

r e c o n c i l i a t i o n



v i c t o r i a

*working towards just and respectful relationships  
between Aboriginal and other Australians*

# Annual Report 2010 - 2011

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# Reconciliation Victoria Annual Report 2010 -2011

We wish to thank and acknowledge the support of ANTaR Victoria, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Reconciliation Australia, the Victorian Local Governance Association and the Victorian State Government for their past and ongoing support. A special thank you also to retiring RecVic Council member, founding Co-Chair and Public Officer, Michael Gorton.



Brotherhood  
of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty

## Reconciliation Victoria Council

Vicki Clark | Co-Chair  
Keith Gove | Co-Chair  
Jaye Cuypers / Jackie Funder | Treasurer  
Michael Gorton | Public Officer (retired 1 July 2011)  
John Burke  
Kooramyee Cooper  
Michelle Isles  
Peter Lewis  
John Smith  
Benson Saulo  
Renai Dean (joined since 1 July 2011)  
Melissa Brickell (joined since 1 July 2011)



Reconciliation  
AUSTRALIA  
RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANS



Connecting Communities  
Strengthening Democracy



## Staff

Erin McKinnon | Statewide Coordinator  
Damian O'Keefe | Project Support Officer

*respect, rights & recognition*

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# Reconciliation Victoria Annual Report: 2010 - 2011

## A message from our Co-Chairs

We are very pleased to be able to report a much more positive position for Reconciliation Victoria than last year. We recently had a very successful re-launch (or resurrection) of RecVic. We now have a home, a web site, a newsletter, terrific staff and Council, and money!

As we said at the RecVic re-launch, reconciliation is about no less than what it means to be Australian: about a **contemporary vision for our nation** embraced by all Victorians.

Paul Keating recently reminded us of the need for a strong, engaging, coherent story to shape and drive our nation. Reconciliation is fundamental to that story, and we have really powerful opportunities over the next four years to shape and tell that story.

Our nation and society has much to gain from a fuller understanding and appreciation of the cultures, languages and worldviews of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. There is powerful potential in the relationships between Aboriginal and other Australians.

RecVic is well-placed to contribute to this. We have been funded to develop a Victorian reconciliation framework with a 10-year vision. What do we want a reconciled country to look like in 10 years time? How would we get there? This goes hand-in-hand with the process of recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Australian Constitution. What would such recognition look like? How would life be different for Indigenous peoples?

Reconciliation Victoria will work closely with Victorian communities, individuals and organisations, and local government, to develop and realise this vision.

We would like to thank all in the community who supported RecVic during the dark years. It was the strong community support from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people that gave us strength to continue.

We would like to thank our fellow Councillors. As a team we have focussed on re-establishing effective governance: strategic directions, funding obligations and governance infrastructure.

We would also like to thank ANTaR Victoria for their support during the lean years. RecVic will now take on more responsibility for reconciliation in Victoria, including supporting local reconciliation groups.

**Keith Gove**

**Vicki Clark**

## Statewide Coordinator's Report

It has been a whirlwind couple of months since taking on the role of Statewide Coordinator in September 2011, following 12 months working on the Reconciliation in Local Government Project.

There has been much interest in the Local Government Pilot Project – a unique collaboration between national, state and local level bodies. We presented on the project at the National Local Government Aboriginal Employment Roundtable in Sydney in July, and will also present at the Deadly in Gippsland Conference and National Reconciliation Roundtable in November.

The national network of State Reconciliation Councils, facilitated by Reconciliation Australia, has also been very interested in our work with the Local Government sector. This network meets regularly via teleconference, as well as one face-to-face meeting annually. The network supports coordination on national reconciliation issues, and is an important forum for peer learning and information sharing.

At the end of September Reconciliation Victoria made a submission to the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. RecVic expressed our support for changing the constitution to reflect a contemporary vision for our nation that is embraced by all Australians. We detailed our views on specific changes to the Constitution, drawing on the views expressed by our members and supporters, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians, at forums and workshops held throughout the year. We feel strongly that the Panel's recommendations to the Government should make the case for meaningful change to the Constitution that respects and reflects the views and concerns emerging from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about token or symbolic amendments only, and the risk of missing the opportunity for more substantial change.

Last month members, friends and supporters gathered to celebrate our re-launch at our new premises, Hub Melbourne. It was a significant moment in RecVic's history - the 'resurrection' as Vicki Clark put it. The Hon. Jeanette Powell, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Local Government gave a speech reiterating the Government's funding commitment of \$800,000 over four years for Rec Vic, to address the unfinished business of reconciliation. The wonderful Kutcha Edwards, one of Australia's most renowned Aboriginal performers and a past Council member, treated the crowd to songs in English and Mutthi Mutthi, in true reconciliation spirit. I felt there was a renewed sense of optimism for achieving just and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Victorians – and plenty of energy and enthusiasm to get on with that task.

Our new home at Hub Melbourne - *Where Change Goes To Work* - is an exciting new, low-cost, collaborative work space. It was established to provide a diverse group of individuals and organizations with a space for co-working, meetings and events. There are regular networking, learning and collaboration opportunities for members, and RecVic has already had some great connections with other members. The location is also a bonus, being just 100 metres from Southern Cross Station.

We have an exciting and challenging year ahead, with a number of key activities and commitments to progress, including.....

- Working with the community to develop a Victorian Reconciliation Framework and vision.
- Working with the local government sector to progress reconciliation, building on the recommendations from the Reconciliation in Local Government Pilot Project.
- Supporting Victorian Government Departments to develop action plans to advance reconciliation.
- Developing and implementing a community education program with local reconciliation groups, to grow awareness of reconciliation issues including federal constitutional reform and coordinate Reconciliation Week activities.
- Developing an evaluation plan to monitor and measure our progress.
- Seeking long-term partnerships to augment core government funding.

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to contribute to the next steps in our State's reconciliation journey, together with my colleagues Damian O'Keefe and Helen Bnads, who joins the team in January, members of local reconciliation groups and ANTaR, and with guidance from our fantastic Council. I look forward to re-connecting with and continuing the legacy of the many committed and inspiring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women and men who've led the reconciliation march for over a decade.

**Erin McKinnon**

## **Community Engagement**

### **Local Reconciliation Groups**

During 2010 – 2011 the local network of local reconciliation groups (LRGs) continued to fly the flag for Reconciliation, engaging their local communities, working with local councils and schools and participating in the national conversation about Constitutional Recognition. There are currently groups active in Ballarat, Banyule, Bendigo, Bass Coast/Gippsland, Boroondara, Casey, Castlemaine, Geelong, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Queenscliff, Shepparton, Stonnington, Whittlesea and Whitehorse. During National Reconciliation Week, events were also run by community groups in Brunswick and Mornington, as well as by a number of local councils, schools and corporations.

In collaboration with ANTaR Victoria, RecVic hosted four quarterly LRG gatherings. These events provide a space for local groups to get together to network, share resources and ideas and support each other.

The LRG network remains strong, thanks the endeavour of some remarkably motivated, committed and knowledgeable people. In 2012, RecVic will take on the active support of these groups from ANTaR Victoria.

## **National Reconciliation Week 2011**

Despite RecVic's limited resources, **National Reconciliation Week 2011** was an outstanding success. The network of LRGs, along with a number of local councils, organised an extraordinary number of events around the state. Of the 150 events organised around Australia, 80 of them occurred in Victoria, with 21 local councils and 11 LRGs participating. Events included local government flag-raising ceremonies, public forums, art exhibitions, musical events, dinners, public breakfasts, walking tours of significant sites, a writers' festival, film screenings, a veteran's football match, historical displays and family days.

## **Reconciliation in Local Government Action Research Pilot Project**

Another highlight of the past year has been Rec Vic's lead role in the **Reconciliation in Local Government Action Research Project**, in partnership with the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA), Reconciliation Australia and with support from the Victorian State Government. The aim of the project was to explore the advantages and limitations of the Reconciliation Action Plan tool for Victorian Local Governments. The report of the project, which will soon be available on Reconciliation Victoria's website, makes recommendations related to the Reconciliation Action Plan program for local governments, recommendations directed at individual local governments and recommendations for peak bodies and State government regarding support for the local government sector. These recommendations are being considered by the Local Government Aboriginal Partnerships forum, co-chaired by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and Local Government Victoria, with participation of the Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Local Governance Association, Reconciliation Victoria and a number of other Aboriginal and Local Government organisations.

## Treasurer's Report

An audit of Reconciliation Victoria Inc.'s financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2011 was conducted by Agostinelli Perlen, Chartered Accountants, 200 Lygon Street, Carlton. The full financial report will be presented at the AGM on 13 November, and is available from the office.

In summary, the surplus for the year amounted to \$62,318. No significant changes to the association's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

|   | Note | 2011<br>\$     | 2010<br>\$     |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|
| Revenue   | 2    | 130,000        | 55,000         |
| Other income  | 2    | 2,608          | 255            |
|   |      | <u>132,608</u> | <u>55,255</u>  |
| Employment expenses   |      | (38,572)       | (6,657)        |
| Other expenses  |      | (31,718)       | (57,288)       |
| <b>Surplus (Loss) for the year</b>                                      |      | <u>62,318</u>  | <u>(8,690)</u> |
| <b>Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year</b>                   |      | <u>62,318</u>  | <u>(8,690)</u> |
| Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to members of the entity |      | <u>62,318</u>  | <u>(8,690)</u> |

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

|                                  | Note | 2011<br>\$    | 2010<br>\$   |
|----------------------------------|------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                    |      |               |              |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>            |      |               |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents        | 3    | 89,813        | 6,575        |
| Trade and other receivables      | 4    | -             | 2,610        |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>      |      | <u>89,813</u> | <u>9,185</u> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>              |      | <u>89,813</u> | <u>9,185</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>               |      |               |              |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>       |      |               |              |
| Trade and other payables         | 5    | 16,848        | -            |
| Provisions                       | 6    | 1,462         | -            |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |      | <u>18,310</u> | <u>-</u>     |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>         |      | <u>18,310</u> | <u>-</u>     |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                |      | <u>71,503</u> | <u>9,185</u> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                    |      |               |              |
| Accumulated funds                |      | 71,503        | 9,185        |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>              |      | <u>71,503</u> | <u>9,185</u> |