

On Friday 2 March, the 2007 Sydney Harbour Week Awards honoured the work of ESORA, Eastern Suburbs Organisation for Reconciling Australia, by presenting them with the Indigenous Award for their exemplary commitment and contribution to Sydney Harbour.

The Sydney Harbour Week awards recognise a group or individual who has encouraged people to care for and share Sydney harbour by informing, educating or engaging the community.

ESORA was founded in 1997, as a community of people who are committed to building links between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, via free community bush tucker walks along the harbour area in the Woollahra Council area conducted by Indigenous Australians.

Woollahra Council nominated ESORA for the Sydney Harbour Week Awards for a number of reasons: ESORA promotes education on Indigenous culture and Aboriginal Reconciliation; Council receives numerous positive referrals from participants of the bush tucker walks; ESORA were instrumental in providing feedback in Council's recently adopted Reconciliation Statement.

“The Indigenous people are integral to Australia society and land. I'm proud to announce that not only did we nominate this organisation but that Woollahra Council also proudly supports ESORA through our Community Grants Program. As a harbour foreshore municipality, it's important for locals and visitors alike to learn about our Indigenous culture and the history of our area.” said Councillor Keri Huxley, Mayor of Woollahra.

John Lennis is a local Aboriginal man and has been given permission by the area's Elders to conduct walks around the foreshore of Nielsen Park on behalf of ESORA. The walk incorporates Aboriginal culture and education and participants also enjoy a 'bush tucker' tasting treat.

ESORA members are residents of the Eastern Suburbs who come together in support of the Aboriginal Reconciliation process. Open meetings are held at St Francis of Assisi Church, 463 Oxford St, Paddington, every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. ESORA also organises courses and forums with guest speakers.

For more information please contact Woollahra Council Cultural Development Coordinator Jo Jansyn on 9391 7135 or ESORA on 9130 3773