

Narragunnawali  
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA  
GUNNA  
WALI**

# RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

St Thomas Primary School  
June 2025 to May 2026



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## VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

At St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, we follow in the tradition of the Sisters of Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict and in doing so we strive to be a community of faith, justice, compassion and learning.

We are committed to building respectful connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and deepening our knowledge of First Nations peoples' histories and cultures.

As we develop and strengthen our relationships with the Yuggera and Turrbal peoples, as well as other First Nations Peoples within the local community we acknowledge and respect the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultures, perspectives and ongoing contributions.

We seek opportunities to deepen our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and their unique cultures, perspectives and histories through purposeful inclusion within our curriculum. We encourage students to recognise our shared past, and the ongoing impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, committing to living peacefully and acting with justice.

Celebrate and embed in our daily practices an awareness of the significance of the contributions of the Traditional Owners past, present and emerging. We are committed to healing the hurts and wrongs of the past through our prayers, words, and actions.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We at St Thomas' follow in the tradition of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict and in doing so, we strive to be a community of faith, justice, compassion and learning. As we journey together through reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Yuggera People, of the Land where St Thomas' is located. This is a place where teaching and learning has taken place for thousands of years, so we promise to respect and care for the Land always. As we walk the St Thomas' way, we pay our respects to Elders past and present, for they hold the knowledge, traditions, stories and rituals to share with future generations and those to come. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As we honour our commitment to reconciliation, with faith in our hearts and spirit, we act justly and compassionately as we pray for peace and our reconciled community.



## RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Beth Carroll	Staff (teaching)
Viv Thompson	Principal / Director
Kevin Eastment	Self-described
Kathryn Podevin	Staff (teaching)
Chris McLaughlin	Staff (teaching)
Kylie Power	Staff (teaching)
Liam Beatty	Staff (teaching)
Ruby Oberhardt	Staff (teaching)
Alana Feddema	Staff (teaching)
Dom Gardiner	Staff (teaching)

## CONTRIBUTORS

St Thomas Primary School would like to acknowledge the following contributors to the development of this RAP.

Name	Role/Organisation
Eric Ellis	Groundsman- Ngutanalui/ Brisbane Catholic Education
Liz Kupsch	Education Officer - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Classroom	We are committed to engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our learning activities. Having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in learning environments is vital when teaching about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Cultural Responsiveness for Staff	We are supported to reflect on and build our cultural responsiveness to improve our practice and best support the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We are provided with a range of opportunities to build our knowledge and understanding of our own positionality and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, contributions and cultures.
Reconciliation Projects	Our school will collaborate on projects that visibly and authentically embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in learning programs and the physical environment. Through this culture of collaboration across the school and with the community, we commit to creating an environment where young people, staff and community members acknowledge, respect and experience connection to the First Australians.







RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Welcome to Country	Where appropriate, significant events at our school commence with a Welcome to Country. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. By incorporating these protocols into formal events and important occasions, we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Custodians of the Land.
Celebrate National Reconciliation Week	Our school community celebrates National Reconciliation Week (NRW) which is held from 27 May to 3 June each year by talking about reconciliation in the classroom and around the school, and celebrating with the community. NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.
Build Relationships with Community	We commit to forming ongoing relationships with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Our relationships will be built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness. We respect these relationships and the way they make opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous staff, students, children and the community.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Teach about Reconciliation	Our school community is committed to learning about reconciliation in Australia. Having an understanding of the concept, history and progress of reconciliation is an important part of continuing the reconciliation journey. This understanding also helps to strengthen engagement with our school's RAP by positioning it within the broader story of reconciliation in Australia.
Explore Current Affairs and Issues	We commit to knowing the news and being responsive to current issues significant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of reconciliation. We will do this through delivering our curriculum, policies and procedures, and integrating it into the way our school operates.





RESPECT



AROUND THE SCHOOL

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Acknowledgement of Country	Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.





RESPECT



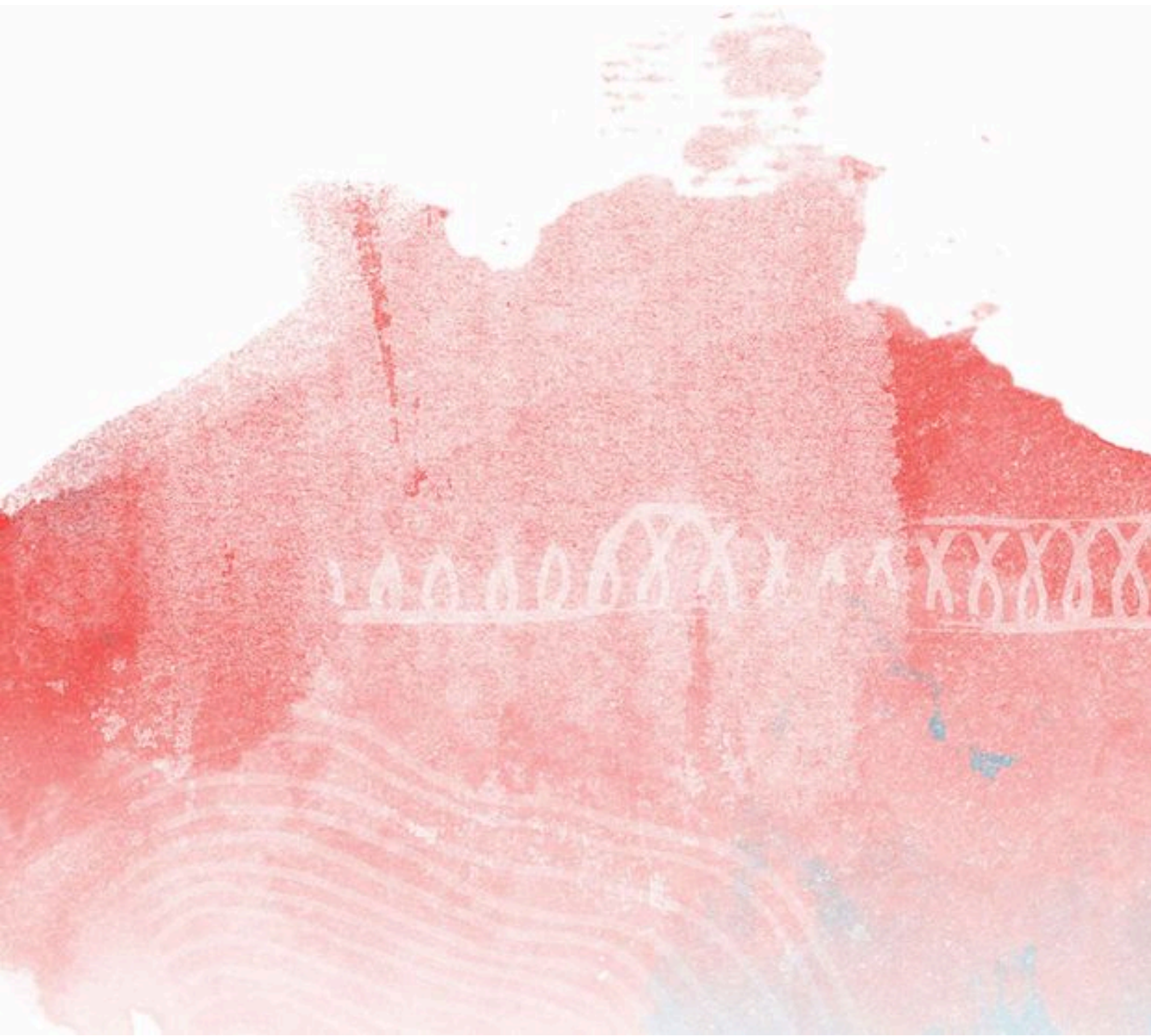
WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Celebrate Days of National Significance	We commit to organising and participating in events to celebrate or commemorate days/weeks of national significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the reconciliation movement to show our pride in, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. We also commit to including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives when we commemorate other national days, such as January 26 (Australia Day) and Anzac Day.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our school flies/displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag at your school to demonstrate respect and recognition for the histories, cultures and contributions of the First Peoples of Australia. Flying or displaying the flags promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward reconciliation.
Take Action Against Racism	We will raise awareness of racism, its impacts and how to respond effectively when it happens. We will do this through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.



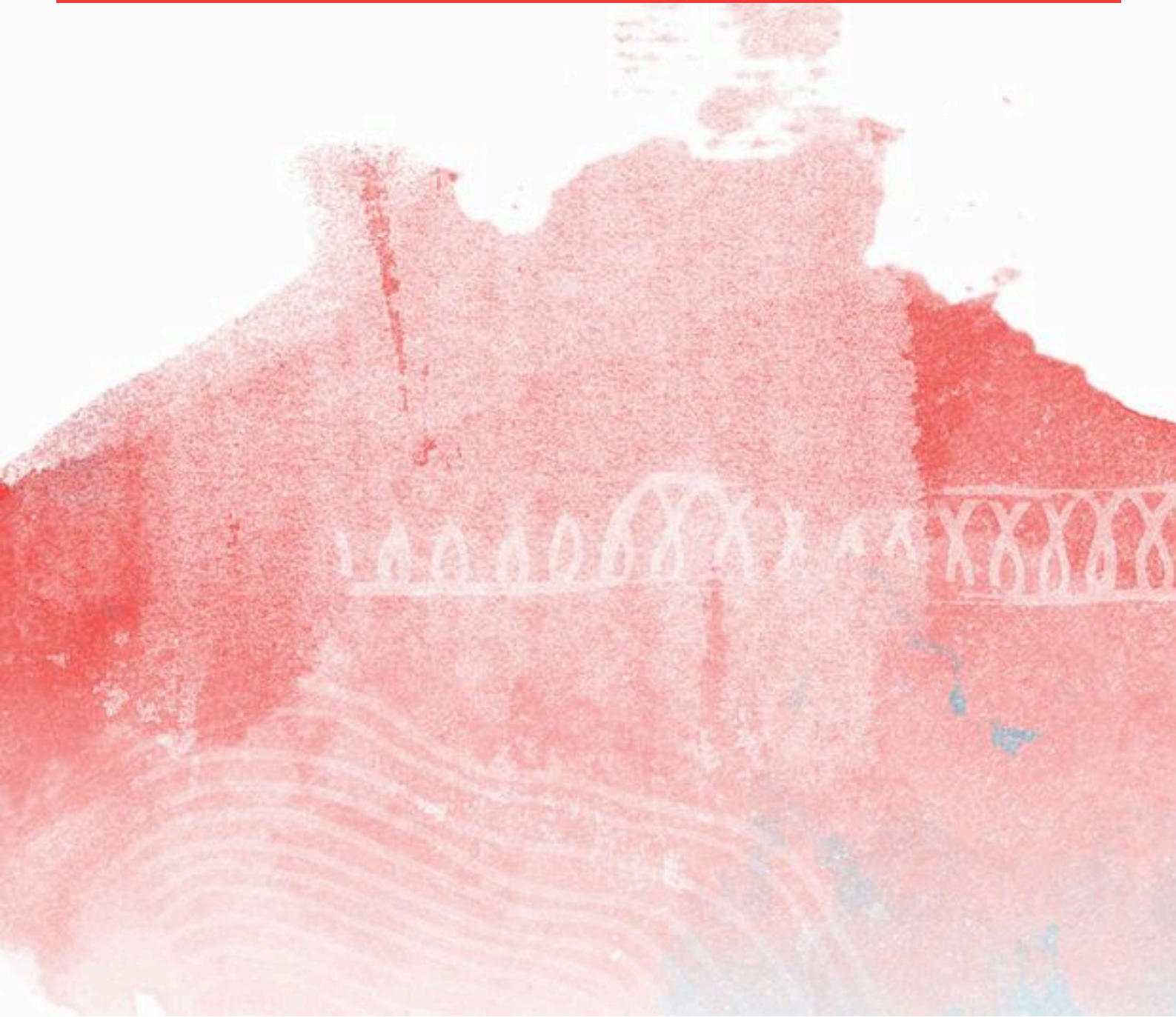


RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Curriculum Planning	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are a key, ongoing part of curriculum planning, development and evaluation across all year levels and learning areas. We will review curriculum documents to find out where we include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and to what extent and where we could include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in the curriculum.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Inclusive Policies	All staff at school are aware of policies referring to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and building knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia. When internal policies are reviewed and developed, we will ensure that they are inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and perspectives, and that there is a plan in place to ensure that all staff comply with these policies in their daily practice.
Staff Engagement with RAP	Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from all staff is essential for developing a RAP that is implemented in a meaningful and sustainable way. All staff will be involved in the ongoing development and implementation of our RAP through staff development opportunities facilitated by the RAP Working Group.





## OPPORTUNITIES



## WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Celebrate RAP Progress	We are committed to reflecting on the progress made in the growth of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in our school. We will track the progress of our RAP, continually revisit our commitments, and celebrate our achievements, while generating new ideas to develop and sustain our RAP into the future.
Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Owned Businesses	We promote supplier diversity and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses and their employees through the procurement of goods and services related to our RAP, as well as our general business. We maintain a list of local, regional, state-based and national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses to accompany procurement policies and procedures.

