

Qantas' Reconciliation Journey

Qantas would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the local lands and waterways on which we live, work and fly. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

1770

Captain Cook enters Botany Bay (Kamay/Gamay) on the *HM Bark Endeavour*. The British Government fails to recognise the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their special connection with the land. Instead, they declare that Australia is *terra nullius* — land belonging to nobody.

1788

The First Fleet arrives and builds a settlement at Port Jackson in Sydney, New South Wales.

1901

When the Australian Constitution first came into being in 1901 there were only two parts that referred to the First Peoples of Australia: Section 51 (xxvi) gave the Commonwealth power to make laws with respect to 'people of any race, other than the Aboriginal race in any state, for whom it was deemed necessary to make special laws'; and Section 127 provided that 'in reckoning, the numbers of people of the Commonwealth, or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth, aboriginal natives shall not be counted.'

1919

Qantas founders, Hudson Fysh and Paul McGinness complete an overland survey between Longreach and Darwin in a Model T Ford.

Later, McGinness says they could never have done it without the help of the Aboriginal people, who repeatedly came to their rescue.



1960

Qantas launches the *Albert Namatjira* postcard.

1948

The *Commonwealth Nationality and Citizenship Act* gives the category of 'Australian Citizenship' to all Australians, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, for the first time.



1961

November article *Aboriginal Art Draws Crowds*. Nearly 20,000 people visited the Qantas House Booking Hall to see one of the finest displays of Aboriginal art ever assembled in Australia. The exhibition was supported by Qantas and toured internationally.

1962

Amendments are made to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are given the right to vote at Federal elections.

1967

On May 27, more than 90% of Australians vote 'Yes' in a referendum to change to two parts of the constitution:

- To remove the provision that excluded Aboriginal people from being counted in the Commonwealth census; and
- To give the Australian Government the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, previously, this had been the responsibility of the states.



1972

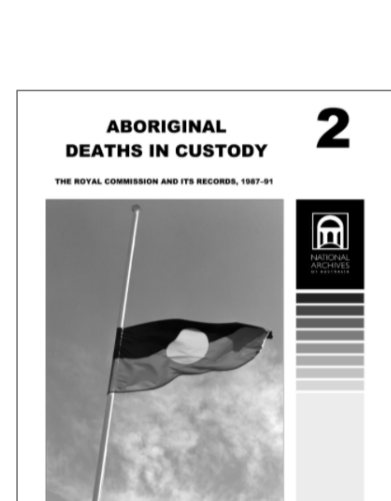
The Aboriginal Tent Embassy sets up outside Parliament House in Canberra, campaigning for the recognition of Aboriginal land rights.

1975

The Australian Parliament passes the *Racial Discrimination Act* to help ensure that Australians of all backgrounds are treated equally and receive the same opportunities.

1991

The Royal Commission into *Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* releases its final report. This report led to the nation's first formal reconciliation process between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader community with the establishment of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. Reconciliation Australia continues this work today.



1992

The High Court hands down the *Mabo* decision, recognising the special relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with the land. The Court rules that Australia was never *terra nullius*.



1994

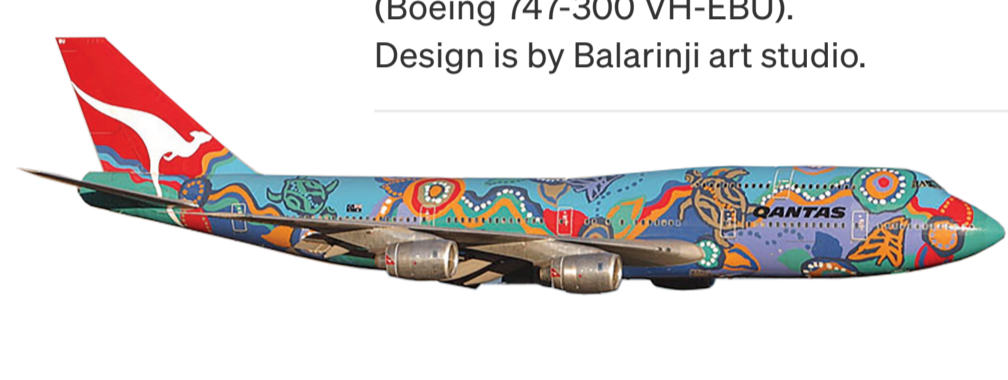
Qantas launches the first aircraft in the Flying Art Series, *Wunala Dreaming* (Boeing 747-400 VH-OJB) and Boeing 747-400ER VH-OEJ after the retirement of OJB). The design was by John and Ros Moriarty's Balarinji Studio.

Qantas launches the *Aboriginal Training Program* and trains almost 40 candidates.



1995

Qantas launches the second aircraft in the Flying Art Series, *Nalanji Dreaming* (Boeing 747-300 VH-EBU). Design is by Balarinji art studio.



2002

Qantas launches the third aircraft in the Flying Art Series, *Yananyi Dreaming* (Boeing 737-800 VH-VXB). The base artwork was by Rene Kulitja, a Pitjantjatjara woman from Mutitjulu, near Uluru, and the design by Balarinji.



2000

Approximately 300,000 people walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of National Reconciliation Week, showing support for the reconciliation process.



Qantas partners with Bangarra Dance theatre. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation and one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, widely acclaimed nationally and around the world for powerful dancing, distinctive theatrical voice and utterly unique soundscapes, music and design.

2003

In collaboration with Balarinji, Peter Morrissey launches Aboriginal textile design on the crew uniform.



2008



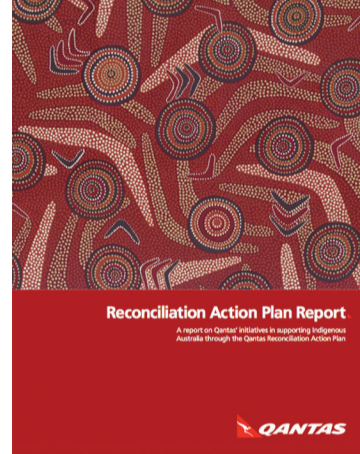
Qantas introduces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander School Based Traineeship program.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd formally apologises to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Parliament.



2007

Qantas is the third organisation to launch a *Reconciliation Action Plan*.



Qantas sponsors the commemoration of the 1967 Referendum in Canberra.

2011

Qantas introduces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Internship Initiative in partnership with CareerTrackers.



2013

Qantas launches the fourth aircraft in the Flying Art Series, *Mendoowoorji* (Boeing 737-800 VH-XZJ). Design is by Balarinji and is based on the 2005 painting *Medicine Pocket* by West Australian Aboriginal artist Paddy Bedford.



2014

Qantas supports constitutional recognition with the unveiling of a large 'R' on a QF400 aircraft in support of the Recognise campaign.



2015

The Government establishes the Referendum Council and task the council to advise the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition on next steps towards a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution.



Qantas and the Indigenous Marathon Foundation (IMF) launch the Frontrunners grants program to support IMF graduates to pursue professional and community development activities.

Qantas launches its fifth RAP and first at Elevate level.



2017

Qantas' 200th First Nation school-based trainee graduates.

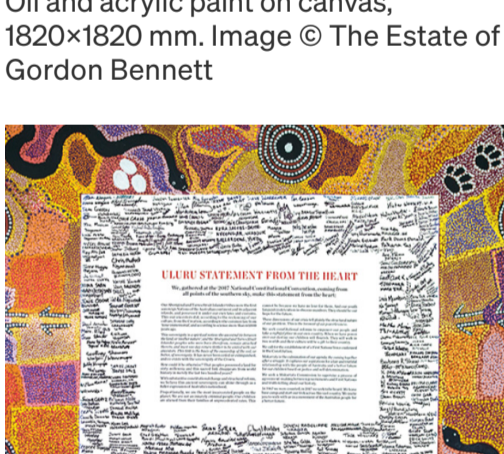
Qantas supports the acquisition of Gordon Bennett's painting *Possession Island (Abstraction)*. This is the second ever work by an Aboriginal artist to be owned and hung by Tate.

The work was purchased as part of the International Joint Acquisition Program for contemporary Australian Art.



GORDON BENNETT, POSSESSION ISLAND (ABSTRACTION) 1991
Oil and acrylic paint on canvas, 1820x1820 mm. Image © The Estate of Gordon Bennett

Qantas joins 13 Elevate RAP members in publicly supporting the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*.



2018

Qantas launches the fifth aircraft in the Flying Art Series, *Emily Kame Kngwarreye* (Boeing 787-9 VH-ZND). Designed by Balarinji and inspired by 1991 artwork *Yam Dreaming*, painted by the late artist of the same name.



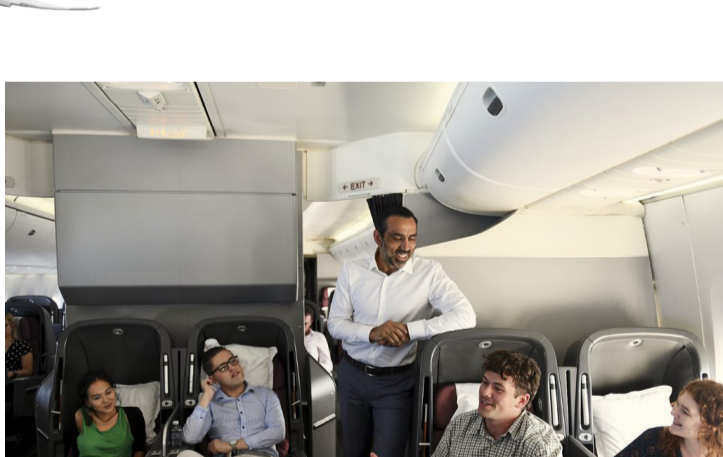
2019

The latest Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner joins the airline's fleet and is named *Gangurru*, meaning 'kangaroo' in the traditional language of the Guugu Yimidhirr people of Southern Cape York.



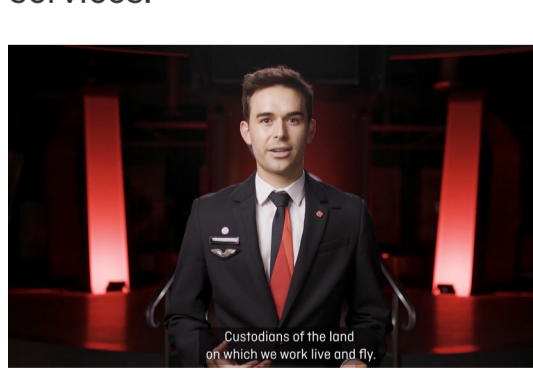
2020

To celebrate Career Trackers 10-year anniversary, Adam Goodes joins a special 747 charter service for students to attend their annual Learning and Development Conference and Gala dinner in Melbourne.



2022

Qantas launches Acknowledgement of Country on Domestic and International services.



2023

Yaru Water and Qantas win Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year at Connect 2023.



Qantas re-commits its support of the Voice to Parliament Referendum. Whilst 6.2 million people voted in support, the referendum was unsuccessful.



2024

Qantas introduces the first of type new A220 and the sixth aircraft in the Flying Art Series, *Minyma Kutjara Tjukurpa*. Artwork by Pitjantjara artist, Maringka Baker and design by Balarinji Design Studio.



QANTASLINK
MARINGKA | BALARINJI
MINYMA KUTJARA TJUKURPA

This timeline does not contain all reconciliation milestones. It includes key events in Australia's and Qantas' reconciliation journey. Source: Reconciliation Australia | www.reconciliation.org.au and Recognise | www.recognise.org.au