



CREATING A REFLECT RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Conversations with local Aboriginal community members

Representatives from the Huon Valley Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group have been privileged to sit with local Aboriginal community members and talk about how Council can support reconciliation.

Whilst reconciliation means different things to different people, all the people we spoke with looked forward to a time when Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people work together to protect and celebrate Aboriginal history and culture.

Local Aboriginal groups and people suggested how Council and the wider community can take steps to better understand and support local Aboriginal history and culture.

With thanks to those who shared their thoughts and ideas with us, please find below a summary of our conversations, highlighting common themes.

Conversations summary:

- Take time to learn about Aboriginal history
- Acknowledge the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal culture
- Move forward together (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal)
- Be inclusive
- Build relationships with the local Aboriginal community
- Work with the local Tasmanian Aboriginal community to identify opportunities to share local Aboriginal culture and history
- Support locally-led Aboriginal cultural education and awareness activities
- Support the whole of the community to learn about local Aboriginal culture and history
- Use local language wherever possible
- Acknowledge that the use of language is complex
- Consider using public interpretation signage to share local culture and history
- Don't underestimate the importance of flying the Aboriginal flag
- Support localised cultural awareness training
- Support a culturally safe workplace for Aboriginal people



- Recognise that some Aboriginal people have experienced significant stigma and racism and may not choose to openly identify
- Recognise that some Aboriginal people are interested in sharing and learning about their culture
- Recognise that many non-Aboriginal people are interested in learning and understanding local Aboriginal history and culture
- Celebrate local Aboriginal culture (to reduce stigma and increase understanding)
- Share cultural learning opportunities with the community
- Invite local Aboriginal people to be involved in local cultural education (locally-led cultural education)
- Develop local engagement protocols with the local Aboriginal community including Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country protocols
- Incorporate local aboriginal history and culture into local storytelling (signage, displays, etc.)
- Recognise that the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is diverse
- Listen and build relationships with all local Aboriginal groups and individuals
- Recognise that storytelling can help bring all people on a journey of understanding
- Promote that country and caring for the land is important for all people
- Recognise the importance of cultural burning and management of the land
- Recognise that hands-on cultural activities and workshops can help people learn and understand local Aboriginal history and culture
- Know that land and its care is spiritually important to Aboriginal people
- Know that family is very important to Aboriginal people
- Support the protection of significant places
- Recognise that some cultural practice is for the Aboriginal community only
- Support inclusive cultural awareness and education workshops for the whole of community
- Support Council staff and Councillors to participate in cultural awareness and competency training
- Work with the local Aboriginal community to support local celebrations of culture
- Consider the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Liaison role at Council
- Consider the development of a cultural history and interpretation centre
- Work together (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal)
- Explore dual naming of the Huon River
- Allocate honorariums for Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country, workshops, cultural training etc.



- Incorporate local Aboriginal history into historical records, interpretative signage and displays
- Acknowledge that sharing stories, culture and traditions can bring people together
- Consider actions that bring people together, rather than divide them
- Showcase local Aboriginal history and culture in an inclusive and accessible way that invites all local groups to participate and learn
- Make activities family friendly
- Work collaboratively on local projects
- Offer cultural activities in all towns
- Support specialised Aboriginal community services where they are needed (health, employment, culture, etc.)
- Work with the local Aboriginal community for NAIDOC events

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