

# 2018-19 Annual Report

*Reconciliation Stonnington acknowledges that we meet on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation.*

**Kai<sup>1</sup>.**

Reconciliation Stonnington (Inc) was established as SCR in 1998 to:

- ❖ promote a deeper understanding, respect and harmony between indigenous Australians and the wider community
- ❖ develop community awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal history, culture and achievements
- ❖ where possible, consult and seek advice from Aboriginal communities.



*[A happy customer at our stall at Council's Flavours festival]*

## Context

- **We celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** in 2018 with a BlakWiz quiz event with over 30 guests – a terrific celebration of a major milestone!



*The winning team – BlakWiz 2018*

- with the re-election of the Andrews Labour government the Victorian Treaty process continued, building on a commitment to Aboriginal self-determination
- while there is room for hope nationally following the appointment of Ken Wyatt as the Minister for Indigenous Australians, there has been little progress so far to recognise Aboriginal sovereignty
- we welcome the City's new CEO, Jacqui Weatherill, and look forward to working with her on implementing Council's 2018-2020 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

## Reconciliation at our monthly meetings

In business during the year we:

- enjoyed Jill Gallagher, the Treaty Commissioner, as guest speaker at our 2018 AGM – she spoke passionately about the treaty process in Victoria
- discussed and submitted proposals for an Aboriginal name for Cato Square; we were disappointed that an Aboriginal name was not used and encourage Council to develop its Aboriginal naming policy that has been a part of its RAPs for several years now
- discussed issues around Australia Day on 26 January and the merits of changing the date
- continued to discuss treaty and self-determination and implications for Stonnington
- launched our Facebook page and reviewed a draft web site to support our communications to Stonnington residents
- Secretary Ro hosted several tours of the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Gallery in Melbourne Museum and presented to several Stonnington organisations
- supported and participated in Reconciliation and NAIDoC Week activities and Council's Flavours event



*Council's NAIDOC event: RecSton members Mike, Tom, Alex and Michael*

<sup>1</sup> Kai is 'hello' in the Woiwurrung language

## Reconciliation Stonnington 2018-19 Annual Report

- engaged with the Avenue Hospital to advise on their accreditation requirements to provide a culturally safe environment for Indigenous patients
- held a group visit to Charcoal Lane restaurant for a performance by Amos Roach (Archie's son)
- responded to student and organisation enquiries about reconciliation, Aboriginal culture and local Traditional Owners

### State-wide reconciliation initiatives

- RecSton members have been active in reconciliation in the early-childhood sector, including: Jenny presented to a Council-sponsored educators' session, and Rose sponsored her staff to attend a national symposium
- Reconciliation Victoria restructured in 2018: the Council became a Board, with new members; and a Cultural Council of Aboriginal people was set up to provide a 'voice' to the Board; RecSton President Keith Gove was re-appointed to the Board, as Secretary
- we continued to work with RecVic and ANTaR Vic, and members attended state-wide ANTaR/RecVic local group networking meetings where representatives of over 20 groups discussed good practice and policy issues
- we provided monthly articles for the Mungo newsletter of the Port Philip reconciliation group.

### The future



- The Victorian government initiative on treaty provides a significant opportunity to progress reconciliation. RecSton will work with state and local organisations to build community support
- we look forward to the new RecVic project on reconciliation in schools, Narragunnawali, which will provide support and resources for schools and early childhood centres – a focus of ours for many years
- community interest in reconciliation is strong - we receive regular requests for contacts or information about Traditional Owners and local history, and we will extend the reach of our social media
- we will continue to work with Council to implement its RAP.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the City of Stonnington Council for continued funding and support, with particular thanks to council officers Julie Fry and Nicole Dewhurst; and local MP Sam Hibbins for his office's support.

RecSton is a small but effective group, and I thank members who have contributed to our achievements: Vice President Tom Moloney, Secretary and Public Officer Ro Bailey, committee members Rose Kelly and Maree Sheehan and supporters Jenny Goldsmith, Liz Kennedy, Michael Sullivan and Mike Scott.

Last year our long-time Treasurer Ron Higgins announced his resignation. We presented Ron with a life membership of Reconciliation Stonnington in recognition of his work. Ron continued as acting Treasurer for most of this year until we found a replacement. Thanks Ron.

Together we form part of a community network that is progressing the cause of reconciliation.

Ngoon godgin (thanks).

**Keith Gove**  
President  
September 2019

