

Annual Report 2025–2026

reconciliation victoria



Acknowledgement of Country

Reconciliation Victoria (Rec Vic) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria, and recognises First Peoples' continuing connection to lands, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present who carry the memories, traditions, cultures, and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and who forge the path ahead for emerging leaders. We dedicate ourselves to working respectfully and in allyship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We seek to listen and amplify the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in all areas of our work.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers please note: this report may contain images and references to people who have passed on, read with care.

Acknowledgement of Artwork and Artist

D. Kerr
Yorta Yorta / Dja Dja Wurrung
Moving Sands, 2024
50 x 57 cm
cat #: 0420-24
Acrylic on canvas

This is about how easily life changes, moves, alters goes ways we don't want or expect and how it is never perfect. But it's about moving with it, moving with the changes of moving sand and finding a new and sometimes better path to follow. It's life, embrace it, and be free with it.

About Us

Established in 2002, Rec Vic was formed following the recommendation by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation to create state-level bodies and a national body, Reconciliation Australia, to continue the unfinished business of reconciliation.

We are the statewide body promoting reconciliation in Victoria and working to advance deeper understanding, respect, and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Rec Vic works closely with the Victorian Government, Local Reconciliation Groups, the Education sector, Local Government, corporate sector and broader community, facilitating connections between these stakeholders to support initiatives to make significant and widespread progress in reconciliation.

Our work revolves around strong partnerships and relationships. We engage with the Australian Reconciliation Network (ARN), which comprises state- and territory-based reconciliation organisations and Reconciliation Australia. The ARN shares information and ideas amongst its members, who also collaborate on issues of joint advocacy.

Rec Vic is governed by a skills-based Board, with four First Nations members, including a First Nations Co-Chair who works alongside our non-Indigenous Co-Chair.

To ensure our work is guided by First Peoples' voices, knowledge, perspectives, and input, we also engage with Rec Vic's First Peoples' Cultural Council.

Our Purpose

Rec Vic's purpose is to provide leadership in the movement to build support, understanding, and action to achieve genuine and meaningful reconciliation in Victoria.

Meaningful reconciliation has many elements including raising awareness of the causes and realities of colonisation's impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, addressing racism, supporting the processes of Treaty, and truth-telling, and working for fairness and social justice.

Our Vision

All Victorians acknowledge our shared history and the ongoing impact of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and collectively journey towards genuine reconciliation that is fair, just, respectful, and transformative.

Our Mission

To bravely lead reconciliation across Victoria.

Our Values

- We are brave
- We are informed by Aboriginal and Torres Islander Voices
- We stand strongly against racism
- We listen, reflect, and act
- We value reciprocity and collaboration
- We include all Victorians

Board Members

Aunty Gina Bundle OAM
First Nations Co-Chair

Andrew Gunstone
Non-Indigenous Co-Chair

Keith Gove
Secretary

Tony Stephen
Treasurer

Tom Cazaly
Fiona Machin
Nicole Bloomfield
Jamey Peterson
Shankar Kasynathan
(from 10 June 2026)

First Peoples' Cultural Council Members

Aunty Vicki Clark OAM
Aunty Gina Bundle OAM
Uncle Tony McCartney
Aunty Karen Lovett
Daniel Ross
Maylene Slater-Burns

Staff

Alistair King *CEO*

Clare Corbet
Program Officer

Vicky Grosser
LRG Support Officer

Emily Hui
Education Officer

Peter Redden
Event Co-ordinator (March to May 2026)

Volunteers

Julie Cattlin
Greg Davies
Tess Burton
Susy Barry
Lauren Thomas
Veronica Hassett
Kelly Ziccone
Olivia Giannios

Message from the Co-Chairs

Aunty Gina Bundle OAM and Prof Andrew Gunstone





2025-26 was an historic year for reconciliation in Victoria with the state becoming the first jurisdiction to implement the Voice, Treaty, and Truth components of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

In July 2025, the Yoorrook Justice Commission's final reports were tabled in State Parliament. The Yoorrook Justice Commission was the nation's first Indigenous-led truth commission. In December 2025, Victoria became the first place in Australia to enact a Treaty with Indigenous peoples. Both of these transformational initiatives were led by the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria, the democratically elected body for Indigenous Victorians.

Rec Vic has been active in supporting Treaty since 2018 when we partnered with the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission in delivering Treaty community roadshows. We have continued to promote Treaty, particularly in the lead up to the tabling of the Treaty Bill, when we published an open letter to MPs signed by over 50 organisations urging that they support the Bill.

Unfortunately, the triumph of enacting Treaty has been impacted by a possible threat to its continued existence, pending the outcome of the upcoming State election. Rec Vic is continuing to campaign strongly for Voice, Treaty, and Truth in the lead up to the election.

Distressingly, there has also been a further rise in racism, hatred, and violence against First Peoples. This prompted the establishment of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into these areas. Rec Vic made a submission to the Inquiry, in particular highlighting the capability and potential role of Local Reconciliation Groups to educate the non-Indigenous community about racism and strategies to address it.

A standout achievement of the year was the bringing into being of Australia's first multicultural local reconciliation group – the Brunswick Circle. Board member Shankar Kasynathan conceived and was the driving force behind the group which had its initial meeting in June. That meeting clearly demonstrated the deep commitment from multicultural communities to First Peoples matters and pointed the way to their greater involvement in reconciliation in future.

We'd like to strongly commend the outstanding work of the Rec Vic Team led by Alistair King during the year, as well as the ongoing strategic leadership provided by the Board, and the invaluable guidance and wisdom from the Cultural Council.

Yours in reconciliation,
Aunty Gina Bundle OAM and
Professor Andrew Gunstone

Message from the CEO

Alistair King



In 2025-26, many of the financial challenges facing Rec Vic were brought under control as cost reduction and revenue initiatives put in place during 2024-25 began to bear fruit. While maintaining a prudent approach, we were able to start exploring exciting new opportunities to promote reconciliation in Victoria prior to the year's end.

The key theme during the year was advocating for the passing of the Treaty Bill. We initiated or assisted with several Treaty-related events, worked with other First Nations campaigners, published an open letter to MPs and promoted Treaty relentlessly via our social media channels.

Our work in the education space was revitalised and expanded following the appointment of Emily Hui as Education Officer in May 2025. Emily did an outstanding job in extending Rec Vic's reach and effectiveness in all Victoria's education sectors, promoting reconciliation, Truth-telling and Treaty.

Our Local Reconciliation Group (LRG) Support Officer, Vicky Grosser, partnered with the New Message Tree Alliance to deliver a moving and warm On-Country forum in November. In consultation with the LRG Working Group, she also initiated anti-racism training for LRGs and the formation of a Younger Allies Network which will be rolled out in 2026-27.

Clare Corbet, formerly Volunteer Program Coordinator, took on a broader role as Programs Officer during the year. In this capacity she played a central role in many of our key projects and events, including our National Reconciliation Week Breakfast, in addition to recruiting and managing our corps of volunteers.

We also initiated enhanced membership programs for Corporates and Local Government and experienced a steady growth in sign-ups. Many members took advantage of the RAP support available to them and participated enthusiastically in our Yarning Circles.

During the year Rec Vic became more active in our public advocacy and gained a higher profile through the publishing of position statements, open letters and media releases.

Rec Vic's Team deserves great credit for its professionalism, flexibility and resilience during a difficult period of change. The Team worked closely with the Board and Executive throughout the year whose insight, wisdom and support were greatly appreciated.

Alistair King

Treaty and Truth-telling

Treaty

Support for the passing of the Treaty Bill and defence of Treaty were the most important priorities of Rec Vic this year. We delivered and participated in a range of events and activities to increase non-Indigenous Victorians' understanding and support for Treaty.

In August 2025 we delivered the Talking Treaty Forum at Balam Balam in Brunswick. The event featured the Hon Natalie Hutchins, Minister for Treaty and First Peoples, Terry Garwood Deputy Secretary for First Peoples, Indi Clarke of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and Duean White of the Treaty Authority explaining the importance, purpose and functioning of Treaty.

Soon after, Rec Vic released an Open Letter to Victorian MPs urging them to support the Treaty Bill. The letter was co-signed by 52 Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs) and community groups. It was commended by both the Minister and Sheena Watt MP.

Our LRG Support Officer, Vicky Grosser, worked with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Uncle Charles Pakana of Victorian Aboriginal News (VAN) and Mitchell Shire on the planning and delivery in March 2026 of the Taungurung Treaty workshop. Rec Vic involved the Seymour Reconciliation Group/Allies Supporting Treaty who made a valuable contribution. Working together, the parties created powerful messaging and ways to engage local community organisations build their knowledge and capacity to provide Treaty education to the broader community.

The CEO wrote a letter to *The Age* editor responding to Ngarra Murray's article "Walk with us: Plea to stay on path to Treaty". The letter strongly supported Ngarra's plea and was published on 22 March.

Rec Vic undertook presentations on Treaty to organisations such as Anglicare and Port of Melbourne as well as speaking at community events and briefing a Japanese academic delegation that was interested in Treaty.

In June 2026, our Education Officer, Emily Hui, met with Gellung Warl to discuss the development of Treaty Education resources.

Through all this activity we took our lead from Gellung Warl and worked closely with the Together for Treaty campaign team.

Truth-telling

The landmark Yoorrook Justice Commission report was tabled in Parliament on 1 July 2025. The culmination of an epic journey to document the true history of Victoria, the tabling did not signify the end of the road, but the start of a new phase.

Rec Vic had worked to promote the work of Yoorrook in the lead up to the tabling and continued to push for acceptance and actioning of the Commission's findings following the tabling.

We also supported the National Walk for Truth undertaken by Travis and Renata Lovett in April and May of 2026. Emily worked with Travis and Renata to design a curriculum on truth-telling for schools to use. She also engaged with over 100 pre-schools, schools and tertiary education institutions located along the route of the National Walk encouraging them to join the Walk and utilise the curriculum.

Emily and other Rec Vic staff joined sections of the walk, sharing it via socials and our communications channels. A highlight was hosting a live Zoom session with Travis Lovett as he was walking. The session was joined by 220 students from Early Years to Secondary levels and their educators. Emily also live-streamed the final leg of the walk to Parliament House, Canberra, as well as recording a video for social media explaining the Walk in Cantonese.

Rec Vic was also active partnering with other organisations to promote truth-telling, including the National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice's Truth-telling Forum at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in September and the debut Victorian screening in February 2026 of the international award-winning documentary "Genocide in the Wildflower State", which exposed the racism, violence and forced assimilation carried out by successive Western Australian governments throughout much of the twentieth century.

Anti-racism

Racism against First Peoples has greatly increased since the 2024 Referendum, and it burst into public consciousness with the neo-Nazi attack on Camp Sovereignty on 31 August 2025. Rec Vic CEO, staff and volunteers attended Camp Sovereignty on the day following the attack, returning a few days later for Sovereignty Day Out and for the subsequent Wurundjeri Healing Ceremony. Rec Vic Board and staff members also took to the streets as part of the "Rally Against Racism/Sovereignty Never Ceded" event which took place in September.

Seeking ways to counter racism, Rec Vic began work on supporting LRGs to address racism at a local level, which led to development of a program and initial workshop in July 2026.

In June 2026, Rec Vic lodged a submission with the Federal Inquiry into Racism, Hate and Violence Directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Our submission highlighted the role Allies can play at a local level to support First Peoples and oppose racism.

Rec Vic was also active in the education sector, with the CEO and Education Officer undertaking training in Reconciliation South Australia's anti-racism teacher training program. They later met with the Department of Education to the discuss the possibility of bringing the program to Victoria. Emily also met with First Nations Incursions to discuss the development of their Anti-Racism Education program and provided consultation with links to resources, curriculum and suggestions.

In conjunction with Darebin Solidarity with First Peoples LRG, the CEO met with Uncle Alan Brown of the Fitzroy Stars Aboriginal Football/Netball Club to identify ways to address racism faced by players in that Club. Consultation was undertaken with Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth in relation to the Set the Standard campaign and the Centre for Multicultural Sport regarding the "Racism doesn't belong in our Sport' campaign.

The expertise of the Rec Vic Team was enhanced by anti-racism training done with First Nations experts Uncle Joel Wright, Yalin Darrang and Lee Couch.

Reconciliation in Education

Education is pivotal in shaping community understanding of the true history of our state and the need for social justice, self-determination and reconciliation. The appointment of Emily Hui as Education Officer in May 2025 greatly expanded and enhanced our work in the education sectors.

Narragunnawali

We continued our partnership with Reconciliation Australia (RA) to deliver the Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education program. We participated in a range of activities including:

- Narragunnawali Regional Network meetings
- the Progress Conference with RA
- meeting with the RA team and multicultural women leaders' delegation at Garma
- attending and supporting Narragunnawali's Learning Circles for schools and services with Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs)
- participating in Narragunnawali's Learn and Connect pilot, a program to support the embedding of reconciliation in education.

Emily participated in the launch of Independent Schools Victoria's Reconciliation Network and the Department of Education's Koorie Curriculum Clusters II Project showcase as well as working with schools across all sectors including:

- workshops with Nillumbik's Early Childhood Community of Practice
- a stall at the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English State Conference
- presentations to Goulburn Marrung Lead Network, Melbourne Grammar Grimwade, Wesley College St Kilda and the City of Kingston's Grow Together Early Childhood Conference.

STRIVE Committee

Rec Vic continued to lead the STRIVE (Sharing Truth and Reconciliation in Victorian Education) Committee which brings together First Nations education experts, peak education bodies, and education reconciliation champions to share ideas, explore collaboration and identify opportunities. A key focus of STRIVE is to reinforce the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies in the curriculum and the need to educate staff and school communities about cultural safety issues.

Rec Vic recruited key additional representatives to STRIVE, including:

- "It Takes a Village", the national voice of community-based early education and childcare
- University of Melbourne's Truth-Telling Pedagogies Lab
- The Ngarrngga Project, which focuses on Indigenous Knowledge education research, curriculum and teacher professional learning.

STRIVE members were delighted to hear from guest speakers including Uncle Charles Pakana from VAN, Zoe Upton from the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and Travis and Renata Lovett on truth-telling and the National Walk for Truth.

At the invitation of the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI), Emily co-presented to Taiwanese education delegates from the University of Tainan on embedding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cross-curriculum priority and Treaty.

Reconciliation in Education Projects

To further support Rec Vic's Educator members, Emily initiated a monthly newsletter to share the latest education news, resources and events. This included collaboration with stakeholders including Gellung Warl and VAEAI as well as Traditional Owners, Registered Aboriginal Parties and teacher associations.

The CEO and Education Officer completed training with Reconciliation South Australia on its Education, Action & Change anti-racism program for educators. They have subsequently been exploring ways to adapt the program to make it place-based for Victoria.

As discussed above, Emily developed curriculum resources to support truth-telling in conjunction with the National Walk for Truth. She supplemented these with a live online session with Travis Lovett attended by 220 participants from pre-school, primary and secondary schools and a livestream of the final walk to Parliament House in Canberra on YouTube.

Rec Vic supported the 2026 Darebin Schools Yarning Conference by taking a lead on its Professional and Cultural Learning session which included the City of Darebin and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The Learning will involve educators from 22 primary schools in July 2026.



Uncle Bill Nicholson Wurundjeri Corporation, guiding the Darebin Yarning Conference Cultural and Professional Learning Day.

Local Reconciliation Groups – LRGs

Victoria boasts a broad network of Local Reconciliation/Ally Groups (LRGs), which operate in a variety of ways depending on history, local circumstances and priorities.

Vicky Grosser, Rec Vic's LRG Support Officer, facilitates and supports this network, promoting the sharing of ideas and resources between groups and holding LRG-specific forums and skills-development events.

LRG membership and commitment is growing in many parts of Victoria.

Rec Vic engaged closely with LRGs throughout the year and ran the following events.

Talking Treaty Forum

As discussed above, this August 2025 Forum heard presentations from Terry Garwood, the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP, Indi Clarke and Duean White. The First Peoples Assembly Partnership & Ally Organiser also advised on Treaty messaging for local communities.

Shared Storytelling Forum

Rec Vic and the New Message Tree Alliance worked together to deliver a wonderful On-Country Shared Storytelling Forum in November 2025. Participants were Welcomed by Aunty Fay Muir and then learned about Boonwurrung history and culture with Jaeden Williams Briggs. Jaeden and members of the New Message Tree Alliance shared the Message Tree story before a short walk on Country.

The afternoon was dedicated to sharing personal stories and hearing about the experiences, learnings and ideas of other LRGs.

The day closed with a barbeque and yarning with Uncle Rob Bundle.

LRG Working Group meetings

Meetings were held in March 2026 for Metro/Naarm LRGs and Regional LRGs. Participants appreciated having time in breakout rooms to connect and share experiences. Each LRG then presented their key highlights and challenges, as well as giving updates on their actions in support of First Peoples and Treaty conversations held with their local community.

The LRG Working Group also met regularly throughout the year.

The key takeouts from the LRG and LRG Working Group meetings were that:

- LRG membership is ageing. Recruiting younger members is proving challenging. New approaches need to be explored to attract younger people to the movement.
- Many LRGs identify the need to become more skilled and confident at addressing racism directed towards First Peoples within their communities.

These takeouts have become key priorities for Rec Vic to progress in 2026-27 – exploration of ways to engage younger allies and supporting LRGs to become skilled and empowered to address racism in their local communities.

Brunswick Circle

One of the most significant steps forward of the year occurred in June 2026 with the first meeting of the Brunswick Circle.

The Brunswick Circle is Australia's first multicultural thematic reconciliation group, created to deepen connection, solidarity and shared action between migrant, refugee and First Nations communities.

Around 100 people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds attended the night which included inspiring interviews by Tasneem Chopra OAM with Uncle Charles Pakana, Maria Dimopoulos AM, Dr Judy Tang OAM, Lunorphare Folly, and Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM.

This launch marks the beginning of a new community-led space for conversation, reflection and action; one that centres relationship, reciprocity and a shared commitment to justice.

The Brunswick Circle was conceived and created by Rec Vic Board member Shankar Kasynathan who did an outstanding job in bringing this powerful idea to fruition.

Further meetings are being planned for 2026-27.





Left: Jaeden Williams Briggs (centre) and LRG representatives On-Country Shared Story Telling Forum.

Above: Shankar Kasynathan convening the inaugural Brunswick Circle.

Local Government

Local Government is in many ways the front line of reconciliation. Disappointingly there are signs that some local governments are stepping back from reconciliation, including reducing their Welcomes to Country, their flying of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and their awareness of the hurt associated with Invasion Day.

Since funding for the Maggolee program ceased in 2024, Rec Vic's involvement with local government has significantly reduced.

Rec Vic's CEO has continued to participate in Local Government First Nations Coordination meetings hosted by the Department of Government Services.

In response to the loss of funding for working in this space, Rec Vic launched its Local Government membership program in April 2026. After initial contact with all local governments in Victoria by email informing them of the benefits to be gained from the program, the CEO met with councils including the Cities of Melbourne, Geelong and Melton regarding membership and gained several sign-ups.

This program enables Rec Vic to continue to work with local government and promote reconciliation initiatives.

As discussed above, Rec Vic is also a partner with MAV and VAN in delivery of the Strengthening Councils' Treaty Awareness and Information Pilot Project.

This partnership has worked with Boroondara Council in June 2025 and with Mitchell Shire in March 2026 on delivery of the Taungurung Treaty workshop.

Vicky was also a panellist on the Treaty Ready session at the MAV conference in October, discussing the role Rec Vic plays as a partner in this state-wide project.

Rec Vic received funding from the City of Merri-Bek to hold the first meeting of the Brunswick Circle in June 2026. This was a landmark event which established Australia's first multicultural reconciliation group.



Above: Mitchell Shire Strengthening Councils' Treaty Awareness Community Planning Workshop.

Corporate and Local Government Memberships

Rec Vic's enhanced Corporate Membership program was launched in December 2025 and was followed in April 2026 by our Local Government Membership program.

The purpose is to assist organisations to:

- gain access to reconciliation advice, support and development, including facilitated peer learning opportunities.
- demonstrate their values and leadership to staff and stakeholders.
- contribute to deeper understanding, respect and justice for First Nations Peoples across Victoria.

Members attend our Yarning Circles, receive free support with their Reconciliation Action Plan, First Nations program or related initiatives, access seminars and training opportunities and receive our monthly Member e-Newsletter.

As at 30 June we had 22 Corporate and Local Government members and had run our first Yarning Circle, kindly hosted by ANZ, which was enthusiastically received by participants.

Australian Reconciliation Network



Rec Vic is an active member of the Australian Reconciliation Network (ARN) which comprises state and territory reconciliation organisations and RA.

The CEO and Co-Chair attended the annual ARN Meeting in Newcastle, NSW in March 2026. The meeting was a valuable and highly collegiate forum for sharing ideas, fostering creativity and considering new approaches. The meeting also included an On-Country Walk and Yarn with a Traditional Owner.

The CEO also attended online meetings of the ARN throughout the year.

Left: Australian Reconciliation Network Annual Meeting On-Country Walk and Yarn.









Top: NRW Breakfast speakers – Alistair King, CEO Reconciliation Victoria, Christine Couzens MP, Parliamentary Secretary for First Peoples, Sue-Anne Hunter, National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, Prof Andrew Gunstone, Co-chair of Reconciliation Victoria, Karen Mundine, CEO Reconciliation Australia, Uncle Charles Pakana Editor and Journalist Victorian Aboriginal News, Shelley Cable, Head First Nations Strategy (Australia) ANZ.

Middle: NRW Small Grants Program successful applicant Darebin Netball Association.

Below: Alistair King, CEO and Prof Andrew Gunstone, Co Chair Reconciliation Victoria at Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service 2026.

National Reconciliation Week 2026

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is held annually between 27 May and 3 June.

NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Rec Vic proudly hosted the 2026 NRW Breakfast at ANZ Centre Docklands on 29 May 2026.

The event was very successful, beginning with a powerful Welcome to Country by Uncle Perry Wandin and outstanding presenters including Sue-Anne Hunter, National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, Christine Couzens MP, Parliamentary Secretary for First Peoples, Karen Mundine, CEO Reconciliation Australia and Prof Andrew Gunstone, Co-chair of Reconciliation Victoria.

Pirritu provided a moving musical introduction which was followed by a welcome to the venue by Ken Adams, Group General Counsel, ANZ.

Uncle Charles Pakana was, as ever, the consummate MC.

The success of the Breakfast was due to a great team effort, with the expert leadership of Peter Redden and the excellent organisational work of Clare Corbet at its foundation.

The NRW Small Grants Program ran again in 2026 with funding from Reconciliation Australia.

Rec Vic received 72 applicants (double the 2025 number) from many different groups and organisations. A small working group determined which would receive funding from the $10,000 provided by RA.

The working group gave priority to projects that best embodied the 2026 theme 'All In for Reconciliation' by delivering open community events and reaching out to people who may not usually get involved in reconciliation activities. We also favoured projects providing resources and information that people could use beyond the week of NRW.

Ultimately 14 projects were selected to receive a grant of either $500 or $750. These included schools, early childhood organisations, sports clubs, local arts, reconciliation and ally groups.

Rec Vic also laid a wreath at the Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service, attended the NRW Long Lunch as guests of RA, and staffed a stand at Birrarung Marr prior to the *Walk to the G,* then participated in the walk itself.

NAIDOC Week 2026

The theme of NAIDOC Week 2026 was *50 Years of Deadly*, marking a milestone and paying tribute to the people who built the movement – the Elders, the organisers, the artists and the communities.

The Rec Vic Board and staff attended NAIDOC Week events including the Annual Flag Raising Ceremony, NAIDOC State Reception and NAIDOC March.





Top: NAIDOC Reception.

Left: Rec Vic Volunteers, staff and board members at NAIDOC March 2026.

Below: Rec Vic Staff and Board members Clare Corbet, Andrew Gunstone, Alistair King and Tony Steven with Travis Lovett at Share the Spirit Festival.

January 26

Rec Vic is committed to the promoting respectful alternative approaches for marking January 26. You can read our position statement, protocols and suggestions on January 26 on our website.

Rec Vic published a statement in the lead up to January 26, 2026 urging Victorians to learn about our shared history, recognise and honour the achievements of First Peoples, and support our national celebration being held on a different day – not on a day that is a day of mourning for so many.

The Rec Vic team proudly stood in solidarity with First Peoples at the 2026 Invasion Day Rally and staffed an information stand at the Share the Spirit Festival.



Communications and Social Media

Statements, Media and Open Letters

Recognising the importance of publicly supporting First Peoples and opposing racism, Rec Vic became increasingly active in issuing statements and open letters including:

- an open letter to Victorian MPs urging them to support Treaty in September 2025. 52 organisations signed the letter.
- a statement welcoming the Victorian Government's Apology to First Peoples in December 2025.
- a position statement on January 26, published 7 January 2026.
- CEO letter to Editor of *The Age*, published 23 March 2026 supporting Ngarra Murray's plea to "Walk with Us: Plea to Stay on Path to Treaty".
- a statement on racist posts on social media, June 2026.
- a media release on launch of the Brunswick Circle June 2026.
- a statement on One Nation following Senator Hanson's National Press Club address, June 2026.

e-Newsletters

April 2026 saw the publishing of the last edition of the traditional format of Reconciliation News. From May 2026 we switched to a What's On bulletin which is sent to subscribers, and Reconciliation News, featuring more in-depth commentary and information, emailed to individual, Corporate and Local Government members of Rec Vic.

Publication	*2025 subscribers*	*2026 subscribers*	*% change*
eNews / What's On	4,298	6,230	+45%
Members Reconciliation News	N/A	227	N/A

Social Media

2025-26 saw significant growth in our social media presence. Credit goes to the diligence of our Communications Officer Daniel Devlin (until November 2025) and our Education Officer, Emily Hui, in ensuring we maintained a steady flow of communications with our followers.

Instagram: Our new Instagram account experienced major growth, with the top items being collaborative posts including:

- Invasion Day Rally (five collabs)
- National Walk for Truth Livestream (four collabs)
- National Walk for Truth – *Are you ready?* (three collabs)
- Indigenous Women Scientists (two collabs)
- NRW Breakfast (three collabs)

LinkedIn: Our LinkedIn account also achieved strong growth of nearly 30%.

Facebook: Facebook is our most established platform, and experienced 11% growth in followers.
Facebook followers increased most significantly at three points:

- November 2025 following the Neo-Nazi attack at Camp Sovereignty
- January 26
- June 2026 with the launch of the Brunswick Circle.

The most viewed Facebook items were:

- Victorian Statewide Treaty
- Brunswick Circle
- Genocide in the Wildflower State screening
- Rec Vic's statement on One Nation
- Did you know about Aboriginal Languages in Victoria?

YouTube: We did not publish significant new material on Youtube during the year and as a result saw a major reduction in views.

In addition to its own accounts, Rec Vic also administers a Victorian Reconciliation Group Network Facebook account, which had around 740 members at 30 June.

Platform	*2025 followers*	*2026 followers*	*% change*
LinkedIn	1,814	2,342	+29%
Facebook	7,204	7,962	+11%
Instagram	176	785	+346

Platform	*2025 views*	*2026 views*	*% change*
YouTube	4,877	1,028	−79%

Acknowledgements

Reconciliation Victoria would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following organisations: State Government Victoria Department of Premier and Cabinet, Reconciliation Australia, ANZ and BHP.

We also acknowledge the support of our association membership and our corporate and local government members: APA, AITSL, Energy Australia, Engineers Australia, Gilbert and Tobin, City of Greater Geelong, GWM Water, Hassell Melbourne, Melba Support Services, City of Melbourne, City of Melton, Metro Trains, Nillumbik City Council, The Social Research Centre, St John of God Health Care, Towong Shire Council and Yarra Valley Water.

We'd also like to thank Channel 31, and all our dedicated Corporate, Local Government and individual members.

We would like to especially thank Uncle Charles Pakana of Victorian Aboriginal News for the splendid work he does and the exceptional support he provides to Rec Vic.

Our sincere thanks to the 35 Local Reconciliation Groups (LRGs) which have done work of critical importance in supporting Treaty, Truth-telling and reconciliation in their local communities. For a list of LRGs, please visit our website.

We extend our appreciation to individuals, organisations, and businesses who have engaged with our work and have sought our support to ensure they are active contributors to positive interpersonal and societal change.

Most importantly, we thank our team of dedicated and committed staff and volunteers for their invaluable work and excellence in delivering our projects, campaigns, events and communications.

Farewell and Thank You

In 2025-26, we farewelled members of the Rec Vic family who have supported, guided, and contributed so much to our organisation and to the cause of reconciliation in Victoria.

Staff members:
Daniel Devlin, Communications Officer
(until November 2025)
Melissa Lowe, Membership Project Officer
(from June to October 2025)

Acronymns

ARN	Australian Reconciliation Network
LRG	Local Reconciliation Group
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
NRW	National Reconciliation Week
RA	Reconciliation Australia
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
STRIVE	Sharing Truth and Reconciliation in Victorian Education
VAN	Victorian Aboriginal News
VAEAI	Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc

reconciliation



victoria

For more information visit **www.reconciliationvic.org.au**
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