Amazon Women's Society and Women of the World)
- Apology Breakfast with QMC (QLD Multicultural Council)
- Honouring the 10th Anniversary of the Apology at Kingston Butter factory
- Stamp Club Day in Logan
- Ambassador of Peace Meetings
- Community Barbecue at PCYC at Crestmead
- Anzac Day Ceremonies across Logan
- Logan Summit at LEC
- Cultural Healing Circle at Richlands
- Launch of NRW at ACCESS in Logan
- *Bait-ul-Masroor Mosque Fasting Ceremony* at Stockleigh
- Bush Tucker Talk at Logan Central Library
- Songs of Peace 2018
- NAIDOC Events across Logan and Inala
- Police Flag raising Ceremony in Logan

The past year has continued to be a successful one in terms of networking and corresponding with Local Reconciliation Groups and many individuals located in regional areas throughout Queensland.

We once again thank the RQI Treasurer Simon Brooks, who is also responsible for RQI's communications, for his tireless efforts in promoting Reconciliation throughout the State.

The RQI membership is expanding with new applications from Organisation, Corporate Members and Individual Members being approved on a regular basis.

The task of sustaining our National diversity and moving forward beyond the divide always remains one of RQI's primary objectives.