

In 1981, the Fregon-Victor Harbor Cultural Exchange Program began, celebrating 20 years of education, understanding and friendship in the year 2000. **Kondoli - Our Symbol of Reconciliation** is a tangible symbol of the celebration of the exchange program and the contribution of the Ngarrindjeri community to the South Coast.

The wording on the wall tells in three languages the links between the communities. The interwoven black and white footsteps surrounding the bush tucker from both Ngarrindjeri and Pitjantjatjara homelands symbolises the overall theme which is Learning Together. This idea is repeated in the large circle on the floor. By sharing and learning together, reconciliation can be achieved through education and understanding. In the centre, the map of Australia with multi-coloured dots, symbolises that reconciliation is for all cultures and creeds in our nation.

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THE MAKING OF KONDOLI - The Credits

KONDOLI recognises the contribution that the Ngarrindjeri Ramindjeri, Pitjantjatjara and non-indigenous peoples have made in shaping the South Coast communities of South Australia.

Principal Artist: Lyn Walsh

Indigenous Artists: Kunytjitja Brown, Maria Curley, Lana Karpany-Jackson, Inawinytji Williamson, Brenda Williamson.

Construction Coordinators: Antz Dent and Glenn Minards.

Builders: Samantha Brusnahan, Archie Katinyeri, Betty Katinyeri, Leeann Katinyeri, Roland Love, Al Lukey, Tania Oxenham, Bill Rigney, Trevor Sumner.

Cultural Exchange Documentation: Alan Tucker

Project Coordinators: Lyn Walsh and Ian Porteous

Applicants: Victor Harbor R-7 and Fregon Anangu Schools

School Coordinators: Paula Bracken and Ian Porteous

Funding Partners: National Council for the Centenary of Federation's *History and Education Program*, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs *Living in Harmony* initiative, the Australian Local Government Association, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

Local Sponsors and Suppliers: Beaumont Tiles, CSR Readymix, City of Victor Harbor, Garden Works, Hurford Ceramic Tiling, Italia Ceramics, Mt Barker Tiles, Port Elliot Mitre 10, Victor Harbor TruValue.

Additional funding and support: South Australian Country Arts Trust, the City of Victor Harbor and the Community Development Employment Program.

Consultation Group: Anthony Cousins, Ken Davis, Antz Dent, Brian Doman, Kay Ewens, Robin Kaankapakantja, Lana Karpany-Jackson, Roger Kayapipi, Nyukana Norris, Angkuna Polkinghorne, Ian Porteous, Antjela Robin, Langaliki Robin, Nola Roger, Sheila Smith, Chris Tapscott, Frank Tuckwell, Alan Tucker, Pollyanne Smith, Darrell Sumner, Lyn Walsh.

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KONDOLI

OUR LOCAL SYMBOL OF RECONCILIATION



VICTOR HARBOR

FEEL IT CALLING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kondoli had its beginnings in late 1999 when the Victor Harbor R-7 School and the Fregon Anangu School jointly applied for funding for a reconciliation project.

Kondoli is one of seven projects funded throughout Australia by the **Local Symbols of Reconciliation Project**. It was the only one initiated by a school and the only one in South Australia.

At the application stage the plan was to recognise the twenty year anniversary of the Victor Harbor-Fregon Cultural Exchange Program which had begun in 1981.

Since that time hundreds of Victor students and parents have ventured to the community in the far northwest to spend time living, learning and playing with the Anangu students and their families.

Each year a reciprocal visit by the students from Fregon saw the Anangu children living with their new Victor friends and enjoying a week on the South Coast.

Over time the project evolved into its current form, wherein it recognises three cultures, Ngarrindjeri, Pitjantjatjara and non-indigenous. The symbol reflects the motto "Learning Together" which has been the underlying principle of the cultural exchange.

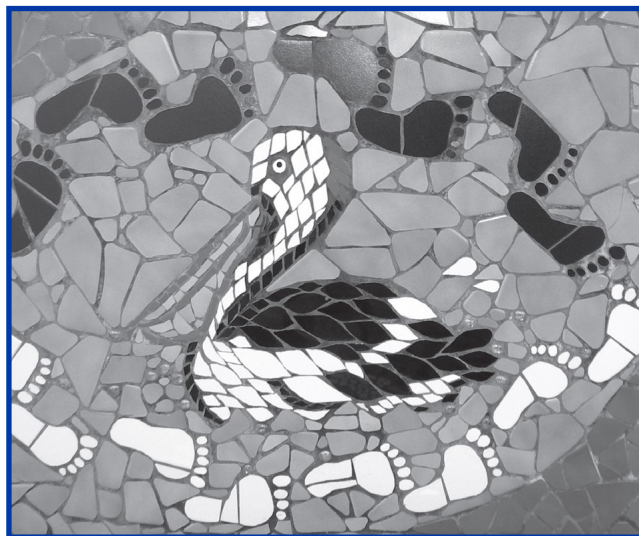
Kondoli the whale has in turn become our symbol of reconciliation. The artwork is a compilation of work from Ngarrindjeri, Pitjantjatjara and non-indigenous artists working together to tell a number of stories and to reflect upon the cultures.

The mosaic tile patterns have been prepared by a group of volunteers working and learning together, a community based art project and a lasting symbol of a community's desire to bring about reconciliation.

It is hoped that other communities will take the lead from **Kondoli — Our Local Symbol of Reconciliation** and initiate similar projects in their areas.

KONDOLI - OUR LOCAL SYMBOL OF RECONCILIATION

Reading the symbols



Kondoli the whale has always been important for the Ramindjeri/Ngarrindjeri people of Victor Harbor. The Dreaming Story of Kondoli tells how the whale brought fire to the Ngarrindjeri people but was killed in the process. The form of Kondoli that now appears at the Kleinig's Hill lookout shows this spirit ancestor carrying the fire inside its open ribs. The open ribs suggest the skeleton inside and the idea that Kondoli has died but is still alive; it is a spirit whale.

The waves on the riser of the steps in front of Kondoli show the Seven Sisters Dreaming Story. This Dreaming was chosen for its significance not only to our friends from Fregon who have been visiting this community and having Victor Harbor people visiting them for the past 20 years, but also because it would seem all 500 or more Aboriginal nations shared the Seven Sisters Dreaming.

This Dreaming is located in what has since been named the Plaedes star system. The symbols in the waves beneath Kondoli the whale show the seven sisters sitting around the fire with their digging sticks, trying to hide behind their shelter. A man who wants the biggest sister for his wife is chasing them, and he can be seen sitting next to his fire

with his club and spear. The symbols from this story are repeated inside the circles on the whale and also on top of the steps in front of the whale, in order to suggest the universality and significance of this Dreaming Story to all Aboriginal Australians. As a symbol of Reconciliation, the repetition of the Seven Sisters Dreaming serves to give representation and ownership of this symbol to all Aboriginal nations.

Inside the circle behind Kondoli are the images that represent the history of contact, the story of the Fregon - Victor Harbor Cultural Exchange Program and the path it has forged toward Reconciliation.

The red cement with animal tracks is used to show how far back Aboriginal history reaches, and its significance for all Australians. The first circle to the left on the ground inside the break in the circular wall shows traditional Ngarrindjeri life, with representations of bush foods from 'land, river and sea.' This circle is broken by the invasion of European sealers, whalers and eventually settlers onto Ramindjeri/Ngarrindjeri land, represented by a tall ship flying a British flag and leaving a trail of blood in its wake.

Moving forward from the ship there are images to show the devastating effects of introduced diseases, poisoned flour, dietary change and the Stolen Generation on the Ramindjeri/Ngarrindjeri nation. In this way we acknowledge that education about and recognition of the negative aspects of our shared history are an integral part of the Reconciliation process. The explorers and the scalpers that came on camels similarly break the circle representing traditional life in Central Australia.

For the Pitjantjatjara people the atomic tests at Maralinga, pastoralists fencing off traditional lands, pollution of water-holes by grazing cattle and the blatant murders that occurred all contribute to a sorry past.

The 'stop war' symbol from the 1970's is deliberately used at the end of the History of Contact section as it was at about this time in Australian history that the tide finally started to turn for indigenous Australians.

The 'sea of hands' imagery has been used to show how the reconciliation movement is now truly a people's movement, with more and more 'ordinary Australians' working towards a better future.