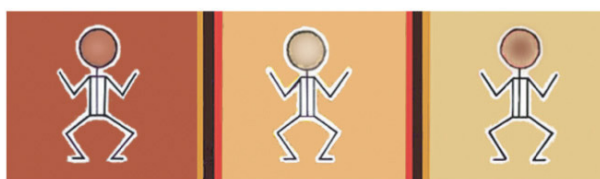


MEDIA RELEASE

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



v i c t o r i a

11.00am,
Wednesday 5th October, 2011

Reconciliation Victoria Resurrected!

Vicki Clark, Aboriginal Co-Chair of Reconciliation Victoria, last night spoke to a gathering of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of the resurrection of Reconciliation Victoria, after closing its doors in 2009 due to lack of funding.

The Hon. Jeanette Powell, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Local Government, last night officially re-launched Reconciliation Victoria, at its new premises at Hub Melbourne in the CBD. The State Government has committed funding of \$800,000 over four years to revive Reconciliation Victoria.

Minister Powell spoke of the unfinished business of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians, and the importance of Reconciliation Victoria's work in combating racism, and building just and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and other Victorians.

Vicki Clark, a Mutthi Mutthi woman from south western NSWs, introduced her country-man, renowned Aboriginal performer Kutcha Edwards, whose soulful voice captured the spirit and significance of the event, singing in both Mutthi Mutthi and English. His performance ended in a moving sing-a-long of Joe Geia's famous anthem Yil Lull, meaning 'sing' in Guugu Yimithirr Aboriginal language.

Among the crowd were many long-time supporters and members of local reconciliation groups, whose commitment and passion have kept the movement going over more than a decade.

Reconciliation Victoria's resurrection has created a palpable optimism among these supporters that together we can support all Victorians to share in an understanding, appreciation and celebration of the rich Aboriginal heritage, culture and communities of this land.