

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA
GUNNA
WALI**

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Blackwater State High School

September 2021 to September 2022



CONTENTS

Vision for Reconciliation

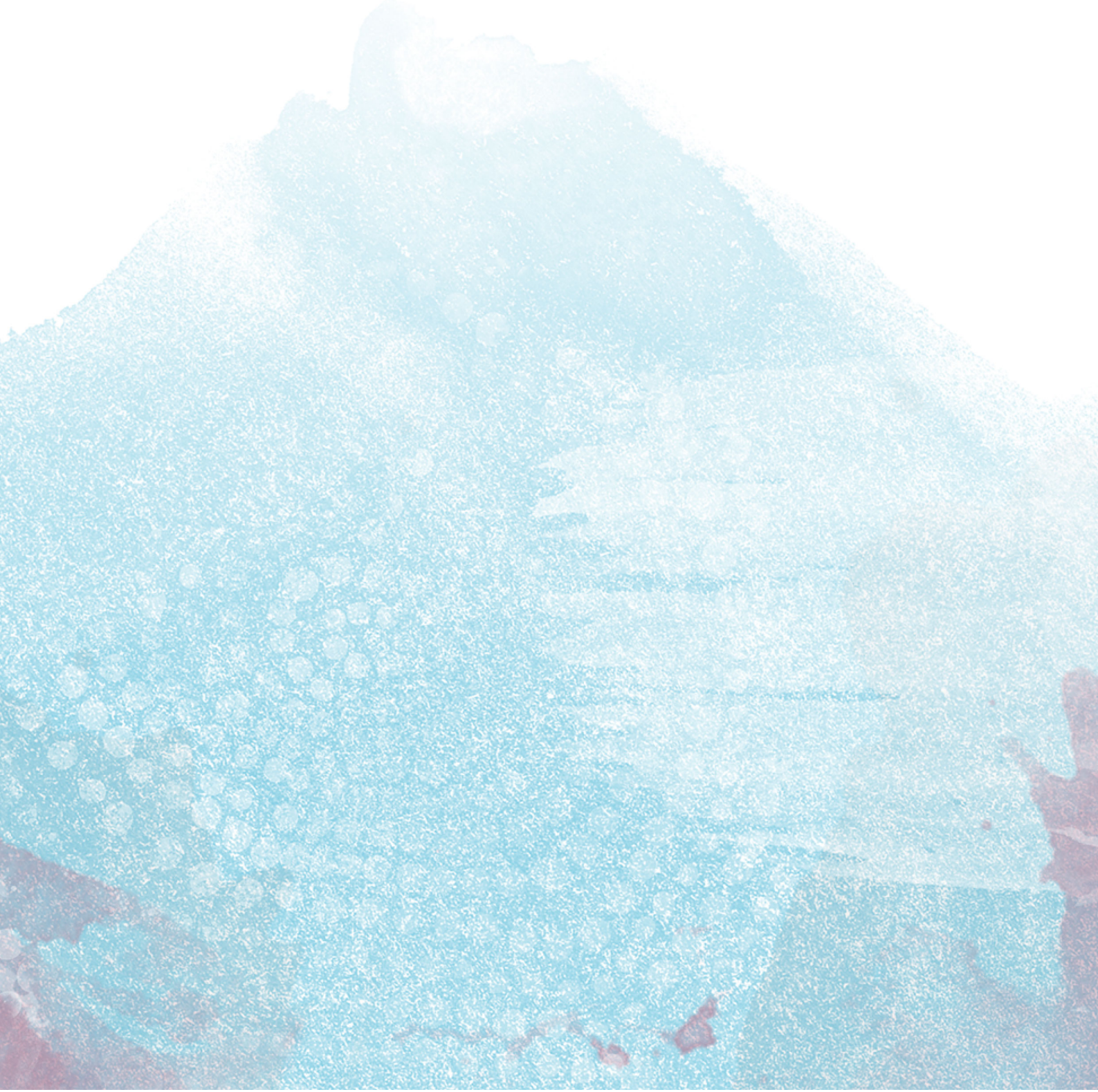
The Working Group

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Actions

Relationships

Respect

Opportunities



VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

At Blackwater State High School, we believe all individuals have the right to equal and equitable educational opportunities. We respect the diverse cultures that make up our school community and acknowledge the strong, rich, and continuing contributions of all First Peoples of Australia to our school community. We strive for deep and ongoing conversations, consultations and collaborations with local community members to develop open communication with our local First Nations community. Through an authentic engagement with Australia's First Peoples' experiences and perspectives we hope to develop a shared appreciation for all. We hope to use this common understanding to influence the teaching and learning at Blackwater State High School and create the leaders of tomorrow that will drive continued reconciliation in the wider community.

A better understanding and respect for Australia's First Nations cultures develops an enriched appreciation of Australia's cultural heritage and can lead to reconciliation. This is essential to the maturity of Australia as a nation and fundamental to the development of an Australian identity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Blackwater State High School acknowledges, the Ghungalu people, and pays respect to Elders —past and present —for they hold the memories, the traditions, the cultures and hopes of the First Peoples of Australia.



RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Christopher Smith	Staff (teaching)
Abbey Jeffery	Staff (teaching)
Beth Dyer	Staff (Indigenous Education Worker)
Rebecca Godfrey	Principal / Director
Cheryl Bland	Staff (teaching)
Amanda Whale	Staff (teaching)
Jade Mackay	Staff (teaching)
George Paterson	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 as guests 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.	Christopher S	Not Set



RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
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.	Christopher S	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.	Rebecca G	Ongoing



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.	Christopher S	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.	Christopher S, Abbey J, Beth D, Rebecca G	27/05/2022 - 03/06/2022
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.	Christopher S	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.	Christopher S	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.	Christopher S	Ongoing

RESPECT



AROUND THE SCHOOL

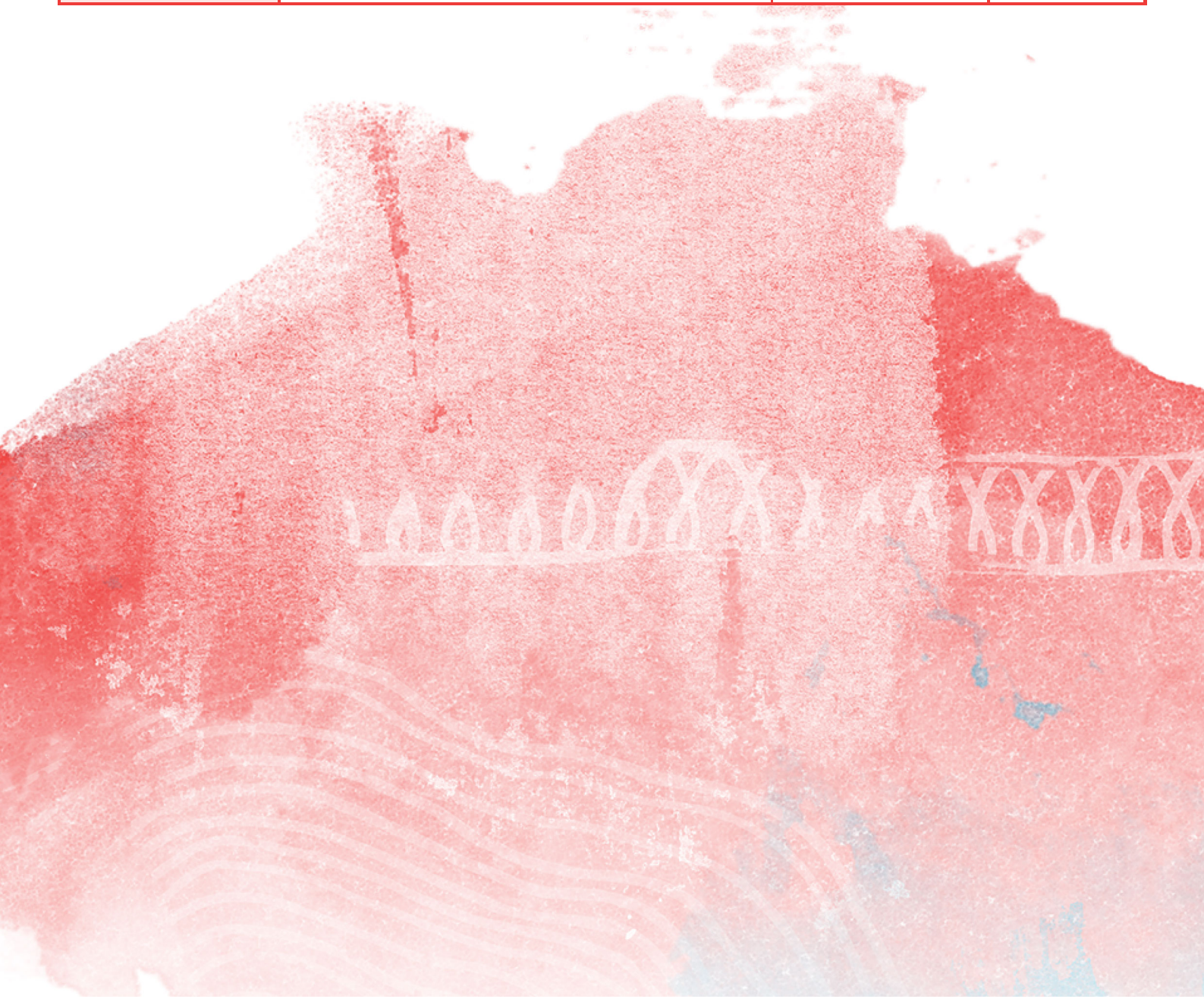
RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Acknowledgement of Country	Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.	Rebecca G	Ongoing



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.	Christopher S	Ongoing
RAP Launch	Our school is proud to launch our RAP at an event that recognises the efforts of the working group and celebrates our school or service's commitment to reconciliation. We will use our RAP launch event to inform the wider community about our RAP and the many different ways they can get involved and take action toward reconciliation.	Christopher S, Rebecca G	03/06/2021
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.	Christopher S	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.	Rebecca G	Not Set



OPPORTUNITIES



AROUND THE SCHOOL

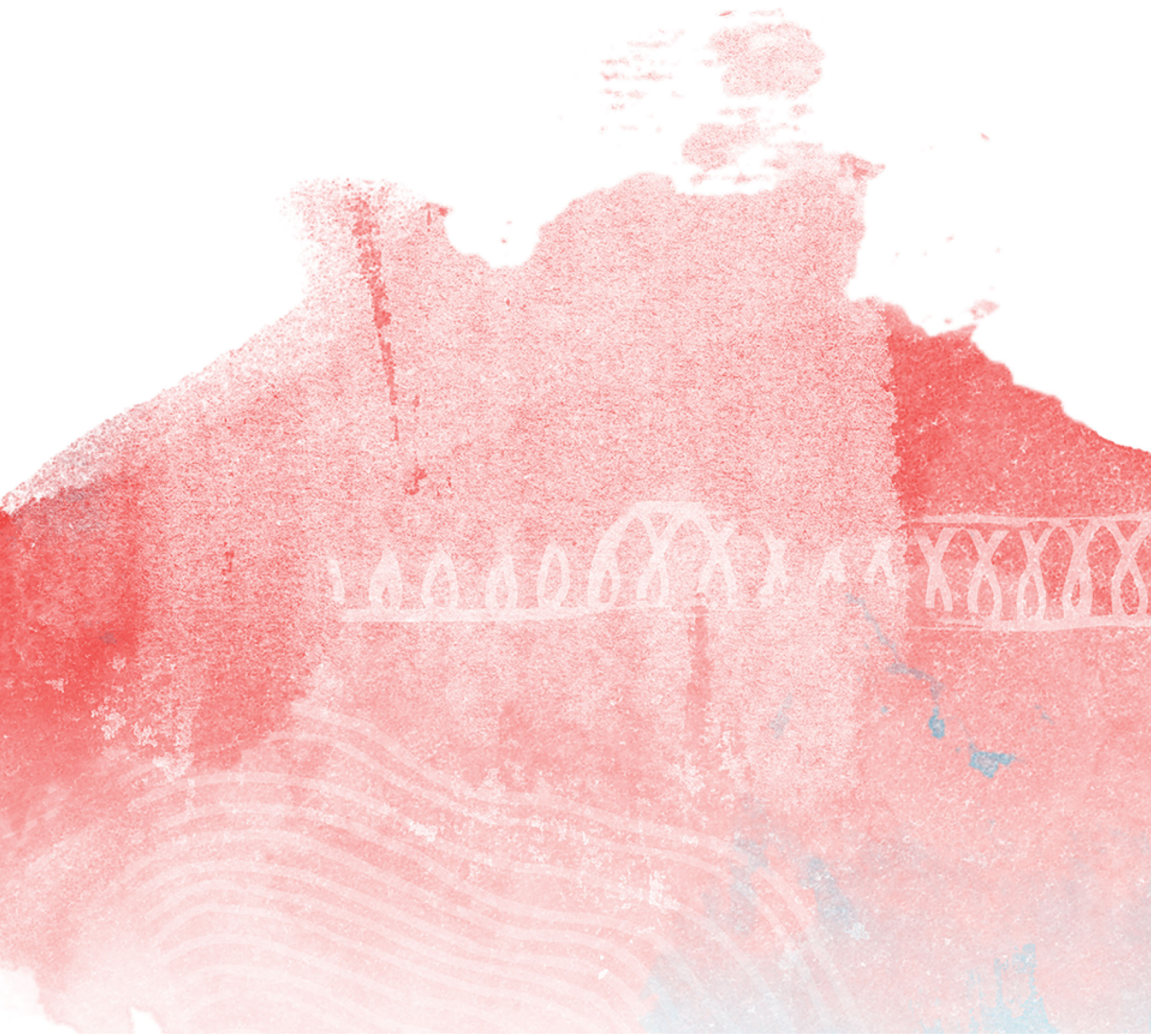
RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Inclusive Policies	All staff in our school are aware of policies that refer specifically to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and increasing knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories 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.	Christopher S, Rebecca G	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.	Christopher S	Ongoing
RAP Budget Allocation	We have set aside dedicated funds from within our budget to procure relevant goods and services that strengthen the sustainability of our RAP Actions. Staff are aware that it is important to consider remuneration for people who have been involved in RAP initiatives out of respect for the time and resources that they have contributed.	Christopher S, Rebecca G	Ongoing

OPPORTUNITIES



AROUND THE SCHOOL

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT	ASSIGNED TO	DUE DATE
Reconciliation Awards	We commit to creating opportunities to acknowledge students, children, staff and community members who are making an outstanding contribution to progressing reconciliation in our school.	Christopher S, Rebecca G	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.	Christopher S, Rebecca G	Ongoing

