



# Reconciliation Action Plan

*Willoughby District Historical Society & Museum Inc.*  
October 2023

*'History is central to reconciliation', Dr. Peter Hobbins, Chair of the Royal Australian Historical Society.*

Acknowledging Australia's difficult past is a key step toward reconciliation and inclusiveness between non-indigenous and our First Nations peoples. By recognising the historical facts and by promoting truth-telling in the histories that we write today, the Willoughby District Historical Society and Museum is pleased to actively promote its reconciliation journey via its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

This RAP is the Society's initial step in building understanding, connections, initiatives and opportunities to fully acknowledge the deep and rich past of the Aboriginal peoples of the Willoughby District.

The Willoughby District Historical Society & Museum Inc's. RAP has been endorsed by it's Committee as a guiding document for the coming years.

As an action plan, the RAP is focused on real outcomes that include (but not limited to implementing and undertaking the following:

- Acknowledgement of Country at all Society events:
- Consulting the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO) of Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Strathfield and Willoughby regarding the Society's RAP and Aboriginal truth-telling, reconciliation, cultural awareness and inclusiveness initiatives.
- After consultation with the AHO, mounting a Permanent Aboriginal exhibition at the Museum based on truth-telling.
- Incorporating elements of local Aboriginal acknowledgement in the Society's digital platforms and other external communications.
- Regularly including stories of the historical significance of local Aboriginal culture in the Society's communications such as Chatters, web site and social media platforms.
- Incorporation of a regular speaker on an Aboriginal theme at its General Meetings.
- Placing an Acknowledgement of Country plaque on our Museum at 58 Johnson Street, Chatswood which is located on Gamaragal Country.
- Actively participating in National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Gai-mariagal Festival and other pertinent events.
- Promoting significant indigenous events and initiatives including 'Closing the Gap'.
- Regularly review the progress of the Reconciliation Action Plan.