

# Local Reconciliation Group Reports 2013

## Contents

Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group.....	1
Towards Reconciliation Bendigo Group.....	2
Tr@k (Towards Reconciliation at Knox).....	3
Booroondarra Reconciliation Group.....	4
Banyule Reconciliation.....	4
Maroondah Movement for Reconciliation .....	5
Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation.....	6
Get Up Out West.....	6
Nillumbik Reconciliation Group .....	7
Reconciliation Manningham .....	7
Geelong One Fire .....	8

## Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group

### Events:

The Apology Breakfast: This year over 200 people attended the Apology Anniversary breakfast held in the Queen's Garden. All secondary schools in the area, apart from one, were involved. Partners for the event included Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, The Bringing Them Home program, Rumbalara Co-operative, Yorta Yorta Nation, Kaiela Institute, ASHE, Greater Shepparton City Council, Notre Dame College, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and Uniting Care Cutting Edge.

National Sorry Day: The National Sorry Day memorial was held in Monash Park. Primary and secondary and primary school students were involved. Partners for this event were the same as those who supported the Apology Breakfast.

Reconciliation Week: Two of the Reconciliation Week activities were directly related to the **RECOGNISE** campaign, these included the launch of the local RECOGNISE flyer which profiled local identities. A community forum was held at the Rural Health Academic Centre, University of Melbourne titled *Continuing the Conversation ... Recognising Aboriginal Australians: What the Constitution should Say and How the Referendum Can be Won*, Professor George Williams presented and lead the discussion. The final event was the launch of the book *A Decision to Discriminate* by 'concerned Australians'. Margaret Spong spoke at the launch.

Journey Or Recognition and Long Walk to the Dreamtime At The 'G': SRRG members attended the Dreamtime at the 'G' celebrations as well as the launch of the Journey to Recognition at Fed Square.

Closing The Gap: This activity was put on hold over 2012 – 2013 as SRRG was advised to wait for direction from Petah Atkinson, Closing the Health Gap worker prior to taking any further action.

Film Nights - Done in partnership with Rumbalara and held at their Harmony Centre on a bi-monthly basis

#### **FUNDING:**

SRRG in partnership with Rumbalara received project funding from Recognise, this enabled them to develop their localised flyers, the forum as well as 3 community discussions were held involving over 100 people. All conversations were held in partnership with the co-op and other local organisations.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA:** The SRRG newsletter is produced twice yearly, and SRRG continues to contribute a fortnightly column to the Shepparton News.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS:**

Young Peoples Reconciliation Group: Discussions Are On-Going with Local Organisations to support this venture.

Meeting With The Rumbalara Aboriginal Board – on a bi-monthly basis to ensure accountability and an ongoing strong relationship.

Meeting With Greater Shepparton City Council – Regular meetings occur with the Council’s CEO and there is a Council Representative on SRRG.

Local Reconciliation Groups Network Meetings - Reconciliation Victoria: These meetings, held bi-monthly, have been attended by Fran and Dierdre.

## **Towards Reconciliation Bendigo Group**

#### **Events:**

- Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations Breakfast,, February 13.
- Activities during Reconciliation Week, and Nara Dreaming Exhibition.
- NAIDOC Week Flag Raisings at City Council, and Hospital and BRIT as well as the Flag Raising at Castlemaine recently, other NAIDOC activities included; dinners, barbecues, Art Exhibitions at McGillivray Hall, St. Andrews) and at LaTrobe University campus there was a lunch time concert with Kutcha Edwards performing.
- The Launch of the Journey to Recognition at Federation Square where members from Bendigo attended.
- Bendigo Field Naturalists excursion to /around Boort; organized by a member of Towards Reconciliation/also member of BFNC.
- Some members took part in the Briefing for Constitutional Recognition of the First People , 1st Oct 2013
- Two members attended the Social Justice Sunday at the Uniting Church, Myers Street (Reconciliation Group), where Gerry Gill (Sociologist LaTrobe University), gave the address , one aspect of which was conflicting values and results that Protectors Robinson and Parker had to face.

#### **Sustainability and Membership:**

- Discussions at Our Place -Planning Some very useful/practical suggestions. But there is a lack of activists, need to encourage new members.
- Meeting to encourage a wider representation of members in our Group held at Our Place, Eaglehawk.





Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Pat and Wolithiga Elder Uncle Henry

## Booroondarra Reconciliation Group

The ANTaR Booroondarra Group is not meeting any longer on a regular basis because of our small numbers. Some members of our group are involved in Reconciliation activities on an individual basis and we keep in touch by email to keep abreast of developments. On occasions, those who are interested and available attend Reconciliation or Indigenous events together.

## Banyule Reconciliation

### Events:

Members attended and assisted in the *Journey to Recognition* which commenced at Federation Square on May 26. .

Free monthly film nights. Nine film nights were held and films ranged from 'The Sapphires' to 'Australia on Trial - Massacre at Myall Creek'. Attendance at the films averaged 12 (up to 18) .

Participation in NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week events by providing educational displays at several of the local Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) branches and Banyule Council Service Centres.

### Partnerships and Support:

Banyule Reconciliation would like to acknowledge the role of Banyule City Council in promoting Aboriginal Reconciliation and input from Helen Clough (Community & Social Planner at the Council)) for her assistance with Council matters. Banyule Reconciliation has written to the Council to ask it to further promote reconciliation by flying the Aboriginal Flag on a permanent basis.

Banyule LRG is endeavouring to strengthen its relationships and interaction with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This is a slow process. According to statistics there are more than 800 people who acknowledge they are Aboriginal in the Banyule Council area.

Banyule Reconciliation has been well represented at the Local Regional Groups (LRG) quarterly meetings. These meetings have representatives of most of the Reconciliation groups.

## **Maroondah Movement for Reconciliation**

### **Meetings/ Events:**

Bi-monthly meetings included guest speaker who covered topics like: how the Wurundjeri people conserved and managed the Yarra Valley, the work of the Aboriginal Service Development Officer at Eastern Health and the READ (Read Every Available Day) program at the Yuendumu school in the Northern Territory. In June, with the permission of the producers, we viewed the video 'Our Generation'.

Maroondah Festival (Novembers) successful stall including flag making of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

Several MMR members attended Belgrave Survival Day on 26 January as well as the Community Day held on 24 February at the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place in Ringwood East.

In March, group members met with Maroondah Council's Events Officer to discuss planning for the Council's 2013 Reconciliation Week program. The council event included a flag raising with children from three local primary schools attending. Kutcha Edwards again engaged the children with his talk and singing. An Indigenous Story Time for preschoolers was also held at Croydon Library.

Coranderrk Festival in Healesville, March - MMR and other groups in the eastern metropolitan region established a combined stall. The Festival was held to mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Coranderrk Mission Station.

**Group Sustainability and Partnerships** - We urgently need new members.



Belgrave Survival Day – photo courtesy of TR@K

## Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation

### Events:

Members attend the Flavours Festival, Council's Community BBQ; the Lloyd Street Primary School RAP launch; and Ro spoke to the children and staff at Swinburne Prahran Community Child Care Centre.

### Partnerships and Sustainability

The group has monthly meetings and there is strong Council involvement and support of the group

City of Stonnington has developed a new RAP and has also provided funding for a cultural centre. In planning stages

The Stonnington Aboriginal Curriculum Project has taken a very long time to develop, but is now approved by the Boonwurrung Foundation; it will be ready for launching in local schools in 2014

The group advocated that the City of Stonnington initiate a Welcome to Country ceremony at all citizenship ceremonies which has now been undertaken. They are currently advocating for new park to be named in the Traditional local language and include other Aboriginal references.

Members attend regular LRG meetings and also participated in the joint ANTaR and RecVic AGM and State Wide Forum.

## Get Up Out West

### Partnerships and Sustainability:

The group meets regularly and has strong partnerships with Hobsons Bay Council as well as community organisations such as the local libraries and Woor Dungin.

They are committed to finding ways to honour significant dates in our history that mark steps towards Reconciliation.

### Events/Campaigns

**Respect (Nov/Dec 2012):** " An exhibition of work by local Aboriginal community members practicing their culture in the West, through a partnership between local community and members of the Wurundjeri people.

GUOW is focusing on the new the Constitutional Recognition campaign, with the developments of the Act of Recognition legislation in early 2013 . GUOW organised speakers to attend meetings to explain the Expert Panel's Report as well as report on the progress of the campaign as well as attending Speaker Registry briefing hosted by RecVic and attending various community forums in Melbourne on this issue. GUOW are also planning a Rock for Recognition concert in their local area.

Partnership with Hobson's Bay Library, and the new Williamstown Library to put on events such as the launch of Ros Moriarty's book "Listening to Country". There have been multiple events such as this over the past year including GUOW member talking about his travel experiences in Palm Island, renowned children's author Andy Griffith speaking to local community members

Schools Project – GUOW has given out Indigenous resources to schools. Such as: Willy High School – a copy of "Lives of Papunya Tula Artists" by Vivien Johnson; Bayview College (Paisley campus) - a copy of "Lives of Papunya Tula Artists"; The Koorie Engagement Support Officer for schools in Hobsons Bay - \$200 plus some of our collected books

to support a mobile display of Indigenous material. This display will travel to schools in the Western region and to Hobsons Bay Libraries - a copy of "Lives of Papunya Tula Artists", plus \$100 towards the special Indigenous collection to be housed in the new Williamstown library when it opens in September. GetUpOutWest's now updated schools' resources list of suitable materials has over 100 items (books, DVDs, online shops). The catalogue is available in pdf for printing, or in Excel for updating with your own titles.

## **Nillumbik Reconciliation Group**

### **Partnerships and Sustainability**

Nillumbik Reconciliation Group (NRG) has enjoyed a close and productive relationship with our Shire.

Contact has been established with Eltham High School and a Facebook subscription is to be organised to attract more youth involvement.

NRG take part in the quarterly REM meetings and the Local Group Forum.

### **Events**

In partnership with the local Shire, NRG have held the Australia Day Flag Raising, the Reconciliation Week flag Raising, with two NAIDOC events. Mick Woiwod, local historian, founding father of Reconciliation in Nillumbik and author of over twenty books which explore Wurundjeri history, the dreamtime stories about the shire land and the heroes of the Wurundjeri clan, gave a fireside chat at Edendale, a farm and Indigenous nursery run by the Shire. He also gave a fireside talk at the Gawa Wurundjeri Resource Trail, with tours of the trail given by NRG members.

We have visited two schools and taken 80 children around the trail with talks and questions as an adjunct to their Indigenous curriculum project.

We have assisted with launching Mick Woiwod's books and helping with their distribution and sale. We also worked with Manningham Reconciliation in the placement of two Plaques marking an Aboriginal Reserve at Warrandyte and with Jim Poulter organised their launches. We held stalls at Coranderrk Festival, Warrandyte Fair and Nillumbik Town Fair.

NRG has written up replacement plaques for the Gawa Trail, seeking consultations with Dean Stewart and Uncle Bill Nicholson and organising an illustrative border with Wurundjeri artist Judy Nicholson. The Shire will provide in kind support for the installation and by March next year we should be ready for a launch. The cost of the plaques has been met with a grant of \$5500 from

We also have a grant of \$1100 from Melbourne Water and will use this for a guide book for guides which will be where more extensive information about the resources on the trail are recorded. That information will be also placed on a website which can be accessed through a QR code on each plaque.

Next year we will give our attention to support for the Constitutional Recognition Referendum.

## **Reconciliation Manningham**

### **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2012-13**

Jim Poulter gave talks to 24 different community groups and schools. The group also put up historical and educational display viewed at Festivals, citizenship ceremonies and schools by a total of 6970 people in 2012 which represents a 30% increase over 2011. Reconciliation Manningham (RecMan) attended three citizenship ceremonies with history display and information pamphlets.

Brief papers prepared and circulated by Jim to reconciliation and Aboriginal groups on 'Mapping Songlines in your municipality', 'Bukkertilibul Birthing Place', and 'Making an Aboriginal Bark Canoe' as well as developing educational pamphlets on Pound Bend Aboriginal Reserve, Heide Scar Tree and Bukkertilibul Birthing Place.

## **FESTIVALS AND CULTURAL EVENTS**

History Tour of Old Templestowe conducted February 2013 as part of Healthy Lifestyles Week, Warrandyte waterfront Walk conducted with Bill Nicholson of Wurundjeri and Hayden Heta of ParksVic Heritage Week May, Gave Birrarung Stories Lecture Reconciliation Week June..

RecMan had stalls at Finns Festival November, Multicultural Festival November, Rotary Market the Pines December Didgeridoo Festival in March, Warrandyte Festival March, Templestowe Village Festival April, MMIGP Craft Market June. RecMan provided significant funding assistance to the Warrandyte Festival in order to mount a traditional welcome, smoking and dance performance in March, which was extremely well received. In conjunction with Nillumbik Reconciliation Group had unveiling ceremony for memorial plaques and rocks at Pound Bend Aboriginal reserve March 2013.

Reconciliation Week activities including film night, storytelling in library school talks, public lecture etc were also organised.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Significant input into the drafting of Manningham Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Attendance at Wurundjeri Council field day in October to harvest bark for a traditional canoe. Planted sapling manna gums at Ruffey, Mullum-Mullum, Anderson, Brushy and Stony Creeks for later tying as marker trees.

RecMan Secretary Jim Poulter asked by families of celebrated Aboriginal Elders Reg Saunders, Banjo Clarke and Reg Blow to arrange their nomination for the Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll. All three Elders were duly inducted in November 2012.

Ongoing attendance at Wurundjeri Council/HICSA auspiced Birrarung Walk Committee.

Liaised with Ed Story of Koorie Heritage Trust re oral history recording of Manningham Aboriginal history

Conducted fund raising sausage Sizzle at Box Hill Bunnings October 2012

## **Geelong One Fire**

### **Events**

Constitutional Recognition Project – Phase 1 of project completed with successful community education and awareness raising activities with 10 local groups after receiving funding from Recognise. Negotiations with Geelong City Council in partnership agreement. Will apply for more funding from Recognise to deliver Phase 2 of project.

Reconciliation Week activities including Reconciliation in the Park with 2013's theme being 'Let's Talk Recognition'.

*Djillong* time line banner development support project

Geelong City Council decided after the advocacy of groups such as Geelong One Fire to fly the Aboriginal Flag permanently on City Hall.

There are bi-monthly movie nights held at the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op.

### **Partnerships and Sustainability**

The group meets monthly and has a strong working relationship with the Council.

The group has strong membership and engagement with the community.

The group has a strong working relationship with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op