

2018 HART Awards

FINALISTS

HELPING ACHIEVE
RECONCILIATION
TOGETHER





SUPPORTED BY



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

THANKYOU

Vicki Clark, Chelsea Ayling and Leanne Miller for judging this year's awards.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our hosts, the **Korin Gamadji Institute**.

Vicki & Trevor Clark for the prizes awarded to the winners of each category.

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MESSAGE FROM VLGA AND RECONCILIATION VICTORIA

The 5th Annual **HART Awards** celebrates and honours the efforts of local governments and community groups across Victoria, which are **Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together** throughout the year.

We are inspired by the variety of nominations this year, from cultural markers and community murals to festivals and art exhibitions; from community forums to walks; and from the development of resources and education initiatives to making local spaces culturally safe. The 2018 nominations highlight the diversity of approaches across the state, empowering local community and building strong relationships.

Reconciliation is not a static or generic term but an approach that can be interpreted and utilised in a myriad of ways; its strength comes from the people involved and the commitment to deepen the relationships based on mutual understanding, respect and genuine reconciliation.

Each year, the stories of the finalists demonstrate that when Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and organisations commit to meaningful, long-term, two-way relationships, we can achieve tremendous change.

2018 is no different - we have seen more people engaged in reconciliation activities, we have seen local councils take leadership, and community groups develop and champion initiatives that deserve to be shared.

In sharing these stories, we are shining a light on the local initiatives and champions who make a real difference in their communities, so that others might take ideas and inspiration forward into their own workplaces and communities. We thank each nominee and finalist for the important work they are doing. We would like to thank Bank Australia and Local Government Victoria for their support of the HART Awards.

We are proud to present the finalists for the 2018 HART Awards – Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together.



Cr Margaret Attley
VLGA President



Belinda Duarte
Reconciliation Victoria Co Chair



Michelle Isles
Reconciliation Victoria Co Chair

ABOUT THE HART Awards

The 5th annual HART Awards (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together) are delivered in partnership with Reconciliation Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and supported by Bank Australia and Local Government Victoria. They are designed to recognise Victorian partnerships and initiatives that contribute to local reconciliation outcomes.

Since the success of the inaugural awards in 2014, each year has seen an impressive number of quality nominations, featuring a wide breadth of initiatives across the state. Nominations are submitted for Victorian local government and community group initiatives that demonstrate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together, and initiatives that have contributed to reconciliation through relationships, respect and understanding.

LAST YEAR'S HART AWARD WINNERS AND HIGHLY COMMENDED

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CATEGORY

2017 WINNER

Rural City of Wangaratta:
Bullawah Cultural Trail Project

2017 HIGHLY COMMENDED

City of Ballarat: *Ballarat Library*
and Mildura Rural City Council:
*'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
War Memorial Project'*

SMALL COMMUNITY ORGANISATION CATEGORY

2017 WINNER

Mullagh Wills Foundation:
*Reconciliation through Sport -
"Journey to the G"*

2017 HIGHLY COMMENDED

Tarerer Gunditj Project Association
Inc: Tarerer Festival,
'Sharing Culture'

LARGE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION CATEGORY

2017 WINNER

The Sovereign Hill Museums
Association/ Wathaurung Aboriginal
Corporation: *Gnarwurring Ngitj
('Learning Together') Festival*

2017 HIGHLY COMMENDED

CoHealth: *Wellness Dreaming
Prevention Team*

BACKGROUND TO THE AWARDS

The VLGA and Reconciliation Victoria first dreamt of the HART Awards to promote the impressive Reconciliation initiatives happening across Victoria as well as to encourage and inspire community groups and local governments to work in partnership with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We believe the HART Awards strengthens the reconciliation movement in Victoria through recognising and celebrating the work of individuals and organisations committed to truth, justice, healing and equity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CATEGORY

CITY OF GREATER SHEPPARTON

DANA DJIRRUNGANA DUNGULUDJA YENBENA-I (PROUD, STRONG, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE) – ABORIGINAL STREET ART PROJECT

Dana Djirrungana Dunguludja Yenbena-I (Proud, Strong, Aboriginal People) is a street art project revealing and celebrating Greater Shepparton's Aboriginal past and present. It features a series of murals highlighting significant historical Aboriginal Elders, bringing their presence into the local landscape. The launch of the first mural of Uncle William Cooper and Uncle Doug Nicholls was attended by over 500 people. Second in the series, the local Aboriginal digger mural, which acknowledges Aboriginal people who fought in the war, was completed in the first week in April 2018. The third mural in the project featuring Aunty Margaret Tucker (MBE) and Nanny Nora Charles was launched on 29th May 2018.

The murals make up a trail that invites engagement with local Aboriginal history and culture. The project aims to instill pride in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and to collectively celebrate the Indigenous community and its history.



DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL

WELCOME TO COUNTRY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Based on the themes, meanings and cultural practices detailed in Aunty Joy Murphy's book *Welcome to Country*, Darebin City Council held a Professional Development session in 2017 for Early Years and Primary educators. Providing educators with the tools of cultural education increases cultural safety within their services and empowers the younger members of the community with an appreciation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Over 180 early years and primary school staff attended the event and stated that they appreciated having a deeper understanding of the Welcome to Country (Tanderrum) ceremony and felt more comfortable incorporating aspects of Aboriginal culture into their teaching.



EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL OUR COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

Through the short film 'Our Commitment to Reconciliation', East Gippsland Shire Council was able to connect their staff and the wider community with the history and culture of the traditional custodians of the land encompassing East Gippsland Shire - the Gunaikurnai, Monero and Bidawel Peoples. The film production engaged and featured local Aboriginal people, organisations and landmarks. In particular, Auntie Dr Doris Paton, Rod Hudson, The Krowathunkoolong Keeping Place and Gratten Mullett, GLaWAC. The film is easily accessible online which allows it to be used as a flexible training delivering model and has already been rolled out to major organisations with further distribution to follow. The project supports the realisation of Council aims to embed cultural change through increased mutual understanding and effective partnerships. The project assists council staff, and staff within other local organisations, with increased knowledge of local history, acknowledgement of and respect for our local Aboriginal communities and culture.



MOONEE VALLEY CITY COUNCIL BABEPAL PAEN-MIRRING CEREMONIAL ROCK CIRCLE

The Babepal Paen-mirring Ceremonial Rock Circle was developed at Five Mile Creek Reserve, Essendon to recognise a registered site of Aboriginal significance and protect artefacts scattered at the site. Moonee Valley City Council engaged the Wurundjeri Land Council and the Wurundjeri Narrap team who suggested establishing the site as a meeting place for the use of the whole community. The site was named Babepal Paen-mirring, meaning 'Mother's tear' in Woi wurrung, with large rocks placed in the shape of an eye. As part of the restoration of the site, native plants including Lomandra, Dianella, Murnong and native grasses were reintroduced to provide future opportunities for activities including weaving, harvesting traditional foods of the area, and Indigenous fire management practices.

The site is an important part of a broader approach to educate the community about the significance of this area to the Wurundjeri People, and hold ceremonies and demonstrations of Wurundjeri life.



GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

GLEN EIRA PLANNING FOR RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

Glen Eira City Council's Reconciliation in Action Program has created a change culture within Glen Eira that is unifying the community and building an organisation that promotes cultural safety and inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The program brings together 10 different business units, led by an external Advisory Group that includes Traditional Owner representatives, local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents and workers. The Program has led to many successes including a Memorandum of Agreement between the Boon Wurrung Foundation and Glen Eira City Council, the redefinition of council's Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and events that showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history, storytelling and art.



MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS: SURVIVAL DAY COMPONENT

Mount Alexander Shire Council has introduced a Survival Day component to their annual Australia Day ceremony. For the 2018 Australia Day community event, the focus was to highlight the significant partnership between the local DjaDja Wurrung community and Council and to tackle the controversy around Australia Day head on, through the inclusion of the 'Survival Day' component. The aim was to highlight and encourage open discussions about the impact of Australia Day on the Indigenous community.

Given the increasing focus on the Indigenous perspective of Australia Day, this year the collective decision was made to deliver the Australia Day event in partnership with Nalderun Upper Loddon Committee. Consultation was undertaken to explore the ways in which they could enhance and increase the number of meaningful Indigenous elements incorporated into the ceremony, and how to address the divisive issue of how Australia Day celebrations impact Aboriginal people.



COMMUNITY CATEGORIES - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BUNDJIL NEST PROJECT WOMIN DJEKA BALNARRING NGARGEE

The Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee is a festival designed to promote cross-cultural awareness, bringing community together in a vibrant, family-friendly outdoor event that celebrates the Balnarring community, First People's culture and connects the broader community to the ancient history of the land. The festival included Indigenous musical acts, workshops, presentations along with a Welcome to Country and guidance by N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs. The festival created an opportunity for the community to learn together, exposing participants to First Peoples' stories, emphasizing a shared history and highlighting everyone's role in reconciliation. As Kutcha Edwards describes, these actions are like 'dropping a pebble' which creates ripples to understanding, healing and a socially just future for all.



Womin Djeka
Balnarring Ngargee

MULLUM MULLUM INDIGENOUS GATHERING PLACE AND COMMUNITIES COUNCIL ON ETHNIC ISSUES (EASTERN REGION) TOGETHER IN HARMONY

Together in Harmony was an event held in partnership between the Communities Council on Ethnic Issues, Eastern Region and Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. The event was a day of music and cultural exchange with all communities from the eastern area invited to participate. The day began with an Acknowledgment of Country by Aunty Daphne Milward followed by a Smoking Ceremony, with a separate Friendship Ceremony from the Karen community. Two choirs from the Burmese community explained their songs and performed, as did the Mullum Mullum Choir. Members of several communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, spoke about their backgrounds and both choirs involved the audience in a group singing of 'We Are Australian'. The event showcased the strength of the local Aboriginal and local migrant communities creating a 'sense of togetherness' and demonstrating 'strength in difference'.



WILLUM WARRAIN ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION THE WILLUM WARRAIN RECONCILIATION WALK

Willum Warrain's inaugural Reconciliation Walk was held on Mabo Day 2017, engaging 500 people on the Mornington Peninsula. The event engaged participants in a walk and cultural activities and finished with a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony and free BBQ at Willum Warrain's ngargee ground. The Walk was supported by a wide range of organisations from the local community, including local police, CFA and the Cerberus Naval Base. The entire event promotes local Aboriginal history and presence on the Mornington Peninsula and provides an opportunity to build awareness, positive relationships and respect across the community. Willum Warrain actively seeks to be a destination for reconciliation on the Mornington Peninsula. They stage large scale events promoting opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to connect via their Gathering Place.



THE TORCH CONFINED 9 EXHIBITION

The Torch is a not-for-profit organisation that provides support to Indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria through art, cultural and arts vocational programs. Confined 9 is The Torch's annual exhibition that features artworks by indigenous artists currently in, or recently released from, prisons in Victoria. The exhibition showcased 190 artworks from 172 men and women, attracting over 1,200 visitors. Confined 9 provides context for cultural exchange between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people through art. The artworks and conversations explored through Confined 9 include issues of identity, art, connection to culture and country, and the increasing rate of incarceration for Aboriginal Australians. These conversations and the cultural exchange contribute to increased respect and understanding for Aboriginal Australians and the broader goals of reconciliation.



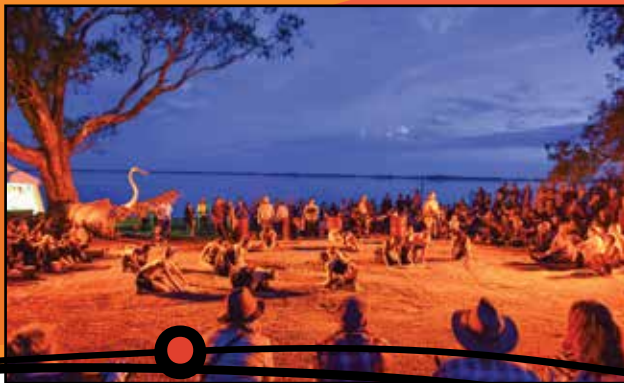
LAKE BOLAC EEL FESTIVAL INC

LAKE BOLAC EEL FESTIVAL, KUYANG LAPAKIRA – PLENTY EELS

The 2018 Lake Bolac Eel Festival was the 12th contemporary festival held on the shore of Lake Bolac in Western Victoria. The Lake has been a traditional meeting place on the junction of four Indigenous regions, and for thousands of years large social gatherings have formed at this sacred place following the annual migrations of eels/kuyang.

The 2018 Eel Festival continued this history of lakeside gatherings, bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to share, learn, remember and celebrate by highlighting the importance of 'Caring for Country and Caring for Community' through music, art, forums and presentations.

The festival invited people to share insights, listen to and ask questions of Elders, scientists, academics, artists, musicians, and front runners in social change. Through this event, participants form new relationships and take meaningful steps towards reconciliation.



MERRI HEALTH

THE LITTLE LONG WALK

Annually, a Moreland primary school participates in 'The Little Long Walk', an event commemorating Michael Long's 2004 walk from Melbourne to Canberra to meet the Prime Minister and keep Indigenous issues on the national agenda. The Moreland event is attended by Michael, who speaks to the students and their families about his walk, the importance of introducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies into schools, and how they, the students and families, can create change. The students research Aboriginal history, the meaning of reconciliation and Michael's historic walk and then present this to the whole school community at an assembly. They also walk along the Merri Creek to the Aboriginal Community Elders Services where they take part in cultural activities including music, storytelling and art and have morning tea with Elders.



COMMUNITY CATEGORIES – CHANGING THE WAY WE WORK

VACCA AND MOONDANI BALLUK (VICTORIA UNI) FOOTPRINTS FOR SUCCESS

The Footprints for Success initiative brings together an alliance of partners. The alliance partners include the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), mainstream community health, early year's services and local government authorities in the western local government areas of Wyndham, Brimbank and Maribyrnong. The alliance partners collaborate to ensure young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have access to supportive, culturally appropriate services. More than 70 families and over 100 children have been assisted in navigating the health and early year's services systems with confidence. Solid relationships have been built between alliance partners, workers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, through the project's focus on practices such as deep listening and building trust and respect with families.



INNER NORTH WEST PRIMARY CARE PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN TWO WORLDS

The Working in Two Worlds initiative aims to assist mainstream organisations to become more accessible, culturally safe and appropriate for Aboriginal people by supporting the recruitment and retention of the local Aboriginal workforce. Although there have been improvements in cultural responsiveness of mainstream organisations, Aboriginal people working in mainstream organisations report that they are still regularly exposed to culturally based hazards. These hazards impact their personal health and wellbeing and undermine their ability to support their community. The Working in Two Worlds initiative developed a Walk with Us video, facilitated Working in Two Worlds consultations and created 'From Symbols to Systems Framework' as a resource to guide mainstream organisations to address culturally based hazards and improve cultural security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



WOOR-DUNGIN ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Aboriginal Partnership Program is Woor-Dungin's core program and is founded upon relationships. Woor-Dungin's Aboriginal Partnership Program develops genuine relationships, based on reconciliation, reciprocity and trust with a small number of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations over three-year periods. Woor-Dungin then supports each organisation in achieving their self-identified priorities, fostering respectful relationships between the organisations and the philanthropic sector, to increase the funding flow to enable Aboriginal organisations to better meet community needs. The partnerships built are collaborative, responsive and based in self-determination. The program has been running for more than ten years thanks to the dedicated work of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal paid and unpaid staff, committee members, Woor-Dungin members, philanthropic and pro-bono supporters and a broad range of stakeholders who have collaborated on the programs and its partner-informed activities over that time.



A pathway of Reconciliation activities....

This year, the HART Award Community Categories highlight the reality that reconciliation activities exist along a path. **'Community Engagement'** activities invite people to connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and knowledge and start to raise awareness of our true history and its ongoing impact. These activities move people to learn more and discover how they might be involved in reconciliation.

Activities that seek to **'Change the way we work'** begin to challenge the power dynamics that exist in our institutions, systems and structures as a legacy of colonisation. These activities strive to embed Aboriginal knowledge and ways of working in our mainstream institutions, and support self-determination for Aboriginal people and organisations.

It's important and necessary to have activities all along the path to create widespread change and reset the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

ABOUT US



Reconciliation Victoria was established in 2002, the product of the people's movement for Reconciliation in Victoria. We are a small not-for-profit organisation governed by a Council of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members.

We are the state-wide body promoting reconciliation and act as a focal point for advancing deeper understanding, respect and justice for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We work with a network of 25 local reconciliation groups and with the local government sector to strengthen local relationships between Aboriginal and other Victorians. Our approach involves facilitating connections and sharing resources to promote truth, justice, equity and self-determination.

Visit our websites for information on our programs and for opportunities to get involved in reconciliation in Victoria.

www.reconciliationvic.org.au
www.maggolee.org.au



The VLGA is an independent organisation that supports councils, councillors and communities in good governance to progress the vision that our communities are inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, characterised by strong leadership and effective local governance.

Our role is to support, mentor and develop the knowledge and practice of councillors in governance. We advocate for sustainable sector reform and deliver projects and develop tools that assist councils to connect to their communities.

The VLGA will 'walk its talk' on reconciliation with Treaty and Indigenous self-determination. The VLGA will take active steps in building relationships, respect and trust between the Association, Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader local government sector.

MAGGOLEE: Here In This Place

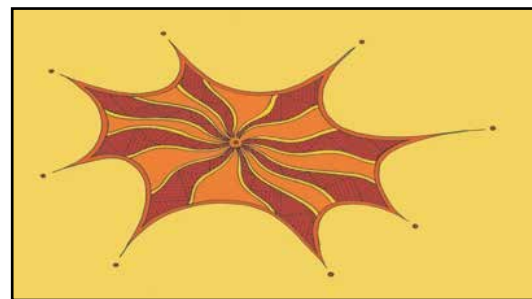
We encourage local governments to access and utilise the Maggolee website which celebrates good practice in Victorian local government Aboriginal engagement and reconciliation and aims to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, local communities and the councils that serve them together.

The Maggolee website has been developed by Reconciliation Victoria, with funding from the Victorian Government, as a resource for local councils to work more closely with Aboriginal communities. The site includes information on policy and programs, protocols and cultural awareness, key contacts, relevant local data, news and events.

It contains information about each of the 79 Victorian local government areas, and about actions councils can take across key function areas to build closer relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to progress reconciliation.

The website is a place where councils can find ideas and resources to enable:

- Stronger partnerships between Aboriginal communities and local government
- More Aboriginal employment in local government
- Wider use of council services by Aboriginal people
- Stronger council and community support for reconciliation
- Greater involvement of Aboriginal people in the development of council policies
- Deeper appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal culture
- Engagement with the Victorian Government's Aboriginal Local Government Action Plan.



Maggolee also allows councils to showcase their work through their own dedicated space where they can detail services, policies and other initiatives that support Aboriginal communities.

www.maggolee.org.au



Image provided by
Rural City of Wangaratta for the
Bullawah Cultural Trail Project,
Winner Local Government
Category HART Awards 2017



2018 HART Awards

HELPING ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION TOGETHER

