

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA
GUNNA
WALI**

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

St Benedict's Catholic School
July 2022 to July 2023



RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA

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VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

St Benedict's Catholic School acknowledges the Wulgurukaba Land on which our inclusive learning community stands, and the nearby Bindal Traditional Lands on the other side of the Ross River. Once a meeting place of Elders past, these Lands continue to be a meeting place for our present and emerging leaders.

We are inspired to journey together towards reconciliation as one nation, in solidarity, harmony and peace. Our contemplative, reflective approach shows us the way to fostering strong relationships with community .

We will continue to encompass the Benedictine way of life that is stillness, simplicity, and deep listening in order to develop a place where all belong.

"To be still brings peace - and it brings understanding." Miriam Rose (1988)

We are aware of, and will play our part to address, colonial injustices inflicted upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We aim to continually develop shared understandings of the value and respect that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, histories, cultures and contributions deserve.

Our Benedictine values of Love, Community, Learning and Stewardship call us:

- To nurture the wellbeing of others
- To lead with an openness of heart and mind
- To listen to one another with consideration
- To promote awareness that we are a part of a larger world

We are committed to building deep interpersonal relationships and partnerships, in order to enact varied actions of reconciliation within our community.

We aim to see God in All of Life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Wulgurukaba people,
whose Land we are standing on.

We also acknowledge the Bindal peoples,
whose Traditional Land is on
the other side of the Ross River.

We acknowledge the Elders, past, present and emerging.

We walk together in solidarity, harmony and peace.

May we walk gently together.

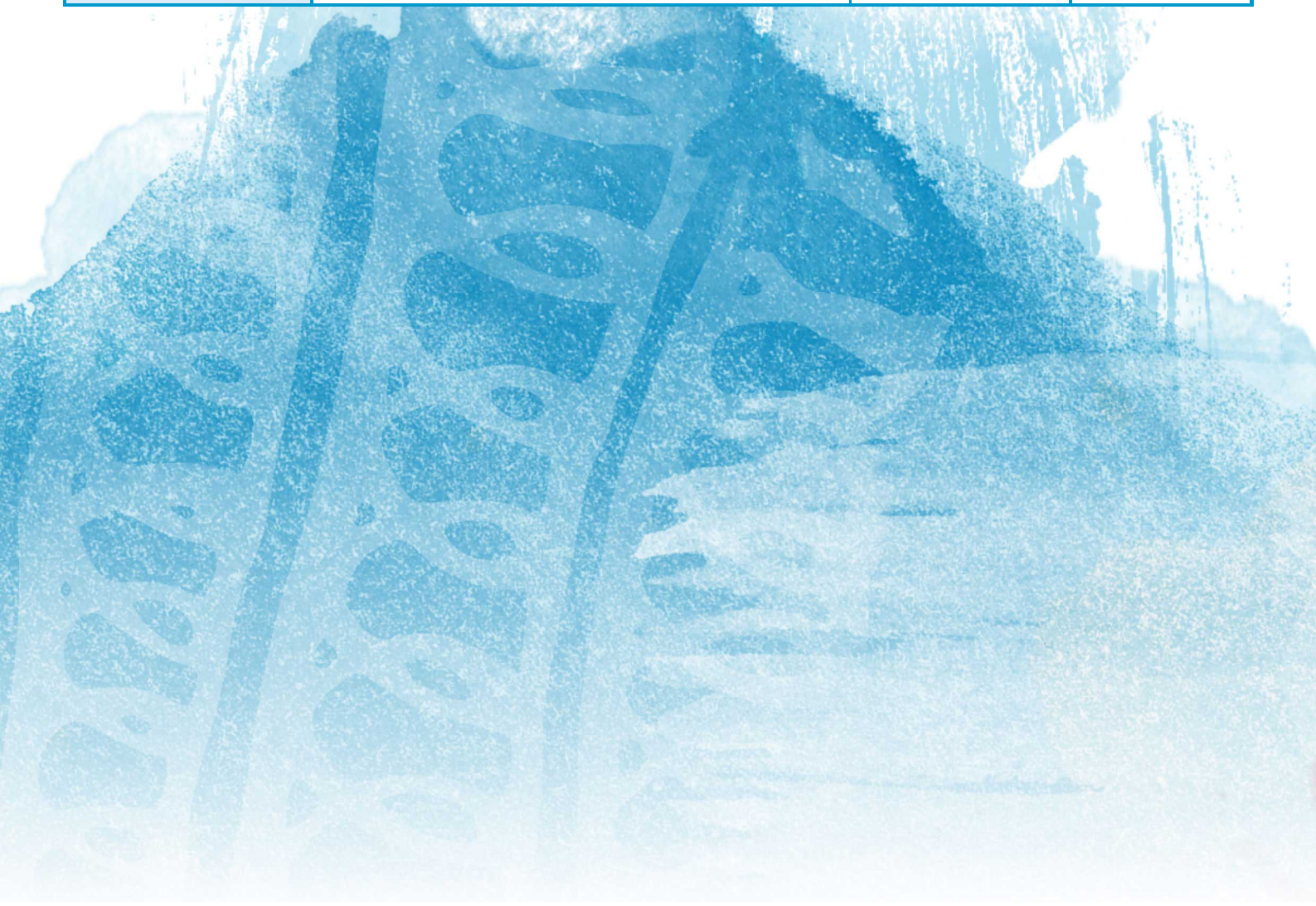


RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Penny Collins	Principal / Director
Lizzy Christie	Staff (teaching)
Jess Smit	Staff (teaching)
Krista O'Connor	Indigenous Education Adviser
Caitlin Smith	Staff (teaching)
Rebecca Curley	Staff (teaching)
Nicholas Christie	Staff (teaching)
Sally Woolcock	Staff (teaching)
Elly Caspanello	Staff (teaching)
Kirsty Aitkens	Staff (teaching)
Jamie Eggins	Staff (teaching)



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Classroom	We are committed to welcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into our classrooms to work alongside our students and children in learning activities. Having an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence in learning environments is vital when teaching about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.	Penny C, Lizzy C	Ongoing
Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students and Children	We commit to providing opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to celebrate their cultural identities. These opportunities positively impact the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and children, and create shared pride for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, contributions, identities and histories in the wider school community.	Lizzy C	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representation on Committees	We commit to inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, parents/carers and community members to be active representatives on our school's committees. We commit to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives inform decision-making processes by respecting the experiences and knowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can bring to our committees.	Penny C, Lizzy C, Jess S, Krista O	Ongoing
Cultural Competence for Staff	We will reflect on our current level of cultural competence and provide staff with a range of opportunities to build and extend their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We also commit to supporting staff to independently seek out and participate in a variety of cultural awareness experiences that assist them on their own journey of understanding.	Penny C	Ongoing
Reconciliation Projects	Our school will collaborate on projects that visibly and authentically embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in learning programs and the physical environment. Through this culture of collaboration across the school and with the community, we commit to creating an environment where young people, staff and community members acknowledge, respect and experience connection to the First Australians.	Penny C, Lizzy C, Nicholas C	26/05/2022



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Welcome to Country	Where appropriate, significant events at our school commence with a Welcome to Country. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. By incorporating these protocols into formal events and important occasions, we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Custodians of their Land.	Penny C, Lizzy C, Nicholas C	Ongoing
Celebrate National Reconciliation Week	Our school community celebrates National Reconciliation Week (NRW) which is held from 27 May to 3 June each year by talking about reconciliation in the classroom and around the school, and celebrating with the community. NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.	Penny C	27/05/2019 - 03/06/2019
Build Relationships with Community	We commit to building relationships with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that are built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness. We value these relationships and their role in helping to create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous staff, students, children and community members.	Penny C	Not Set

RELATIONSHIPS



WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Cultural Competence for Students and Children	We will develop our everyday program to ensure it provides children and students with explicit opportunities to build their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, within and beyond the classroom. This commitment extends to the inclusion of cultural competence principles, fostered in teachers and educators, in the ethos of our classrooms and across our school.	Lizzy C	Ongoing





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Teach about Reconciliation	Our school community is committed to learning about reconciliation in Australia. Having an understanding of the concept, history and progress of reconciliation is an important part of continuing the reconciliation journey. This understanding also helps to strengthen engagement with our school's RAP by positioning it within the broader story of reconciliation in Australia.	Penny C	Not Set
Explore Current Affairs and Issues	We are committed to raising awareness of current affairs and issues in the public domain that are of particular significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of reconciliation. This will be done through curriculum delivery, policies and procedures, and will be integrated into the ethos of our school.	Lizzy C	Ongoing

RESPECT



AROUND THE SCHOOL

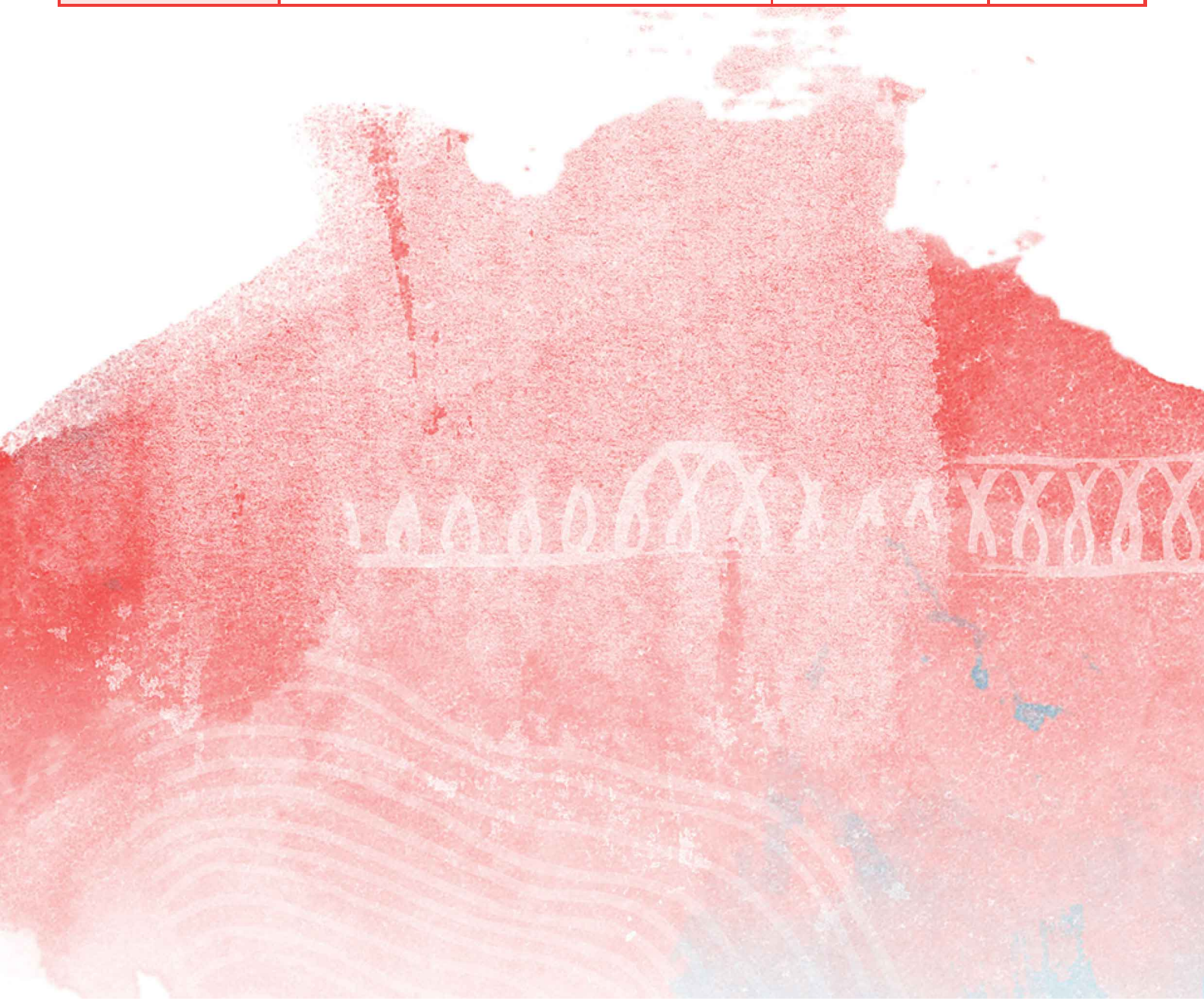
RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Acknowledgement of Country	Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.	Penny C	Not Set



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our school flies or displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as a demonstration of our pride and respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. Flying or displaying the flags promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward reconciliation.	Penny C	Ongoing
Physical Acknowledgement of Country	Our school proudly commits to displaying a physical Acknowledgement of Country as a way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our school is located.	Penny C	Ongoing
Take Action Against Racism	Racism can have serious negative consequences for the people who experience it, for those who witness it, and for wider society. When racism is properly understood it is easier to overcome. We commit to building awareness of what racism is, the impacts of racism and how to respond effectively when it occurs through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.	Penny C, Nicholas C	Ongoing



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Curriculum Planning	Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in curriculum planning, development and evaluation processes is a key and ongoing consideration across all year levels and learning areas. Curriculum documents have or will be audited to identify the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions are already embedded, and to identify opportunities for strengthening the representation of this content in the curriculum.	Penny C	Not Set

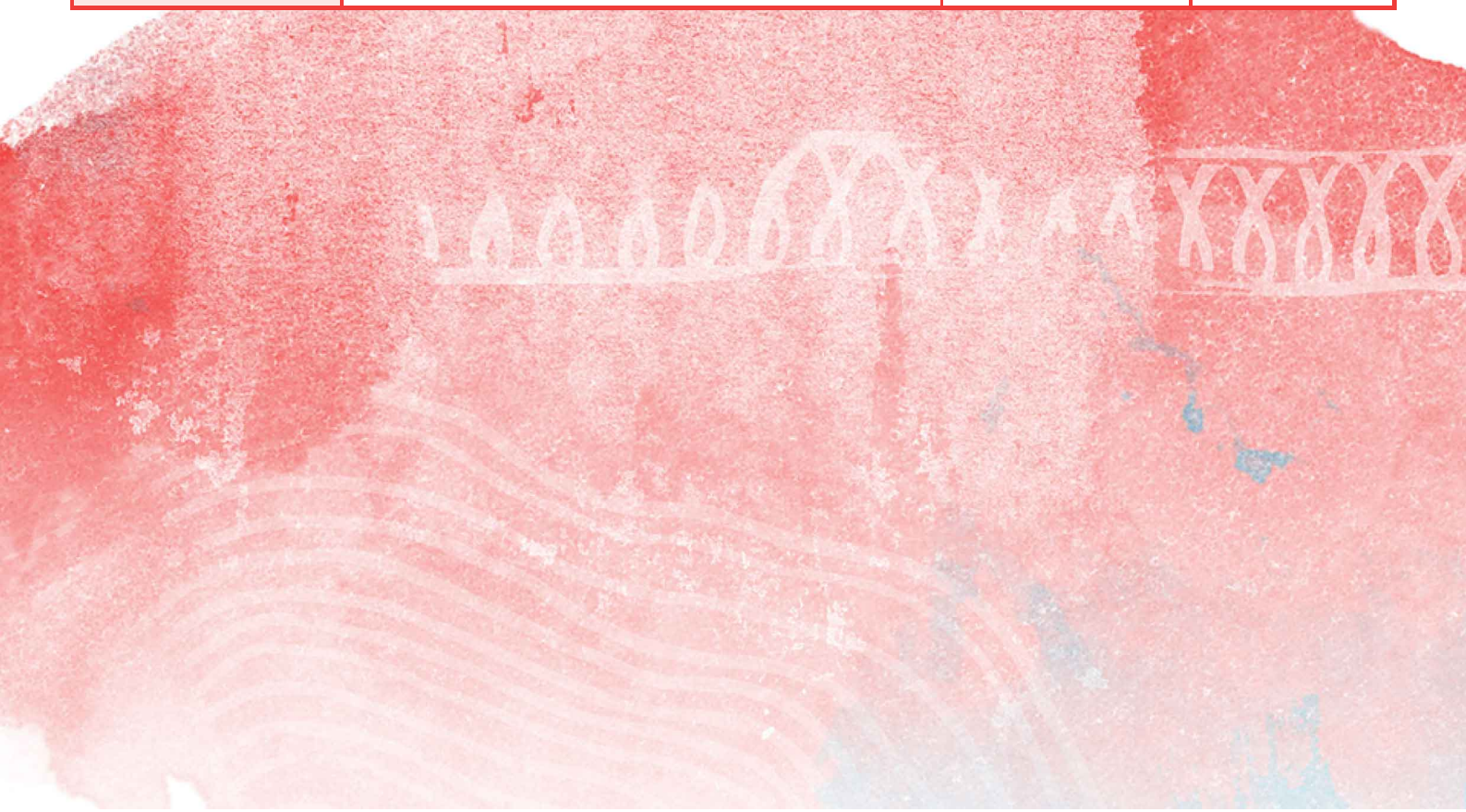


OPPORTUNITIES



AROUND THE SCHOOL

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Inclusive Policies	All staff in our school are aware of policies that refer specifically to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and increasing knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia. We have a plan in place to ensure all staff comply with these policies in their daily practice. Our internal policies have been, or will be, amended to ensure they are also inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and increase knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia.	Penny C	Ongoing
Staff Engagement with RAP	Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from all staff is essential for developing a RAP that is implemented in a meaningful and sustainable way. All staff will be involved in the ongoing development and implementation of our RAP through staff development opportunities facilitated by the RAP Working Group.	Penny C	Not Set





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Celebrate RAP Progress	We are committed to reflecting on the progress made in the growth of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in our school. We will track the progress of our RAP, continually revisit our commitments, and celebrate our achievements, while generating new ideas to develop and sustain our RAP into the future.	Lizzy C	26/05/2022

