



## Narragunnawali Newsletter – Term 2 2024

Yuma everyone and welcome to the Narragunnawali newsletter. This newsletter will be released once a term and include information about what the Merici mob have been doing, how Merici is meeting our Reconciliation Action Plan, and information about any upcoming events.

This week marks Reconciliation Week, an important time on the calendar for all Australians. This newsletter is going to explore what Reconciliation is about and what Merici College have on offer for the week to get involved.

### What is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation means forming a genuine bond between First Nations people and other Australians. Moving towards Reconciliation means acknowledging the actions and wrongdoings of the past and looking towards a more positive and inclusive future.



### What is the story behind Reconciliation and why is it important?

First Nations people have lived in Australia for over 65 000 years. The country was colonised by the British only around 250 years ago. When colonisation occurred, First Nations people quickly lost a lot of their land and elements of their culture, such as language, connection to Country and the ability to practice spirituality in a meaningful way. The Stolen Generations saw many First Nations children be removed from their parents, and there are still families working to find each other again.

Reconciliation acknowledges what has happened, and beyond this, asks us to consider how we can learn and make different decisions to the past.

### Why are First Nations cultures important?

First Nations cultures are intricate, full of Dreaming stories, kinship ties, and inventions far beyond hunting and gathering. We are fortunate to be at the stage where we are uncovering more of First Nations history and can learn so much such as bushfire management, sustainability practices and how to respect our land. It can take some effort to get involved in Reconciliation and learn about First Nations cultures and histories but doing so means we commit to truth telling, equality and integrity.

### How can you be involved in Reconciliation Week at Merici and in the community?

**Tuesday:** Reconciliation Action Plan meeting at lunch time in the CRLC. All welcome!

**Wednesday:** PC quiz to learn more about Reconciliation

**Thursday:** Contribute to the 2024 Reconciliation art that will be displayed in the CRLC

**Friday:** Come to our stall at Angela Merici Day to be see what we do and check out some cool artefacts!