

RECONCILIATION WEEK 2017 AT MAAS

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) will celebrate 2017 Reconciliation Week with a series of community-focused events and the unveiling of its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocol (ICIP) and the announcement of a new Elders in Residence program at MAAS.

MAAS Director, **Dolla Merrillees**, said furthering genuine and respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is a priority for MAAS.

“We are pleased to be joining with our local Indigenous community throughout Reconciliation Week to further our progress towards reconciliation,” said Ms Merrillees.

“The new MAAS RAP and ICIP protocol are living documents that help MAAS embed processes and practices that allow for intentional consultation, collaboration and connection with Indigenous communities to support continuing cultural practice in the applied arts and sciences.”

The MAAS Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) recognises the role of the Museum as custodians of Indigenous cultural material and outlines approaches to fostering an ongoing orientation of reconciliation within the organisation.

The Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) protocol establishes that MAAS’s commitment to recognise and respect the right of Indigenous peoples, communities and custodians to protect, maintain, control and benefit from their intellectual property, both tangible and intangible.

Reconciliation Week will begin with the unveiling of the MAAS RAP and new ICIP protocols and be followed by a week of celebration, reflection and shared learning.

The Reconciled Writer

Saturday 27 May 2017, 10.30am–4.30pm, Powerhouse Museum

Begin Reconciliation Week with a workshop run by award-winning Murri writer and activist Samuel Wagan Watson. Draw from the MAAS collection to produce original writing in this rapid response writing class and share your drafts with fellow writers in a constructive, collaborative environment.

MAAS Mabo Day Address

Saturday 3 June 2017, 6.30–8.30pm, Sydney Observatory

The third MAAS Mabo Day Address will be presented by Wuthathi/Meriam lawyer and ICIP authority Terri Janke. As an international authority on ICIP Terri will share her experiences advising organisations in the Australian cultural sector on indigenous cultural and intellectual property.

The Decadent Weaving of Grace Lillian Lee

Saturday 3 June 2017, 10.30am–3.30pm, Sydney Observatory

Indigenous Australian artist Grace Lillian Lee adapts traditional Torres Strait Island weaving techniques to modern fashion aesthetics to produce unique wearable art. Join Grace in a workshop inspired by her merging of fashion and performance to create your own woven art.

Mabo Decision 25th Anniversary and 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum

27 May 2017 – 4 February 2018

Displays at Sydney Observatory and Powerhouse Museum commemorate the 25th anniversary of the historic Mabo decision and the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum that led to changing to the Constitution to include Aboriginal people in the national census and be recognised in the reckoning of the population of Australia.

For bookings and further information about Reconciliation Week at MAAS visit www.maas.museum

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About the Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences

The Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and Museums Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia’s contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.