• Ngangirna, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David

• Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrkinthi taakanthi ngaityu wardli

• Ngai pudlunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipudlunthi ngaityu kuinyuntapinthi

• What I just said, for those of you who don’t understand Irish-accented Kaurna, is that my name is David and while I am not originally from this country, I am proud to call it my home and I do so in the language of the Kaurna people as a mark of my respect.

• We meet this afternoon on Kaurna land.
• The Kaurna people have performed ceremonies on this land for many centuries, and we pay respect to their living culture and the unique role they continue to play in the Adelaide region.

• Welcome all of you to our launch of Reconciliation Week at Mawson Lakes.

• I would like to give a special welcome to the almost 300 school-age children who have joined us here this afternoon.

• No matter where you are in your school years, today is an opportunity to learn something new about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children you may already know,

• and a special opportunity to get a better understanding of their lives and how some members of their families live.
• In particular, our Community Gardens here at Mawson Lakes, has offered up some great examples of bushfood to give you an opportunity to learn more about the food that surrounds you.

• Aboriginal people have eaten bushfood for about 60,000 years,

• but it wasn’t until the 1970s that non-Indigenous Australians learned what they were missing out on,

• and then bushfood became a gourmet specialty.

• Today Uncle Dookie is going to treat you to a potato picnic at Wadajaden (WOD YOU DIN) Scrub.

• You’ll also get an opportunity to plant some bushfood yourselves and

• take some home.
• And you’ll get to taste kangaroo meat.

• You might have had kangaroo meat before this but did you know that it was illegal to sell it in South Australia for human consumption until 1980?

• Now it is considered one of the healthiest red meats you can eat.

• It has high quality protein with very little fat.

• It used to be used for dog food, now there’s even a push for Kangatarianism which is a diet that excludes meat except kangaroo on environmental and ethical grounds.

• There’s even talk of cameltarianism which is eating only the meat of Australian feral camels

• But we won’t go into that today.
• Today you’ll also get a chance to taste things like pig face, quandong, and muntries.

• And learn some of the stories around collecting and sharing plants.

• All these examples of bushfood were initially harvested from the wild, but they have since been cultivated for a more sustainable supply,

• and sustainability is what we’re all about here at Mawson Lakes which is the centre of all of the university’s environmental programs

• So what better spot to build a sustainable community garden?

• And help you to learn about your Aboriginal neighbors and the land on which they live,
• Land that has kept them alive and healthy for 60,000 years.

• I hope you have fun today because learning something you didn’t know is always fun.

• And because we are a university it is our place to teach you new things and hope that you will always enjoy learning.

• I think it’s important that Reconciliation Week teaches you new things.

• Because when you do learn how others live and think and believe,

• when you get to know each other’s stories you will find common ground to build understanding, and friendship.

• We can help change humanity like that.
• Education is vital.

• In this belief we have much in common with the traditional owners of the land on which we have built our city campuses.

• The Kaurna people have always valued education and are recognised throughout Australia for it.

• At the University of South Australia almost 700 members of our staff have been through Cultural Awareness training,

• although they didn’t get the delicious bushfood and stories that you’re getting,

• but it was important enough that we’re thinking of creating a Cultural Awareness Alumni group,

• so that lessons learned will never be forgotten.
• That’s how culture endures for 60,000 years.

• What you’re having today is a cultural experience and I hope you share it with your family and friends as you make a start on the next 60,000 years.

• Thanks for coming and enjoy all the new tastes and stories you’re about to hear.