



# 2016

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## ANNUAL REPORT

**Working towards just  
& respectful relationships  
between Aboriginal  
Non-Aboriginal people**

reconciliation



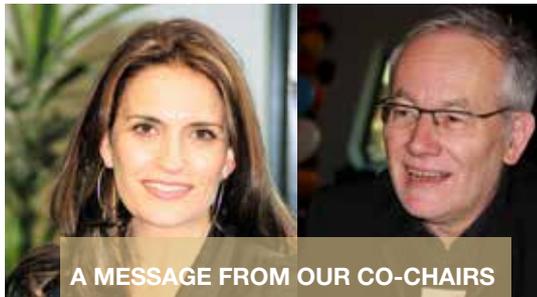
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# ABOUT US

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 a bi-cultural organisation, governed by a Council of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members with an Aboriginal Co-Chair 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 27 Local Reconciliation Groups and also cooperate with other State Reconciliation Councils and Reconciliation Australia as the Australian Reconciliation Network, sharing information and ideas and working together on issues of joint advocacy.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

“2015/2016 has been a year of reflection for the Reconciliation Movement.”

2015/2016 has been year of reflection for the Reconciliation Movement. The *State of Reconciliation Report* released by Reconciliation Australia in February, shows us that a generation on from the commencement of the formal reconciliation process we have taken some significant steps along the journey, but progress has been stunted. Entrenched views and prejudices remain in some parts of the community and in many institutions that we must continue to challenge.

The focus on ‘practical reconciliation’ and ‘closing the gap’ has not achieved anticipated outcomes, giving us cause for a re-think. The Report draws on international comparative research into reconciliation experiences in several countries to identify five key dimensions of reconciliation - **race relations, equality and equity, institutional integrity, unity and historical acceptance.**

These interrelated dimensions provide a valuable framework for governments and all sectors of the community to assess progress and priorities for a reconciled Australia.

RecVic commenced a Strategic Planning process this year informed by this framework and by our 2015 Evaluation and History Project. This will provide us with an opportunity to revisit and better articulate our purpose and vision and re-think our approach.

We are inspired by the strength and resilience of Aboriginal communities in Victoria, and encouraged by the Victorian Government's commitment to Treaty and self-determination. We look forward to these long-awaited conversations leading to meaningful agreements and a re-setting of the relationship with Aboriginal Victorians.

The national constitutional reform agenda continues to spur conversation and debate. It is important that this time is spent engaging with the Aboriginal community, as any agreed model for change must have widespread support in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Reconciliation Victoria has continued to provide leadership on the reconciliation agenda in Victoria, supporting what is a thriving grassroots movement and working closely with a range of sectors, in particular local government. We look forward to increasing our engagement with the education sector in the coming years.

Reconciliation is a challenging journey, but one we must continue together with renewed vigour, courage and commitment. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to actively commit to and participate in conversations and actions within our families, communities and workplaces that build awareness and understanding, challenge prejudice, and contribute to creating just and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.

We'd like to acknowledge the significant contribution of our previous Co-Chair Vicki Clark, who handed over the role to Belinda Duarte at our last AGM and remains a valuable member of Council. We'd also like to thank and acknowledge former Council members Stephanie Armstrong, Frank O'Connor and Greg Kennedy who stepped off Council at last year's AGM. Frank, Steff and Greg made a valuable contribution to the organisation during their time on Council and continue to support our work.

Belinda Duarte Keith Gove  
Co-Chairs

## Council and Staff

### Council

	Meetings Attended
Belinda Duarte (Co-Chair)	3/3
Keith Gove (Co-Chair)	5/5
Michelle Isles (Secretary)	5/5
John Farlow (Treasurer)	4/5
Vicki Clark	4/5
John Baxter	4/5
Melissa Brickell	3/5
Kathleen Travis (since May 2016)	0/1
Peter Lewis	3/5
John Smith	3/5
Greg Kennedy (retired Oct '15)	0/2
Frank O'Connor (retired Oct '15)	2/2
Stephanie Armstrong (retired Oct '15)	1/2

### Staff

Erin McKinnon | Statewide Coordinator  
 Aileen Traynor | Program Manager  
 Damian O'Keefe | Project Officer  
 Deb Chapman | Assisting Statewide Coordinator (until June 2016)  
 Emily Chauvel Byrne | Project Facilitator (until March 2016)  
 Daniel Carter | Project Officer (until March 2016)

Cover image (Top) Djirri Djirri Dancers teaching Emu Dance at Nillumbik's "Restoring Indigenous cultural practices in Bunjil Reserve" during NRW2016.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2016



## Belinda Duarte

Joins RecVic Council as Co-Chair



## Council Member Vicki Clark

Receives Whittlesea Reconciliation Award



## RecVic welcomes Victorian Treaty talks

And keeps our networks informed



## 1st Residential Regional Reconciliation Forum

At Budj Bim and Lake Condah Mission



## A History Project of Reconciliation Victoria

Undertaken by a volunteer student intern collating our rich institutional history since the organisation's inception in 2002



## Increasing audience

On website & social media



## Launch of Maggolee

A website resource to support local government and Aboriginal communities working together



## Internal Systems Improvement

For Finance & Governance

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## National Reconciliation Week

Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2016 left us feeling reflective, inspired and hopeful that a more just and reconciled Australia is on its way. The theme: "Our History, Our Story, Our Future", was woven through the more than 100 events around Victoria. These events saw Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across all generations and sectors of the community come together to acknowledge past injustices and their ongoing impacts, reflect on what has changed since the formal reconciliation process began 25 years ago and how far we still have to go, celebrate the culture and talents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and celebrate working and walking together.

Reconciliation Victoria staff, Council members and volunteers were involved in 45 events throughout the week, including ten for which we were able to contribute small grants, in communities such as Pantom Hill, Tyabb, Shepparton, Geelong, Castlemaine, Bendigo, Murrumbena, Ballarat, Melton, Fawkner and South Melbourne.

Many of these moving events reflected genuine and meaningful relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people developed over time, showing that reconciliation is not a once-a-year occasion but something that is now happening throughout the year in an ongoing way.

## Community HART Awards

On Mabo Day, we presented the 2016 Community HART Awards (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together), highlighting some of the best demonstrations of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together. This year, Geelong One Fire and the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative's 'Reconciliation in the Park', and City of Yarra's 'Connecting with the Aboriginal History of Yarra: A Teachers' Resource', took out the honours.

Twelve nominees were selected as finalists across the Community and Local Government categories and the City of Whittlesea and Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation also received special commendation for their local community initiatives in support of reconciliation. Read more about the HART Awards and the finalists on our website. Congratulations to the winners and well done to all the nominees working to progress reconciliation locally.



PHOTO (Above): Members of Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group and Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative celebrate their HART Award win.

PHOTO (Left): RecVic Co-Chair Keith Gove looks on as Aunty Joy Murphy conducts Welcome to Country at this year's HART Award ceremony

PHOTOS: Barbara Oehring

## Spotlight On Schools



### *Datiwuy Dreaming* at Dandenong South Primary School

During NRW 2016 Reconciliation Victoria supported Dandenong South PS to engage performers from NAISDA to perform Creation Stories from North-East Arnhem Land as part of a week long program to increase the school community's knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal culture and history, and to enhance social cohesion within the wider community.

Members of the local Aboriginal community, including Koorie students from surrounding schools and their families, were also invited to participate. One of the outcomes was a strengthening of relationships within the Koorie student population and a deepening of their understanding of their own culture.

Prior to the three concerts teachers at the school taught the songs and dances to enable the students to fully participate in the performance. Students were also taught some historical and cultural background to the dances, and during the week following, teachers followed up with discussions about their meaning and significance.

PHOTO (Above): Dancers from NAISDA teaching Dandenong South Primary students how to be a crocodile (baru)

"The students have developed a greater and genuine understanding of the history and background of Aboriginal culture. As knowledge brings relationships, this is hoped to build care and reconciliation between our Koorie students and the other multicultural students of our school".

Christina Engel, teacher.

### *Dandenong & Casey Reconciliation in Early Childhood Forum*

In 2016 stakeholders involved in the early childhood sector in Dandenong and Casey formed a diverse partnership to deliver a forum highlighting the need for reconciliation in the early years, and to build the capacity of staff in the early childhood sector to engage and provide culturally safe services.

The event provided a safe space for people to come together to share stories, build connections, hear key messages about reconciliation, identify the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities and develop actions that could be implemented within the contexts of the health service delivery and educational environments. Forum attendees are now working on developing Reconciliation Action Plans in each organisation.

### *Echuca Football/Netball Reconciliation Games*

Around 900 students from 11 local schools took part in the annual Echuca Football/Netball Reconciliation Games in September 2015. In its fifth year, the event has grown from six schools and only 450 children. According to the organiser Koori Engagement Support Officer Paul Clarke, "this is an extremely important part of reconciling and getting Indigenous people together in a sporting environment where they can all participate together and have fun. Around 1200 people attended on the day. As well as the football and netball games, culminating in the play-off for the Reconciliation Cup, the day included a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, a performance by Echuca's Aboriginal dance group, cultural workshops, coaching clinics by AFL and Netball Australia players, a traditional basket weaving display and an Elders' morning tea. The event was supported by Reconciliation Victoria.



PHOTO (Above): Isaiah Firebrace and local dance group perform at opening ceremony to Echuca's Football/Netball Reconciliation Carnival





## Camberwell Grammar School Healing Circle for Reconciliation

The 'Healing Circle for Reconciliation' Ceremony and Group Workshop process is co-facilitated by non-Aboriginal musician and educator Sarah Hopkins and Wamba Wamba cultural educator and musician Ron Murray. Taking place during the School's **Indigenous Studies Week**, the 80 minute **Healing Circle for Reconciliation** Ceremony/Group Workshop process included music, narration, visual symbols and a Sorry Ceremony ... a deeply moving workshop.

PHOTO (Above Left): Wantirna South Primary School students proudly display their Bunjil puppets at City of Knox's Sorry Day event

## Avila College FIRE Carrier School

This year, Avila College, a FIRE Carrier school, hosted the 2016 Fire Carrier Conference. The FIRE Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) Project seeks to keep the Reconciliation flame alight in schools, educating the wider community about Reconciliation and our shared history. FIRE Carriers are elected annually in participating schools, in the same manner as other school representatives. The FIRE Carrier accepts the title in a special fire ceremony and joins the schools Reconciliation Covenant Planning Group.

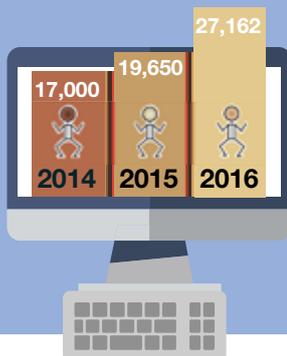
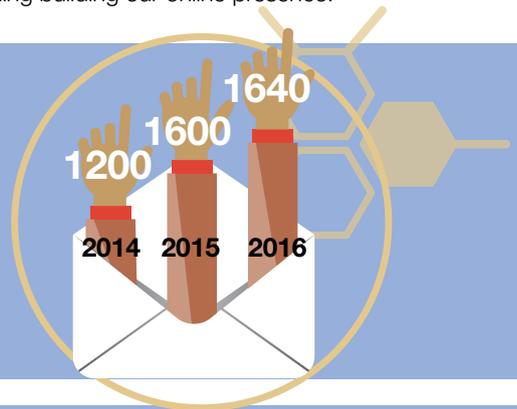
# Online Presence

We continue to strengthen our communication with the broader community, including building our online presence.

## eNews

During the past year we have produced twelve monthly eNews bulletins, providing the latest news about our work and what's happening in the reconciliation space. Our eNews also promotes the growing number of events around the state – including concerts, forums, exhibitions, lectures, festivals, tours, etc.

The eNews now reaches a readership of 1,640, many of whom forward it to their own distribution lists.



## Website Visits

We also maintained a regularly updated website and Facebook and Twitter accounts. Our website experienced an increase of over 38% visits on last year. Our Facebook activity also experienced significant growth – our Page 'reach' jumped from 65,583 to 133,043 over the year.

## Facebook

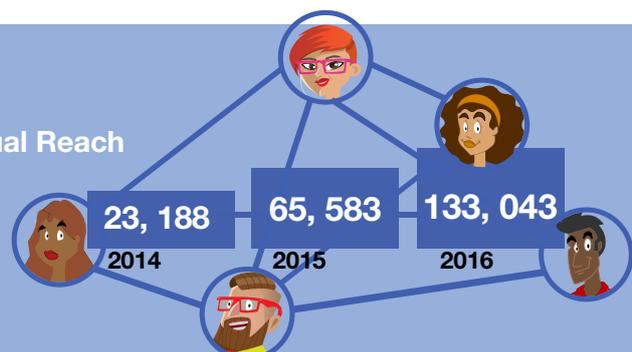
### Likes

355  
2014

621  
2015

902  
2016

### Annual Reach



# LOCAL GROUP ROUND UP

## A selection of stories from the Local Reconciliation Group network

### Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group



SRRG's annual Apology Breakfast held in the Queens Gardens, this year addressed by Uncle Paul Briggs, continues to grow from year-to-year. Paul challenged us all to learn more about our local Aboriginal community history so we can all work to ensure the unique culture is not lost.

Our annual Sorry Day commemoration held at La Trobe University's Shepparton Campus was a moving acknowledgement of the ongoing impacts of the forcible removal of children. Guest speaker Daryl Sloan spoke passionately about his experiences as a member of the Stolen Generations and students from all the local secondary schools and ASHE actively participated in the commemoration.

During NAIDOC Week we partnered on a special public event with the Shepparton Art Museum (SAM). Indigenous Curatorial Assistant Belinda Briggs and curators Anna Briers and Lillian Yong shared their insights into some of the gems from SAM's Indigenous collection.

We are excited about the involvement of young people at our events as it helps our future generations share an understanding of the painful history of white settlement of this country whilst at the same time helping forge a path to greater unity.

**PHOTO:** Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group's annual Sorry Day commemoration.



In the past year Reconciliation Manningham has conducted a total of 54 walks, talks and lectures to schools and community groups. A number of the walks through historic and significant sites in Manningham were conducted with Wurundjeri Elders.

Group member Jim Poulter, in consultation with Wurundjeri Elders, also produced three new publications: "The Eight Wurundjeri Seasons in Melbourne", "Batman's 'Treaty' –The True Story" and "The Dust of the Mindye". Read more on the group's website.

**PHOTO (Left):** Mandy Nicholson and the Djirri Djirri Dancers with artist Patrice Mahoney at City of Manningham's NRW 2016 Launch



### Stonnington Reconciliation



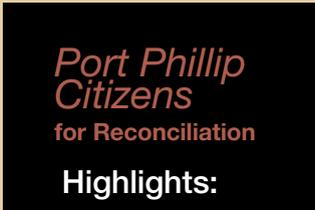
PHOTO: Barbara O

The group changed its name from Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation to Reconciliation Stonnington, to better reflect our role.

During the past twelve months the group continued its focus on education. At our 2015 AGM, group members and Stonnington pre-school educators, Jenny Goldsmith and Maree Sheehan spoke, about the inclusion of Aboriginal culture in their curriculum.

At another well-attended event the Stonnington Council presented to local teachers the Stonnington Aboriginal History Curriculum, developed in partnership with the group, and it continues to promote the project's implementation with local schools.

Council also ran a very successful NRW Art Exhibition by students from Prahran Community Learning Centre.



- Attracted a record crowd of more than 100 people including Elders, Mayor and Councillors, to our annual Sorry Day Lunch;
- Reached hundreds of primary and secondary students through engaging cultural providers to go into government schools and day care centres within the City of Port Phillip (COPP);
- Produced a newsletter, *Mungo*, 11 times per year, circulating to around 3,500 people;
- Organised the 2016 Reconciliation Writing competition focussing on building bridges between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community with support from COPP and local businesses;
- Attended Council's NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week flag raising and related events;
- Hosted stalls at local festivals and events;
- Contributed news items about our activities to RecVic, ANTaR, COPP's Diversity Magazine and local newspapers;
- Nominated local elder Judith Jackson for the 2016 Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll;
- Supported COPP's activities under the guidance of Indigenous Policy Officer Todd Condie, including their first RAP, now ratified and 2nd one currently being developed.

**PHOTO (Centre):** Reconciliation Stonnington's Ro Bailey was honoured to be invited by Aboriginal artist Maree Clarke to help on this possum skin cloak project



## Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group

Over the past couple of years our membership has slowly increased, and member diversity improved. Perhaps this is a sign of increased interest in reconciliation, plus our improved profile locally through our website and collaboration with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative on a few projects. This year we have an all-female Committee!

Awards that recognise genuine community-led activities that build relationships for reconciliation are treasured. We were thrilled to win (with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative) RecVic's Community HART Award 2016. Our strong group of participating organisations and funders plus sponsors are making plans for our 8th **Reconciliation in the Park** event in 2017 with increased confidence and enthusiasm.

Having upgraded the [www.djillong.net.au](http://www.djillong.net.au) website this year, a DVD about the Djillong region is now in production. It will include information about local Traditional Owners and cultural heritage. We are looking into how best to utilise the website and DVD, alongside The Storyteller game, for local education and cultural competency training. GOFRG also supported the objections of Traditional Owners and Elders to Telstra's plans to erect a tower adjacent to Aboriginal graves in the local cemetery.

**PHOTO (Right):** Geelong's Reconciliation in the Park, NRW 2016

**PHOTO (Centre Top):** Geelong's Deadly Dancers were a big hit at this year's HART Awards.



## Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation

Whitehorse Friends for Reconciliation partnered with Whitehorse Council, and the Blackburn Lake Committee on the 'Bunjils fly in Whitehorse' project during NRW 2016.

'That was the best excursion we have been on' was the enthusiastic feedback received from many of the 70 students who made Bunjil puppets from plastic milk containers. The design by artist Renate Crow was first approved by Wurundjeri Council, and then, over two sessions, the primary school students created and decorated their Bunjils with Renate, and learned about Bunjil and Aboriginal culture from Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson. The program was conducted in the Information Centre and delightful bush setting at Blackburn Lake. The Bunjils were then presented at the Council's Sorry Day event.

## Reconciliation Banyule

This year was a watershed year for Reconciliation in Banyule. The work of Reconciliation Banyule over a number of years to build relationships with both the local First Peoples and Banyule City Council (BCC) has in the last 12 months borne fruit.

During National Reconciliation Week BCC held a smoking ceremony and flag raising, held an inaugural Aboriginal Art Exhibition "Nhalinggu Bagung", conducted Cultural Walking Tours, a Wurundjeri Language Session at Ivanhoe Library, film screenings and a presentation by Dr Clare Land. The week closed with an afternoon of "Warrior Games". Reconciliation Banyule also held a screening of the film "Barbakiueria", attended by more than 100 school children. Over 1300 people in total participated in the NRW events. Council has already started planning for 2017 events. We commend BCC for their support for Reconciliation.

BCC also appointed two part-time Aboriginal staff members to support and build relationships with the local Aboriginal community, an initiative that we have been encouraging and which is already producing benefits.

Reconciliation Banyule continues to hold our monthly film nights and has had a tent at the Banyule Arty Farty and Malahang Festivals.

**PHOTO (Left):** Peter Judda Mackay, engaged by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, teaching Aboriginal culture to the children at Balacava Child Care Centre.



## Queenscliffe Reconciliation Mob

During our annual NRW event the haunting sounds of NE Arnhem Land band East Journey played through the loudspeakers across the playground of Point Lonsdale Primary School as many children and parents poured into the school to enjoy an afternoon of free cultural activities.

Children painted boomerangs made by volunteers at the Queenscliff Men's Shed; faces were painted in ochre using traditional designs of the kangaroo, crow, snake and broilga; Didge player Lyndon Perry from Geelong's Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre, taught an eager crowd of boys to play this ancient instrument while the girls enthusiastically clapped their clapsticks to keep the rhythm; Uncle David Tournier from the Wathaurong Co-op - our guest of honour - was presented with a glass plate from Wathaurong Glass in recognition for all the good work he has done to help further reconciliation in this community. All agreed that judging by the level of enjoyment and participation of the children we will continue holding this annual event.

**"We continually appreciate guidance and support from Reconciliation Victoria, plus the connections and information sharing with the broader Victorian network of LRGs."**

Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group

## Castlemaine Reconciliation champions honoured



Congratulations to local Castlemaine reconciliation champions Felicity and Vic Say who received a special Nalderun Award during NRW.

The Award was presented by Mount Alexander Shire Citizen of the Year Aunty Julie McHale to groups that have played pivotal roles in supporting the local Indigenous community.

Felicity and Vic, long time ANTA

members, have been campaigning for Indigenous recognition and respect and sharing their wealth of knowledge about Aboriginal culture and history in the local community for a quarter of a century.

The pair received a standing ovation in acknowledgement of their efforts and it was reported that there was not a dry eye in the house as they graciously accepted their award.

Local Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day events were coordinated by Nalderun Upper Loddon Events based at Castlemaine District Community Health. The day also saw a Reconciliation Week exhibition unveiled in the Phee Broadway foyer featuring a display of local Elder Uncle Rick Nelson's Dja Dja Wurrung family history.

Uncle Rick was also recognised for his work sharing Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge and promoting inclusiveness with the presentation of a traditional possum skin cloak, to symbolise his status as local Elder.

PHOTO (Above): Vic and Felicity Say, with Aunty Kath Coff (Nalderun), Uncle Rick Nelson, Aunty Kerrie Douglass, Aunty Julie McHale and Meeting Place students at Castlemaine's NRW2016 Launch.

“Congratulations on the latest newsletter. So full of the latest news, so well written and so colourful and professional. Keep up your brilliant work.

Rob Oke

“Our experience shows the key role that Local Government can play as they have a unique place and resources to make a significant improvement in making reconciliation happen. We support the work that Reconciliation Victoria has done in this area to facilitate the process with Local Government. It is a very effective way forward.”

Reconciliation Banyule.



## Talking Treaty & Constitutional Change

**RecVic has continued to raise awareness and build understanding about the importance of treaties and agreements and the proposal for constitutional change, recognising that both of these were recommendations of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation's "Roadmap to Reconciliation".**

The Victorian State Government made an historic commitment to commence Treaty talks with Victoria's Aboriginal community in early 2016. This is a very welcome development and responds to long standing calls from the Aboriginal community. It has spurred renewed calls for Treaty from Aboriginal people right around the country. Amongst those appointed by the State Government to the Aboriginal Treaty Interim Working Group is RecVic Council member Vicki Clark.

Following Aboriginal community consultations on a process for establishing a representative body, it is hoped that such a body can be formed to commence treaty negotiations with the State Government in 2017. There remain many complexities and details to be worked through, so a meaningful and long-term commitment is critical. Aboriginal Victoria is leading this work on behalf of the Government.

Effective and thoughtful communications with both the Aboriginal and mainstream communities will be crucial to building understanding and support. Meanwhile constitutional change remains on the political agenda for now, with continued multi-party support on the principle but no model yet proposed. The Referendum Council is working to consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around the country to develop a model for change that has widespread support. The final model is likely to address the issues of recognition and protection from racial discrimination.

Many in the Aboriginal community in Victoria see Treaty as the priority and there remains diverse views and ambivalence towards the constitutional recognition agenda. We will continue to try to be a balanced and informed voice on these complex issues, to build understanding and keep our networks and supporters up-to-date.

# Joint Reconciliation Victoria/ANTaR Victoria Budj Bim tour & Regional LRG forum

During April over 35 reconciliation supporters from around Victoria gathered on Gunditjmara country at Budj Bim (Lake Condah and Mt Eccles), to learn about the Gunditjmara peoples' connection to this very special place, and to connect with each other, to share, learn and build a stronger reconciliation movement.

The group included people from Geelong, Shepparton, Ballarat, Whittlesea, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Whitehorse, Stonnington, Banyule, Macedon Ranges, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula and the Yarra Ranges.

We were welcomed to Country by Aunty Eileen Alberts and taken on a fascinating tour by Elder Denis Rose (pictured bottom right) around the various sites that make up Budj Bim and Lake Condah Mission. These included sophisticated aquaculture systems, including stone eel traps and channels designed by the Gunditjmara people thousands of years ago, as well as the many remnants of stone houses that formed permanent villages for centuries.

As part of our forum Denis also provided an overview of the Glenelg Aboriginal Partnership Agreement, an outstanding example of collaboration between local government and the local Aboriginal community.



It was a special weekend and a privilege to spend time on this sacred country with international historical significance.

The story of the Gunditjmara people is intimately related to the volcanic eruption of Mount Eccles around 30,000 years ago, when an ancestral creation-being revealed himself in the landscape to the Gunditjmara people. Budj Bim (meaning high head) is part of the ancestral creation-being's body; his forehead is the mountain and the stones are his teeth.

Moves are being made to have the area declared a World Heritage site, to be restored and protected for future generations. There is also a proposal to rename Mount Eccles National Park to Budj Bim National Park and rename the peak Mount Eccles to Budj Bim. Reconciliation Victoria made a submission to Parks Victoria to support the name change.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Gunditjmara people and the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, the World Heritage nomination and how to join a tour check out the Gunditj Mirring website, [www.gunditjmirring.com](http://www.gunditjmirring.com).



# MAGGOLEE

On 22 October 2015, the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal Affairs, Natalie Hutchins launched the new Maggolee website, a resource supporting local councils to work more closely with Aboriginal communities.

As the level of government closest to communities, local councils are well-placed to work with Aboriginal communities to drive positive change in areas such as employment and economic development, health and wellbeing, recognition and respect, civic participation, access to land and protection of cultural heritage.

Maggolee – meaning ‘here in this place’ in Woi wurrung – was developed and is managed by Reconciliation Victoria with funding from the Victorian Government. The website celebrates good practice in Victorian local government Aboriginal engagement and reconciliation and aims to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, local communities and the councils that serve them together.

The website supports improved practice in local governments by providing a ‘one-stop shop’ with information on policy and programs, protocols and cultural awareness, key contacts, relevant local data and news and events from across the sector.

It provides resources and case studies so that councils can better partner with Aboriginal communities on service delivery, the arts, reconciliation, land use management, planning and cultural heritage, and how they can support Aboriginal employment and economic participation.

Maggolee contains information about each of the 79 Victorian local government areas demonstrating examples of good practice and helping build a community of practice within the local government sector. Since its launch Maggolee has had more than 7,000 visits by over 5,000 users around the state, including a significant number of visits by teachers and school students.

As part of our promotion strategy for the website we have held five workshops with local government audiences, attended by representatives from 18 councils along with Local Aboriginal Network brokers, Aboriginal community representatives and others, as well as having direct engagement with sixty of the 79 councils around Victoria.

Reconciliation Victoria developed the Maggolee website in collaboration with Aboriginal Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Local Government Victoria (LGV), the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA), LGPro and the Koorie Youth Council.

For more information visit [www.maggolee.org.au](http://www.maggolee.org.au)



PHOTO: (L to R) Gheran Steel (Boon Wurrung Foundation), Auntie Judith Jackson (community Elder) and Todd Condie (City of Port Phillip) at launching of City of Port Phillip's Aboriginal Interpretive Signs Project, one of the projects showcased on Maggolee.

“The Maggolee website does a brilliant job in providing a central place for local government Reconciliation stuff. It’s also a very good resource for students and others seeking out this information. It is invaluable to those in local government with the role of developing policy and Reconciliation Action Plans. Maggolee has been a long time coming.”

Garry Detez,  
Indigenous Development Officer,  
Yarra Ranges Council



**Statement of Financial Position**  
For the year ended 30 June 2016

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

	June-16	June-15
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	195,664	129,072
Trade and Other Receivables	2,800	250
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>198,464</b>	<b>129,322</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Other Assets	1,400	1,400
Property Plant and Equipment	1,683	1,461
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>3,083</b>	<b>2,861</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>201,547</b>	<b>132,182</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Annual Leave	11,654	20,612
Provisions for Professional Development	5,000	
Trade Creditors and Other Payables	11,318	18,922
Unearned Revenue	110,411	42,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>138,383</b>	<b>81,534</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	13,204	14,203
Provision for Parental Leave	6,308	
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>19,512</b>	<b>14,203</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>157,895</b>	<b>95,737</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	7,207	(1,759)
Retained Earnings	36,445	38,204
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>43,652</b>	<b>36,445</b>

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 30 June 2016

	June-16	June-15
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	355	134
Grants Received	279,353	281,639
Reimbursements	1,181	3,403
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>280,889</b>	<b>285,176</b>
Other Income		
Interest	4,489	2,650
Other Revenue	4,405	11,914
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>8,894</b>	<b>14,565</b>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>289,783</b>	<b>299,740</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Consultants / Contractors	11,653	13,000
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	562	806
Employee Benefits Expense	201,032	215,480
Events / Workshops / Forums	14,268	14,667
Grants Paid / Sponsorship	2,392	8,182
Other Expenses	37,074	35,209
Rent	11,200	13,769
Website Expenses	4,395	385
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>282,576</b>	<b>301,499</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) before Income Tax</b>	<b>7,207</b>	<b>(1,759)</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the Year</b>	<b>7,207</b>	<b>(1,759)</b>



I am pleased to present the 2016 financial accounts for Reconciliation Victoria.

An audit of Reconciliation Victoria Inc.'s financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2016 was conducted by Pro-Act Business Accounting Pty Ltd, Suite 3 Level 1, 902 Alexander Rd. Essendon.

The full financial report will be presented at the AGM on 12 November, and is available from the office. The audit report is un-qualified.

Reconciliation Victoria's 2016 support for reconciliation programs and events resulted in a surplus of \$7,207 (2015: deficit \$1,759). This result is within budget expectations. Reconciliation Victoria received grant funding to support several programs during the year including the Maggolee 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 2017 year.

At the end of 2016 cash reserves amounted to \$195,664 (2015: \$129,072) 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 2017 financial year.

**John Farlow** Treasurer



# Acknowledgements

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

We'd also like to thank the following organisations with whom we have worked this past year: ANTaR Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA), Koorie Youth Council, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), LGPro, VCOSS, The Long Walk and Glenelg Council;

Our volunteers: Julie Catlin, Alana Picone, Philippa Day, Nina Photokis, Deb Chapman, Mark Michell, Howard Tankey, Helen Bennett, John Burke, Sylvia Edgar, Deb Gilkes, Charlotte Powell, Carol Brown, Barbara Oehring, Ro Bailey, Tom Moloney and Ria Tattersall.;

And others we have worked with or who have supported us: Aunty Joy Murphy, Arweet Carolyn Briggs, Aunty Di Kerr, Uncle Bill Nicholson Jnr, Natalie Hutchins MP, Professor Muriel Bamblett, Clare Land, Frank O'Connor, Stephanie Armstrong, James Henry, Monica Weightman, Leanne Brooks, Sue Atkinson, Corrina O'Toole and the Deadly Dancers, Charcoal Lane, Beautiful Delicious, the Koorie Heritage Trust, Korin Gamadji Institute, Denis Rose, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Gunditj Murring Traditional Owner Corporation, Brotherhood of St Laurence, International Detention Coalition, Mi Fi Accountants, James Doyle - Moule Print, John Smith (Cedar Creek), Spike WebDesign, Studio Binocular, Bank Australia, Infoxchange, Connecting Up and Pozible.

We would also like to thank the Local Reconciliation Group network - now 27 groups and growing. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate them on the critical work that they do in their local regions.

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PHOTO: Geelong's Deadly Dancers were a big hit at this year's HART Awards. Provided by Barbara Oehring.



RecVic continues to provide ongoing, encouraging support to local reconciliation groups such as ours. Their Local Reconciliation Group forums always inform, challenge and support, whilst at the same time providing invaluable networking opportunities, in particular for those groups from further afield.

RecVic's staff provide assistance in so many ways: reviewing articles for our fortnightly column in the Shepparton News, providing a sounding board for ideas, attending our local events or providing funding to assist with our work and keeping us up-to-date on what's happening, especially on the important issues of constitutional recognition and treaty. It is hard to imagine reconciliation in Victoria without RecVic – it is the glue that binds us all together.”

Dierdre Robertson, Co-Chair,  
Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group, June 2016.

## Join Us

**Reconciliation Victoria is the product of a people's movement and we invite community participation in all our activities.**

To join the movement for reconciliation and be kept up-to-date with activities and issues relevant to reconciliation in Victoria, you can:

- Join our mailing list
- Join a Local Group
- Register to become a volunteer
- Become a Member (this entitles you to participate in the governance of the organisation).

**Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter.**

Visit [www.reconciliationvic.org.au](http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au)



**We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of Victoria**