



YARRA CITY COUNCIL

# ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS PLAN

Wurundjeri Reconciliation & Social Justice  
2004–2008





Yarra City Council  
Aboriginal Partnerships Plan  
Wurundjeri Reconciliation & Social Justice  
2004–2008

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**Cover Artwork by Gary Saunders**

“The design represents the partnership between the Aboriginal community and the City of Yarra. The traditional owners, the Wurundjeri, are represented by the white dots that go outside the City of Yarra’s boundary because their traditional boundaries are beyond the City of Yarra. The blue circles represent the Aboriginal organisations within the City of Yarra. This design has been placed over the sun, a symbol on the Koorie flag.” (Gary Saunders, 2004)

Gary Saunders is a Bangerang–Wiradjuri man.  
Use of this artwork has been approved by Wurundjeri Elders.

Produced by Neenann Multimedia and Consultancy, 2004

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Joy Murphy, Wurundjeri Elder and Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group representative  
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 Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV)  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

Council would like to extend special thanks to the following individuals who were part of many or some Yarra Aboriginal Advisory (AAG) Group meetings during the development of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan over the past 18 months: Bev Murray (Co-Chair, AAG and AHBV); Joy Murphy (Wurundjeri Elder); Troy Austin (ATSIC); Phil Cooper (VACSAL); Priscilla Taylor (VAHS); Wayne Clarke (VAEAI); Frank Guivarra (VALS); Kimba Thompson (Sista Girl Productions); Ross Morgan (VAHS, Family Counseling Northcote); Darcy Brown (VAHS); Kelli McGuinness (VAHS); Peter Rotumah (RAJAC); John Brown (Dardee Munwurrow); Ted Chessells (Dardee Munwurrow); Alf Bamblett (VACSAL); Reg Blow; Thelma Austin (VAEAI); Mikael Simpson (VAEAI Tafe Unit); Frank Hytten (ANTaR); Clare Land (ANTaR); Richard Deklyn & Matt Bell (ANTaR, Yarra Chapter), Olly Phillips (Centrelink); Annabelle Langdale (AAV); Esme Bamblett and Merle Bamblett, (Neenann Multimedia and Consultancy).



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# 1

## Wurundjeri Welcome

Corroboree Tree in Burnley.



"WOMIN JE KA YEARMENN KOONDEE BIK WURUNDJERI BALLUK "

Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners and caretakers of this land, which includes all of the City of Yarra. The Wurundjeri territory lies within the inner city of Melbourne and extends from the mountains of the Great Dividing Ranges south to the Mordialloc Creek, west to the Werribee River and east to Mt Baw Baw. The Wurundjeri Tribe belong to the Woiwurrung language group and is a member of the Kulin Nation.

**Joy Murphy**

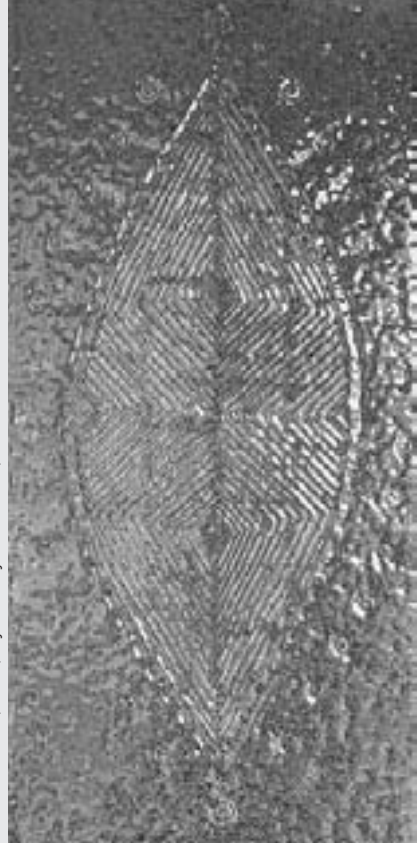
Wurundjeri Elder &

Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group representative

# 2

## Forewords

*The Scar Tree (detail) by Mandy Nicholson, 2002.*



### WURUNDJERI FOREWORD

The suburbs of Collingwood and Fitzroy have been established on part of the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people. These lands were once free of buildings and concrete and only occupied by Aboriginal people. A migration of people changed this existence. Social unrest occurred when non-indigenous people came to this country. Some Aboriginal leaders established a base in the Collingwood and Fitzroy areas in an attempt to address these issues. Others became empowered by their presence, joined them and continued the struggle for human rights and social justice. The Wurundjeri people are proud to have shared and provided a place for the fight for equality.

We look forward to working with the City of Yarra in the spirit of Reconciliation.

#### **Joy Murphy**

Wurundjeri Elder &  
Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group representative



## MAYOR'S FOREWORD

On behalf of Yarra City Council, I am delighted to present the Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan, Wurundjeri Reconciliation and Social Justice, 2004-2008.

A fair and just Reconciliation with traditional owners and true social justice for all Aboriginal people is fundamental to our nation's well-being. Local government and communities can play a vital leadership role in supporting greater understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal peoples, culture and history.

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as traditional owners of this land. We look forward to working with them to find ways of supporting their role as traditional custodians through the implementation of this Plan. I would like to extend our particular thanks to Wurundjeri elders, Joy Murphy, Patricia Ockwell, Margaret Gardiner, Alan Wandin, Wilma Xiberras, Norm Hunter and Ian Hunter who contributed to the preparation of this Plan.

Council recognises that this Plan may evolve as new information improves our understanding of Aboriginal culture, peoples and histories. Council has undertaken an extensive consultation process to develop this Plan, and will continue to talk to the community throughout the implementation of the Plan's four main strategies.

Special thanks also to the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group for their contribution and guidance on the preparation of this Plan. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of its' Co-Chairs, Bev Murray and my fellow Councillor Gurm Sekhon.

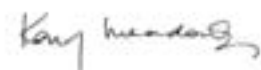
In addition to Yarra's Wurundjeri heritage, the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood have been important meeting places for Victorian Aboriginal people. During the 1940's and 1950's it was here that many Koori families lived when they moved from country Victoria to Melbourne. Whilst many of these families have moved away, today Yarra continues to host many of the Statewide peak Aboriginal agencies who service the wider Aboriginal Victorian community.

We have lots of work to achieve true Reconciliation. This involves thousands of small steps as well as the big stuff. The recent re-naming of one of Yarra's ward names after Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls is one such small but significant step.

Yarra Council looks forward to building on our work to date in the area of Aboriginal affairs and to turning our Aboriginal Recognition Statement into a framework for action.

We look forward to working with Wurundjeri people, the wider Aboriginal and non-Indigenous community to realise this Plan.

Signed



**Cr Kay Meadows**  
Mayor, City of Yarra



## YARRA ABORIGINAL ADVISORY GROUP (AAG) CO-CHAIRS FOREWORD

On behalf of the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG), we are pleased to have worked in partnership with Council to produce the Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan, Wurundjeri Reconciliation and Social Justice, 2004-2008.

We would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, as traditional owners of the lands within Yarra, and thank them for their contribution to this Plan. We would also like to thank all the members of the AAG and local Aboriginal organisations who contributed their time and energies to the social justice components of the document.

The AAG has played a central role in development of the Plan from development of the initial brief, selection of the Plan's consultant, consultation and review. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Plan's consultant Esme Bamblett and the team at Neenann Multimedia and Consultancy.

Above all, we hope that this Plan assists Yarra Council and our local community to make a real and tangible difference at the grassroots level. By 2008, we hope that local residents, workers and visitors appreciate they are on Wurundjeri land when they walk down the street or visit a park, that there is a higher local understanding of Wurundjeri language and culture, and that the Wurundjeri people are strengthened and well supported in their role as traditional custodians. We hope that locally based Aboriginal organisations are able to flourish and thrive and that Council has worked with them to find greater vocational, housing, health and justice opportunities for Aboriginal people.

We are confident that this Plan provides a strong foundation for achieving greater Reconciliation with traditional owners and social justice for Aboriginal people.

Signed



**Bev Murray**  
AAG Co-Chair &  
CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Housing Board



Signed



**Cr Gurm Sekhon**  
AAG Co-Chair



# 3

## Terms

Painted boomerangs at the NAIDOC Family Day at the Collingwood Children's Farm, 2004. Photo: Angela Bailey.



This Plan follows the note on terminology developed by the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Centre at the Melbourne Museum.

The term "Aboriginal" in this Plan includes Torres Strait Islanders.

“

### **A Note on Terminology<sup>1</sup>**

All persons or groups have the right to define themselves in their own way. This might be by personal association, clan, language group or broader community group, and may vary according to context of use. We have chosen terms that may not be acceptable to everyone. The following terms and definitions reflect our understanding:

**Aboriginal people** refers to Australian Aboriginal people generally, either in Victoria or in other parts of Australia.

**Indigenous Australians** refers to both groups of Indigenous peoples in Australia, that is, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Indigenous peoples** refers to colonised peoples throughout the world.

**Non-Indigenous Australians** refers to people who live or have lived in Australia who are not Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islander people.

**Koori<sup>2</sup>** refers to Aboriginal people in south-eastern Australia. This term has been widely used since the 1970s. Many people prefer to use more local terms such as Wurundjeri or Yorta Yorta.

”

<sup>1</sup> *Bunjilaka The Aboriginal Centre at Melbourne Museum*, Museum Victoria, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> This Plan acknowledges that 'Koori' may also be spelt "Koorie".

# 4

Will Shake Spear Dance Company, NAIDOC Week celebrations at Fitzroy Town Hall, 2002.



## Purpose

The purpose of the Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan, Wurundjeri Reconciliation and Social Justice, 2004–2008 (the 'Plan') is to develop a strategic framework for Council's commitment to Reconciliation and Aboriginal social justice.

The Plan provides Council with a strategic framework on Aboriginal issues to:

- Build Reconciliation between the Wurundjeri people as traditional owners, Yarra City Council and the wider Yarra community;
- Build stronger relationships between Council and local Aboriginal organisations;
- Improve social justice opportunities for local Aboriginal people; and
- Create a city in which Aboriginal culture, heritage and contribution is widely acknowledged and celebrated.

# 5

## Scope

Boomerang throwing at the NAIDOC Family Day at the Collingwood Children's Farm, 2004. Photo: Angela Bailey.



This Plan applies to all officers and Councillors of the City of Yarra.

The Plan encourages co-operation and partnerships between Council, Aboriginal people and organisations, other levels of governments and the local non-indigenous community.

The Plan has been developed from:

- a number of existing strategic Council documents as outlined in summary in this section;
- community consultations held over a 6 month period from late 2003 to 2004<sup>3</sup>; and
- a review of relevant supporting information on Aboriginal affairs at a regional, state and national level.<sup>4</sup>

### 5.1 YARRA COUNCIL STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

#### 5.1.1 Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (1998)

The 'Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement' was endorsed by Council in 1998.<sup>5</sup> Today, this document forms Council's central statement of commitment to improving Reconciliation and Aboriginal social justice. The Aboriginal Recognition Statement has been updated in this Plan to reflect Council's new strategic framework and to incorporate the Aboriginal community feedback over the past 6 months.

#### 5.1.2 Council Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land (2000)

The 'Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land' was endorsed by Council in 2000.<sup>6</sup> This document forms Council's central statement of commitment to Reconciliation with traditional owners, and has meant that Council has acknowledged the Wurundjeri community at all Council meetings and events.

<sup>3</sup> See section 10 of this Plan; Consultations & Summary of Aboriginal Community Feedback.

<sup>4</sup> See section 11 of this Plan; Supporting Documentation.

<sup>5</sup> See Attachment One: Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (1988)

<sup>6</sup> See Attachment Two: Council Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land (2000)

The Plan's Wurundjeri Reconciliation Strategy (Strategy 1) will further consolidate and develop protocols and guidelines for Wurundjeri acknowledgement.

A Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004) has been updated for this Plan and provides a more in-depth statement of Council's commitment on both Wurundjeri and Aboriginal issues.<sup>7</sup>

In light of the proposed new Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004), a revised extract of this Statement has been prepared for Council's ceremonial and civic occasions. This extract is to be read prior to Yarra Council meetings and other civic events, and will appear on Council meeting agendas and minutes.<sup>8</sup>

The revised extract was developed in consultation with Wurundjeri people in the preparation of this Plan, and identified the need for civic and ceremonial occasions to acknowledge the contribution to Yarra of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### **5.1.3 Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group (1998)**

The Plan builds on the work of the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG). The AAG is made up of local Aboriginal organisations, individuals and a Wurundjeri representative; and is co-chaired by an Aboriginal representative and a Yarra Councillor. Over the past 6 years, the AAG has provided a critical forum for on-going consultation and dialogue between the Aboriginal community and Council across a range of issues such as culture, health, outreach services, community safety and place management. The AAG has also worked closely on specific projects such as the Aboriginal Cultural Signage Project.<sup>9</sup> The AAG's Terms of Reference were endorsed by Council in 1998 and updated in 2002.<sup>10</sup>

In 2001, the AAG identified the need to develop a strategic framework for how Council would approach Aboriginal issues into the future. Since its inception, the AAG has been a key partner in the development of this Plan. The AAG designated two key strategic directions for this Plan - Reconciliation and Social Justice.

### **5.1.4 Strength in Diversity Statement (1998)**

The Plan is informed by Council's Strength in Diversity Statement, which was endorsed in 1998. This document outlines Council's commitment to supporting cultural diversity, which:

- recognises that the strength and richness of this city lies in its cultural diversity;
- confirms a commitment to maintaining Australia and the City of Yarra as a culturally diverse and open society, united by an overriding commitment to our Nation and its democratic institutions and values;
- denounces racial intolerance and reaffirms the rights of all citizens to be treated with equal respect and value;
- confirms its commitment to continue the process of Reconciliation with Aboriginal people; and
- celebrates the contribution of the communities and the people who make Australia and this City their home.

<sup>7</sup> See section 9 of this Plan: Council Policy, Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004).

<sup>8</sup> See Attachment Three: Extract from new Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004) for Ceremonial and Civic Occasions (2004)

<sup>9</sup> See section 8 of this Plan; Council's Aboriginal Projects

<sup>10</sup> See Attachment Four; Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group Terms of Reference.

### 5.1.5 Our Future 2010 City Vision Statement and City Plan 2003/2006

The Community Cohesion objectives for 'Our Future 2010 City Vision Statement' identify:

*"The community has expressed a strong desire for maintaining this social and cultural diversity with many nominating it as our greatest strength...."*

*"A multicultural community which supports people from all backgrounds and all socio-economic groups, is a vision we share with the people in Yarra." (Page 24)*

Towards this Vision, the City Plan 2003/06 committed to:

*"Develop a Partnership Plan to further Reconciliation between the City of Yarra and the original inhabitants of this land, the Wurundjeri people. We will also encourage greater opportunities for local Indigenous Australians in terms of housing and employment." (Page 24)*

### 5.1.6 Yarra Planning Scheme - Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) describes the strategic framework for land use planning and development in Yarra.

The MSS Municipal Profile (section 21.02) identifies:

*Natural Environment: "...The Yarra River, and Darebin and Merri Creeks form an important ecological corridor within the City and include several significant cultural destinations, both of European and Aboriginal heritage."*

*People: "...Resulting from its long history and socio-economic and ethnic mix, Yarra offers a rich cultural life for its residents and visitors. Cultural destinations within the City range from Koorie meeting sites along the Yarra River through to eclectic Brunswick Street, a focus for entertainment, cultural festivals and local arts enterprises."*

The MSS' Key Influences and Issues includes a section called 'Protecting Environmental Assets' (section 21.03-4) which identifies the need to manage demands and realise the opportunities presented by the River Corridor, including:

*"Preserving representations of the City's Aboriginal and European cultural heritage;*

*"Protecting and enhancing environmental values, in particular water quality, indigenous vegetation and wildlife habitat corridors."*

The MSS' Strategic Element (section 21.06) includes the following objective:

*"A naturally aesthetic River Corridor characterized by...habitat areas for Indigenous flora and fauna, and sensitive land use and development."*

The implementation of Heritage Overlays within the Yarra Planning Scheme (YPS) support these objectives. The MSS' Development Guidelines for Heritage Places (section 22.02) does not specifically refer to sites of Aboriginal significance. Currently, these sites are protected by the YPS where they fall within broader Yarra Heritage Overlays, and by State and/or Commonwealth legislation.

Some local governments in Victoria are undertaking Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Studies which include recommendations for heritage or environmental overlays within local planning schemes.

## 5.2 STATE GOVERNMENT

### 5.2.1 Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) is the State Government's central point of advice on all aspects of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria. This policy advice may relate to services provided by other State Government agencies, Commonwealth Departments and ATSIC or other services delivered within the Aboriginal community. AAV is a division of the Department of Victorian Communities.

The AAV's Cultural Heritage Branch is responsible for policies and programs relating to the management of Victoria's significant cultural heritage, and has a lead role in administering Victorian and delegated Commonwealth Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation. This legislation includes:

- State Legislation: *Archeological and Aboriginal Relic Preservation Act (1972)*; and
- Commonwealth Legislation: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*.

The State Legislation includes an archaeological approach to the management of cultural heritage issues and provides legal protection for the physical evidence of the past Aboriginal occupation of Victoria. This extends to protection of known (recorded) and unknown (unrecorded) Aboriginal archaeological sites.

The Commonwealth legislation includes Aboriginal cultural property in a wider sense and provides blanket protection to any places, objects and folklore that "are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition".<sup>11</sup> Places may include archaeological sites or historical/spiritual places of contemporary significance to Aboriginal people. Unlike the State Act, the Commonwealth Act grants significant powers over Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal communities. Part 2A of this Act is specific to Victoria, and gives local communities and traditional owners, such as the Wurundjeri people, rights and responsibilities under the Act.

### 5.2.2 Melbourne 2030

The Melbourne 2030 document was produced by the Victorian Government's Department of Sustainability and Environment in October 2002, and provides a strategic framework plan for the growth and development of Melbourne's metropolitan area.

Melbourne 2030's Policy called *Protecting Heritage Places and Values* (Section 5.4.1) states:

*"Work with relevant agencies to enhance understanding for Indigenous peoples and culture, and develop ways to recognise important Indigenous cultural issues within the planning system."*<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Information in section 5.2.1 of this Plan has been sourced from AAV.

<sup>12</sup> Victorian Government, *Melbourne 2030* (2002), page 99.

# 6

## Aboriginal culture & history in Yarra

Boomerangs in Flight (detail) by Mandy Nicholson, 2002.



### 6.1 TRADITIONAL OWNERS—THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE<sup>13</sup>

Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation have lived in the areas known as the City of Yarra since the beginning of time.

The City of Yarra includes the suburbs of Abbotsford, Burnley, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fitzroy, North Carlton, North Fitzroy, Princes Hill, Richmond, and the southern portions of Alphington and Fairfield. These areas were once the land of the Wurundjeri people.

The Wurundjeri-willam consisted of three main groups at the time of white occupation. Each group had control over an area of land either to the north or south of the Yarra River. The family of Billibellary, who lived on the north bank of the Yarra and whose territory extended as far as the Merri Merri Creek, occupied the area that is now Richmond and Fitzroy. The family of Burrenupton, the brother of Billibellary, occupied the southern bank of the Yarra, upstream to Gardiner's Creek.<sup>14</sup>

Since the Dreamtime, human stories were passed down through oral histories. Since European occupation, many of these stories have faded due to the devastating effects of European diseases and forced removal from traditional lands, family and lifestyle. Similarly, buildings and streets now stand in the place of where there were once wetlands, open plains and forests.

Despite these major cultural, social and environmental changes, Wurundjeri traditions and culture continues in Yarra today. Wurundjeri people have continued to live in the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood. Many local community celebrations and Yarra Council civic events now include a Wurundjeri 'Welcome to, or Acknowledgment of Country' ceremony. Similarly, there are a number of significant pre-contact sites in Yarra today such as the Corroboree Tree (Burnley Park), Scar Trees (Coate Park/Rudder Grange and Studley Park), and the confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek.

<sup>13</sup> Council recognises that this Plan may evolve as new information improves our understanding of Aboriginal culture, peoples and histories. Council has undertaken an extensive consultation process to develop this Plan, and will continue to talk to the community throughout the implementation of the Plan's 4 main strategies.

<sup>14</sup> *Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy*, Bunj Consultants in association with the Yarra Aboriginal Cultural Signage Reference Group, 2002.

## 6.2 YARRA AS AN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FOCAL POINT AND CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL SERVICES

For Koori people, the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood hold special historical meaning. Fitzroy and Collingwood became the central meeting point for all Koori communities as it was here, during the 1940's and 1950's, that Aboriginal families first lived when they moved from country Victoria to Melbourne. This means that Aboriginal people have strong family connections to the area even though their tribal links may lie elsewhere.

Fitzroy and Collingwood were one of the central points from which the Aboriginal political movement started in Australia. In the 1960's and 1970's, it was also these areas that witnessed the birth of the very first metropolitan Aboriginal Australian community organisations still in existence today. Most of these are Statewide and cover areas such as Aboriginal health, housing, legal issues, sport, recreation, education and community and child-care services.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> See Attachment Five; Aboriginal Organisations and Services in the City of Yarra.

# 7

Members of Parkies Inc. with volunteers and the local community in Collingwood for NAIDOC in the Park, 2004.



## Aboriginal Community Profile

### 7.1 YARRA'S ABORIGINAL RESIDENT POPULATION

The 2001 ABS Census recorded 291 Aboriginal persons living in Yarra, including 152 males and 139 females. Approximately 26.5% of the population was aged less than 18 years.

The percentage of Aboriginal people in Yarra at the time of the 2001 Census was 0.43% of the total population. For the Aboriginal people aged 18+ years, it was 0.31%. There has been an overall decrease in local Aboriginal residents as the 1996 Census identified there were 311 Aboriginal people living in Yarra.

Some 56 percent of Yarra's Aboriginal residents participate in the workforce, with an 8.8% unemployment rate. 26% of Aboriginal residents had completed year 12 or equivalent at school, with at least 15% of the local population having completed tertiary studies.

### 7.2 ABORIGINAL WORKERS AND VISITORS TO YARRA

Although the City of Yarra has a relatively small resident Aboriginal population, Yarra has a significant history as a focal point for the Aboriginal community in Victoria. Today City of Yarra remains a critical centre for Aboriginal services and organisations, and is unique in housing a significant majority of these peak bodies. It is estimated that<sup>16</sup>:

- over 1000 Aboriginal people make a visit to Yarra each week to access the services based here;
- approximately 200 Aboriginal people work in the City of Yarra; and that
- these peak organisations service an Aboriginal population of over 20,000 in Victoria in the areas of education, health, housing, justice, and legal services.

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<sup>16</sup> Estimates based on consultations with Aboriginal organisations based in Yarra during 2003.

### 7.3 REGIONAL POPULATION ISSUES

In 2003, there were 4,283 Aboriginal people in the Northern Region of Metropolitan Melbourne and approximately 25,078 Aboriginal people in Victoria.

Most of the Koori population in Victoria is situated outside of the Metropolitan area. Some 61% the Aboriginal population in the Metropolitan area is aged between 15 and 65 years of age (the work age population). Of these, 51% are participating in the workforce.

The completion rate for Aboriginal students is lower than for non-indigenous people with nearly half of them (49.6%) leaving school after completing year 10 compared with 13.2% of non-indigenous students.

Aboriginal children are more likely to be notified to the Department of Human Services for child protection than non-indigenous children. In Victoria, Aboriginal child substantiation rates are 7.9 times higher than the rate of non-indigenous children.

While the comparison between Aboriginal and non-indigenous Australians show that there needs to be more improvement in overall well-being, if the comparison is made with statistics from twenty years ago, Aboriginal organisations that have been operating in the City of Yarra for 25–30 years, achievements have been made in the area of education and employment.

More Aboriginal students are completing their VCE and going on to tertiary studies and the centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research reports that there have been absolute improvements in Aboriginal education outcomes such as post secondary education qualification rates between 1986 and 2001.

The unemployment rate has improved slightly from 23% to 20% since 1996 and the gross household income increased by 11%.

To further increase the opportunities for Kooris, a number of agreements have been negotiated between the State Government and the Koori community including:

- ***Yalca, A Partnership in Education and Training for the New Millennium;***
- ***Wur-cum barra – Victorian Public Sector Indigenous Employment Strategy,*** Aboriginal Affairs Victoria; and
- ***The Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement,*** Department of Justice, 2000.

### 7.4 NATIONAL POPULATION ISSUES

On a national level the Aboriginal population is a younger population than non-indigenous community with 57% being under 25 years of age compared to 34% of the non-indigenous community.

The health of the Aboriginal community is poor when compared with non-indigenous people and 2001 ABS Census data indicates that the infant mortality rates for Aboriginal children is up to four times the national rate and life expectancy is 20 years lower than for non-indigenous people being 56.3 years for males and 62.8 years for females.

Education statistics reveal that only 16.6% of Aboriginal students completed year 12 or equivalent compared to 39.5% on non-indigenous students. This lack of educational qualifications affects the employment prospects for Aboriginal people and the unemployment rate was 20% or three times higher than the rate for non-indigenous people.

Without employment, the household income for Aboriginal people is affected and the 2001 ABS Census data revealed that it was \$364 per week or 62% of the rate for non-indigenous people. This also affects the capability of Aboriginal people to purchase their own homes and the Census data showed that Aboriginal households were more likely to be renting than purchasing a home and are 5 times more likely to live in overcrowded houses than non-indigenous people.

Poverty has an impact on the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system and Aboriginal people make up 20% of the prison population. Aboriginal juveniles are over-represented in the criminal justice system being detained at 19 times the rate of non-indigenous juveniles.

According to the Social Justice Commissioner's<sup>17</sup> report, there is a lack of improvement in the health status of Aboriginal people. Life expectancy is still below that of other Australians, the median age of death is 24 years lower than for non-indigenous Australians, there are twice as many low birth weight babies born to Aboriginal mothers and there are 2.5 times as many deaths among Aboriginal infants than non-indigenous infants.

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<sup>17</sup> *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commission Report*, 2004.

# 8

## Council's Aboriginal projects

*Delkuk Spirits (detail) by Kelly Koumalatsos, 2002.*



### 8.1 PARTNERSHIP

The Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) was established in 1998 to provide advice to Council on local Aboriginal issues. The AAG is the key mechanism to raise issues and get feedback from the Aboriginal community. The AAG played a critical role in the development and implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Signage and Public Art Project (see section 5.1.3 of this plan for further information on the AAG).

### 8.2 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SIGNAGE PROJECT

The Aboriginal Cultural Signage Project, completed in 2002, documents the history and culture of Aboriginal people in the City of Yarra and provides a record of significant places for Aboriginal culture in the area. The Project had a total budget of \$120,000 and produced a history of the Aboriginal community in Yarra titled "Aboriginal Snapshots of Fitzroy"<sup>18</sup>. Several significant pieces of public art were also produced and installed in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, by Koori artists, Mandy Nicholson (in association with Wathaurong Glass) and Kelly Koumalatsos.

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<sup>18</sup> Produced by City of Yarra in association with Bunj Consultants. This document is available through Council's website ([www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au)), or in hard copy from Council's Arts and Cultural Services Unit.

### 8.3 FACILITATION

Council's facilitation role to date has included:

- developing a 'priority of access' policy to improve access for Aboriginal people to mainstream health services through the Yarra/ Darebin/ Whittlesea Primary Care Partnership;
- supporting Dardee Munwurro and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in the development of a submission for a Social Justice Outreach Worker position;
- working with the AAG on community safety initiatives around Smith Street and Collingwood; and
- some input into the ***"Joint Councils (Darebin/ Moreland/ Yarra) Strategic Framework for Employment of Indigenous Australians Resource Paper"*** (2003). Yarra's role in this initiative is pending completion of this Plan and a broader Council Employment framework.

### 8.4 SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

During the period 2000–2004 approximately \$55,500 of Council grants were allocated to Aboriginal or mainstream organisations in support of the Aboriginal community. Projects funded by Council have largely focused on cultural, social support and health promotion activities. These grants are in addition to the Aboriginal Cultural Signage Project allocation of \$120,000 over 5 years.

The Arts and Cultural Services Unit also sponsors and supports the Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria to stage the annual NAIDOC Week celebrations at the Collingwood Children's Farm; Parkies Inc to produce 'NAIDOC in the Park' at the Collingwood Housing Estate; and the Nextwave youth festival's Indigenous Program.

Council has also been the auspice body for the Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee which commissioned the BEEM Artists to do a major mural at the Collingwood Underground Carpark arts space.

### 8.5 ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING

The City of Yarra raises the Aboriginal flag each year for Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week at Town Halls throughout Yarra. A Wurundjeri Recognition Statement is read prior to Council meetings and appears on meeting agendas and minutes.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> See Attachment Two; Council Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land (2000).



## Council Policy

The 'Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement' (2004) is the central policy basis of this Plan and includes a set of Council values and roles.

This Statement builds on Council's 1998 commitments being the 'Aboriginal Recognition Statement' and the 'Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land'. These Statements have been updated in this Plan to reflect:

- Feedback obtained through the Plan's consultation processes; and
- Background research and analysis undertaken in preparation of the Plan.

Sorry Day banner at Richmond Town Hall, 2003.



# 9.1 Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004)

## **Council acknowledges:**

- the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners, and who remain the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land;
- that Wurundjeri people have a continuing spiritual and cultural association with this land which reaches back for thousands of years;
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of Yarra;
- Aboriginal culture and people occupy a special place in Australian history and contemporary society;
- the on-going ingenuity, spirit and contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to wider Australian culture and society;
- the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood hold a special place for Aboriginal people in Victoria;
- Victoria has a very low representation of elected Aboriginal community at local Council level;<sup>20</sup> and
- the social and cultural dispossession, which has caused the current disadvantages experienced by many Aboriginal people.

## **Council supports:**

- the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation's vision of a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values Aboriginal heritage and provides justice and equity for all;
- the right of Aboriginal people to live according to their own values and customs, subject to law;
- local government sponsored Aboriginal advisory groups as a mechanism for promoting Aboriginal involvement in municipal decision making;
- promotion of accurate information on Aboriginal issues; and
- campaigns for Reconciliation, land justice and rights.

## **Council commits to:**

- strengthening and enriching local culture through a greater understanding of Wurundjeri traditions, history and people;
- supporting Wurundjeri people in their role as traditional owners;
- ensuring that Aboriginal culture, as the Indigenous culture of this country, is acknowledged and respected by the entire community through increased cultural understanding;
- a whole of Council approach to Reconciliation and Aboriginal social justice;
- working with other levels of government, the community and private sectors to improve Aboriginal social justice and Reconciliation;
- consolidating Yarra as a place of on-going special significance to the Victorian Aboriginal community;
- building strategic, collaborative and supportive partnerships with Aboriginal organisations based in the municipality;
- improving social justice opportunities for Aboriginal people living and visiting the city;
- accessible and culturally sensitive service provision starting with a high level of cultural awareness amongst Council staff;
- building mechanisms for improved communication, consultation and information sharing between the traditional owners, wider Aboriginal community, Yarra City Council and the non-Indigenous community;
- culturally sensitive management of Yarra's public spaces and places; and
- appropriate management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

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<sup>20</sup> (Municipal Association of Victoria recorded two Aboriginal Councillors in their MAV Councillor Census, 2003)

# 10

Members of the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group, 2004.



## Consultation and summary of Aboriginal community feedback

In June 2003 Yarra City Council, in consultation with the AAG, commissioned Neenann Multimedia and Consultancy ('Neenann') to develop the Plan.

Neenann undertook a 6 month consultation phase with the Aboriginal community, local organisations and Council representatives.

In addition to this, the draft Plan was also advertised for wider community feedback during May–June 2004. Hard copies were available from the Collingwood and Richmond Town Hall receptions as well as Council's website. The draft Plan was also considered and endorsed by the Community Development Advisory Committee at its meeting on 15 July, 2004.

Council would like to acknowledge the contribution of the many individuals and organisations who have contributed to the development of this Plan.

### 10.1 YARRA ABORIGINAL ADVISORY GROUP (AAG)

The AAG played a critical advisory role to Council in the development of this Plan. The AAG worked with Council officers to: prepare the Plan's consultants brief; select the Plan's consultant; and review and feedback on successive drafts for presentation to Council.

Consultations with the Aboriginal community highlighted five key themes. They include:

## 10.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RESPECT

Acknowledgment and respect to ensure that everyone recognises Aboriginal people were the traditional owners of the land and that they remain custodians of that land. This is a significant issue because it acknowledges that the Wurundjeri people are the traditional custodians of the Yarra City Council area. Key opportunities in this area were identified in feedback as:

- “
- *Welcome to and Acknowledgement of country;*
  - *Signage when entering the City of Yarra acknowledging country;*
  - *Co-naming of the Civic Places and spaces throughout the City of Yarra;*
  - *Flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags;*
  - *Recognition of NAIDOC week;*
  - *Commissioning a mural in the City of Yarra depicting Koori history;*
  - *Acknowledging the truth of history and celebrating Aboriginal culture here before 200 years ago;*
  - *Acknowledge the damage and celebrate the survival of Aboriginal people;*
  - *Tell truthful stories of history everywhere;*
  - *Regular profiling different local Aboriginal organisations in community newspapers, to increase the awareness of Aboriginal issues all year; and*
  - *Showing solidarity in terms of service delivery as well as civic symbols such as flag raising, weaving badges and Acknowledgement of country.*
- ”

## 10.3 VALUING AND ACKNOWLEDGING CULTURE

Valuing and acknowledgement of culture is about the recognition that Aboriginal culture is an important part of Australia. Key opportunities in this area were identified in feedback as:

- “
- *An Aboriginal festival in Gertrude Street;*
  - *Aboriginal History Walk in Smith, Gertrude, Nicholson and Gore streets in Fitzroy;*
  - *Plaques on the footpath outside Aboriginal historic places;*
  - *Small funding allocations for arts and cultural projects; and*
  - *Family gatherings outdoors to involve people on the street.*
- ”

## 10.4 ADDRESSING DISADVANTAGE

Addressing disadvantage is about giving Aboriginal communities the opportunity to access programs that will change the current situation that statistical evidence reveals is significant disadvantage. Key opportunities in this area were identified in feedback as:

- “
- *Employment of an Aboriginal Officer with the City of Yarra;*
  - *An employment strategy allocating a percentage of Council employment for Aboriginal people;*
  - *Encouraging contractors to employ Aboriginal people (a selection criteria for engagement of contractors);*

- *Advertise and promote Council jobs and vacancies with the Job futures and DEWSRB networks;*
- *Monthly profiling of different Aboriginal organisations, increasing the awareness of Aboriginal issues all year;*
- *Conducting events to raise the profile of Aboriginal issues;*
- *Allocation of Council resources for Aboriginal programs; and*
- *Ensure Council services are more accessible to the Aboriginal community.*

”

## 10.5 SHARING HISTORY

Understanding of Aboriginal communities can only come with a knowledge and understanding of the history of Aboriginal people in Australia. Sharing history is about increasing the understanding and knowledge of all Australians and passing on a rich cultural heritage. Key opportunities in this area were identified in feedback as:

- “
- *Ensuring that all schools within the City of Yarra teach the history of Aboriginal people;*
  - *All Council Members, Officers and Executive to attend Cultural Awareness activities and programs;*
  - *Create an environment to educate people about what it is to be Koori of Yarra; and*
  - *A mural similar to the Northcote Mural Project.*

”

## 10.6 EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

Empowering community is about giving Aboriginal communities the opportunities to not only address disadvantage but to proactively bring about social change that is based on Aboriginal cultural values and that will enhance the capability of every Aboriginal community member. Key opportunities in this area were identified in feedback as:

- “
- *On-going communication. Sitting down with Aboriginal people to find out about Council's role in terms of honest, just, honourable settlement;*
  - *Support for Drug and Alcohol programs for Parkies/youth;*
  - *Crisis funding for Aboriginal people in desperate need in City of Yarra;*
  - *Operational issues for organisations based in the City of Yarra, were also identified as an issue such as (a) rates exemptions; (b) parking permits and fines and (c) a “pay the rent” levy on Council rates for Aboriginal programs (d) security for Aboriginal organisations based in the City of Yarra;*
  - *Lobbying and advocating to State Government on behalf of Aboriginal organisations and issues; and*
  - *Build partnerships and links between mainstream services and Aboriginal community.*

”

# 11

## Supporting Documentation

The Cave (detail) by BEEEM Artists, 2004.



A considerable amount of research and background information has gone into the preparation of this Plan. This information is available in a supporting volume of attachments to this Plan titled, ***Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan, Wurundjeri and Social Justice, Supporting Documentation***. Documents included in this volume are listed below:

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, ***Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation***, 2003.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, ***Social Justice Report*** 2003, Commonwealth of Australia, 2004.

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR), ***Current Land Holdings in Victoria***, 1999.

Bunj Consultants in association with the City of Yarra, ***Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy***, 2002.

Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Melbourne, ***Yarra Healing, Towards Reconciliation with Indigenous Australians***, Melbourne 2000 (website).

City of Yarra, ***Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group Terms of Reference***, 2002.

City of Yarra, ***Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement***, 1998.

City of Yarra, ***Background and Benchmarks—Summary of Comparative Local Government Aboriginal Policy and Program. Cities of Moreland, Darebin and Port Phillip***, (internal document), 2003.

City of Yarra, ***Background—Aboriginal Celebrations/Commemorations***, (internal document), 2003.

City of Yarra, ***Review of Current Aboriginal Activities/Programs in the City of Yarra***, (internal document), 2003.

City of Yarra, ***Recent City of Yarra Community Grants to and in support of the Aboriginal Community***, (internal document), 2004.

City of Yarra, ***Indigenous Agencies in the City of Yarra: Current Rates Charges***, (internal document) 2004.

City of Yarra, ***Draft Edinburgh Gardens Master Plan update***, (internal document) 2004.

City of Yarra, ***Draft Open Space Strategy—extracts re Indigenous issues***, (internal document) June 2004.

Council for Australian Reconciliation, ***Reconciliation: Australia's Challenge*** - Final report, Commonwealth of Australia, 2000.

Monash University, Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, ***Meet the Eastern Kulin***, [www.arts.monash.edu.au/cais](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cais)

Neenann Multimedia and Consultancy, ***Description of Signage in City of Greater Shepparton*** (internal document), 2004.

Neenann Multimedia and Consultancy, ***Summary of Consultations with the Aboriginal Community***, (internal document), 2004.

SAMLIV, ***Draft Strategy for Aboriginal Managed Land in Victoria***, July 2003.

Additional Information Sources and Bibliography.

# 12

## Strategy

In order to deliver on Council's commitment as outlined in the Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement, the Plan includes the following 4 core strategies:

- Strategy 1: Wurundjeri Reconciliation;
- Strategy 2: Social Justice: Addressing Disadvantage and Empowering Community;
- Strategy 3: Acknowledging, Understanding and Celebrating Aboriginal Culture; and
- Strategy 4: Strengthening Council Services.

Gunditjmara Dancers dance in Collingwood in the Park, 2004.  
Photo: Michael Carver.



12.1 STRATEGY ONE

# Wurundjeri Reconciliation

**Objectives**

- Acknowledgement of the Wurundjeri as the traditional owners of the land.
- Promote recognition and understanding of Wurundjeri language and culture.
- Support culturally sensitive and responsive management of Yarra’s public spaces and places.
- Support appropriate management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Support campaigns for Reconciliation, land justice and rights.
- Work with other levels of government, the community and private sectors to improve Aboriginal social justice and Reconciliation.
- Improved communication, consultation and information sharing between the traditional owners, wider Aboriginal community, Yarra City Council and the non-indigenous community.
- Support Wurundjeri people in their role as traditional owners.

DESCRIPTION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE UNIT (LEADING UNIT IN BOLD)	TIMELINES	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION
Civic ceremonies and events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In consultation with Wurundjeri, further develop and update Council’s Recognition of Wurundjeri Land Statement and associated Policy (1988). This includes organisational protocols / guidelines for:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 <i>Acknowledgement of Country</i> at Council meetings and events;</li> <li>1.2 <i>Welcome to Country</i> at Council events.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Community &amp; Civic Events</li> </ul>	June 2005	Refer to 11 – Aboriginal Officer (AO).
Wurundjeri Speakers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. In consultation with Wurundjeri, develop a contact list of Wurundjeri speakers and a speaker’s fees schedule.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Community &amp; Civic Events</li> </ul>	June 2005	Refer to 11 – AO. Allocation of program Wurundjeri speakers fees in 2005/06 budget.
Shared Local Government protocols and guidelines with Wurundjeri	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Work with Wurundjeri and other local governments (whose municipality’s fall within Wurundjeri country), to avoid duplication and improve use of available resources, through development of shared protocols / guidelines across Council boundaries, for appropriate management of Wurundjeri cultural heritage, including for ceremonial and civic events.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	June 2005	Refer to 11 – AO.

12.1 Strategy One: Wurundjeri Reconciliation (cont.)

Signage	4. In consultation with Wurundjeri and the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) and other key stakeholders, develop and document formal protocols and guidelines for the acknowledgment of Wurundjeri Country and language for inclusion progressively to: a) gateway signage; b) street-name signage; c) building signage; d) open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Urban Planning</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Open Space &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> </ul>	June 2005	Refer to 11 – AO.
Land justice	5. In a gesture of practical Reconciliation and support for land justice and rights <i>consider and investigate</i> in conjunction with other levels of government as required, the location of an Aboriginal place (a physical space) that would in time be handed back to the Wurundjeri community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Development</b></li> <li>• Culture &amp; Community Planning</li> <li>• Assets Division</li> </ul>	December 2008	Pending investigations.
Yarra Open Space Strategy	6. Explore incorporation of formal protocols and guidelines for consultation with Wurundjeri as part of the Yarra Open Space Strategy, as outlined in items 7 and 8 below.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Space &amp; Recreation</b></li> <li>• Culture &amp; Community Planning</li> </ul>	December 2005	Within existing resources. Refer to 11 – AO.
Significant pre-European contact sites in Yarra	7. In consultation with Wurundjeri, consolidate and document formal protocols and guidelines for Wurundjeri involvement in the management of significant pre-European contact sites in Yarra, as part of Council's Open Space Protocols and Guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Space &amp; Recreation</b></li> <li>• Culture &amp; Community Planning</li> </ul>	June 2005	Within existing resources. Refer to 11 – AO.
Open Space Management	8. In consultation with Wurundjeri develop and document formal protocols and guidelines for ongoing Aboriginal opportunities in Open Space planning and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Space &amp; Recreation</b></li> <li>• Culture &amp; Community Planning</li> <li>• Urban Planning</li> </ul>	June 2005	Within existing resources. Refer to 11 – AO.
Relations between Traditional Owners and Council	9. Convene regular meetings with Wurundjeri as needed, but at a minimum on an annual basis. This may be undertaken in association with other local governments on Wurundjeri land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	December 2005	Within existing resources.
Urban Planning	10. In consultation with Wurundjeri and AAG, ensure Council's strategic framework for Urban Planning and Open Space acknowledges Wurundjeri people as traditional owners as well as post contact Aboriginal heritage, by identifying land use and development controls to protect and enhance significant pre and post contact sites, including: (a) input into the review of the Yarra Planning Scheme's Municipal Strategic Statement. To increase the profile of Aboriginal culture and heritage issues; (b) undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study to identify significant pre and post contact sites, which includes recommendations for heritage and environmental protection overlays; (c) include consideration of pre and post contact Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in Council's 'Landscape Citations Review' scheduled for 2005; (d) explore opportunities within the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act, Part 2A, Cultural Heritage Agreements (Victoria), 1984 when implementing actions 10.(a) to (c) above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Urban Planning</b></li> <li>• Open Space &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Culture &amp; Community Planning</li> </ul>	2005-2006	Within existing resources. Refer to 11 – AO.

12.2 STRATEGY TWO

# Social Justice: Addressing Disadvantage and Empowering Community

**Objectives**

Improving social justice opportunities for Aboriginal people living and visiting the city through:

- Accessible and culturally sensitive service provision and a high level of cultural awareness amongst Council staff.
- Improved links between Council and other agencies providing services to the Aboriginal community.
- Consolidation of Yarra as a place of on-going special significance to the Victorian Aboriginal community.
- A Place Management approach, which understands and is sensitive to Aboriginal people's values, customs and history.
- Building strategic, collaborative and supportive partnerships with Aboriginal organisations based in the municipality.
- Improved communication, consultation and information sharing between the traditional owners, wider Aboriginal community, Yarra City Council and the non-indigenous community.
- Supporting national campaigns for Reconciliation, land justice and rights.

DESCRIPTION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE UNIT (LEADING UNIT IN BOLD)	TIMELINES	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION
Aboriginal Officer	11. Employment of an Aboriginal Officer (AO) to oversee and coordinate implementation of the 'Yarra Aboriginal Partnerships Plan' (AAP) based in Culture and Community Planning Branch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	December 2004	New Initiative: 2004-05 Aboriginal Officer (AO)
	12. Establish an internal officer-working group to ensure a whole-of-Council approach and support for implementation of the APP and new AO position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Arts &amp; Cultural Services</li> <li>• Open Space &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Urban Planning</li> <li>• Children &amp; Family Services</li> </ul>	October 2004	Within existing resources
Employment	13. Explore opportunities and initiatives to promote the employment of Aboriginal people, with particular regard to Wurundjeri and Victorian Aboriginal people, within Council and related services for example: a) review of local employment opportunities; b) advertise and promote vacancies through Aboriginal employment agencies; c) explore opportunities to include social clauses in Council's competitive contracts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Development</b></li> <li>• Organisational Development</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> </ul>	December 2005	Within existing resources.
	14. Review contribution to the proposed Joint Council's (Darebin, Moreland and Yarra) Strategic Framework for the Employment of Indigenous Australians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Organisational Development</li> </ul>	June 2005	Within existing resources.
Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group	15. Continue coordination of Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group as per existing Terms of Reference to ensure on-going communication, consultation and information sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	On-going	Refer to 11 – AO.

12.2 Strategy Two: Social Justice: Addressing Disadvantage and Empowering Community (cont.)

Partnerships	16. Work with the AAG to explore opportunities to develop joint partnerships, projects and opportunities, such as the State Government's Commemorative Place initiative; Council's Community Grants program; local business and service groups, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	On-going	Pending investigations. Community Grants Program (Emerging Issues and Community Innovations streams)
Advocacy	17. Council may consider and champion issues raised by the Aboriginal community at other levels of government which address objectives outlined in Council's 'Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement'. 18. In consultation with Aboriginal organisations, Council work with and encourage other mainstream services and networks to: a) provide information for community agencies to develop culturally responsive programs; and b) support proposals by local Aboriginal people on naming and commemoration initiatives outside Council managed sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	On-going	Within existing resources.
Culturally sensitive place management	19. Council's strategies, policies and plans effecting the management of public places and spaces should include consideration of: a) Wurundjeri people as traditional owners; b) Aboriginal people's values, customs and history (including the preference of some Aboriginal community members to gather outdoors); and c) the significance of Gertrude and Smith Street precincts as gathering places for Aboriginal people. 20. Formally document and continually improve Council's culturally sensitive place management processes and protocols as a Council wide resource. (i.e. Protocols to be progressively improved with each subsequent planning process.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning;</b></li> <li>• Open Space;</li> <li>• Urban Planning.</li> </ul>	June 2005	Refer to 11 – AO.
Sustaining an Aboriginal presence in Yarra	21. Investigate opportunities to create a Koori gathering place as part of any future Smith Street or Gertrude Street Master Planning exercises, which recognises the preference of many Koori people to gather outdoors. 22. As part of Council's 2004/05 Annual Planning processes consider and investigate opportunities which: a) reduce the 'cost of doing business' in the municipality for not-for-profit Aboriginal organisations; and b) encourage and strongly advocate for Aboriginal organisations and the Aboriginal community to maintain a strong Aboriginal presence in Yarra. 23. Investigate the safety concerns of Aboriginal organisations in the context of Council's role in promoting and supporting community safety through the <i>Safer Yarra (Community Safety) Plan</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning;</b></li> <li>• Open Space;</li> <li>• Urban Planning.</li> <li>• <b>Urban Planning;</b></li> <li>• Culture &amp; Community Planning</li> <li>• Open Space;</li> <li>• Economic Development.</li> <li>• <b>Community Development</b></li> <li>• <b>Community Partnerships</b></li> </ul>	June 2005  December 2005  June 2005	Refer to 11 – AO.  Within existing resources.  Within existing resources.

## 12.3 STRATEGY THREE

# Acknowledging, Understanding and Celebrating Aboriginal Culture

## Objectives

- Strengthen and enrich local culture through a greater understanding of Aboriginal people, culture, traditions and history.
- Acknowledgement and respect by the entire community through increased cultural awareness and understanding.
- Consolidation of Yarra as a place of on-going special significance to the Victorian Aboriginal community.
- Culturally sensitive and responsive management of Yarra's public spaces and places.

DESCRIPTION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE UNIT (LEADING UNIT IN BOLD)	TIMELINES	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION
Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004)	24. Use of the revised <i>Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement</i> in key Council documents and promotion material such as: a) Council meeting minutes and agendas, b) the annual Council Plan; c) Council's Annual Report; d) Yarra website; e) Yarra News.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Leisure Services</li> </ul>	June 2005	Refer to 11 – AO.
Communication Plan	25. Develop a <i>Council Aboriginal Partnerships Communication Plan</i> to increase awareness of Aboriginal projects, services and issues within Council and the wider community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communications</b></li> <li>• Culture &amp; Community Planning</li> </ul>	February 2005	Within existing resources.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags	26. Review Yarra's <i>Flying Flags</i> policy to facilitate the flying of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on Council's Town Halls on a daily basis. <i>(May require installation of second flagpole on some town halls).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Assets</li> </ul>	June 2006	New Initiative: 2006-07 Financial year.
Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week	27. Support and involvement in existing and emerging Yarra based Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	On-going	Within existing resources.
NAIDOC Week celebrations	28. Support and involvement in existing and emerging Yarra based NAIDOC Week celebrations through: a) Council presence at significant regional NAIDOC events; b) flag raising; c) sponsorship of NAIDOC Family Day at the Collingwood Children's Farm; and d) banner installations on town halls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	On-going	Within existing resources.

12.3 Strategy Three: Acknowledging, Understanding and Celebrating Aboriginal Culture (cont.)

New and emerging Aboriginal cultural events	<p>29. Partner with local Aboriginal organisations to investigate opportunities for an annual event celebrating Aboriginal culture and the survival and achievements of the traditional owners and first peoples of the land, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) an Aboriginal Festival in Gertrude Street;</li> <li>b) an annual Aboriginal gathering at Dights Falls;</li> <li>c) an annual lunch in Senior Citizens Week hosted by Wurundjeri and Council; or</li> <li>d) other local initiatives as they arise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Arts &amp; Cultural Services</li> <li>• Aged &amp; Disability Services</li> </ul>	On-going	Proposals to be forwarded to Community Grants – <i>Festivals &amp; Events</i> program.  Refer to 11 – AO.
Yarra Aboriginal History and Culture program	<p>30. Scope a proposal for the development of a Yarra Aboriginal History and Culture program which builds on the Aboriginal Cultural Signage Project - <i>'Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy'</i> and includes the initiatives outlined in action nos 31. to 36 below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Arts &amp; Cultural Services</li> </ul>	December 2005	Refer to 11 – AO.
'Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy' publication	<p>31. Promote the <i>'Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy'</i> publication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) on Council's web-site;</li> <li>b) produce hard copy versions of this document;</li> <li>c) distribute to local Aboriginal organisations to promote this resource throughout the Aboriginal community;</li> <li>d) distribute to local schools, libraries and other community organisations to promote this resource throughout the wider community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Arts &amp; Cultural Services</li> </ul>	December 2004	Within existing resources.
Yarra Aboriginal History and Culture Kit	<p>32. Develop a Yarra Aboriginal History &amp; Culture Kit: using the <i>'Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy'</i> as the base material for local schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	December 2005	New initiative in 2005-06 financial year.
Aboriginal History Walk	<p>33. Develop an <i>Aboriginal History Walk</i> in Smith, Gertrude, Nicholson and Gore Streets Fitzroy, using the <i>'Snapshots of Aboriginal Fitzroy'</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	December 2005	New initiative in 2005-06 financial year.
Aboriginal Historic Places Plaques Project	<p>34. Develop an <i>Aboriginal Historic Places Plaques Project</i> in Collingwood / Fitzroy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning;</b></li> <li>• Open Space</li> </ul>	June 2006	New initiative in 2006-07 financial year.
Koori History mural	<p>35. In consultation with the AAG and the traditional owners, commission a <i>Koori History Mural</i> in Yarra.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Arts &amp; Cultural Services</li> </ul>	December 2005	Proposals to be forwarded to Community Grants – <i>Community Arts</i> program as a priority funding proposal.  Refer to 11 – AO.
Yarra website	<p>36. Develop a specific web-page within Yarra's website for Aboriginal projects and initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Communications</li> </ul>	February 2005	Within existing resources.  Refer to 11 – AO.

12.3 Strategy Three: Acknowledging, Understanding and Celebrating Aboriginal Culture (cont.)

DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE - ACTION	RESPONSIBLE UNIT (LEADING UNIT IN BOLD)	TIMELINES	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION
<p>Profile Aboriginal Issues and the work of Aboriginal Organisations</p>	<p>37. Regularly profile the work of Aboriginal organisations in Council publications and seek opportunities with local media to promote Aboriginal issues.</p> <p>38. Conduct events to raise the profile of Aboriginal issues working in partnership with other organisations eg: Reconciliation Victoria, and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation Victoria Inc. (ANTaR) including: inviting Aboriginal speakers to speak at Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Communications</li> </ul>	<p>June 2005</p>	<p>Within existing resources. Refer to 11 – AO.</p>

## 12.4 STRATEGY FOUR

## Strengthening Council Services

### Objectives

- Accessible and culturally sensitive service provision and a high level of cultural awareness amongst Council staff.
- Ensure Council's Aboriginal programs and initiatives are continually improved.

DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE - ACTION	RESPONSIBLE UNIT (LEADING UNIT IN BOLD)	TIMELINES	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION
Culturally Responsive Service Delivery	<p>39. Undertake a review of Council services currently delivered to the Aboriginal community e.g. Maternal and Child Health, Financial Crisis Counselling, Family and Youth Services, Primary Care Partnerships etc.</p> <p>40. Develop service delivery protocols to ensure awareness and inclusion of Aboriginal issues.</p> <p>41. Develop mechanisms to promote Council services to the Aboriginal community via local Aboriginal organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> <li>• Family &amp; Children's Services.</li> </ul>	December 2005	Within existing resources.
Staff Training & Education	<p>42. Hold regular Aboriginal cultural awareness training sessions for all Yarra staff.</p> <p>43. Include Aboriginal issues in staff induction course.</p> <p>44. Provide specialised service training for Council staff involved in direct service provision, such as Community Partnerships, Arts and Cultural Services, Community Amenities, Children and Family Services, Parking Services, Open Space and Recreation, Town Planning, Environmental Health, Yarra Access Units.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organisational Development</b></li> </ul>	December 2005	New initiative proposal for 2005-06 financial year.
Evaluation and Review	<p>45. Undertake an evaluation of Council's Aboriginal programs and initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Community Planning</b></li> </ul>	2008	Within existing resources. Refer to 11 – AO.

*Shelter 2*, by Lyn Thorpe, 2002.  
Photo: Aboriginal Housing Board Vic. Collection.



# Attachments

- Attachment one: Aboriginal Recognition Statement (1988)
- Attachment two: Council Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land (2000)
- Attachment three: Extract from new Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement for Ceremonial and Civic Occasions (2004)
- Attachment four: Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group Terms of Reference 2003
- Attachment five: Aboriginal Organisations and Services

## ATTACHMENT ONE

# Aboriginal Recognition Statement (1988)

Revised and incorporated into the new Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004)

TITLE	ABORIGINAL RECOGNITION STATEMENT
POLICY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City of Yarra recognises and acknowledges the history of this land and its Aboriginal people.</li> <li>2. The City of Yarra recognises that the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation are the original inhabitants of this land and have a continuing association with it. This relationship reaches back for thousands of years.</li> <li>3. The Wurundjeri are the traditional custodians, and have an ongoing spiritual relationship with the land.</li> <li>4. Council regrettably acknowledges that as part of the colonisation of Australia, Aboriginal people were dispossessed of their lands in the City of Yarra. Many lives were lost. The connection with the land, language and culture was strained to breaking point.</li> <li>5. The City of Yarra also acknowledges the injustices of our more recent past and seeks to promote understanding, and respect for all Aboriginal people in the municipality.</li> <li>6. Council acknowledges that we need to improve our understanding of Aboriginal issues. We need to find new ways to work together in partnership.</li> <li>7. As the first step in this process, an Aboriginal/Yarra Advisory group will be established to increase Aboriginal participation in municipal affairs and to increase the responsiveness of Council to Aboriginal interests. The City of Yarra also makes a commitment to work with the community to research stories and sites of significance for Aboriginal people, supporting them to retell their histories.</li> <li>8. 'Birrarung' as spoken in the Woivurrung language is the Aboriginal name for the Yarra River, meaning 'The river of mists'. This river has witnessed many changes, through its mists are glimpses of both the past and the future.</li> <li>9. The City of Yarra aspires to work towards a better future, a future of mutual respect and harmony.</li> </ol>
AUTHORITY:	Council 10 March 1998
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Manager City Strategy (now Culture and Community Planning)

## ATTACHMENT TWO

# Council Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land (2000)

Revised and incorporated into the new Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004)

TITLE	COUNCIL STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF WURUNDJERI LAND
POLICY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Land as a verbal welcome at major Council events provides a public acknowledgment by Council of Yarra's Indigenous heritage. The use of the Statement is consistent with Council's commitment to the promotion of understanding and respect for the role Indigenous people have played and continue to play in the Yarra community.</li> <li>2. The following statement acknowledges prior Indigenous ownership and current custodianship of the land on which Yarra City is located: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">"Welcome to the City of Yarra. Council wishes to acknowledge the Wurundjeri community as the first owners of this country. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land."</p> </li> <li>3. The statement be read out at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Council and standing Committee meetings;</li> <li>(b) citizenship ceremonies;</li> <li>(c) Mayoral and civic receptions;</li> <li>(d) opening of Yarra Community Day;</li> <li>(e) official openings of Council buildings; and</li> <li>(f) official occasions and events in Yarra, where the Mayor, or the Mayor's representative is present.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. The Statement shall be displayed at the Town Halls.</li> <li>5. The use of the Statement shall be publicised in Council's Community Newsletter.</li> </ol>
AUTHORITY:	Council 8 February 2000
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Manager City Strategy (now Culture and Community Planning)

## ATTACHMENT THREE

## Extract from new Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement for Ceremonial and Civic Occasions (2004)

In light of the new Yarra Aboriginal Recognition Statement (2004), a revised extract of this Statement has been prepared for Council's ceremonial and Civic occasions. This extract is to be read prior to Yarra Council meetings and other civic events, and appear on Council meeting agendas and minutes.

Welcome to the City of Yarra.  
Council acknowledges the  
Wurundjeri as the first owners of this country.  
Today, they are still the custodians  
of the cultural heritage of this land.

Further to this, Council acknowledges there are other  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have  
lived, worked and contributed to the  
cultural heritage of Yarra.

## ATTACHMENT FOUR

# Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group Terms of Reference 2003

### 1. Preamble

#### 1.1 Womin je ka yearmenn koondée bik Wurundjeri balluk

Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners and caretakers of this land, which includes all of the City of Yarra. The Wurundjeri territory lies within the inner city of Melbourne and extends from the mountains of the Great Dividing ranges south to the Yarra River, west to the Werribee River and east to Mt Baw Baw. The Wurundjeri Tribe belongs to the Woiwurrung language group and is a member of the Kulin Nation.

1.2 Indigenous Australian culture is the oldest living culture in the world today. Its significance to Australian society rests on the premise that it is a culture indigenous to this country and therefore deserves proper recognition and acknowledgment by this country.

1.3 Local councils have a key role to play in the local Indigenous Australian community. This role should not only aim to accommodate the needs of the local Indigenous community but should also strive to ensure that Indigenous Australian culture, as the indigenous culture of this country, is acknowledged and respected by the entire community.

1.4 Victoria is the only state at present that does not have elected Indigenous Australian community representatives at local council level. Council sponsored Indigenous Advisory Groups are a mechanism which promote Indigenous Australian involvement in municipal decision making including at elected Councillor level and at other levels.

1.5 For Victorian Indigenous people, the suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood hold special historical meaning. Fitzroy and Collingwood became the central meeting point for all Victorian Indigenous communities as it was here, during the 1940's and 1950's, that Indigenous families first lived when they moved from country Victoria to Melbourne. This means that Indigenous Australian people have strong family connections to the area even though their tribal links may lie elsewhere.

1.6 In the 1960's and 1970's, it was also these areas that witnessed the birth of the very first metropolitan Indigenous Australian community organisations still in existence today. Most of these are Statewide and cover areas such as Indigenous health, housing, legal issues, sport and recreation and community and child-care services.

1.7 The Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group was first convened in 1999 and has provided invaluable advice to Yarra Council on local Indigenous matters across a broad range of issues.

1.8 In 2002, the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group identified 2 key strategic partnership directions for Yarra Council and the local Indigenous Australian community being:

1.8.1 Preparation of a Partnership Plan between the City of Yarra and the Wurundjeri people: and

1.8.2 Identification of an action plan to address social justice issues for local Indigenous Australian people.

Documents outlining these strategic directions identify Council's role concerning issues pertinent to local Indigenous Australians.

## 2. Council's City Plan 2002/05

2.1 Council's City Plan 2002/05 confirmed its commitment as:

- 2.1.1 "In partnership with the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group develop Reconciliation initiatives"; and to
- 2.1.2 "Provide opportunities for local communities to be involved in Council decision making processes.

## 3. Terms of Reference

### 3.1 Purpose

The Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group has been established as a partnership between Yarra City Council and the local Indigenous Australian community.

### 3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group are to:

- 3.2.1 Provide a structure for on-going consultation between the Indigenous community and Yarra City Council across a broad range of issues such as health, housing, legal, sport and recreation, culture, heritage, environment, employment, training and child-care;
- 3.2.2 Provide Council with strategic advice regarding issues pertinent to the Wurundjeri people and issues pertaining to social justice for Indigenous Australians; and
- 3.2.3 Assist Council to identify its' on-going role in regards to issues affecting local Indigenous Australians.

### 3.3 Roles & Responsibilities

In order to achieve the above objectives, the Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group will include the following roles and responsibilities:

- 3.3.1 *Information.* To improve communication, consultation and information sharing between the Indigenous Australian community and Yarra City Council;
- 3.3.2 *Advice.* To provide advice to Council on Indigenous Australian community issues;
- 3.3.3 *Strategic Planning.* To provide support in the preparation of a Partnership Plan between the City of Yarra and the Wurundjeri people. To guide the development of Council's strategic approach including an action plan to address social justice issues concerning local Indigenous Australians;
- 3.3.4 *Integrated Planning.* To increase cross-cultural awareness by ensuring that Council incorporate Indigenous Australian community interests in its policy, planning and service delivery activities;
- 3.3.5 *Participation.* To increase Indigenous Australian community participation in municipal affairs;
- 3.3.6 *Access.* To work with Council to improve access for Indigenous Australians to local resources; and
- 3.3.7 *Responsiveness.* To increase the responsiveness of Council on issues affecting Indigenous Australians.

#### **4. Membership**

4.1 The membership will consist of representatives of City of Yarra located Indigenous Australian organisations and City of Yarra representatives including:

Wurundjeri Elders  
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria  
Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria  
ATSIC Commonwealth/State Relations  
Melbourne Aboriginal Sport and Recreation  
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation  
Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd.  
Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.  
Victorian Aboriginal Health Services Cooperative  
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service  
Local Indigenous Australian artists  
Other locally based Indigenous Australian organisations  
City of Yarra Councillor  
Manager of Community Well-being and Council officers as required

#### **5. Chair**

5.1 Chairing of the Aboriginal Advisory Group will be determined by the Group, and may be shared between the Indigenous Australian members and a City of Yarra Councillor.

#### **6. Advisory Group meeting schedule & Structure**

6.1 The Advisory Group:

6.1.1 Will determine its meeting schedule. It is anticipated that meetings will be bi-monthly; and

6.1.2 May establish sub-committees or task groups as required.

#### **7. Accountability to Council**

7.1 Accountability and reporting to Council will occur through:

7.1.1 The Manager of Community Well-being and the Director Community Development;

7.1.2 Presentation at Councillor briefings; and

7.1.3 Council meeting delegates reports.

7.2 The Advisory Group will provide advice to Council but is not a formal Council committee.

#### **8. Public Statements**

8.1 The Advisory Group cannot make public statements on behalf of Council as an independent group.

## ATTACHMENT FIVE

## Wurundjeri Associations

(in alphabetical order)

<b>WURUNDJERI TRIBE LAND COMPENSATION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE COUNCIL INCORPORATED</b>	
Contact details	Alan Wandin 19 Barak Lane Healsville VIC 3777 Tel: (03) 5962 1848
<b>WURUNDJERI WOIWURUNG ABORIGINAL CORPORATION</b>	
Contact details	Norm Hunter C/o Gunung Willam Balluk Learning Centre Private Bag 299 Somerton VIC 3062 Tel: (03) 9279 2357

## Wurundjeri Consultancies

(in alphabetical order)

<b>JARLO VISIONS</b>	
Contact details	Joy Murphy 63 Ryans Road Healsville VIC 3777 Tel: (03) 5962 5846
<b>WERUNDJERI TRIBAL COUNCILLORS &amp; CONSULTANTS</b>	
Contact details	Ian Hunter 40 James Street Whittlesea VIC 3757 Tel: (03) 9716 2749

## Aboriginal Organisations and Services in the City of Yarra

(in alphabetical order)

<b>ABORIGINAL HOUSING BOARD OF VICTORIA (AHBV)</b>	
Contact details	Narrandjeri House 125-127 Scotchmer Street North Fitzroy VIC 3068 Tel: (03) 9482 4585
Service description	The Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria is a not for profit community organisation established in 1981 which manages the Victorian Aboriginal Rental Housing Program in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Office of Housing.
Services provided	The Aboriginal Rental Housing Program comprises some 1400 rental housing properties situated throughout Victoria. Low cost rental housing is provided to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

<b>BEEM ARTISTS GROUP</b>	
Contact details	C/o Harmsworth Street Community Facility 11-13 Harmsworth Street Collingwood VIC 3066
Service description	The BEEM Artists are a collective of Aboriginal artists based at the Collingwood Housing Estate.
Services provided	The BEEM Artists are an artists collective painting murals featuring Aboriginal designs and motifs. To date the BEEM Artists have been funded or commissioned by the following: City of Yarra, VicHealth and Victoria Police.
<b>GEORGE WRIGHT HOSTEL</b>	
Contact details	66 George Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9419 8648 Fax: (03) 9486 9620
Service description	The George Wright Hostel is a transient hostel.
Services provided	It caters for the needs of Aboriginal men who are homeless.
<b>MELBOURNE ABORIGINAL YOUTH SPORT AND RECREATION (MAYSAR)</b>	
Contact details	184 Gertrude Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9486 9123 Fax: (03) 9416 2252
Service description	Maysar provides a youth, sport and recreation service for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Metropolitan region.
Services provided	The programs and activities include sporting teams (netball, basketball, triathlon) uniforms, family days, separate men's and women's sessions, Koorie scout group, free weekly lunch provided by St Vincent hospital, gym instructor available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, daily boxersize from 1pm-8pm, Boxing – Monday, Wednesday and Friday after 3 pm, floor exercise cardio sessions 3 days a week by a female instructor, and Gurwidj Neighborhood House comes every Wednesday at 1 pm. They have also have triathlon at the Fitzroy Pool and MAYSAR participates in the organisation of broader community activities.
<b>METROPOLITAN REGIONAL ABORIGINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAJAC)</b>	
Contact details	GPO Box 5223 Melbourne VIC 3001 Tel: (03) 9651 7478 Fax: (03) 9651 7477
Service description	The Metropolitan Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee is one of the six Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees (RAJAC's) established by the Aboriginal Justice Agreement. Their role is to develop a regional plan to improve service delivery to local Aboriginal communities in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified needs of local communities,</li> <li>• Locally agreed priorities for service reform and community initiatives,</li> <li>• Development and enhancement of partnerships,</li> <li>• Monitoring of Royal Commission and Aboriginal Justice Agreement Implementation,</li> <li>• Local community and departmental infrastructure,</li> <li>• Information and support provided by participating agencies.</li> </ul>
Services provided	The Metropolitan RAJAC is not a direct service provider.
<b>PARKIES INC</b>	
Contact details	123/20 Elgin Street Carlton VIC 3053
Service description	Parkies Inc has been established by members of the BEEM artists to assist and advocate for members of the community who gather throughout Yarra at places such as the Collingwood Housing Estate Gazebo, and to ensure that the needs of homeless Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people are met.
Services provided	Parkies Inc organize various activities for the community including events on the Collingwood Housing Estate.

<b>VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATIONS (VACCHO)</b>	
Contact details	PO Box 1328 Collingwood VIC 3066 Tel: (03) 9419 3350 Fax: (03) 9417 3871
Service description	The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations is a collective of Aboriginal community Controlled Health Organisations in Victoria. Each member is an Aboriginal community controlled health organisation and most are multi functional community organisations with health as a key part of their responsibility and some are from groups offering full health services.
Services provided	VACCHO is not a direct service provider.
<b>VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION LIMITED (VACSAL)</b>	
Contact details	171 Smith Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9416 4266 Fax: (03) 9416 4147
Service description	VACSAL is a statewide organisation with a role in Community consultation and representation, advocacy, liaison with government, policy and service development. It has a community development approach and is responsive to community priorities and needs being involved in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Start Project</li> <li>• Family Violence Strategy</li> <li>• Aboriginal Justice Forum</li> <li>• Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Network</li> <li>• Quarterly state-wide forums for Aboriginal organisations</li> <li>• Industrial relations law and advice</li> <li>• Koorie Community Leadership Program</li> </ul>
Services provided	<p><b>Men's Support Program</b> The group meets regularly to support and empower men to reclaim strong and responsible roles as partners, fathers and community members. Activities are alcohol free with a number of gatherings and camps taken place to promote healing.</p> <p><b>Koorie Job Futures Network</b> Provides help to jobseekers pre and post employment. The Job network placed 40 people in jobs 2002.</p> <p><b>Informal Support</b> VACSAL has an open door policy. People are not turned away and are given a lot of support informally, as well as referrals.</p> <p><b>Torquay Property</b> A property that is occasionally used for respite for families, providing appropriate support and safety can be maintained.</p> <p><b>Bert Williams Juvenile Justice Program</b></p>

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (VAEAI)	
Contact details	49 Brunswick Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9416 3833 Fax: (03) 9416 3255
Service description	The Victorian Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (VAECG) was established in 1976 and became incorporated in 1985 as the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated. It aims to promote access and equity for Koories through the development of education programs that are culturally relevant, reinforce Koorie identity and provide supportive learning environments; and, to provide to the wider community an awareness of Koorie cultures and educational aspirations.
Services provided	VAEAI is a Statewide Koorie community organisation with eight regions, with Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (LAECG's) in each region. VAEAI represents the Koorie community on policy advice issues at the local, state and national levels. In 1990 the relationship between the Victorian Koorie community and the Ministry of Education (now know as the Department of Education & Training) was formalized with the <i>'Partnership In Education: Koorie Education Policy'</i> ; and VAEAI was formally recognized as an Industry Training Board. <i>'Koorie 2000'</i> was launched in 1997, strengthening and formalising the involvement of Koorie people in educational decision making and building on the Partnership in Education between VAEAI and the DE&T. In October 2001 the Victorian Premier, the Hon Steve Bracks launched the renewed Partnership in Education and Training, <i>'Yalca: A Partnership in Education and Training for the New Millenium'</i> , supporting a birth-to-death philosophy of education, placing the Koorie student at the centre of education policy and decision making, and acknowledging that local Koorie communities through LAECG's are best able to determine local education and training needs.
VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE (VAHS)	
Contact details	186 Nicholson Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9419 3000
Service description	The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service was established to cater for the health needs of Aboriginal people throughout Victoria. The aim of the VAHS is to provide a culturally appropriate holistic health service that is accessible to all members of the Koorie community and includes the Politics of Health, Sovereignty, Self-determination and Community Control.
Services provided	<p><b>Community Health Programs Unit</b> Welfare, Financial Counseling, Home and Community Care (HACC), including Allied Health, Koorie Aged Care Packages (KACPs) and Research and Sexual Health</p> <p><b>Clinical Programs-Medical and Dental</b> Maintaining equipment and tools, Holistic care, Public health, Accreditation, Continuing education, Staffing/transfer of skills and Specialists</p> <p><b>Family Counseling Services</b> Drug &amp; Alcohol Counseling Service</p> <p><b>Women's and Children's Health</b> Referrals, maternal health/ante natal/post natal care, Breast screen and Pap smears, Counselling, Family Planning and Boori classes, Health Education/Promotion/Awareness, Support/Advocacy, Provide specialist services e.g Obstetrics, Gynecology, adult audiology, Liaison, advocacy and support with other agencies, Domestic violence-housing/ welfare, Nutrition, Breastfeeding Advice and support and Drug and Alcohol related advice, counselling and referral.</p>

<b>VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE (VALS)</b>	
Contact details	6 Alexandra Parade Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9419 3888 Fax: (03) 9419 6024
Service description	The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service was established in the 1970's along with other Aboriginal legal services in Australia. The purpose was to cater specifically for the needs of Aboriginal people to ensure that they enjoy their legal rights, are aware of their responsibilities under the law and have access to appropriate legal representation in the justice system.
Services provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing legal advice, assistance and representation in areas of criminal, civil and family law.</li> <li>• Providing community legal education to increase the communities knowledge of their rights and obligations before the law.</li> <li>• Conducting research and collecting data on legal trends that affect Aboriginal Victorians.</li> <li>• Pursing and promoting law reform to address the disadvantage suffered by the Victorian Aboriginal community within the legal and justice systems.</li> <li>• Increasing public awareness and understanding of the problems faced by the Aboriginal Community within the legal and justice system.</li> <li>• Providing employment, training and career opportunities for Aboriginal people.</li> <li>• Employment of Aboriginal Client Service Officers in country and metropolitan Victoria to provide a bridge between the client and the lawyer and legal system.</li> </ul>
<b>WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL COOPERATIVE</b>	
Contact details	Postal: PO Box 402, North Geelong VIC 3215 Street Address: Lot 62 Morgan Street, North Geelong VIC 3215 Tel: (03) 5277 0044 Fax: (03) 5278 4123

## Statewide Organisations

(in alphabetical order)

<b>ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE (AAL)</b>	
Contact details	2 Watt Street Thornbury VIC 3071 Tel: (03) 9480 6377 Fax: (03) 9416 9092
Service description	<p>The Aborigines Advancement League (AAL), formed in 1957 is the oldest Aboriginal organisation in Victoria, regarded by many people as the 'mother' of all the Victorian Aboriginal organisations. The aims and objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer and initiate programs to improve the social, economic and cultural advancement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria.</li> <li>• Promote self-determination, self-sufficiency and self-management in the Aboriginal community.</li> <li>• Determine and comment upon State and Federal Government policy in Aboriginal Affairs.</li> <li>• Own, operate and maintain premises at Watt Street, Thornbury and other locations.</li> </ul>
Services provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Community Hall for community functions, conferences, meetings, workshops, presentations and launches.</li> <li>• The Home and Community Care service to help people with disabilities.</li> <li>• The Victorian Aboriginal Funeral Services to provide culturally relevant, affordable, quality funeral services for Aboriginal families.</li> <li>• The Family Support Program provides emergency relief.</li> <li>• The Lady Gladys Nicholls Hostel provides temporary accommodation for Koorie families and individuals.</li> <li>• Maloga Home Aged Care Hostel offers accommodation for 10 permanent residents and 1 respite bed at Nathalia for Elders.</li> <li>• Gurwidj Neighbourhood House has a range of Adult Education activities to improve the basic skills of participants.</li> </ul>

<b>ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ELDERS SERVICES (ACES)</b>	
Contact details	5 Parkview Avenue East Brunswick VIC 3057 Tel: (03) 9383 4244
Service description	ACES is a residential service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders. It also provides day care programs for Aboriginal Elders.
Services provided	There is a Cultural Centre for Elders and others, such as school groups to spend time absorbing, and learning about culture. Children participate in, and watch, performances. Elders tell stories about their own upbringing and families to promote healing and strengthen children's understanding of their history and culture. An oral history book has been developed for ACES by eight Elders through the day care program as a useful educational resource for schools.
<b>GUNUNG WILLAM BALLUK LEARNING CENTRE</b>	
Contact details	Gunung Willam Balluk Learning Centre Kangan Batman TAFE Private Bag 299 Somerton VIC 3062 Tel: (03) 9279 2357
Service description	Programs offered at the Learning Centre incorporate the heritage and culture of the Traditional Landowners with the knowledge and skills demanded by our modern technological society. Contemporary culture and today's technologies are combined in flexible, responsive, culturally appropriate delivery approaches to a wide range of students both at the Learning Centre and off campus at project sites.
Services provided	Education and training programs, student support services and cultural programs.
<b>VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE AGENCY (VACCA)</b>	
Contact details	34 Wurruk Avenue Preston VIC 3072 Tel: (03) 9471 1855 Fax: (03) 9471 1898
Service description	VACCA provides a range of services across Victoria for children, young people and their families.
Services provided	Lakidjeka Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Services (ACSASS) provides specialist advice and support to the child protection service about all Aboriginal children and young people (0-17) who are notified because of protective concerns of child protection. <b>Placement and Support</b> <i>Extended Care</i> provides 52 foster care placements for children up to 12 years. <i>Permanent Care</i> provides Assessment of permanent carers and support for permanent care placements, cultural support for children permanently placed with non-indigenous families, court reports for permanent care applications, organisation and transport for sibling and parental access. <i>Residential Care</i> includes two residential units, in Thornbury and Lalor, each accommodating four children up to the age of 12. <b>Early Intervention and Family Support Services</b> <i>Family Support Service</i> is a state wide service that provides counseling for adults and children in relation to family matters, referrals, advocacy, emergency relief, food hampers, assistance for families, home visits parenting assistance. <i>Family Counsellor</i> provides person centred counseling to couples and individuals whose children are in out-of-home care to help parents address the issues which prevent their children from returning home. <i>Family Link Project</i> looks at providing identified families with an effective family service response.

<b>YAPPERA</b>	
Contact details	2 Watt Street Thornbury VIC 3071 Tel: (03) 9480 6377 Fax: (03) 9416 9092
Service description	Yappera is a preschool and child care centre based at the AAL
Services provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long day care program for Aboriginal children aged six months to 5 years</li> <li>• Kinder program for 3-5 year old Aboriginal and non-indigenous children.</li> <li>• School holiday program for up to 65 children between 5-12 years.</li> <li>• Transport is provided to get children to, but not from, programs. (The inability to provide transport to get children home is problematic because it limits the capacity of some children and families to benefit from child care).</li> <li>• Visiting Services that includes regular sessions by maternal and child health and speech pathologist.</li> <li>• Parent Information sessions on a monthly basis, providing information and training to parents and community members.</li> </ul>

## Government Organisations and Agencies

(in alphabetical order)

<b>ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS VICTORIA (AAV)</b>	
Contact details	Level 10, 8 Nicholson Street East Melbourne VIC 3002 Tel: (03) 9637 8000 Fax: (03) 9637 8024
Service description	Aboriginal Affairs Victoria is the Victorian Government's central point of advice on all aspects of Aboriginal Affairs in Victoria. This policy advice may relate to services provided by other State Government agencies, Commonwealth Departments and ATSIC or other services delivered within the Aboriginal community.
Services provided	<p>AAV promotes knowledge and understanding about Victoria's Aboriginal community to the wider community. It also administers legislation to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria. AAV's objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote social, economic and cultural development of Victorian Aboriginal community,</li> <li>• Protect and promote Victoria's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage,</li> <li>• Improve co-ordination and monitoring of the development of government policy relating to the delivery of programs and services to Victoria's Aboriginal people,</li> <li>• Promote and strengthen relationships between government agencies and Victorian Aboriginal communities</li> <li>• Promote a greater awareness and understanding of Victoria's Aboriginal people.</li> </ul>
<b>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMISSION (ATSIC)<sup>21</sup></b>	
Contact details	Level 26, 2 Lonsdale Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: (03) 9285 7268
Service description	There are two ATSIC Regional Councils in Victoria, Binjirru Regional Council and Tumbukka Regional Council. The City of Yarra is in the Tumbukka Regional Council area.
Services provided	The Tumbukka Regional Council's role is to comment on and influence programs and policies for Aboriginal people in Victoria. It also distributes funding for community organisations.

<sup>21</sup> At the time of writing, the Australian Government were proposing to disband ATSIC and deliver services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through mainstream federal government departments by end of 2004.

<b>CENTRELINK</b>	
Contact details	62-70 Johnston Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: 132850 or Freecall 1800 050 004 Fitzroy houses the main ABSTUDY office for Victoria.
Service description	Centrelink is a mainstream service provider with dedicated Aboriginal Specialist Officers. ABSTUDY is the Aboriginal counterpart of AUSTUDY and is administered via Centrelink to Aboriginal students at secondary school, TAFE and tertiary institutions throughout Australia.
Services provided	Centrelink supports Aboriginal clients and communities to access government programs such as ABSTUDY, Newstart and other allowances.
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)</b>	
Contact details	145 Smith Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9412 5333 The Northern Metropolitan Office of DHS is located in Fitzroy and the Aboriginal Family Violence Support Officer is based in the office 2 days per week.
Service description	The Department of Human Services provides many programs for Aboriginal communities in Victoria.
Services provided	DHS is a key stakeholder in the Best Start Project that looks at improving the health, development and well being of children from pregnancy to eight years. Two Aboriginal Best Start Demonstration Projects in Victoria will be selected in February, 2004.  DHS manages the Child Protection Services, receive notifications about child abuse and neglect and manage the process to substantiation. It provides out of home care services and because 489 Aboriginal children are in out-of-home care in Victoria, the likelihood of DHS being involved with the Aboriginal community is very high. It also is responsible for Juvenile Justice Services and in Victoria.
<b>PARKS VICTORIA INDIGENOUS STRATEGY TEAM</b>	
Contact details	Head Office Level 9, 535 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: (03) 8627 4865 Fax: (03) 9619 0965  Melbourne Metro/City and Bays PO Box 103 Fairfield VIC 3078 Tel: (03) 9488 3935 Fax: (03) 9488 3940.
Service description	Parks Victoria manages Victoria's network of national, regional and metropolitan parks, other conservation reserves, and many significant cultural assets. Parks Victoria has an Indigenous Strategy and protocols for working with Aboriginal people.
Services provided	Parks Victoria employs a number of Indigenous rangers who can be contacted through the numbers listed above.

<b>THE KOORIE EDUCATION STRATEGY TEAM</b>	
Contact details	Level 2, 33 St Andrews Place East Melbourne VIC 3002 Tel: (03) 9637 2052
Service description	Aboriginal Education Services (AES) was established in 1975 by the Victorian Ministry of Education, located within the Schools Division and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs. AES, in consultation with the VAEAI serviced the needs of the Koorie students in the schooling sector. In 1990, when the partnership between the Ministry of Education and the VAEAI was formed, the A.E.S became the Koorie Education Co-ordination Unit. In 1997, the Koorie Education Co-ordination Unit became the Koorie Education Development Unit and was responsible for the 'Koorie 2000'. In 2000, the KEDU was changed to the Koorie Education Strategy Team (KEST).
Services provided	The Koorie Education Strategy Team is a part of the Department of Education & Training and is committed to Yalca: a partnership in Education and Training for the New Millennium between the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated and the Victorian Government. There are 16 Koorie Education Development Officers (KEDO's) based in each of the eight VAEAI regions. Their role is to provide advice to schools on program development in line with the priorities identified by the Regional Koorie Education Committees; provide administrative support to the Regional Koorie Education Committees; and to support the curriculum and professional development function of the KEST.

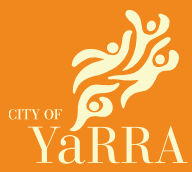
## Non-government Organisations

(in alphabetical order)

<b>RECONCILIATION VICTORIA</b>	
Contact details	Level 4, 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: (03) 9662 1645 Fax: (03)9654 0319 Email: info@reconciliationvic.org.au
Service description	Reconciliation Victoria is the new state peak body working to achieve meaningful reconciliation. It is a part of the new national network of Reconciliation Councils across Australia. The Council recognises the unfinished business of the former National Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and will seek to work with Aboriginal Victorians and the broader Victorian community to complete this work and implement the Roadmap for Reconciliation.
Services provided	Coordinates Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day activities in Victoria. Provides on-going support and resources for local reconciliation initiatives across the state.

<b>ANTAR VICTORIA (AUSTRALIANS FOR NATIVE TITLE AND RECONCILIATION)</b>	
Contact details	67 Brunswick Street Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: (03) 9419 3613 Fax: (03)9417 2691 Email: antarvic@nativetitle.org
Service description	<p><b>ANTaR</b> is a peoples' movement, committed to the rights and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples to determine their own future with the support of the Australian People.</p> <p><b>ANTaR</b> are committed to Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-indigenous Australians through education and advocacy conducted in parallel with Aboriginal organisations.</p> <p>A local ANTaR group has recently been established in Yarra.</p>
Services provided	<p><b>ANTaR (Victoria)</b>'s activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintaining close liaison with Aboriginal leaderships and communities</li> <li>• conducting national campaigns and lobbying on Aboriginal affairs issues,</li> <li>• conducting education and awareness projects targeted at non-indigenous Australians and International audiences.</li> </ul>





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