



Hand-over of the Ebenezer Mission, Antwerp to the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Reconciliation Action Plan 2014-2016

Our Vision for Reconciliation

To facilitate the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the custodianship and interpretation of their heritage at National Trust places, and in heritage programs and projects, to:

- Recognise and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage,
- Build a mutual understanding of our shared heritage, and
- Work towards reconciliation.

About Us

The National Trust in Victoria has grown since 1956 to become our largest community based heritage advocacy organisation and independent, privately funded not-for-profit body. We seek to ensure our communities value their cultural legacy and support them in their efforts to preserve what is significant to them. As the state's premier heritage advocate and operator of historic properties open to the public, we work with partners to achieve our vision for the protection of our shared heritage for the benefit of future generations.

Our vision is for the Australian community to understand, value and enjoy the natural, cultural and Indigenous heritage that creates our national identity. In working towards realising this, we seek to inspire the community to appreciate, conserve and celebrate our shared heritage.

The National Trust has a small core professional staff of 120, supported by over 500 volunteers contributing 60,000 hours of voluntary service annually. Our Aboriginal Advisory Committee represents a range of organisations and peak bodies, including the Victorian Registered Aboriginal Parties, Traditional and Native Title Owner communities, and supports our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

Our Journey

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Reconciliation Action Plan [RAP] celebrated its first year as an active strategic document in 2013. Our commitment to reconciliation was realised in setting a new strategic objective through the RAP and the formation of our Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Board. In developing our 2014-16 RAP, we reflect on the significant achievements facilitated by this process:

- Establishment of the National Trust Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Appointment of the first National Trust Indigenous Heritage Advocate
- Hand-over of the National Trust owned Ebenezer Mission, Antwerp on 05 December 2013 to Traditional Owners Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- First dedicated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey of National Trust properties undertaken through the project Reconciliation Through Place, supported by the federal Indigenous Heritage Program
- Cultural Awareness Training undertaken by senior management
- First Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Internship with Deakin University
- Acknowledgement of Traditional Ownership and Welcome to Country at major National Trust events and in VicNews, 2014-18 Strategic Plan and Annual Reports
- Co-presentation of the 2013 and 2014 National Trust Heritage Festivals with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council
- Co-presentation of the Our History 2013 and 2014 National Trust Heritage Festival events with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and Koorie Youth Council
- Beginning the process of development of an Aboriginal Heritage Agreement with the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation
- Contribution to the City of Melbourne's Tunnerminnerwait & Maulboyheenner Memorial Working Group
- Engagement with Baluk Arts regarding artworks inspired by Endeavour Fern Gully
- Review of the Koori Court Program at the Old Melbourne Gaol
- Advocacy on behalf of the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation regarding the proposed Monmot Hill Basalt and Scoria Quarry

Our Reconciliation Action Plan

Our RAP identifies actions that the National Trust will undertake to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage values are incorporated into programs, projects and places. It also promotes partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in development of our programs and broad cultural heritage advocacy and education.

The development of this RAP will continue in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the National Trust Aboriginal Advisory Committee. The Committee will guide the implementation of the Trust's RAP, oversee Memorandums of Understanding between the Trust and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and advise on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage advocacy.

Opportunity for ongoing input into this RAP from the wider community will be undertaken as programs and projects are initiated. This RAP includes an Implementation Program that details the actions, set and reviewed annually, we will undertake to further the reconciliation process. If you want to share our reconciliation journey, contact Alexandra Hill, Projects Manager – Trust Development, on 03 9656 9834 or alix.hill@nattrust.com.au

