2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Working towards just and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people
About Us

Reconciliation Victoria was established as an incorporated association in 2002 as a result of a people’s movement in Victoria to continue the unfinished business of reconciliation.

We are governed by a Council of fifty percent Aboriginal and fifty percent non-Aboriginal members, with an Aboriginal and a non-Aboriginal Co-Chair.

We are the statewide body promoting reconciliation and act as a focal point for advancing deeper understanding, respect and justice for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We support a network of 24 independent Local Reconciliation Groups and work with other state Reconciliation Councils and Reconciliation Australia through the Australian Reconciliation Network, sharing information and ideas and working together on issues of joint advocacy.

Reconciliation Victoria focuses its facilitation and coordination efforts around local government, local reconciliation groups and the education sector due to our experience in these areas, together with the ability to make significant and widespread progress in reconciliation.

Council
Belinda Duarte (Co-Chair)
Michelle Isles (Co-Chair)
Keith Gove (Secretary)
John Farlow (Treasurer)
Vicki Clark
John Baxter
Melissa Brickell
Kathleen Travis
Peter Lewis
John Smith (retired November 2016)
Deb Chapman (since November 2016)

Staff
Erin McKinnon | Statewide Coordinator (on parental leave since December 2016)
Aileen Traynor | Program Manager; Acting Statewide Coordinator (since January 2017)
Damian O’Keefe | Project Officer
Emily Chauvel Byrne | Project Officer (since November 2016)

Casual Staff
Shelley Wills, Rona Glynn-McDonald and Tabitha Hanson

We are a small team of approximately 2.2FTE and rely strongly on the support of our amazing volunteers:

Volunteers
Office and Project Volunteers: Ella Adams (Maggolee), Julie Cattlin (eNews layout), Jasper Brown and Andrew Beswick (LRG Grassroots Project), Damien Grey (NRW Calendar), Alistair King (Communications Strategy) and Alana Picone (Annual Report design).

And others who have helped us throughout the year: Helen Bennett, John Burke, Carol Brown, Ro Bailey, Sylvia Edgar, Tom Moloney, Barbara Oehring Photography, Howard Tankey, Ria Tattersall and Greg Thorpe.

Acknowledgement of Country
Reconciliation Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Victoria and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to those communities and their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the original custodians of the land on which our office sits.
MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIRS

We are pleased to present Reconciliation Victoria’s 2016-17 Annual Report, an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the organisation’s achievements with community and government.

This year Reconciliation Victoria marked several historic milestones including 50 years since the 1967 Referendum, 25 years since the Mabo Decision and since the Bringing Them Home Report. We marked these significant milestones with participation in National Reconciliation Week activities and events in support of Sorry Day, recognising the ongoing impacts of injustice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It was a significant year for Aboriginal communities locally and nationally to explore pathways to self-determination. We were proud to support a diversity of community involvement in our forums and discussions, and to stay across the facts, which we shared with communities to help determine their interests and aspirations.

We were particularly excited to develop our new Strategic Plan, shaped by a collective impact approach, to focus our efforts to advance meaningful reconciliation with limited resources. In a time of change, it was important to state and share our vision and guiding principles, our role as a facilitator and coordinator and to define meaningful reconciliation. Our focus on local government and local reconciliation groups and networks, plus a future consideration of our role in Education - Schools and Early Childhood, ensures we build on our strengths and enable the needs in communities.

We will continue to stay across progress on constitutional reform and treaty deliberations and as we have done in recent years, focus on supporting strong, resilient communities and local reconciliation groups to support Aboriginal community decisions and withstand any attempts at undermining those decisions.

It is important for us to acknowledge and thank our community advisors, local reconciliation groups, local governments, key partners and members for helping to shape the work of our organisation into the future.

In addition, we would like to thank our Council members for volunteering their time, and in particular thank John Smith who stepped down from Council in November 2016 and Keith Gove who served nine years as Co-Chair and who has continued with Council as Secretary. We appreciate the valuable contributions they have made together with Council members, staff, our key community partners and the generosity of our volunteers.

(Above) L to R: Belinda Duarte, Michelle Isles, Aileen Traynor, Erin McKinnon

MESSAGE FROM STATEWIDE COORDINATORS

With financial support from State Government, Reconciliation Victoria’s strategic planning process was a significant focus for the first half of the financial year.

We also commenced reviewing our internal systems and building organisational capacity. As a result, we strengthened our finance, board and communications processes. This included developing a Communications Strategy that will support the achievement of our strategic objectives and support us to broaden our impact across the community and a range of sectors.

This year we were fortunate to work with fantastic volunteers to commence a project to strengthen Reconciliation Victoria’s support for the grassroots reconciliation movement. Commencing with a survey of all Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs), this project will investigate structures and activities that work well, promote effective models and improve our capacity to share information.

A big thank you to our small team of passionate staff for their dedication, creativity and commitment, and to Council members for their wisdom, support and guidance. And of course, thank you to the people in Local Reconciliation Groups and networks who champion reconciliation in their local communities, many of whom have been doing so for decades. Your work creates real change and we look forward to supporting you further in this work.

We expect 2017-18 to be a year of growth and renewal for our organisation as we position ourselves to effectively implement our new Strategic Plan. We look forward to the historic Treaty conversations in Victoria continuing and our ongoing role in supporting this process as appropriate.

A Victorian identity that reflects our true history, promotes and celebrates Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander culture, equity and self-determination.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
We acknowledge that power, privilege and racism shapes relationships

RELATIONSHIPS
We develop just, respectful and meaningful relationships with and between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and other Victorians

SELF DETERMINATION
We ensure that the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to self-determination is at the forefront, always guiding our work

INTEGRITY
We work with integrity and hold ourselves and others to account
This year has seen strong growth in our online engagement as we have begun to implement our Communications Strategy. This strategic approach to communications has supported an increased engagement with new and existing supporters and provides a platform for the organisation to continue to engage with the wider community.

**FACEBOOK LIKES**

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**ENews Subscriptions**

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Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week

During NRW2017 we encouraged all sectors of the community to discuss this year’s theme ‘Let’s Take the Next Steps’. We also worked to create awareness of the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and the 25th anniversary of the Mabo decision, in particular what these historic dates mean, especially when discussing together what ‘the next steps’ to reconciliation might look like.

This year we developed a Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week (NRW) Communications Strategy to increase the reach of our work, and the messaging of the week, to a larger audience across Victoria. This included 80 Community Service Announcements on RRR and PBS radio stations and Facebook advertising, in addition to our usual direct mail outs, media releases and attendance at events across the state.

There were 145 events registered on the Reconciliation Victoria online calendar this year, a significant increase from 100 in 2016. Our staff and Council attended 33 of these events across Melbourne and regional Victoria and also spoke at six of these events as leaders of Reconciliation. Key NRW events included the Prime Minister’s Luncheon, Premier Andrew’s Referendum Anniversary, Remembrance Service and the Link Up Partnership Sorry Day Event.

We supported three large scale Aboriginal led and partnered events including: The Long Walk and the Mabo Day Community Picnic by the Koorie Heritage Trust, where we organised volunteers to support event logistics including promotion on social media and our eNews.

We were also part of the working group behind WE I HERE I NOW – National Reconciliation Week at Federation Square. The working group consisted of Federation Square, The Koorie Heritage Trust, The Long Walk, NGV, ACMI, City of Melbourne, Victoria Uni and SBS.

With the support of Reconciliation Australia, we also provided 11 small grants across Victoria to support local NRW events held by schools, councils and community groups.

Image: The Long Walk.
The 4th annual Community HART Awards (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together) were held during National Reconciliation Week in partnership between Reconciliation Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association, supported by Bank Australia and Local Government Victoria. The awards promote and recognise local reconciliation partnerships and initiatives across Victoria that demonstrate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together, and have contributed to reconciliation through relationships, respect and understanding.

This year, the Community Organisation category was split into two categories. This was to ensure equity in the judging process and was necessary due to the high calibre of nominations from across the state.

The Local Government category winner was the Rural City of Wangaratta for the Bullawah Cultural Trail Project. The trail was developed to showcase local Aboriginal cultural heritage and honours local Aboriginal and non–Indigenous leaders in the community.

The Small Community Organisation/Group category winner was the Mullagh Wills Foundation for their Reconciliation through Sport - “Journey to the G” initiative which celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the 1866 Boxing Day match between the MCC and the All Aboriginal Cricket Team.

The winner of the large Community Organisation/Group category was the Sovereign Hill Museums Association/ Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation for the Gnamwirring Ngiit (“Learning Together”) Festival. Through a program of guided tours, lectures, street performances and workshops, the festival served to educate attendees about Wadawurrung history.

Congratulations to all nominees and finalists! You can read more about the Community HART Awards and the finalists on our website.
Echuca Primary were recipients of our NRW small grants program for their Rainbow Serpent project. The project restored their Rainbow Serpent pavement artwork that was originally created in 2006, a symbol of their Aboriginal and non-Indigenous community coming together. A morning tea was held to mark National Reconciliation Week that invited students’ extended families, the Njernda Aboriginal Corporation and the wider community.

Moolap Primary School held a week of activities during National Reconciliation Week, supported by our NRW small grants program. The week included the creation of a Reconciliation Totem Pole Garden, together with face painting using traditional design, learning how to weave sessions, traditional dance and a bush tucker afternoon.
Macedon Ranges Reconciliation Group

During NAIDOC Week, Macedon Ranges Local Reconciliation Group, together with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, hosted the Inaugural John Morieson Oration with Bruce Pascoe as the Keynote speaker.

The event’s success can be measured by the fact it was a sellout (we could have sold many more tickets if there had been capacity) and many people in our region heard for the first time about the significant role that the late John Morieson (a non-Aboriginal local man and important member of MRLRG) played in Indigenous research and education for over 40 years.

John’s cousin Joan Powling, provided an insight into John’s lifelong work and activism.

Bruce Pascoe provided a fascinating presentation on his significant work in research and education about the country prior to colonisation, and helped remove much of the white-based incorrect information as to how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities lived.

MROONDHAE MOVEMENT for Reconciliation

Again this year one key area of focus for the group was self-education about Australia’s history and Aboriginal culture. At each of our bimonthly meetings we have a video and discussion.

We liaised with Maroondah Council in Council’s preparation for this year’s well-attended Sorry Day commemoration, an event that featured Kutch Edwards and the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Choir, with several local schools in attendance.

We have also been represented on the Maroondah Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, led by Maroondah Council. A draft plan is currently being considered by Reconciliation Australia.

We again had a stall at November’s Maroondah Festival. We displayed material provided by Reconciliation Victoria, Reconciliation Australia, ANToR Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, Recognise, Koori Heritage Trust, Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Connecting Home. A feature of our stall once again was Aboriginal flag making, which was enjoyed by many children.

We continue to work closely with other reconciliation groups in the eastern metropolitan region and the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place.

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation has had another great year. These are some of our highlights:

- Hosted a National Sorry Day lunch 26 May, attended by 100+ people including City of Port Philip (COPP) Mayor and Councillors; Martin Foley MP; Elder Judith Jackson; MC Dennis Fisher; entertainer James Henry; the local community and faith groups; employees from Holden; and PPCfR founders Jacki Willox and Jeanette Johnstone.

- Presented a prize-giving ceremony for the 2016 Reconciliation Writing Competition for adults and children, at The Avenue Bookstore, and produced a booklet of the winning entries.

- Invited Guest Speakers to meetings: Sculptor/artist Ngardarb Francine Riches (July); Chloe Hohneck, Elwood Primary School’s Reconciliation team leader; COPP’s Todd Condie; front: Judge Clare Bradford; sponsor Graeme Wilson; Elder Judith Jackson.

- Hosted a stall at the Port Phillip Volunteers Expo, St Kilda Town Hall. Expo, St Kilda Town Hall.

- Organized an Art for Reconciliation exhibition by Meg Davoren-Honey: Funds were donated to Inner South Community Health’s Indigenous youth program.

LOCAL GROUP ROUND UP

Throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria, Reconciliation Victoria supports a network of Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs), which are active in promoting cultural awareness, understanding and education in their local communities around reconciliation. Here are some updates from some of the Local Reconciliation Group Network, provided directly from their members.

PORT PHILLIP CITIZENS for Reconciliation

Maroondaah Movement for Reconciliation

2016 Reconciliation Writing Competition prize ceremony: PPCfR’s Rosemary Rule; Chloe Hohneck, Elwood Primary School’s Reconciliation team leader; COPP’s Todd Condie; front: Judge Clare Bradford; sponsor Graeme Wilson; Elder Judith Jackson.

www.reconciliationvic.org.au
This past year has seen some very big conversations about our path towards a reconciled Australia. This year we saw the launch of Greater Shepparton’s Aboriginal Street Art Project – a powerful acknowledgement of local Aboriginal history and the first of many stories still to come.

A great strength of SRRG is our local partnerships, in particular our relationship with Greater Shepparton City Council. The past twelve months has seen this relationship continue to grow through our regular meetings with Peter Harriot CEO, Kaye Thompson and Dinny Adem, Mayor.

A focus of SRRG has always been on the involvement of our young people in our various activities.

Our young people will soon be the leaders of tomorrow so it is crucial for them to have an understanding and appreciation of the full history of our remarkable country. Our guest speaker at this year’s Apology Breakfast – Khiara Harrison - symbolised this passing on of the baton.

Our relationship with ASHE and the local schools continues to be a vital part of both the Apology Breakfast and our Sorry Day commemorations.

This year, for the first time, we had representatives from Sirius College speak at the Sorry Day flag-raising at Monash Park and participate in the Commemorative Walk.

Other activities we have been involved with over the past twelve months include:

- The handball competition at the Converge Festival (a big thanks to Nathan Lovett-Murray and the Rumbalara Football Netball Club for their support)
- Extraordinary Lives — an exploration of the lives of Uncle William Cooper and Uncle Doug Nicholls
- Talking Together — conversations at The Connection
- Attendance at NAIDOC Week activities
- Reconciliation in Action — our fortnightly column in the Shepparton News
- Attendance at Reconciliation Victoria’s Local Reconciliation Groups’ Forums
- Support of the Dungala Kaiela Writing Awards
- Friends of SAM morning tea at The Connection with Kaiela Arts

The event on Thursday June 1 was the launch of an art exhibition on an Aboriginal theme, by students from Prahran Community Learning Centre and local artists. This was preceded by a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony carried out by Jaeden Williams, grandson of Boon Wurrung Elder, Arweet Caroline Briggs.

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STONNINGTON Reconciliation

The main activity for Reconciliation Stonnington this year was taking part in Stonnington Council’s National Reconciliation Week Functions over three days in Prahran Market, by holding an information stall. It was a great opportunity to present our group and information on Stonnington’s Aboriginal history to a different audience. Council’s decision to hold functions over three days was to honour the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum and the 25th anniversary of the Mabo decision.
Reconciliation

MANNINGHAM

In the last 12 months Reconciliation Manningham has again been very busy. Group members delivered approximately 60 talks to schools, service clubs, local history societies and other community groups. This included six guided heritage walks led by Jim Poulter and Wurundjeri Elders. We also attended six local or regional festivals.

Our major event for the year, in February 2017, was a forum on constitutional change. Three eminent speakers addressed the topic ‘All Australians are Equal and our Constitution should say so’.

Wurundjeri Elder Bill Nicholson spoke on the topic ‘From the Dreaming to the Nightmare’ covering the colonial period. Anne Barton, great-granddaughter of our first Prime Minister, spoke on the topic ‘Australia for the White Man’ covering the federation period and Aboriginal leader Karen Milward, addressed ‘What makes us all Australian?’ covering our progress toward social unity.

The forum moved outside the five options for constitutional change posited by the Select Committee and Referendum Council, and proposed two ‘in principle’ clauses be added to the Constitution. A petition was also launched calling for principles of citizen equality and prior Aboriginal sovereignty to be put as referendum questions. So far over 600 signatures have been collected.

In the next year we plan to involve the local council and whole community in mapping local Aboriginal place names and Songlines.

We hope that this will be a model for each municipality in the state to follow and we invite other reconciliation groups to push for such a project in their local area.

CASTLEMAIN ANTaR

An 18 year-long project came to fruition during National Reconciliation Week after much quiet thought and discussion about how to best reflect the energy of reconciliation in the shared community of Castlemaine and how to best recognise the Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners.

The Reconciliation Stone — sculpted by local artist Glenn Braybrook — was the idea of Jaara Elder Uncle Rick Nelson - it speaks equally of the past, present action and future partnerships in equal measure. The project was supported by the fundraising efforts of the local reconciliation group convened by Vic Say and his late wife Felicity.

The stone’s plaque reads:

Reconciliation Stone

Commemorating the commitment of Mount Alexander Shire Council and the local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, led by local Traditional Owners, to work together towards a stronger, healthier, shared future.

Commissioned May 2017 in acknowledgement of our shared history.

The grinding grooves sculpted into the surface of the Reconciliation Stone are modelled on ancient Dja Dja Wurrung stone heritage found within the Shire. These grinding grooves express respect for the Traditional Owners of the past, the present and the future.

CASTLEMAINE RECONCILIATION ROCK

The meeting was addressed by: the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Local Government, the Hon. Natalie Hutchins; Uncle John Baxter; from Reconciliation Victoria; and Cr. Trent McCarthy from the City of Darebin who all stressed the importance of acknowledging Traditional Owners and maintaining a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). A letter from the Wurundjeri Council was read out stressing that Acknowledgement was a declaration of respect. The Mayor and two other Boroondara councillors spoke in defence of the Council’s position that Acknowledgement was an issue of “freedom of speech” and a RAP was not needed because reconciliation is now “embedded” in Council practice. Approximately 120 people attended the meeting and a motion to reinstate the mandatory Acknowledgement of Country and restore the RAP was passed overwhelmingly.

Working closely with Uncle Rick Nelson, the group has also negotiated a commitment from Mount Alexander Shire Council to hold a RoundTable twice a year composed of seven local Aboriginal Network people, seven community representatives and seven members of Council (staff and councillors) to provide staff with a firm context within which to form partnerships and institute change, empowering the group in an ongoing way.

ANTaR Boroondara

In National Reconciliation Week, the ANTaR Boroondara Reconciliation Group held a public meeting in Boroondara to highlight community concern at the decision by the Boroondara Council to make Acknowledgement of Country optional at council meetings and civic events and its lack of a current Council Reconciliation Action Plan.

Boroondara being only one of two councils which do not routinely acknowledge Country.

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Sorry Day lunch.

Hon. Minister Natalie Hutchins at the ANTaR Boroondara Meeting.

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THE BASS COAST
SOUTH GIPPSLAND
Reconciliation Group

The BCSGRG has been working for the last two years to change the name of the federal electorate of McMillan. A name change is possible through the Australian Electoral Commission’s (AEC) redistribution set to commence in December 2017. In the process of claiming pastoral land in yet-to-be-named Gippsland, Angus McMillan was responsible for a number of massacres of Aboriginal men, women and children. His atrocities accounted for hundreds of deaths in the decade of the 1840s, significantly contributing to the loss of 90% of the community in 20 years.

Our group has met with Elders who have authorised us to speak on the issue; we visited some of the East Gippsland sites associated with early ‘settlement’ to deepen our understanding and empathy; we have had multiple newspaper articles published in four local papers; the sitting member, Russell Broadbent, is on-side; we have commenced a program of speaking to community groups and encouraging them to write to the AEC; and we talked to shoppers about McMillan in National Reconciliation Week while their children had their faces painted.

We are quietly confident that the tide has turned in public opinion and that our, and others’, arguments to the AEC will be sufficiently persuasive to succeed. We hope that the Aboriginal communities’ voice will be heard in proposing a new name for the electorate. The AEC guidelines for new electoral names privileges Aboriginal names.

The motion and a petition containing over 600 signatures were delivered to the Council along with a group letter raising key points of concern.

Unfortunately, the Council summarily dismissed the petition and the specific issues addressed in the group letter and refused to shift from its previously stated position.

Out of the meeting, a Boroondara Reconciliation Network is being formed that will link up local institutions, organisations and groups that support reconciliation to facilitate and promote their activities with a view to developing a Boroondara Community Reconciliation Plan. The local council will be invited to participate in this endeavour.

Rec Vic’s support is crucial for small, local groups such as ours. We feel part of something bigger than ourselves, but maintain our local focus - where we are able to make a difference.

Geelong ONE FIRE
Reconciliation Group

This year has been one of consolidation and strengthening partnerships.

Highlights
- Formal Partnership with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op;
- Meeting with Wadawurrung Corporation (Registered Aboriginal Party for region), to share what One Fire does, and build relationships;
- Developing the Djillong Project: DVD and supporting materials along with the upgrade of the existing website;
- Held the 9th Reconciliation in the Park event, with broader Aboriginal community leadership;

Other Local Reconciliation Groups across Victoria:
- Bendigo Reconciliation Committee
- Concerned Australians
- Dandenong Ranges
- Marngrook in Mainstream Inc
- Monash Reconciliation Group
- Moonee Valley Reconciliation Group
- Nillumbik Reconciliation Group
- TR@K Towards Reconciliation at Knox
- Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation
- Whittlesea Reconciliation Group
- Reconciliation Banyule
- Queenscliff Reconciliation Mob
- Yarra Ranges ANTaR
- Get Up Out West
Reconciliation Victoria hosted the annual regional Victorian Reconciliation Network Forum on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Forty five people representing fifteen LRGs attended, and we welcomed a number of new faces from the local area to the network. The two and a half day residential forum was based at Maldon, and visited several historical and cultural sites around Castlemaine, and the culturally rich Boort Lakes area.

In what was a wonderful and inspiring weekend, Jaara Elder Uncle Rick Nelson, Jida Gulpilil (Boort Lakes Aboriginal Eco-Tours) and Raquel Kerr (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation) generously shared their deep knowledge of Dja Dja Wurrung Country with stories of both the ancient and contemporary history of the region. We came away with a much deeper understanding of this Country and its story and of the impressive work being done by the Jaara people to look after their Country, their people and their culture.

We were also able to see and hear first-hand how the landmark Victorian Recognition & Settlement Act (2013), in recognising the Jaara as the Traditional Owners of their Country, provides them with legal rights to practice culture, to access and use their land and resources and to have a say in what happens on their Country.

The Agreement also gives the Jaara People Aboriginal title to some of their traditional lands, including the right to actively manage Country. We heard how the Agreement is an important starting point for the self-determination of the Dja Dja Wurrung, as they continue to build up the structures and processes that will enable them to make the most of these rights.

The forum also included an update on Reconciliation Victoria and their work as well as an opportunity for LRG members and other participants to discuss how we can build LRG capacity.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this memorable weekend, particularly Uncle Rick, Jida, Raquel and Vic Say from Castlemaine ANTaR, who were all extremely generous with their time in hosting us and setting up such a rich and varied program for the weekend.

At our well-attended 2016 AGM we said farewell to council member John Smith who stepped down after six years of service. John made a highly valued contribution, particularly in the development of the Maggolee website. We also welcomed former acting Statewide Coordinator Deb Chapman onto Council.

At the Council meeting held immediately after the AGM, Keith Gove stepped down as Co-chair after 10 years at the helm and Council member Michelle Isles was appointed as the new Co-chair, to work beside Belinda Duarte who continues in the role. We thank and acknowledge Keith who has played a key role in steering the organisation through some challenging times into the strong position it is in today. Keith continues on Council as Secretary.

The AGM was followed by a panel discussion: Young Aboriginal Perspectives on Reconciliation, with two inspiring guest speakers: Merinda Dryden, 2016 Miss NAIDOC, and Indi Clark from the Koorie Youth Council.

This was followed by a Q&A and lively small group discussion: "From Talk to Action: So what does this mean for me and my role in Reconciliation?"

Approximately 80 people attended the event, and we were very encouraged that there were so many new faces in the audience. You can read a report of the event on our website.

Photos from April’s Regional Reconciliation Network Forum on Dja Dja Wurrung Country: (Left) Jaara Elder Uncle Rick Nelson with Vic Say. (Right) Attendees from around Victoria — in front of a traditional rock-well at Eureka Reef near Castlemaine. (Background) Jida Gulpilil showing the rich history of the Lake Boort area.
Maggolee – meaning ‘here in this place’ in Woiwurrung language - was developed and is managed by Reconciliation Victoria with funding from Local Government Victoria. The website celebrates and promotes good reconciliation practice in Victorian Local Government, and aims to support engagement and partnerships between the local government sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Maggolee provides links to interactive maps and information about Victoria detailing Aboriginal Languages, Registered Aboriginal Parties and Local Government Areas making it a useful tool for students, educators and those wanting to expand their knowledge of Aboriginal Victoria.

Since its launch in October 2015, Reconciliation Victoria has promoted Maggolee to all 79 councils across Victoria and at least 86% of councils have used the website either as a resource to support their practice or to update their Local Government Profile Page.

This year we were pleased to receive a three year funding commitment from Local Government Victoria to keep Maggolee up to date, maintain, develop and promote the resource.

During the year there were 64,137 visits to the website, seen by almost 12,622 different website users. Over 73% of visits to the site are new users viewing on average 5-6 different pages per session. These are strong statistics that speak to the value and potential of this resource across Victoria.

In September 2016, we conducted a survey of local government users of Maggolee to obtain information on the effectiveness and ease of navigation of the website. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and provided valuable suggestions to further support councils their engagement with Aboriginal communities.

To support our communications and engagement strategy, we also held four workshops with local council staff together with representatives from Local Aboriginal Networks, the Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Government Indigenous Planners Network, Local Reconciliation Groups networks, Aboriginal community and other stakeholders.

Reconciliation Victoria also provided feedback to the Victorian Aboriginal Local Government Action Plan that was launched by Local Government Victoria in December 2016. Reconciliation Victoria plays a leading role in two actions (Maggolee and Community HART Awards) and is listed as a support for two additional actions.

Reconciliation Victoria continues to seek input from Aboriginal Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, Local Government Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and LGPro on the ongoing development of Maggolee.

For more information visit: www.maggolee.org.au

Image: ‘Meeting Place’ Aboriginal Education program at Yapeen near Castlemaine.
Constitutional Reform and Treaty

Reconciliation Victoria is committed to facilitating greater community awareness and understanding on the issues of treaty and Constitutional Reform, and in particular to provide a balanced and informed voice on these issues to Reconciliation Victoria’s supporters and networks.

This year we continued to inform our networks around ongoing self-determination and treaty developments in Victoria and the national constitutional reform agenda. The political landscape changed substantially across both areas during this time.

Reconciliation Victoria has developed written and verbal updates for Local Reconciliation Groups to inform their work at the local level around Constitutional Reform and Treaty. Reconciliation Victoria encourages the reconciliation network and wider community to stay informed, and to talk with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members about their reactions to the constitutional reform and treaty developments. . . . It is not our time to act just yet. There is a process in train and we must wait for Aboriginal communities and individuals to determine appropriate directions. Then we will have some principles on which our actions can be based.

For more information and news around Treaty and Constitutional Reform please head to www.reconciliationvic.org.au

‘RecVic always can be counted on for support and help.’
I am pleased to present the 2017 financial accounts for Reconciliation Victoria.

An audit of Reconciliation Victoria Inc.’s financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2017 was conducted by Craig Pound of Craig R Pound & Associates Chartered Accountants, 76 Lower Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe.

The full financial report will be presented at the AGM, and is available from the office. The audit report is un-qualified.

Reconciliation Victoria’s 2017 support for reconciliation programs and events resulted in a surplus of $14,456 (2016: surplus $7,207). This result is within budget expectations with the surplus being the result of $23,659 fees for service Reconciliation Victoria were able to earn in addition to government funding. Reconciliation Victoria received grant funding to support several programs during the year including the Magolee website, awareness raising on constitutional reform and treaties and engagement with the education sector. Details of these programs are included in other sections of the report however financially these programs are in various stages of completion at June 30 so specific funds received to complete the projects have been recorded in the Balance Sheet to be accessed in the 2018 year.

At the end of 2017 cash reserves amounted to $179,451 (2016: $195,663) so this, together with a commitment from Government for a further round of funding, means Reconciliation Victoria is well placed to continue operations and support new and ongoing initiatives in the 2018 financial year.

---

### Reconciliation Victoria Inc Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2017

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>30 Jun 2017</th>
<th>30 Jun 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>179,451</td>
<td>195,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Other Receivables</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>181,483</td>
<td>198,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>5,601</td>
<td>1,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-current Assets</strong></td>
<td>7,001</td>
<td>3,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>188,484</td>
<td>201,547</td>
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</table>

#### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>30 Jun 2017</th>
<th>30 Jun 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Annual Leave</td>
<td>20,937</td>
<td>11,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for Professional Development</td>
<td>4,148</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Creditors and Other Payables</td>
<td>13,625</td>
<td>11,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unearned Revenue</td>
<td>63,485</td>
<td>110,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>102,195</td>
<td>138,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Long Service Leave</td>
<td>8,322</td>
<td>13,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Parental Leave</td>
<td>19,859</td>
<td>6,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>28,181</td>
<td>19,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>130,376</td>
<td>157,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>30 Jun 2017</th>
<th>30 Jun 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>58,108</td>
<td>43,652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>30 Jun 2017</th>
<th>30 Jun 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>43,652</td>
<td>7,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Earnings</td>
<td>14,456</td>
<td>36,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>58,108</td>
<td>43,652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reconciliation Victoria Inc Statement of Comprehensive Income As at 30 June 2017

#### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Jun-17</th>
<th>Jun-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Received</td>
<td>304,008</td>
<td>279,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for Service</td>
<td>23,659</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursements</td>
<td>10,793</td>
<td>1,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>338,460</td>
<td>280,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>3,718</td>
<td>4,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>19,831</td>
<td>4,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Income</strong></td>
<td>23,549</td>
<td>8,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Income</strong></td>
<td>362,009</td>
<td>289,783</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting &amp; Audit</td>
<td>6,686</td>
<td>3,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants / Contractors</td>
<td>20,186</td>
<td>11,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and Amortisation Expense</td>
<td>1,136</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits Expense</td>
<td>230,670</td>
<td>201,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events / Workshops / Forums</td>
<td>16,972</td>
<td>14,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Paid / Sponsorships</td>
<td>6,688</td>
<td>2,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>5,794</td>
<td>4,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Stationery &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>3,234</td>
<td>2,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>5,664</td>
<td>8,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Work</td>
<td>34,778</td>
<td>14,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>8,470</td>
<td>11,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>2,258</td>
<td>2,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Expenses</td>
<td>5,017</td>
<td>4,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>347,553</td>
<td>282,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Surplus/(Deficit) before Income Tax</strong></td>
<td>14,456</td>
<td>7,207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,456</td>
<td>7,207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements

Reconciliation Victoria wishes to thank and acknowledge the Victorian State Government (Aboriginal Victoria and Local Government Victoria), Reconciliation Australia, Recognise, Portland House Foundation, Bank Australia and Australian Communities Foundation for their past and ongoing support.

We thank our key partner in the delivery of the Community HART Awards, the Victorian Local Governance Association.

We thank the following individuals, organisations and businesses who we have worked with at a range of levels: Dan Carter, Indi Clark, Merinda Dryden, Trevor Clarke, Jida Gulpilil, Uncle Rick Nelson, Vic Say, Clarisse Slater, Chelsea Ayling, the Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP, ANTaR Victoria, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation, Federation Square, Infoxchange, Koorie Heritage Trust, Korin Gamadji Institute, The Long Walk, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, Municipal Association of Victoria, Pozible, Triple R FM, 3PBS FM, Victorian Local Governance Association and the Victorian Council of Social Services; Beautiful Delicious, Connecting Up, Culture Evolves, Moule Print, Flowers from the Edge, James Henry Photography, LGPro, Pink Noise, Pinnacle Group, Spike WebDesign, Studio Binocular and Mazart Design Studio.

We thank the local councils that continue to work alongside us and support reconciliation in their local communities through courageous leadership; developing meaningful relationships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities.

We especially thank the Local Reconciliation Group network of 24 groups and many more informal networks. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate them on the critical work that they do to progress reconciliation in their local regions.

Photo: Melbourne Monument to Aboriginal Resistance Fighters, Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener

JOIN US

Reconciliation Victoria is the product of a people’s movement. Our ongoing success relies on our engagement with communities across Victoria.

We encourage you to join the movement for reconciliation, keep up to date with activities and issues relevant to reconciliation in Victoria and to share our resources widely with your networks by:

- Joining our mailing list
- Join a Local Reconciliation Group or Network (no group in your area? Start a new one!)
- Register to volunteer with the organisation
- Become a Member to participate in the governance of the organisation
- Get Social with us on Facebook & Twitter

Visit www.reconciliationvic.org.au for more information

Email Us: info@reconciliationvic.org.au