NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK KERANG COMMUNITY WALK AND EVENT WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2024

BACKGROUND

National Reconciliation Week takes place each year from May 27 to June 3. It commemorates two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful 1967 referendum that removed clauses from the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the 1992 High Court Mabo Native Title decision that recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rights over their lands.

Gannawarra Shire Council co-ordinates the annual Reconciliation Week community walk in Kerang which concludes with an event at the Kerang Memorial Hall. The walk is made possible by the united efforts of the Kerang Elders and Emerging Leaders Group, Gannawarra Shire Council, Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) and Northern District Community Health (NDCH).

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2024, Now More Than Ever, was a reminder that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will - and must - continue.

EVENT AIMS:

- Involve the community in a united display demonstrating support for reconciliation across Gannawarra communities.
- Provide the opportunity for local Elders and Emerging Leaders to plan and co-host the event.
- Strengthen relationships and connections with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations.
- Promote the significance of the dates included in National Reconciliation Week to increase awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rights.
- Work with partners agencies to ensure respectful inclusion of Aboriginal culture and customs into events including a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.
- Increase understanding and significance of Aboriginal cultures, histories and knowledge through music, storytelling and art.
- Provide an opportunity for schools from across Gannawarra to be part of the National Reconciliation Week community walk and event to develop a shared understanding of Aboriginal culture and connection to Country.
- Encourage a continuation of the journey towards reconciliation across Gannawarra communities.







GANNAWARRA Shire Council NDCH MDAS VICTORIA POLICE Cohuna District Hospital KERANG District Health RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

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WHAT DID THE EVENT DELIVER?

- Over 150 children from Kerang Tech High, Kerang Primary, Kerang South Primary, Koondrook Primary, Murrabit Group and Barham High schools and the Gannawarra Children's Centre attended.
- Support for bus travel costs to allow attendance from 2 rural schools, Koondrook and Murrabit.
- Support and attendance by all 6 GLAM partner agencies.
- Welcome to Country delivered by Warren Hall Jnr
- Smoking Ceremony conducted by Hack Webster, who also shared his knowledge of the significance of the native plants used in the ceremony.
- Music and cultural storytelling by "*Kinja*"- Uncle Ron Murray (Wamba Wamba) & Sarah James to over 300 people in the Kerang Memorial Hall.
- VicPolice provided rolling stoppages of traffic to provide safe street crossing to participants of the community walk.
- Aunty Lil Murray and Tyipen Kwe children read the story "Our Home, Our Heartbeat" by a video presentation.
- Support of local hospitality businesses including 200 message cookies, #NRW2024 and a morning tea at the event.
- The StoryWalk [R] experience of "Our Home, Our Heartbeat" in Atkinson Park was promoted.
- Aboriginal themed StoryWalk [R] boards were designed locally and installed as a new feature thanks to funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.







Australian Government

GANNAWARRA Shire Council

Community Recovery Gannawarra

VICTORIA State Government

Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

GANNAWARRA Shire Council

NOCH

MDAS

VICTORIA POLICE

Cohuna District Hospital

KERANG District Health

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA