

## First Nations: Country, Connection and Custodianship

As students of the GSE community, we are being called to action, to listen and engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples to guide, educate and lead us on the path of reconciliation.

We recognise and celebrate peoples of the world's oldest living continuing cultures. We acknowledge that in these lands we now call Australia there exist wrongdoings, both past and present, that are contrary to the teachings of the church and individual and collective human rights.

The students of Good Samaritan Education are committed to:

- acknowledging the trauma hurt and injustices of the past that have led to ongoing systemic inequality. Through truth justice and action reconciliation can occur.
- going beyond Acknowledgement of Country, National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week. Reconciliation and healing are processes, not a quick fix and cannot be done in isolation. By working together and not against each other, we can present opportunities for growth and renewal.
- encouraging and promoting further education, through conversations and shared stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – centring connection of all to country, both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.
- creating spaces to help support traditional owners in our journey to healing for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Non-Indigenous peoples.

The indigenous voices in our community are pleading that we help them in an effective manner – one which appropriately aligns with our needs as a community. We must go beyond words as now is the time for action.

We are accountable to act not simply in a way that is profitable or convenient, an example of which is implementing a service of lament and by helping in ways respectful of the unique and diverse language and island groups.