



# Royal Australian Historical Society

## Knowing your history

1 June 2023

[View this RAHS email in your browser](#)



**'History is central to reconciliation': RAHS launches its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan**

Acknowledging Australia's difficult past is a key step toward reconciliation between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal peoples. By revisiting our own long history, and by promoting truth-telling in the histories that we write today, the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) is proud to actively promote this journey via its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Today the Society formally launches its Reflect RAP, developed with guidance and endorsement from Reconciliation Australia. Launched on Gadigal land, this plan was shaped by a working party that includes Uncle Shayne Williams, a senior Dharawal man with strong links to the Sydney area, and Dr Michael Bennett, who has helped Aboriginal families and communities connect with their histories for over two decades. RAHS Councillors in the RAP working party also include our President, Dr Iain Stuart, as well as Adjunct Associate Professor Carol Liston, Graham Shirley, Craig McPherson, Dr Peter Hobbins and General Manager, Suzanne Holohan.

The Society's RAP has been endorsed by the RAHS Council as a guiding document for the coming years. As an action plan, it is focused on real outcomes that include:

- actively participating in National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events
- consulting with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples regarding the Society's cultural awareness protocols
- initiating a grant-funded internship project to review the digitised journals of the RAHS to identify reminiscences and accounts that mention Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and places
- launching a timeline of representations of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australian screen and audio materials
- developing a business case for procurement from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned businesses.

The Reflect RAP is the first step in the four-stage RAP process outlined by

Reconciliation Australia. Operating from January 2023 to July 2024, it outlines the Society's initial steps in building understanding, connections, initiatives and opportunities to fully acknowledge the deep and rich pasts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A fundamental aspect is making contact and listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the vicinity of the Society's headquarters at History House in the Sydney CBD, the lands and waters of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.

'History is central to reconciliation', noted the Chair of the RAHS RAP Working Group, Dr Peter Hobbins. 'By starting this journey ourselves, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we hope to encourage other historical societies to also commit to the reconciliation process'.

'It is a great step for the RAHS and an example of how all organisations can make a contribution to healing and learning in the Aboriginal cultural sphere,' said working party member, Craig McPherson.

For more information about the RAHS Reflect RAP, [please visit the Reconciliation Australia website](#).

For guidelines for commencing the reconciliation journey and creating a Reconciliation Action Plan, visit Reconciliation Australia and liaise with their helpful advisors: <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation-action-plans/>

For more information and events during National Reconciliation Week, see: <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

---



Tree on the site of Yuranigh's Grave, Molong NSW [Photograph: Graham Scriberras]

Tree on the site of Yuranigh's Grave, Molong NSW [Photo: Graham Scriberras]

////////////////////////////////////

[Follow on Twitter](#)

[Friend on Facebook](#)

[Follow on Instagram](#)

[Our News](#)

[Our Library.](#)

[Our Events](#)

The Royal Australian Historical Society

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Disclaimer: Views from contributors published in the Affiliated Societies, History and Other News are not necessarily the views of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

**Our mailing address is:**  
Royal Australian Historical Society  
133 Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Australia

**Email:**  
[history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)

Copyright © 2023 Royal Australian Historical Society, All rights reserved.



