



Local Reconciliation Groups Forum

Saturday 13 June 2015: 11.00am – 4pm

Inverloch Hub, corner of A'Beckett & Reilly Streets, Inverloch

Minutes

Attendees: Keith Gove (RV Co-chair & Stonnington LRG), Matt Bell, Ian Chadderton and Michael Anderson (ANTaR Vic), Daniel Carter, Damian O'Keefe, Deb Chapman and Emily Chauvel Byrne (RecVic), Ro Bailey (Stonnington LRG), Chloe Naughton and Phillipa Day (RecVic volunteers), Kasumi Nashida, Jan Aitkin (Nillumbik), Helen Bennett, Sylvia and Rosemary Rule (Port Philip Citizens for Reconciliation), Carole Browne, Bob Heaton (Maroondah), Wally Johnson and Terry Makin (Banyule), Ian James (Casey/Yarra Ranges), Jim Poulter (Manningham), John Murray (Queenscliff LRG). Bass Coast and South Gippsland LRG: Florence Hydon, Anne Davie, Caroline Hamilton, Ian Hamilton, Mary Mutsaers, John Mutsaers, Julie Cantwell, Bron Dahlstrom, Patrice Mahoney, Vivien Hughes, Alison Brewster, Kerri Ritchie, Anna Gebhardt, James Wearne, Laura Brearley, Graeme Burgan, Rhani Blyth, Heather Tobias, Marg Lynn.

Apologies: Steph Armstrong, The Geelong One Fire LRG, Dave Collis, Kris Chisolm, Dierdre Robertson, Georgina Gartland.

Acknowledgement & Introductions

Florence Hydon welcomed the group to Inverloch and spoke of what reconciliation meant to the group. Keith Gove thanked the LRG for hosting the forum today. Keith reflected on what has been achieved in the past 10 years in the local government space including: councils flying the flag increased from 25-66 across the state), 90% councils now permanently fly the Aboriginal flag; Aboriginal employment up from 9-80 staff across the state; Acknowledgement of Country – from 24 in 2001 to 79 (100%) in 2015; The number of councils doing cross-cultural training has doubled.

Welcome to Country – Patrice Mahoney gave an Acknowledgment of Country.

Reconciliation Victoria Update – update sent prior to LRG convenors

Keith announced that it looks very likely that RecVic will be refunded for the next 4 years.

Deb let the group know that Emily and Vicki are leaving RecVic. Dan Carter has joined the RecVic team. To read the full report, please see attached link.

Deb asked people to fill out surveys looking at the role that RecVic has, what has been achieved, and what more we can do to support LRGs. If you didn't have the opportunity and would like to, please contact the office.

ANTaR Victoria Update – update attached

- Main campaign is on justice reinvestment, upcoming forum on justice reinvestment to be advertised soon.

- Window transfer Acknowledgement plaques are now available online.

- ANTaR Victoria is in the process of employing a new Office Manager to replace Michael, who will be working at ANTaR (National) full time from the end of June.

Insurance Update for LRGs

- LRGs to follow up with Michael if unsure of the process.

- Michael proposed that LRGs become ANTaR affiliate members – would this work for LRGs? ANTaR



Vic looking for feedback.

Shearwater Festival – Laura Brearley to share information about the Shearwater Festival. The working group won the Community HART Awards.

Graham Burgen, Anne Davey and James Wearne joined Laura in doing an Acknowledgement of Country in sign language.

Laura spoke to the group about how Shearwater began. That the community was involved through a “deep listening” project. The festival has grown enormously over the past few years. VACL has been a key partner as part of the cultural revitalisation. Laura said “We are learning from a vibrant culture of deep wisdom.” This project is an example of strong partnerships. Lisa Kennedy (artist, writer, lecturer) is involved with the project, has developed stories about the significance of the Shearwater birds. The “deep listening” program raised money to enable Aboriginal leaders to visit an Aboriginal community in Alberta, Canada. “listening to the sounds not yet heard” Don _____.

Local Groups Sharing – We encourage each group to share updates on the following points:

A) NRW 2015 – highlight & why B) 2016 and beyond – how to progress reconciliation.

Terry Makin & Wally Johnson (Banyule) – NRW, better this year. Showed Message from Mungo film. Building relationships with Babarrbunin Beek, (which means “happy place” in the Woiwurrung language), the new local Aboriginal community health organisation.

Jim Poulter (Manningham) – busy NRW with cultural immersion days in schools, public lectures and film nights; highlight was presentation of ‘collision of two worlds’ which featured Jim’s research and determination of the deliberate nature of the small pox epidemic. Jim’s research indicated that it was a deliberate act of genocide, and has dated it to the 25th March, 1789.

John Murray (Queenscliff & Geelong) Koorie Culture for Kids (Queenscliff event) Reconciliation in the Park (Geelong event) very successful events. Proposed Pt Lonsdale life size bronze sculpture has been approved by the local council, but Group needs to find the funds.

Jan Aitken (Nillumbik) – local council had flag raising, getting reps from local schools to attend and created posters that are displayed at the entrance of the shire offices. Planning a course of 6 discussions with Aboriginal leaders to be held later in the year.

Ro Bailey (Stonnington) – cooperate with and encourage the local council to put on events. They put on a BBQ and flag raising. Had an art and culture exhibition.

Shani – Local Bass Coast Land Management Group. Welcome to Country and Flag raising, indigenous quiz, lunch time movie, bush tucker BBQ.

Bob Heaton (Maroondah) – Committee worked closely with the council who put on 6 events, dancing and language workshops, including a flag raising at which Kutcha performed and a Morning Tea with MMIGP choir. Need to regenerate the group, get younger members.

Monash LRG (Dan Carter) – Busy NRW - Mt Waverly Secondary College, Fire Carriers Public Speaking Competition at Avila College, Exhibition at Highway gallery, Wesley College presentation. Rosalie Kurnoth-Monks spoke to packed out venue. Matt Bell (ANTaR Vic) spoke to the LRG members too. Monash Council is also looking at doing a songline mapping.

Rosemary Rule (Port Philip) – Sorry Day lunch, very well attended. Supported Council to do Flag raising ceremony, film festival, art show. Lots of school talks working with local Aboriginal educators. St Kilda City Saints became the first local football club to do an Indigenous round.

Marngrook in Mainstream (Jim and Dan) – promotes reconciliation through the playing of Marngrook. Active way of getting kids to embrace their Aboriginal heritage. Involved in VFL halftime entertainment.

Moreland (Deb) – LRG being set up. Australia Day awards have been moved and de-linked from Invasion Day.

ANTaR Vic – 3000 Sea of Hands at 4 different schools around the state. Need new storage place for



thousands of hands. Please contact ANTaR Vic office if you have any ideas about storage. Ian James (Casey/Yarra Ranges ANTaR) –attended Shire of Yarra Ranges event in Healesville – Mick Dodson spoke. Asked Mick what most important thing we could do to support ConRec. Mr Dodson advised “don’t focus on adding things to the Constitution but rather focus on taking things away.” Those clauses being s25 and s51 xxiv.
 Deb – RecVic – 13 NRW small grants given out. RecVic attended and supported over 40 events.

Constitutional Recognition, Treaty Working Group and ‘concerned Australians’ Updates. These updates are attached.

Emily spoke to the group about where we are at in the ConRec campaign, where the Agreement and Treaties working group is at as well as shared ‘concerned Australian’s update with the group as Georgina Gartland wasn’t able to attend.

Lunch break – including opportunity to view of work from local artists in the Inverloch Hub

Listening and Learning from the local community

Guest speakers including; James Wearne from Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College.

- Reconciliation is all year around and needs to get kids on board. Aboriginal kids are not hiding anymore, they are proud of who they are.
- Spoke about Chris Sarra’s stronger smarter program.
- Shearwater Festival – dance troupe created their own dance for the inaugural festival in 2013.
- The festival has evolved each year, bringing people in to share their craft/knowledge. No underlying agenda. Everyone was there to share and give.

Anne – appreciative of the support from the Bass Coast Council’s support.

- Looking to change the electorate name (McMillan). Local member is supportive of changing the name. Looking for ideas for new name, working with local Aboriginal people.
- Anne wrote to the RSL asking for the Aboriginal flag to be flown during ANZAC Day, NRW and NAIDOC weeks.

Kerrie Richie – Bass Coast Council

- Schools locally are learning the Boon Wurrung language at school. There are Learning Stones at every school across the region.
- ICACC – Council is a member of this coalition.
- Indigenous Round – competing teams wore Indigenous designed jumpers, included welcome to country. Walk from Ramahyuck to football ground.
- Reconciliation starts at schools: contact schools and encourage them to put same level of importance for NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week. Value Aboriginal knowledge. Start a healthy conversation, and build on it. Challenge them to achieve higher. Art can start that conversation.
- LRG has partnered with the local libraries and had a very positive impact on reconciliation initiatives in the local area.
- July 6 – Author Bruce Pascoe is coming to Inverloch Library & presenting to the local community

Finish formal meeting and afternoon tea

Many of the meeting’s attendees took a walk down to the beach.

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v i c t o r i a

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