

## The presenters

<p><b>Alli Golding</b> is a Biripai woman from the north coast. She's a graduate of Nungalinga Aboriginal College, Darwin, with a Diploma in Theology. She has lived on the Block for twenty years. She is Inaugural Elder in Residence, Faculty of Medicine, University of NSW.</p> <p><b>Charline Emzin-Boyd</b>, is a Bundjalung Aboriginal &amp; Tanna Islander woman who is the NSW Teachers Federation Aboriginal Education Coordinator. She is Chairperson of the Australian Education Union Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Committee.</p> <p><b>Simon Jovanovic</b>. Simon's country is Walbunja near Bateman's Bay. He has worked for the Ageing, Disability and Home Care as Regional Aboriginal Employment Support Officer. He is currently undertaking a Ph D at the University of Western Sydney.</p> <p><b>Donna Lee Astill</b> is an Aboriginal woman who has studied at James Meehan high school and UWS. She has worked in Aged Care &amp; at Westmead hospital. Currently with Indigenous Disability Advocacy Service and also helping Aboriginal prisoners.</p> <p><b>Damian Griffiths</b> is currently the Executive Officer of Aboriginal Disability Network, a new national peak organisation representing Aboriginal people with disabilities. Internationally, he is a lead advocate for the establishment of the Pacific Disability Forum</p> <p><b>Derek Walker</b> is a Bundjalung man from Baryulgil 90 Km north west of Grafton (noted for its asbestos problem). He has worked as Program Manager for, Australian Indigenous Mentoring and is currently Chief Development Officer, Auburn Council.</p> <p><b>Nicole Watson</b> is a member of the Birri-Gubba People. She has a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland and a Master of Laws from Qld University of Technology. She is a Research Fellow at the Jumbunna House of Learning UTS.</p> <p><b>Kaylene &amp; Rick Manton</b>. Rick is an ordained Presbyterian minister &amp; is in charge of the Anglican Church at Tregear! Rick &amp; Kaylene are involved with youth programs and rehabilitative programs for those suffering from addiction.</p> <p><b>Chris Graham</b>, Walkley award-winning journalist &amp; former editor National Indigenous Times, exposed the ABC's <i>LateLine</i> in 2006 as a scam when a senior public servant posed as a former Youth Worker at Mutitjulu claiming he uncovered a paedophile ring.</p> <p><b>Kerrie Kenton</b> is a descendant of the Wangal, Wategora and Dughutti People of NSW. She is an artist, designer, teacher, traditional weaver and mud sculptor and is internationally recognised with works in collections both here and abroad.</p> <p><b>Tim Agius</b> is from the Nurrung Nation, Adelaide plains South Australia. Tim works with the Sydney West Area Health Service and is Director of Aboriginal Area Health. He has a special interest in 'what works &amp; what doesn't' in Aboriginal health.</p> <p><b>Graham Merritt</b> is a Western Australian Noongar man active in opposing development on Aboriginal sacred sites on Rottnest Island. He advocates for Australia Day being 'Survival Day' for Aboriginal people &amp; is involved with Aboriginal Jobs with Justice.</p> <p><b>Mercedes Sarmina</b> has her own website and on-line floristry business, and a video on U-Tube. She runs accredited floristry, job ready programs, specialising in Indigenous floristry and training women prisoners in the art of floristry.</p>
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Date	Presenter	Topic
03 Aug	Alli Golding	Twenty Years on The Block in Redfern
03 Aug	Charline Emzin-Boyd	Aboriginal Education and Training
10 Aug	Simon Jovanovic	Aboriginal Employment and Colonisation
10 Aug	Donna Lee Astill	Working & Advocating for the Disabled
17 Aug	Derek Walker	Aboriginal Community Development
17 Aug	Nicole Watson	Why Change the Constitution?
24 Aug	Kaylene & Rick Manton	Koori Church & its Programs
24 Aug	Chris Graham	Racism in the Media & the NT Intervention
31 Aug	Kerrie Kenton	Art, kinship, Stories and Song
31 Aug	Tim Agius	What Works in Aboriginal Health
07 Sep	Graham Merritt	Aboriginal Activism in W/NT & STICS
07 Sep	Mercedes Sarmina	Florists and Prisoners - the connection

## Session Times

The sessions commence at 7.30 pm and finish around 9.30 with a break for supper in between the two presenters. During the supper break and following the second speaker, there is usually time for informal discussion.

### Parking

(See map)

### By Train

The venue is about 10 minutes walk from Parramatta Station

## Building Bridges 2011

Building Bridges provides an opportunity to come and hear Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous presenters sharing their knowledge, expertise and personal and community experience in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

Many people have never met an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian. Here's your chance to meet them over a cup of coffee and supper and discover that there's more to Indigenous society and culture than is often negatively portrayed in the media.

Following the apology in 2008, which had wide public support, there has been growing disillusionment over the Northern Territory intervention, especially its blanket application to everyone regardless of circumstances. The Racial Discrimination Act has only been partially reinstated despite the rhetoric, and income management remains in force.

Many Indigenous Australians still experience unemployment, poor health, deplorable housing, poor education and domestic violence at levels that would not be tolerated by the majority of Australians. Indigenous leaders have long since realised that the answer doesn't only lie with governments but with the people themselves and many are working tirelessly to address the problems.

**For further information about the seminars** ring Lyn on 9639 8394 or Tom on 0425 250 360

### Registration & Catering

Registration isn't essential but we encourage you to do so (no charge) with Parramatta Evening College on 9687 2072. This helps us with catering. (Quote Course No. 3X3BBR). Otherwise just turn up when you can. A donation on the night would be appreciated to help cover publicity and other costs.

Council website, [www.parramattacollege.com.au](http://www.parramattacollege.com.au)

## Reconciliation for Western Sydney

Reconciliation for Western Sydney is a community group that meets monthly to discuss ways of advancing reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Various activities are planned throughout the year including during Reconciliation Week in May and NAIDOC Week in July. **Building Bridges** also, is one of our major activities held each year.

During our regular monthly meetings we invite, as the occasion permits, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander guests to come and share with us some of their thoughts. Such guests might include health workers, lawyers, stolen generations survivors, teachers, environmentalists and others in virtually all walks of life.

We welcome new comers to our regular monthly meetings which are friendly and informal and where supper is provided. Details are in the block below. A nominal subscription of \$10 a year is charged to help offset running costs.

**Place for regular monthly meetings:** Reg Byrne Room, Karabi Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr Darcy Rd & Fyall Ave, Wentworthville (off Cumberland Highway)

**Time:** 3rd Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm

**Further information:** Contact Lyn Leerson on 9639 8394

## The Jubilee Room, Parramatta Town Hall

**Parking:** Council car park behind Town Hall and Library  
**Jubilee Room**  
Enter from Macquarie St. (opposite St John's Cathedral in the Mail)  
Turn left at Post Office.  
\$1 per hour



Come along and bring a friend and meet Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Building Bridges is an initiative of Reconciliation for Western Sydney, a community group that has been hosting such occasions for more than thirteen years

In 2007, Parramatta Council presented Reconciliation for Western Sydney with the **Community Event of the Year** award for its contribution to reconciliation. Parramatta Council's on-going support is greatly appreciated.



# Building Bridges 2011

## An initiative of Reconciliation for Western Sydney

Building Bridges is a series of six Wednesday evening free seminars run over August to September.

**No charge: Free supper: Donation appreciated**  
Program commences 3 August at 7.30 pm to be held at

Jubilee Room, Parramatta Town Hall (see Map)

The Program will include topics such as:

- \* *Helping the Disabled*
- \* *Life on The Block*
- \* *What's a Koori Church look like?*
- \* *Why Change the Constitution?*
- \* *Northern Territory Intervention*
- \* *Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health*
- \* *Aboriginal Employment*
- \* *Employment & Colonisation*
- \* *Aboriginal Art, Story & Song*
- \* *Helping Aboriginal Prisoners*

Please note: Program subject to change without notice