

# COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION



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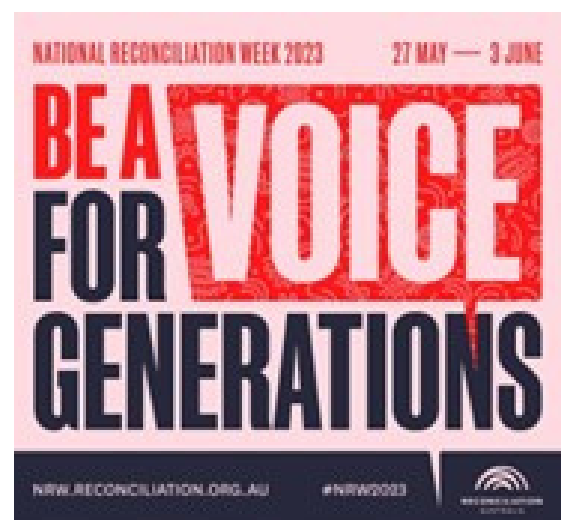
## National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June 2023)

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how we can contribute to reconciliation in Australia. The two dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision, respectively.

National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

This year's Reconciliation Week theme is Be a Voice for Generations. We are all encouraged to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise. We can act today for a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all and for the benefit of future generations ([NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU](http://NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU))

Let us all keep up the momentum for change by declaring our support of an Indigenous Voice to parliament which will be decided by a referendum later this year. Through prayer, reading, growing in appreciation and love for the land and creation, and also through our actions – for example, attending a local community 'Voice' event or speaking with others about the importance of the proposed Voice – we can be a voice for much-needed reconciliation in Australia.



# World Environment Day (5 June 2023)

The theme for World Environment Day on 5 June 2023 will focus on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.

World Environment Day 2023 is a reminder that people's actions against plastic pollution matter. The consequences of this action are the steps governments and businesses are taking to tackle plastic pollution. It is time to accelerate this action and transition to a circular economy. The world is being inundated by plastic. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced annually, half designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled. An estimated 19-23 tonnes are in lakes, rivers and seas. Today, plastic clogs our landfill, leaches into the ocean, and is combusted into toxic smoke, making it one of the gravest threats to the planet.

Not only that, but what is less known is that microplastics find their way into the food we eat, the water we drink and even the air we breathe. Many plastic products contain hazardous additives that may threaten our health.

The good news is that we have science and solutions to tackle the problem – and a lot is already happening. What is needed most now is a surge of public and political pressure to scale up and speed actions from government, companies, and other stakeholders to solve this crisis. (UN Environment Programme)

What urgent actions of love and care can we take as members of the Chevalier family?

- Avoiding single-use plastics, particularly in our communities (using cloth bags, using washable containers, and water bottles instead, for example).
- Ensuring any plastic bottles and containers we purchase are recyclable (check for the recycling symbol).
- Writing to our politicians, urging them to act .
- Writing to CEOs of the big shopping giants to demand the end of the wrapping of fruit and vegetables in plastic, for example.
- Speaking to the manager of our local Coles, Woolworths, or Aldi to voice our concerns and ask for timely action regarding abolishing plastics wherever possible.

“Honesty (is) needed to question certain models of development, production and consumption. It cannot be emphasised enough how everything is interconnected.  
(LS 138)

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# World Refugee Day (20 June 2023)

**Whoever. Wherever. Whenever. Everyone has the right to seek safety.**

United Nations World Refugee Day honours refugees around the globe, celebrating the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. It is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognise their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

Whoever they are, people forced to flee should be treated with dignity. Anyone can seek protection, regardless of who they are or what they believe. It is non-negotiable: seeking safety is a human right. Everyone has a right to be safe.

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*For Jesus, the stranger who asks for hospitality, or the immigrant who asks for acceptance, is a member of the same family... to accept the other means to make space for them in one's city, in one's laws, in one's time, and in one's circle of friends. (Pope John Paul II)*

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As members of Jules Chevalier's family, walking a heart path, let us do whatever is within our capacity and resources to support a mission of care for refugees and all who seek asylum – whether through prayer, letter-writing, or giving of our time and resources.

For anyone interested, The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office will broadcast a live online prayer service on 20 June at 7 pm AEST for Refugee Week 2023. Information for registering can be found at:  
[acmro.catholic.org.au/newsletters/0423.html](http://acmro.catholic.org.au/newsletters/0423.html)

