



MASSIVE JOURNEY | 26,500km, 212 events, more than 15,659 people engaged

Recognition relay reaches Garden City

THE Recognise relay reached Toowoomba during its epic journey across Australia.

A crowd of 50 people welcomed the Journey to Recognition to the Gumbi Gumbi Gardens, an ideal setting established in the University of Southern Queensland for the learning and sharing of ideas.

The Journey to Recognition gives communities across the nation a chance to be part of the movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the Constitution and to ensure there is no place for racial discrimination in it.

Campaigners have travelled more than 26,500km to this point, holding 212 events and meetings and engaging more than 15,659 people.

Uncle Darby McCarthy acknowledged the traditional

owners of the land and welcomed the crew on behalf of the Giabal and Jarowair people, both past and present.

He reflected on the success of the 1967 referendum when more than 90% of the population voted to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as citizens in their own land and said: "We need people like yourselves to pass the word."

Deena Dodd is a founding member of the Recognise working group in Toowoomba, a committee made up of representatives from the Social Justice Commission, USQ, Smith Family, Centacare and the broader community.

She said the group came together in 2013 to discuss what could be done to support the campaign on a local level.

"The aim of the local committee was to create awareness,



PASS THE WORD: Supporting the Journey to Recognition, Toowoomba are (from left) Sharon Jackson, Kim Dyball, Deena Dodd, Dr Mark Copland and Prof Tracey Bunda.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

understanding and provide information in order to prompt discussion," she said.

"That's what we're doing here today."

After a presentation from Recognise campaign ambassador, Michelle Deshong earlier this year, local businesses started to take action thinking about how they

could promote Recognise and be part of this defining moment in Australia's history. The response from organisations and individuals was overwhelming.

Earlier in the morning the crew addressed staff at the National Australia Bank, a supporter on this leg of the journey and visited St Ursula's College. They met with

staff and guests at Carbal Medical Centre in the afternoon.

From here the Journey to Recognition will continue onto Chinchilla, Cherbourg, Gin Gin, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Noosa, Caloundra, Ipswich and the Gold Coast before finishing up in Brisbane on Friday, November 28.

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