



City of  
**STONNINGTON**

# Summary of Reconciliation Action Plan

**YEAR ONE AND TWO  
2018 – 2020**



# Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri People and offer our respects to the Elders past and present. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.



**The City of Stonnington's Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–2020 documents our ongoing commitment to building and maintaining a strong and respectful relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our community.**

Through acknowledgement and ongoing programs we seek to foster awareness and respect for the people and their culture, and we honour the many contributions the indigenous community has made in shaping history.

Reconciliation, respect and cultural awareness are at the forefront of what we stand for in Stonnington, and I am proud to share how we are progressing towards achieving the goals outlined in the Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–2020.



**Jacqui Weatherill**  
CEO, City of Stonnington



# Year One Key Achievements

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Support, celebrate and participate in significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events including:

- » Hosted Reconciliation week celebrations in partnership with Prahran Market. Displayed Banners on the outside of Malvern Town Hall to celebrate NAIDOC week featuring local artist Christinaray Nadja Weetra art.
- » Local Aboriginal artist mentors Uncle Les and Christinaray Nadja Weetra, facilitated creative art workshops at Prahran Community Learning Centre, Horace Petty Estate and Prahran High School and Windsor Primary School. The young people's art work created went on to become the exhibition pieces for the NAIDOC art show at Chapel Off Chapel.
- » Cultural consultations for the commission of public artwork/markers for the Yarra River Bio Diversity Project commenced.
- » Cultural consultations were completed as part of the masterplan project for Gardiners Creek Parkland
- » Smoking Ceremonies and Welcome to Country at events were held at the Hub to support children who identify as Aboriginal through daily programs – this was a collaboration with Council's Middle Years and Youth Services, Indigenous service providers and the Working Together Network.
- » Aboriginal Heritage walks were introduced as part of Aged services Alfresco Easy Walkers Program.



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## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training delivered, including induction training for all new employees including:

- » Over 190 members of Council staff received in house cross cultural training over the past 12 months including Cultural Awareness Training for Aged Services delivered by Boon Wurrung Foundation. Cultural Awareness training for the Statutory Planners' general staff meeting conducted by Parbinarta Carolyn Briggs and Boonwurrung CEO Gerhan Steel.
- » Early years teaching staff were provided capacity building and respectful learning environments training to promote appropriate cultural teaching and learning resources at our early years centres.
- » Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VASCAL) delivered a number of staff cross cultural safety training sessions including for all Family and Children's Early Years educators. Each of the Stonnington Childcare Centres were presented with a collection of story books from Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri elders and authors as well as storybooks that tell a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contemporary stories to support culture and truth telling history. Each of the book collections were wrapped in an originally designed painted calico book bag, painted by Christinaray Nadja Weetra.

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## Development of commercial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses in Stonnington

- » Developed procurement relationships with over 20 new Indigenous businesses.
- » A collaboration with John Holland and Metro Tunnel RIA and support from Youth services team saw two young people complete their Certificate in Rail Infrastructure and transition into full time work.
- » Ongoing engagement of headline performers such as Casey Donovan, Christina Anu and Isaiah Firebrace for Council festival and cultural events including Carols at Como and the jazz festival. Glow Winter Lights Festival also featured Indigenous Artwork installations.



# Year Two Key Achievements

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Support, celebrate and participate in significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events including:

- » Celebrated Reconciliation Week 2020 with a heartfelt community Acknowledgement of Country video released on Stonnington Council face book page receiving over 2800 views.
- » Developed two cultural walks connecting local community to Gardiners Creek hosted by Council's Environment Department. This included education on what the area means to Traditional Owners and how people can recognise and respect the area where they live. The walks included an ecology or biodiversity focus.
- » Participated in cultural consultations with Wurundjeri, 15 October 2019, for the commission of public artwork and markers for the Yarra River Biodiversity Project.
- » Stonnington Libraries hosted a book chat at home featuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors.
- » Prahran square commissioned Indigenous artist Fiona Foley to create the "Murnalong" (Boon Wurrung word for Bee) sculptures.
- » Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony delivered at the opening for Prahran Square by Gerhan Steel.
- » Traditional Owner consultations continued as part of the Gardiners Creek master plan with the Boonwurrung Foundation and Wurundjeri Tribe Council.
- » Josh Wanganeen provided an inspirational presentation to staff at a morning tea in July 2020.
- » Consulted with the Traditional Owners in Stonnington regarding a new Nature Play Program and handbook publication that will be released July 2020 as part of the Stonnington Sustainable Schools Program. The purpose of the program is to encourage kids to connect with nature across kinders in Stonnington.
- » The Mayor presented two local students from Stonnington Primary School and Toorak Primary School with an award from the Koorie Arts Project in December 2019.
- » Council's early learning educators were connected with Traditional Owners to develop curriculum and incorporated traditional language emersion in early learning centres curriculum.
- » Youth Services initiated an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artist mentoring with young people to facilitate a street art project.

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## Enhance our internal process to be inclusive and further strengthen our commercial relationships with and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses in Stonnington

- » Economic Development Department completed benchmarking activity May 2020.
- » Council's Middle Years and Youth Services (MYYS) partnered with Metro Tunnel to support two young people complete their Certificate in Rail Infrastructure and transition into full time work.
- » People and Safety Department initiated engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff on employment strategies including professional development to increase workforce participation.
- » A review of Council's Procurement Policy commenced in June 2020 to identify if there are opportunities to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.
- » Reviewed organisation protocols guiding the use of Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of country.

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## Increase staff cultural competency, and promote and advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities:

- » Stonnington became a member of the newly established Southern Region Aboriginal Liaison Officer Working Group established in September 2019.
- » RAP Advisory Group inception meeting was held on 15 July 2020.
- » Stonnington has forged procurement relationships with over 20 businesses in 2019–2020
- » Cultural Awareness training facilitated by Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL) as part of the Diversity Training Program for interested staff across Council
- » Over 120 members of Council staff participated in cross-cultural training.



# Focus areas for the future

- » Continue to engage community in celebrating significant cultural events
- » Consult and develop the next Reconciliation Action Plan
- » RAP Advisory Committee to meet