



Reconciliation Victoria's Annual General Meeting

Saturday 8th November 2014

Maurice Rioli Room, Korin Gamadji Institute, Richmond

DRAFT Minutes

Introduction and welcome given by Belinda Duarte, Director of Korin Gamadji Institute (KGI). Korin Gamadji means 'grow and emerge' – KGI is proud to provide the environment for today's meeting at such a critical time for our country and our State. I look forward to today's leadership – we face big challenges if the State cannot recognise the importance of Victoria's first peoples and the ancestry of this land.

1. Present and Apologies

Attending: Jay Aggarwal, Michael Anderson, Ro Bailey, Greg Barber, John Baxter, Matt Bell, Helen Bennett, Carole Browne, Melissa Brickell, John Burke, Marion Cabanes, David Caldwell, Ian Chadderton, Deb Chapman, Emily Chauvel Byrne, Bernadette Cheesman, Kris Chisolm, Marica Cindric, Vicki Clark, David Collis, Jadranka Cubela, Meg Davoren-Honey, John Farlow, Angus Frith, Georgina Gartland, Tom Gay, Keith Gove, Ian Hamm, Marie Hapke, Aaltje Harvey, Peter Harvey, Bob Heaton, Alexandra Hill, Karen Ingram, Michelle Isles, Ian James, Wally Johnson, Greg Kennedy, Peter Lewis, Bob Maguire, Terry Makin, Don McArthur, David Mejia-Canales, Lisa Moloney, Tom Moloney, Josephine Moore, Ann Morrow, John Murray, Kasumi Nishida, David O'Brien, Frank O'Connor, Barbara Oehring, Damian O'Keefe, Jennifer Perlstein, Maria Pizzi, John Power, Anne Kristine Raunkiaer-Jensen, Ronda Renwick, Dierdre Robertson, Rachel Robinson, Rosemary Rule, Jane Russell, Giovanni Sanna, Anne Schmid, Felicity Smith, John Smith, Julie Sturt, Chrystabel Suarez, Karen Sullivan, James Talbot-Kamoen, Brigid Trennery, Janet Turpie-Johnston, Jill Webb, Michael Westlund, Richard Wynne.

Apologies: Donna Wright, Howard and Pam Tankey, Stephanie Armstrong, Jennifer Kanis MP, Jan Aitken, Alice Jamieson-Dowd, Donna Marabito, Lindsay Rust, Ina Graham, James Wynd, Professor Marcia Langton, Joyce Rebeiro, Marjorie Jackson, Laura Brearley, Jane Dawson, Helen Summers, Sapphira Butler, Mary Dykes, Erin McKinnon, Vicki Grosser, Liz Brumer, Sylvia Edgar.

Minutes of previous AGM

Accepted. Moved: Peter Lewis; Seconded: Vicki Clark.

2. Chairpersons' report (Keith Gove and Vicki Clark)

It has been a challenging year - with Erin on maternity leave - but we are extremely lucky to have Deb Chapman as acting Statewide Coordinator. RecVic has continued to maintain strong connection with the network of Local Reconciliation Groups (LRG); we continued and built on engagement with the Constitutional Recognition campaign led by Emily Chauvel Byrne; continued working closely with other orgs – e.g. VLGA on HART awards, City of Melbourne, Reconciliation Australia, and ANTaR Victoria. Small organisations like RecVic have to work in partnership.

Council is strong and stable; no election is required this year. We are in strong financial position although we operate on few resources. Keith acknowledged the commitment and support from State Government. We are in conversation with the Government and Opposition about continuation of funding beyond June 2015.

RecVic has continued to work in local government space – we hope to see Maggolee local government website launched next year – and State Government has confirmed its intention to see this happen. We are commencing to explore opportunities for work in schools space. We are gradually building awareness in the community about Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution.

Staff are fully committed, and the energy they bring to our work and to Council keeps the organisation vibrant. For such a small team they are very effective. Deb Chapman has become a great sounding board, and personally supportive. Emily Chauvel Byrne has been all around the state – listening to all sides of the Constitutional Recognition discussion – we thank her for bringing thousands of conversations back to the Council.

Thanks to our volunteers – for work on stalls, etc. and to ANTaR Victoria for such a strong relationship. Our Council members are very committed; they take on extra responsibilities, and are active in sub-committees.

3. Financial Report and Statement – John Farlow (Treasurer)

Though we produced a deficit of approx. \$60K, we still have healthy reserves to draw on to run events. Major contribution to the size of the deficit was a large one-off expense: the Maggolee website.

Looking to the future: we have \$85k in bank – more than enough to continue til the next funding tranche.

Approved: Moved: Peter Lewis; Seconded: Rosemary Rule.

4. Statewide Coordinator's report – Deb Chapman

“I'd like to first take time to think of the land we are on and what it has been like for Aboriginal people”.

It has been a busy year: e.g. NRW – at least 120 events. It's a privilege to work with the LRGs and to see bottom-up change at the grassroots level. This is a vibrant and important space, and RecVic is in demand around community.

Hardest job ever, but the most satisfying – we work with great people.

It has been a great year of consolidation. We work in a contested space which requires constant and careful negotiation. I appreciate the wisdom and commitment of our Council, and it's a delight working with the team – we bring complementary skills.

We have reactivated our work on 'treaties and agreement making', and will be inviting the Aboriginal community to an event in near future to hear from them what they see as our place in that discussion.

Thank you to our donors – Victorian State Government, Recognise and the Philanthropic support from....

We are very excited to have Greg Kennedy (Koorie Youth Council) join our Council.

Meeting closed