



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

Reconciliation Action Plan

Quarterly progress report

July – September 2021

Quarterly progress report

Reconciliation Action Plan

RAP 1. Relationships

Action	Current quarter progress
1.1 - Evaluate the Town's Aboriginal Engagement Advisory Strategy	
1.2 - Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation for the Evolve project	The Town recently completed community consultation as part of the review of the Strategic Community Plan. As part of the Vic Vision Project, four people that identified as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander participated in the survey, pop-up survey or a workshop.
1.3 - Participate in and celebrate National Reconciliation Week (NRW)	National Reconciliation Week (NRW) was recognised and celebrated by the Town (27 May - 3 June 2021).
1.4 - Establish a RAP working group	The Mindeera Advisory group was re-established in 2020 and continues to meet bi-monthly. The fifth Mindeera Advisory Group was held on 11th August 2021. Conversations are continuing with the Mindeera Advisory Group around increased group membership and Noongar community engagement in the Town.
1.5 - Build internal and external relationships	Town officers are liaising with Reconciliation WA on the status and future planning for the Town's RAP. Delivery of actions within the RAP are highlighted and promoted via various media channels. Conversations around the development of a new RAP for the Town are commencing with internal and external stakeholders. Connections with local schools and other education providers are fostering community awareness of the Town's commitment to reconciliation.
1.6 - Raise awareness of our RAP	Town Officers are liaising with Reconciliation WA on the status and future planning for the Town's RAP. Delivery of actions within the RAP are highlighted and promoted via various media channels. Conversations around the development of a new RAP for the Town are commencing with internal and external stakeholders. Connections with local schools and other education providers are fostering community awareness of the Town's commitment to reconciliation.

1.7 - Develop and continue Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships in the Town

Multiple local businesses were engaged to deliver outcomes for NRW and NAIDOC week and promote community awareness. These include engagement of Noongar artists for the purposes of signage and renaming projects, engagement of Noongar artist Julianne Wade for the creation of two community canvases, engagement of Noongar teachers to teach language and bushfood cooking and engagement of Noongar musicians for the forthcoming Heal County, Twilight Trio music concert.
The Town consistently engage Noongar Elders for the delivery of Welcome to Country at all Town events.

**Reconciliation Action Plan
RAP 2. Respect**

Action	Current quarter progress
<p>2.1 - Consider and review 26 January as day of celebration</p>	<p>The Mindeera Advisory Group continues to deliberate about 26 January as a day of significance. At the August Ordinary Council Meeting a revocation motion was put forward to rescind a 2017 council decision to recognise and celebrate the 26th of January as Australia Day. This revocation motion was successfully carried.</p>
<p>2.2 - Raise internal understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols</p>	<p>Further research into the local Traditional Owners is taking place. Identification of key figures, includes recognition of Yoreel (Fanny) Balbuck as an Whadjuk Noongar figure of historical significance. Discussions have commenced regarding ways to recognise and remember Yoreel. Conversations are ongoing with other LGA’s regarding processes of identifying and commemorating traditional owners. Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country continue to be a primary mode of cultural respect, that is given at all events, external, and internal meetings. Adjustments to the templates are underway, to ensure that the version used is appropriate for the cultural identity of the speaker. Town officers are working with the communications team to include Acknowledgment of Country on the Town’s website.</p>
<p>2.3 - Celebrate and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture continues to be celebrated and recognised by the Town in a range of events and actions, recent initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations with the Wirrpanda Foundation to deliver programs for local young people and to profile indigenous and Torres Strait Islander culture as part of their deliverables with the Community Benefits Strategy. • Town officers have secured a number of Indigenous musicians to showcase indigenous music and culture, at the November 20 Twilight Trio “Heal Country’ concert. • Town officers are currently working with local Noongar Elders and with academics from Curtin University to design an ecologically and culturally sensitive learning space at the Jirdarup bushland sandpit.

2.4 - Participate in Celebrate NAIDOC Week

The Town celebrated NAIDOC Week (4-11 July), with several events. This Included:

- The creation of two community canvases at the Town Library under the tutelage of Noongar artist Julianne Wade. These canvases have recently been completed and framed and will be hung in key locations in the Town.
- A Welcome to Country was given by elder Shaun Nannup and live streamed on the Town's Facebook page for the wider community that may have not been able to attend.
- The Town in partnership with the Vic Park Community Centre also coordinated Noongar language sessions. Here, over 21 participants gathered to learn Noongar phrases and pronunciation from Noongar teacher Sharon Gregory.
- Bush-tucker cooking class also took place under the instruction of Wardandi Bibbulmun chef Dale Tilbrook.
- Part of the delayed NAIDOC Week activities, (postponed due to COVID restrictions and weather conditions), included the Community planting day on Kent Street verge which took place on July 25th. This included the planting of thousands of native seedlings and was participated in by Mindeera group members, councillors, community members and town staff.
- The final forthcoming event for NAIDOC week: Heal Country is the Twilight Trio concert to be held on 20 November 2021, featuring indigenous musicians and the Deadly Sista Girlz dance group.
- Long term advisory group member Roni Forrest was awarded the NAIDOC female Elder of the Year award. This was recognised and celebrated on the Town's social media channels, and a media release was provided to the Southern Gazette.
- The Town participated in a NAIDOC week, promotional event in Jirdarup bushland, where Noongar elder Simon Forrest and West Coast Eagles footballer Jeremy McGovern were filmed in conversation, as they discussed the importance of culture, country and learning for a reconciled, inclusive, and sustainable future. This film was subsequently circulated widely on social media and through other media channels.
- NAIDOC week activities were profiled on the Towns' social media channels and internal communication channels.

2.5 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander signage and display

TOVP meeting rooms have been named to reflect the six Noongar seasons. In the current quarter, the installation of the signs at Kambarang/The Digital Hub meeting room Djilba/Rangers and Parks meeting room was completed.

Continued discussions are occurring with the Mindeera Advisory Group for renaming the Council Chambers to an appropriate Noongar name.

Australian and Torres Strait islander flags continue to be on display at Administration.

A work instruction for the process of Noongar Boodja renaming is being finalised.

Processed for the renaming of Row 52 and Lathlain 2x have been finalised with plans underway for a small ceremony, to recognise and celebrate the renaming of these two places to Bidi walk and Koolbardi Park, respectively.

Town officers are working with the Town's communications team to include an Acknowledgment of Country on the Town's website, in a prominent and visible position.

2.6 - Investigate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural learning and development

Community understanding is being further cultivated through the explication of the Noongar six seasons on the Town's social media channels.
Collaborations with Curtin university staff, on ways to share and enhance cultural awareness, have commenced.
Town officers recently attended Traditional Owners workshops concerning the Causeway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge Urban and Landscape Design and Heritage Interpretation to ensure consistent messaging and relay information to the Town's Advisory Group.

2.7 - Ensure that all documents of the Town are inclusive and consider and reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Town recently completed engagement as part of the review of the Strategic Community Plan. As part of the Vic Vision Project, four people participated in either the survey, pop-up survey or a workshop that identified as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
Review of gifts for citizenship ceremonies is underway through consultation with Noongar elders and Mindeera group members. Alternative, more culturally appropriate gifts (such as message sticks) have been presented for consideration.

2.8 - Raise awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our Town

Acknowledgment of Country continues to be performed at all council meetings and internal Town meetings.
Welcome to Country continues to be performed at significant events in the Town, including the recent NAIDOC event and the forthcoming NAIDOC/ Heal Country Twilight Trio concert.
Acknowledgment of Country is to be both performed and sung by the East Victoria primary school children, at the forthcoming Remembrance Day event.
The Town recently provided the Southern Gazette with a media release around local Elder and NAIDOC Female Elder of the Year recipient, Roni Forrest. Unfortunately, the Gazette did not take up this opportunity. However, the media release was included on the Town's website and social media pages with great engagement.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander books continue to be circulated in the Town's little libraries. Five more have been acquired and circulated in the last quarter.

2.9 - Enhance community understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our Town

Noongar language classes were held at the Community Centre as part of NAIDOC week activities.
Cultural awareness has been developed through community engagement in creative projects such as the Community Canvas, Bush tucker cooking sessions, community planting days and ongoing conversations with Mindeera group members and Noongar elders.

Reconciliation Action Plan

RAP 3. Opportunities

Action	Current quarter progress
3.1 - Engage with the West Coast Eagles to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are included in community initiatives	The Town assist with access and support in the WCE NAIDOC promotional video, at Jirdarup bushland, with Elder Simon Forrest and WCE footballer, Jeremy McGovern.
3.2 - Investigate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Walking Trail in Victoria Park	Conversations have commenced with local schools on ways to enhance awareness of Noongar boodja, flora, fauna in Victoria Park.
3.3 - Investigate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier diversity	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses have been and are being utilised as much as possible for the Town's celebrations of NRW and NAIDOC week. A working list of local Aboriginal suppliers has been developed.
3.4 - Develop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment opportunities	Indigenous trainee continues employment in the Town - through the Public Sector Commission Indigenous Trainee Program.
3.5 - Conduct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth projects	Town officers have liaised with staff from Victoria Park Primary School, Millen Primary School and Carson Street School to promote and collaborate on cultural awareness and education initiatives.
3.6 - Liaise with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) to facilitate provision of educational support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	Town officers have met with Curtin's Director of Engagement and Inclusion and RAP working group Convenor to discuss opportunities for building inter-educational networks in the Town that progress reconciliation.

Reconciliation Action Plan

RAP 4. Tracking and Progress

Action	Current quarter progress
4.1 - Review and refresh Reflect RAP	Town officers have been liaising with Reconciliation Australia on the status and future planning for the Town's RAP.
4.2 - Build support for the Innovate RAP	Advertising has commenced for the fixed term employment of a Social Policy Specialist to oversee the development of the Town's Innovate RAP. The Town is currently reporting on Reconciliation Australia's annual RAP impact measurement questionnaire.