

## PREVIOUS EVENTS

### 2006 - Canberra

**Wednesday 24 May PLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE** the Pledge Book was launched at 1.15pm at Parliament House. Support was to ensure the Bringing them Home Reports 54 recommendations are fulfilled and that the Stolen Generations receive the equality, justice and human rights to which they are entitled.

**Thursday 25 May** A Candle Light Vigil honouring the Sorry Business with the Stolen Generations, 5.30pm at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Barton.

**Friday 26 May** A Sorry Day Procession "Walking the History with the Stolen Generations" from 9.30am. Followed by a BBQ at Reconciliation Place and performances by Stiff Gins, Johnny Huckle and Duncan Smith.

**Tuesday 30 May** ANU Annual Reconciliation Lecture was held in the Theatre Parliament House. Chairman and CEO of News Limited in Australia, John Hartigan spoke about "the responsibility of all sectors of the community to help close the 17-year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians".

### 2005 - Canberra

**Monday 23 May** The film *Rabbit-Proof Fence* was screened at University of Canberra followed by supper and discussion.

**Tuesday 24 May** The poem 'Conciliation' by student Shelley Mulherin was 'unveiled' at the University of Canberra.

**Wednesday 25 May** the National Day of Healing was launched in the Great Hall at Parliament House, chaired by Senator Aden Ridgeway. Speakers included Professor Fiona Stanley, and Mike de Gagne (Executive Director of Canada's Aboriginal Healing Foundation). Tamara Jacobs bravely spoke on behalf of her mother who tragically died the night before.

#### Thursday 26 May

A Public Forum on 'Are we bringing them home in 2005?' was held at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Celebrations were held in Civic Square at lunch time with a free BBQ, stalls, dancers and music.

The Australian National University held a walk from **NGARAKIA: Shrine for lost Koori Site** to **Judith Wright Court** then Coombes Lecture Theatre for poetry and story-telling. The Vice-Chancellor spoke and planted a tree at the **Jabal Centre** followed by a BBQ and music from James Henry and Band.

The University of Canberra held a smoking ceremony followed by a celebration with speakers, poetry, food, displays and a performance by Wiradjuri Echo.

**Thursday 2 June** ANU Annual Reconciliation Lecture was held in the Great Hall Parliament House. Actor Jack Thompson spoke on "**Reconciliation: A Personal View**".

## **2004 - Canberra**

**Tues 25 May** The inaugural ANU Annual Reconciliation Lecture (hosted by the ANU and Reconciliation Australia) was held. Patrick Dodson spoke on 'Reconciliation - Beyond the Bridges and Sorry'.

**Wed 26 May** Professor Judy Atkinson, Chair of the College of Indigenous Australian Peoples at Southern Cross University, led a 'Healing the Stolen Generations' Workshop at the National Museum.

The ANU held a Sorry Day Walk and the University of Canberra hosted a celebration with speaker Audrey Ningali Kinnear, co-chair National Sorry Day Committee.

**Friday 28 May** The Federal Government (represented by Senator Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Indigenous Affairs) dedicated a memorial at Reconciliation Place in Parkes to the stolen generations, and 'all those, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, whose genuine care softened the impact of what are now recognised as cruel and misguided policies.' A memorial was also dedicated to Aboriginal pioneers Vincent Lingiari and Neville Bonner.

**Saturday 29 May **Yesterday, today, tomorrow****. The National Sorry Day Committee and Journey of Healing ACT hosted a celebration of the memorial's unveiling, with children's activities, stalls and displays. Speakers included ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope. Music was provided by Archie Roach and Deborah Cheetham.

In the evening, Helen Moran (poet and singer) wrote and presented '*Black Enough?*' a musical and visual journey into Aboriginal identity at the Canberra Baptist Church.

## **2003 - Canberra**

**Thursday 22 May** Racial Respect hosted a forum on "Honouring our history – springboard to the future" led by Olympic gold medallist Nova Peris and Mark Yettica-Paulson, Executive Officer, Lingiari Foundation.

**Sunday 25 May** There was a walk across Commonwealth Bridge to a free barbecue and concert in Commonwealth Park, where there were children's activities, stalls and displays. Music was provided by Kerriane Cox, Ebony and Ivory, and Shades of Brindle. Young speakers included Kacey Boyd, Tim Goodwin, and Greg Phillips, Deputy Chair, National Indigenous Youth Movement.

**Monday 26 May** A commemoration was held in the Great Hall at Parliament House for the fifth Anniversary of Sorry Day. The event was chaired by Jackie Huggins (co-chair Reconciliation Australia) and speakers included Malcolm Fraser and Doris Pilkington Garimara. Music was provided by Kerriane Cox and *Shades of Brindle*.

## 2002 - Canberra

**Thursday 23 May** - Racial Respect held a forum on the steps needed for Australia to achieve genuine reconciliation.

**Sunday 26 May** There was a walk across Commonwealth Bridge to a free barbecue in Commonwealth Park, where there were children's activities, stalls and displays. A concert was held at nearby Stage 88, with Jimmy Little, Dale Huddleston and other musicians. Speakers included Lowitja O'Donoghue, Rev. Tim Costello, ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, and two young Indigenous people: Kasy Tongs and Tim Goodwin.

An Ecumenical service was held in the evening.

**Monday 27 May** *Are we Bringing them home in 2002?* was launched by Journey of Healing (ACT) at the ACT Legislative Assembly. This was the Third Community Progress Report on local action towards the *Bringing them home* recommendations. (See the **Publications** Page).

## 2001 - Canberra and Dubbo

**Friday 25 May** The day started with a commemorative breakfast, with speakers on *Families and Communities of the Stolen Generations*. At 12.30pm a ceremony was held at the National Museum of Australia: *Honouring the Stolen Generations and remembering all those affected by the Indigenous child removal policies*. Speakers were: Mrs Agnes Shea, Senior Ngunnawal Elder; Ms Dawn Casey, Director of the National Museum of Australia; Mr Gary Humphries MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT; Ms Audrey Kinnear and Rev. Dr. John Brown, Co-Chairs of the National Sorry Day Committee. Performers were Helen Moran and Johnny Huckle, and Graham King. After the ceremony many of the participants boarded a bus to Dubbo for events the next day.

**Saturday 26 May** In Dubbo, a dawn ceremony was held at the Victoria Park Bandstand. Afterwards the participants shared breakfast at a local hotel, and then joined the Red Ochre tour of Aboriginal sites of significance in the district. At 5pm a cleansing ceremony was held at the Rotunda in Macquarie Street, followed by a walk to the Showground for a yarn-up, meal and entertainment. Many Canberra visitors were billeted overnight, and appreciated the generous hospitality of Dubbo residents.

## 2000 - Canberra

**Thursday 18 May** Racial Respect arranged a forum on the stolen generations. The main speaker was Dr Peter Read, ANU historian.

**Sunday 21 May** An ecumenical church service was held at the Canberra Baptist Church, with the theme of *Commitment to the Journey of Healing*.

**Thursday 25 May** A conference of service providers and others was held on *Are we bringing them home? 2000*, as part of the monitoring process. See **Monitoring** for more details.

**Friday 26 May** A dawn vigil was held at the Aboriginal Memorial in Remembrance Park, to honour the stolen generations and remember all those affected by the removal policies. Later a social celebration was held at Gorman House (moved from Glebe Park due to the weather). There was a free barbecue, stalls and activities, children's activities and Indigenous performers.

**Sunday 28 May** Buses were organised by Australians for Reconciliation (ACT) to take people to Sydney for Corroboree 2000 at the Sydney Opera House, and the walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge.

**Tuesday 30 May** An Ecumenical church service was held at the Melba Uniting Church.

## 1999

**Wednesday 19 May** A public forum was held by Racial Respect on *How far have we come with implementing the recommendations of the Bringing Them Home report?*

**Sunday 23 May** In the afternoon at Exhibition Park in Mitchell there was a launch of the CD *Burraay - Dreaming Them Home*. There were performances by Leah Purcell, Kerri Anne Cox, Kev Carmody, Johnny Huckle, Archie Roach, Ruby Hunter and Bob Randall. There were stalls and displays, and food available.

**Monday 24 May** A women's reconciliation celebration was held at lunchtime in the Canberra Museum and Gallery. This was to celebrate the new relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women.

**Wednesday 26 May** A ceremony was held in the Great Hall at Parliament House, inviting people to *join the 'journey of healing'*. Message sticks from Uluru were presented to Ngun(n)awal Elders by local representatives of the stolen generations. After the ceremony people were invited to the Boomanulla Oval to share food and stories.

**Friday 28 May** In the morning, a workshop called *Are we Bringing Them Home?* was held at Havelock House to discuss the Network's draft community progress report on local action on the *Bringing them home* recommendations. At lunch time, Audrey Kinnear spoke at the Press Club lunch on the *Journey of Healing*. An Ecumenical Service was held in the evening at the North Belconnen Baptist Church, Evatt.

## 1998 National Sorry Day in Canberra

**Friday 22 May** A cultural event called *Coming Home* was held at the National Library of Australia, where there were performances of music and dance, and a fashion parade by Indigenous designers.

**Sunday 24 May** *Coming Together* was an afternoon gathering at Commonwealth Park for a free barbecue and concert, with stalls and activities for children and young people. In the evening, Ian Viner spoke on *Saying Sorry and the Reconciliation Process* at an Ecumenical Service held at the Canberra Baptist Church.

**Monday 25 May** An ANU Sorry Day commemoration was held in the Manning Clarke Lecture Theatre at the Australian National University.

### **Friday 26 May**

*Telling the Stories* was the theme for breakfast held at Tilley Devine's Cafe, arranged by Reconciliation in the ACT. Speakers included Ms Matilda House, Ngunnawal Elder, and Ms Audrey Kinnear, member of the stolen generations.

*Honour the Grief* was a lunch time ceremony held in the lecture theatre of Parliament House. Sorry Books were presented to Ngun(n)awal Elders. Performances included Bobby and Dorethea Randall. This was attended by representatives of Government, police, lawyers, education, health, churches and other organisations.

*Walking the Stories - Places of healing, Places of Sorrow* was a guided evening pilgrimage with candlelight and torches, leading participants to local places of historical and symbolic significance including the High Court, and the National Library of Australia which houses relevant documents, and ending at the Aboriginal Embassy for a candle-lit vigil.