

ANTaR Qld Newsletter Sept 2024

Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud

We have been working to build a network of solidarity organisations around the Greater Brisbane area (and beyond where possible) so that we can support each other's efforts for justice, self-determination and sovereignty for First Australians. The main focus is on supporting truth-telling. The network has been growing slowly and meets every 6 to 8 weeks. If any of our ANTaR Qld members would like to be involved email us at office@antarqld.org.au

The Sea of Hands will be displayed at the West End State School as part of the Kurilpa Derby on 8 September, <https://www.facebook.com/kurilpaderby4101> Come along!

In Toowoomba, the annual **Battle of Meewah** commemoration (where Aboriginal warriors fought the colonisers in September 1843) will be held on 12 September at Toobruk Memorial Drive Lookout. Toowoomba First Nations Allies is supported by ANTaR Q. Join in! See <https://www.facebook.com/battleofmeewahcommemoration/> for more details.

There is powerful **truth-telling at Mitchelton Library**, 2.30-4.30m, 8 September, 6 October. Contact Rosalie Raciti, rosalieraciti@gmail.com

October will be the **first anniversary for the Voice Referendum**. On Sunday 13 October there will be reflections at the Croquet Club in Musgrave Park and at other sites around Brisbane, organised by Mob 23 with support from ANTaR Q. More information to come.

The **Benarrawa Learning Circle** of teachers, with ANTaR Q participation, is planning a great series of learning events and projects across a number of schools on the south side to prepare for Sorry Day 2025.

We continue to engage with local First Peoples communities and provide support to Murri and Goori families in the Brisbane inner suburbs, listening to local Elders who make us aware of community needs. Whenever we can, ANTaR Qld tries to meet community needs, including around community and cultural engagement, Sorry Business, food provision and emergency relief.

Our AGM this year will be on 13 October at 10.30 at the House Centre, 69 Thomas St. West End. Join us in person or online. Contact office@antarqld.org.au This will be a shorter event this year to allow for the events at the Croquet Club later in the day.

Truth Telling – reflection and some resources

The Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry opens on 16 September. (See the link for more details Registrationapp.vision6.com.au) It's important for as many as possible to participate (in person or online) to support and engage with the process.

Truth Telling requires coming to terms with the history of colonisation in this state. This involves horrific stories of killings and massacres, of separations and incarceration, of dispossession and removal and of the terrible burden of intergenerational trauma. These, and many more dimensions, must be brought to the table if Truth Telling is to have real meaning.

The point of coming to terms with our shared history is not to divide but as a path to healing and justice. Truth Telling is part of healing. See 'A Brief History of Queensland' in the Report from the Treaty Working Group, 2020, <https://www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au/resources/dsdsatsip/work/atsip/reform-tracks-treaty/path-treaty/treaty-working-group-report-2020.pdf>

But we also need to focus on the extraordinary history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who arguably sustained the most sophisticated political, social, economic, kinship and numerous other systems by which they survived and prospered for well over 60 to 70,000 years. The reality of that survival and flourishing is absolutely the opposite to what has been presented to many generations in the post-invasion education and schooling systems.

Truth Telling calls us to appreciate the complexity of the cultures that have been denied and damaged by the deliberate lies and distortion of our post invasion years. There is an increasing number of rich sources in videos, audio and text formats which allow us to begin acknowledging First Peoples culture and ways of knowing. Here are a few suggestions.

The First Inventors

Available from SBS On Demand at <https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/tv-series/the-first-inventors>

This is a four-part series where presenter Rob Collins and his team explore the innovative creations that enabled First Nations people to thrive, ranging from transforming volcanic terrains into fish farms to mastering the art of harnessing dangerous fire for survival.

First Nations Bedtime Stories

Available from Common Ground at: <https://www.commonground.org.au/bedtime-stories>

This is an entertaining and informative series which brings Dreaming stories as old as time into homes and classrooms across the continent. It is a project by Common Ground working with First Nations communities to film non-secret Dreaming stories told by Elders and Knowledge Custodians. It aims to share and strengthen these stories for future generations and provide a way for all people to connect with the oldest continuing cultures on earth. These stories are a rich source of valuable knowledge and wisdom.

The First Astronomers

A truly amazing book in both print and audio format and available at: <https://www.thefirstastronomers.com/>

The First Astronomers demonstrates how First Nations Elders developed and used their forensic knowledge of what now is termed astronomy to connect stars, planets, movements of celestial bodies and more to accurately forecast seasons, weather,

navigation, times for planting, behaviour of animals and a multitude of other aspects of daily Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life over thousands of years. It is both wonderful and remarkable.

And two other books:

The Memory Code by Lynee Kelly

First Knowledges Songlines – The Power and Promise by Margo Neale and Lynne Kelly.

And see our [Good reads page](#)

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