

Linked Hands for YES

Linked Hands for YES does not seek to convince people to attend, or change the way they intend to vote, rather it is an invitation to those who want to joyfully celebrate the act of unity and reconciliation that voting Yes to the Voice provides. It is a chance for the people of North Woden to show our support of the long and consultative process that led to the call for a Voice and to sing with our hearts back to the indigenous peoples across Australia that we wish to stand behind and with them. We do this joyfully for the better, fairer, united Australia that a YES vote delivers.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart simply asks for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be heard and echoes the despair for their overly incarcerated and alienated children. It is a call of hope for the future of their children and by responding yes we help meet this hope and make a better Australia for all children, including our own.

1500 residents of North Woden intend to join hands along a 1.5km line. The line will start at an ancient Red Gum at the base of Red Hill, flow down Carruthers St and end at the Curtin shops, a hub of our present community.

The event will be from 11:55am – 2pm on Saturday 26 August 2023. The line will be in place for about half an hour from midday and will consist of 27 pre-designated sections of 50 people. Various activities are planned such as the passing along the line of a message stick with the words “From our hearts to your hearts - YES”, a minute of silent reflection, greeting of those next to us, waving of banners proclaiming who we are and our support for the Voice and a bell ringing of celebration. People on the line are then encouraged to unite together at the vacant block next to the Curtin shops for food, short speeches, music and re-affirming of our purpose. All participants will be encouraged to sign a large banner with the Uluru Statement From the Heart at its centre. Both local and national media will be encouraged to attend. Walkley award winning documentary maker, Simon Cunich, will be filming the event with the aim of making short videos for wide distribution.

The Holy Trinity Parish will provide the participants for one of the 50 people sections. They will join other community groups including landcare, sport, University of the 3rd age, YES23, Woden Community Council, Garden clubs, conservation, school and church groups. Other church and faith organisations committed to embracing a 50 person section include St James Uniting Church, Benedictus Community, Immanuel Woden Valley Lutheran Church, St Albans Anglican Church and St Vincent de Paul Society. It is still early days and other church and community groups are yet to be approached or are still determining the level of support they can provide.

Hughes community shed is sculpturing us a message stick with the words “From our hearts to your hearts -Yes”. It is being turned from part of a fallen branch of the 300 year old red gum tree that marks the start of the line.

We are seeking involvement of a locally raised indigenous musician and high profile non political indigenous speakers, but this has yet to be finalised.

Thanks again for your support, it is very much appreciated. It is going to be a fantastic day and testimonial to our community and children that we stood for the Voice of unity and reconciliation.

Proposed line location



300+ year old Blakely's Red Gum

