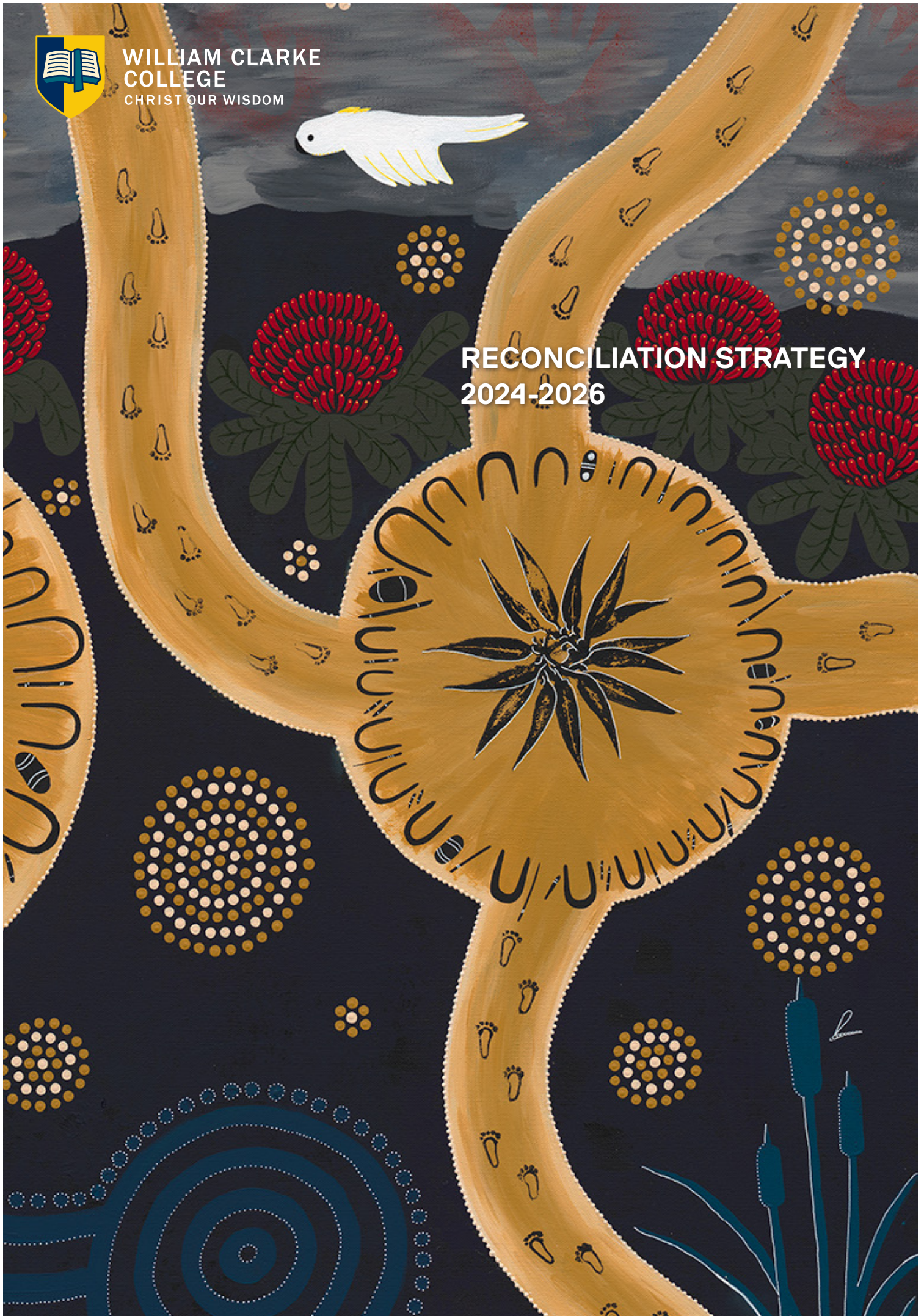




**WILLIAM CLARKE
COLLEGE**
CHRIST OUR WISDOM

RECONCILIATION STRATEGY 2024-2026



WILLIAM CLARKE COLLEGE – OUR PURPOSE

William Clarke College is a
Christ-centred community that seeks to develop
extraordinary learners with a
passion to serve others.

VIRTUES

Compassion
Courage
Hope
Humility
Integrity

PRAYER FOR COUNTRY

*Our heavenly Father, creator and sustainer of everything,
thank you for your creation, and particularly for this land on which we are standing.
We thank you, too, for the Bidji people of the Dharug nation, the traditional custodians of this place.
We thank you also for their elders past, present and emerging, and for the work they have done
and will do to care for this Country.*

*We also thank you for the contributions Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians have made,
and continue to make, to the growth of this nation.*

*Thank you for the opportunity we have to teach and learn in this place. Please help us all
to unite in caring for this land with integrity and justice as wise stewards made in your image,
for the good of all those who come after us, and for your glory.*



INTRODUCTION

Our desire is that the rich heritage and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is known, valued and celebrated within our community and beyond.

As William Clarke College travels along its fourth decade of existence, we recognise that our story is part of a larger story that has been continuing for thousands of years. We recognise the Bidji people of the Dharug nation as those who have lived, shared stories and taught each other on the land where the College lies. Our aim is that our students learn, understand and respect the history, traditions and stories of this wonderful community. As we live out our strategy for reconciliation, our aim is that a deepening understanding of these stories will lead to transformation and help us to work towards authentic reconciliation.

Our desire is that the rich heritage and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is known, valued and celebrated within our community and beyond. We do so recognising that all people have a common heritage, having been created in God's image and so all are equally precious in His sight. Central to the gospel message is God's work of reconciliation, and so we seek to pursue reconciliation with all people in general and First Nations people in particular.

As we continue on this journey, we move forward with humility. We are grateful for the work of the College's initial Reconciliation Strategy and are eager to continue building upon the work already done. We look forward with hope, seeking to the ways we can establish greater understanding of, and stronger connections with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.



Mr Alex Koch
Head of College

The Reconciliation Strategy team also liaises with our local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group on matters concerning the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within the College, as well as seeking guidance from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities regarding our programs and initiatives.

OUR COMMUNITY

The College campus is situated on the traditional lands of the Bidji people, a clan of the Dharug nation. This territory includes the Hills District, stretching from Camden to Wisemans Ferry and includes the Cumberland Plain in Western Sydney. Teaching and learning have taken place on this land for centuries as Dharug elders have passed down their stories, traditions and knowledge of the land. Like all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Dharug nation suffered significantly post contact. As Sydney was quickly colonised, much of the Dharug language was lost and many cultural practices were forcibly ceased. The community, however, is working hard to reclaim the language and educate the wider community about the history of the Dharug people and the deep connection they have with this land. This is a testament to the resilience of the Dharug people.

RECONCILIATION STRATEGY TEAM

The Reconciliation Strategy Team is comprised of both teaching and non-teaching staff from across the College, as well as parent and carer representatives who are passionate about reconciliation. The team also liaises with our local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group on matters concerning the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within the College, as well as seeking guidance from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities regarding our programs and initiatives.



THE FOUNDATION OF OUR RECONCILIATION STRATEGY

As a Christ-centred community we acknowledge Jesus as Lord and the true source of eternal reconciliation.

“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

At William Clarke College, we seek to do good in God’s world by loving and serving others.

The theme of reconciliation is deeply connected to the life of Jesus Christ and is a significant theme in both the Old and New Testaments. Loving and serving involves action, with no greater example than the love shown and grace given by God through the death of His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to reconcile us with God the Father. In fact, scholars have noted that “on the largest scale, God is at work reconciling the entire universe, bringing all things into their proper relation to Jesus Christ” (A Theological Framework for Reconciliation, With Special Reference to The Indigenous Peoples of Australia - Thompson, 2020).

As a Christ-centred community we are called to live in a manner that reflects the love, grace and restoration shown to us by Christ in our relationships with others, having all been made in His image (Genesis 1:26).

We recognise our responsibility under God to work towards restoration and reconciliation in all human relationships where we can. We love because God first loved us. We are called to forgive because of what Jesus has done for us. We say sorry because Jesus has modelled to us deep humility and revealed that we are too often distracted by self-interest as opposed to deep care for others. As a Christ-centred community we acknowledge Jesus as Lord and the true source of eternal reconciliation.

In response to this, we seek to be **authentic** in our relationships and representations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories. We understand the importance of being **relational**, collaborating and consulting with the community as we foster trusting partnerships, and we seek to pursue **transformative** growth in knowledge and understanding.

It is our desire that our efforts connect meaningfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the College, as well as locally and nationally. Importantly, we believe the College’s Reconciliation Strategy represents our commitment to Christ and His plan for restoration for all.



PRIORITIES AND DOMAINS OF ENGAGEMENT

We understand the importance of showing respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the need to connect with communities, as well as the need to engage in learning and show our support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

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Each priority within the strategy indicates an intention in one of the following areas:



Respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities



Connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities







Understand the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities

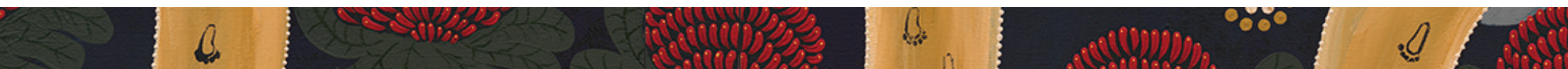







Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

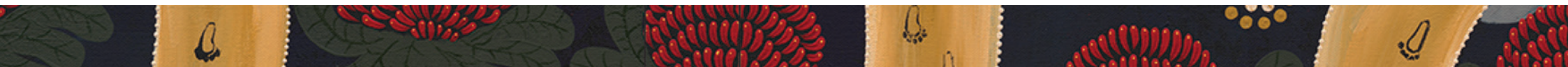


The priorities for this strategy reflect both the journey the College commenced in 2021, as well as the intended direction.

Priority	Deliverable	Domain
Raise awareness of the Reconciliation Strategy within the College community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launch strategy to College community, including, staff, students, and parents and carers 2. Reference connections to the strategy in things we do and acknowledge achievements 3. Investigate opportunities on the College website to bring greater awareness to the Reconciliation Strategy. 	 <p>Respect</p>
Recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories throughout the College	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin formal events with the College Prayer for Country 2. Display Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art throughout the campus 3. Hang flags in a visible location 4. Encourage the display of learning resources related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. 	 <p>Respect</p>
Celebrate racial diversity within the College	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to take timely action against racism 2. Provide opportunities for students to identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, including upon enrolment and tertiary study opportunities 3. Plan events that acknowledge racial diversity within the College community. 	 <p>Respect</p>
Embed learning experiences that increase awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to provide learning opportunities regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in teaching and learning programs from Prep to Year 12 2. Re-structure the Dharug Culture and Language program to reach all students from Years 7-12 3. Engage with experts and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the planning and delivery of perspectives. 	 <p>Understand</p>



<p>Build capacity in staff to teach about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support teachers in their delivery of 2.4 of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers by providing resources and learning 2. Prioritise time at Faculty and Grade meetings to explore syllabus alignment with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives 3. Provide opportunities for staff to collaborate and learn from each other regarding the embedding of perspectives. 	 <p>Understand</p>
<p>Develop and maintain relationships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain membership on the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group 2. Communicate with College consultants regarding implementation of programs and to seek guidance regarding cultural matters. 	 <p>Connect</p>
<p>Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate opportunities to support Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander businesses or businesses that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities 2. Engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women to present at incursions. 	 <p>Connect</p>
<p>Participate in events that show a commitment to learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories, as well as support of reconciliation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in dates of significance. e.g. Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week. 	 <p>Advocate</p>
<p>Demonstrate connections between the College's Reconciliation Strategy and the Gospel message</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray for reconciliation publicly 2. Connect students and staff with the biblical call for reconciliation 3. Explore opportunities for mission and service programs. 	 <p>Understand, Connect, Advocate</p>





TRACKING PROGRESS AND REPORTING

The team reviews the implementation of the Reconciliation Strategy on an ongoing capacity. The Reconciliation Strategy Team monitors and reports on the progress of the priorities within the strategy.

The Reconciliation Strategy Team:

- Meets quarterly to monitor and review the implementation of the Reconciliation Strategy 2024–2026
- Reports on the progress of priorities to the Executive annually
- Develops the Reconciliation Strategy 2027–2029.

FEATURE ARTWORK

The feature artwork was completed by a local Dharug artist, Leanne Watson. Having grown up in Kellyville, Leanne now works as an artist, illustrator and is the President of the Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation.

The artwork depicts the College as a place of learning, highlights aspects of the local sandstone soil, incorporates the local fauna, and shows a representation of Marella - the mission that stood on the grounds of Bernie Mullane Sporting Complex.