



# Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation Victoria Inc.

# Annual Report

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# Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation in Victoria - Chairperson's Report

## Administration/Management Committee Issues

At last years AGM the following people were elected to the Management Committee  
Peter Lewis (Chair), Maurice Ferdinando (Treasurer), Ken Blackman (Secretary), Tim Harding (Public Officer), Angus Frith, Vic Say, Sue Ferdinando, Kate Gillespe-Jones, Peter Harvey, Graham Ring with Gary Harper as co-option and Basil Varghese as Brotherhood of St Laurence liaison. Since then Vic Say has resigned. Fiona Young has continued her work as Office Coordinator. Frank Hytten has continued as the Fanning the Flames/Talking Treaty Project Coordinator. Bryan Andy left us as our Community Education Worker earlier in the year for work with ATSIC and more recently the brighter lights of the stage.

We particularly pay tribute to the efforts of Fiona as she leaves us and heads for Papua New Guinea to work as an Australian Volunteer for a couple of years. Fiona has increased the effectiveness of our engagement with the general community and our email systems for members.



We also thank and pay tribute to Vic for his efforts on the Co-ordinating Committee and in his role as Groups Co-ordinator, Ken Blackman for merchandise, Tim for moderating the native-title egroup and his public officer work, the Communications Subcommittee, the Policy Subcommittee and all our volunteers/members who are active in so many ways.

The Brotherhood has continued to provide free office space, computers and assistance with basic overhead costs as well as assisting us in fundraising. Basil has been intricately involved in our work - not only at the level of liaising with the Brotherhood and attending Management Committee meetings - but also as a member of the Fanning The Flames of Reconciliation Project Subcom-

## ANTaR Vic. Activities In 2003

### Treaty Campaign

ANTaR Victoria received full funding for our three-year community education program Fanning the Flames of Reconciliation from the Community Support Fund earlier in the year. Frank will report on its progress at the AGM.

Frank, bryan earlier in the year, myself, Sid and others have continued to be the face of ANTaR Victoria at local meetings, conferences and forums including the very successful Whitehorse Deliberates.

We have made various media releases on treaty and native title issues. We also made a submission (thanks Tim Harding and Graham Ring) to the Senate Inquiry into the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).

### Yorta Yorta Support

Our key local focus this year has been supporting the Yorta Yorta Nations search for land justice through events, media stunts, lobbying and media releases. The Survival Day Weekend in the Barmah-Millewa Forrest last January involved over a thousand people and was a great success. A supporter's statement made at the weekend was given to the State Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. We also participated in a vigil outside an official Diversity Dinner, built a bridge at State Parliament in protest at the proposed new Echuca Bridge and were involved in a

fundraising concert during Reconciliation Week.

### Other

We have initiated and/or participated by entering into partnerships with  
- the Victorian Sorry Day Committee to help out with Sorry Day  
- National Youth Reconciliation Convention Inc. - to run forums for young people in Victoria - a successfully forum for 80 students was held at Australian Catholic University in June  
- a closer working relationship with Reconciliation Victoria and Reconciliation Australia, we have representation on the Reconciliation Victoria board and now a memorandum of understanding,  
- a variety of community groups including Reconciliation Victoria for the "Imagine: Rights, Justice and Reconciliation" picnic in the Treasury Gardens event last December 8 to mark the tenth anniversary of former Prime Minister Paul Keating's Redfern Speech.

### Future Plans

2004 looks like a big year for ANTaR Victoria as our Fanning the Flames Project begins to grow in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Our Yorta Yorta campaign is likely to step up a notch. As always issues around native title, land justice and treaty will continue to occupy our time as we reach deeper into local communities to promote justice for Indigenous peoples in Victoria.

Peter Lewis, Chairperson

# ANTaR VICTORIA and its SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

## Visits to NGO's and other Community Organisations for ANTaR Victoria

### A Report for the ANTaR Victoria AGM on 18 October 2003

As a result of the change of the Rules of Association of ANTaR Victoria at the 2002 AGM to allow for organisations to affiliate, a small group was formed to approach supporting organisations of ANTaR Victoria asking them to consider continuing their support as affiliated organisations.

The tasks of the group in talking to the organisations were:

- a. to ask if they would affiliate or prefer to continue on the Register of Supporting Organisations, and in either case would they support ANTaR Vic financially;
- b. to enquire about their Indigenous related policies and offer assistance in developing these if needed;
- c. to enquire about their Indigenous related activities and offer resources such as an information kit, speakers, articles etc. if requested;
- d. to learn more of the work the organisations are doing in Indigenous related areas and pass on such information to ANTaR members
- e. to develop means of recognising affiliates, eg a certificate



**ANTaR Chairperson Peter Lewis hard at work.** Peter is a 'Wizard of Oz' "Scarecrow" at a protest in support of the Yorta Yorta's opposition to a bridge being built across culturally sensitive land in Echuca. (3/6/2003)

Members of the group are: Ken Blackman, Peter Harvey, Janet Hunt and Diana Pittock, with assistance from Frank Hytten and Fiona Young.

#### Results to date:

They have so far visited 11 organisations. The results have been mixed regarding the above tasks, such as:

- ♦ a. None visited have so far affiliated. A few other organisations have.
- ♦ b. One has revised its vision statement to focus more on its Indigenous related work and philosophy
- ♦ c. Another has had Frank Hytten speak at a meeting as the result of the visit
- ♦ c. With another we assisted in a conference they held
- ♦ c. One is now moving towards support for significant Aboriginal participation in its core area concern
- ♦ c. & e. A kit and certificate have been prepared
- ♦ d. A report on some of the organisations' work was reported to the April ANTaR Vic. committee meeting, and it is hoped to report more in a future ANTaR Vic newsletter.

What has been most impressive is to hear about the awareness and work of the organisations on Indigenous related issues, eg:

- > At the Carers Association Victoria the two stage training on Indigenous awareness for all staff was notable;
- > Australian Volunteers International has some joint work with Aboriginal people in terms of making links with people from other countries as well as having a few Aboriginal volunteers working overseas.
- > The Koori Committee of the Australian Education Union is continually working on issues of Indigenous education. This includes support for Koori students, teachers and teacher trainees, curriculum and structural issues regarding schools and education.

As a result of the slow response for affiliation, the group decided that a formal letter from ANTaR Victoria inviting affiliation should be sent to supporting organisations. This was done in September and we are awaiting results.

It should be noted that some organisations can not affiliate because of their purpose or constitution. Others, such as Aboriginal organisations have not been asked for financial support. However, in these cases it is still relevant to be sending our newsletter, Unfinished Business, and other information to them.

The issue of connection to ANTaR Victoria or to ANTaR National has caused some confusion:

*With which should membership of and/or support by organisations be?*

*What constitutes support?*

ANTaR Victoria now has clarified its situation regarding affiliation. It appears that support and relationship with ANTaR National is not so clear.

# Treasurers Report

The excellent bookkeeping and accounting systems used by the BSL has helped us to maintain good financial records. Fiona Young has greatly assisted me in preparing and presenting of the monthly reports to the committee and in the preparation of this report. Isla McLeod, Eleanor Dilley and Sue Ferdinando have helped Fiona with the membership database and the related bookkeeping. These volunteers help the paid staff do other tasks and help us keep costs down. The Frank Hytten, with the help of the FTF committee has ensured that the Community Support Fund money was spent according to requirements of the funding authority. The financial contribution of the CSF will be increasing significantly over the next year.

Setting aside the FTF Project, we are barely meeting expenses, with membership at a plateau and donations well down. ANTaR Victoria committed itself to raising \$137,731 over the three-year life of the FTF Project (approx \$40,000 in the first year) as our contribution to the project. In the past, we have managed to maintain donations and grants from organisation with aims similar to ours. The amount budgeted for the calendar year of 2003 has not been generated. With ANTaR, obtaining CSF funding we may have created an impression that we do not need more finances, we need to communicate more effectively to these allied NGOs that the funding we obtained is dependent on our raising part of it ourselves..

Thanks also go out to Ken Blackman who with a few willing volunteers tried to get this raising of funds from NGOs started. The Spindler's contributions in this area are also appreciated.

Generating approximately \$40,000 a year by increasing membership or member donations seems unrealistic. New

memberships do help, but members can best assist by making donations (which are not subject to GST) or by encouraging organisations, community or faith groups to which they belong to make donations or grants, or assist in the work of ANTaR Victoria by mutual activities or shared resources.

The BSL provided ANTaR Victoria with an office, computers, postage, printing, photocopying etc to conservatively estimated at \$10,883 in 2002-03. Basil Varghese the liaison with BSL helped us maintain excellent working relationship with our host office.

A major issue this year has been the problem of obtaining public liability insurance. We were unable to obtain this in the last financial year (and hence it does not show in the figures) but we now have this and are able to cover registered groups for their activities. The cost of this item alone had gone up by 300 %.

Kate Gillespie-Jones and Rosemary Iacono organised our recent film night fundraiser. Ken Blackman made some money for us by selling merchandise. Laudable as they are, these efforts are not enough, The Coordinating committee has to look at this as a priority area and concentrate on setting up a structure to deal with the serious question of fundraising. Of course, any volunteers for this task will be most welcome.

The format used for the balance sheet, statement of Cash Flow and the budget makes comparisons with past years easy. I do not wish to analyze them further except to once more point out that the budget is balanced by generating grants and donations to counter our contributions to CSF. I implore that a structure be setup to generate these funds as number one priority.

Maurice Ferdinando

## **ANTaR Vic Inc** **Budget 12 months January-Dec 2004** **Income**

Membership Subscriptions		12,000
Donations (incl form Support orgs)		12,000
Merchandise		7,000
Fundraising functions (eg Quiz Night, concert) nett		4,000
Bank Interest		500
Grants	ANTaR National	8,000
	Foundations, trusts	37,000
	Community Support Fund	176,378
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>256,878</b>

## **Expenditure**

Office staff		20,828
Newsletter		4,000
Public Liability Insurance		3,000
Merchandise		5,000
Petty Cash		200
Office and Computer Expenses		1,200
Publications, newspapers		150
Conferences, seminars (staff and/or members)		500
Contribution to FTF Project		46,050
FTF Project		176,378
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>257,306</b>

**Surplus/Defecit** - **428**

**AUSTRALIANS FOR NATIVE TITLE AND RECONCILIATION (VIC) INC**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS -**  
**FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 2003**

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
	\$	\$	\$
<b>RECEIPTS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS	15,153	10,124	9,696
DONATIONS	16,006	13,334	5,713
MERCHANDISE	15,341	6,705	5,085
GRANTS - Myer Foundation	25,000	24,000	-
- Reichstein Foundation	7,000	-	15,000
- ANTaR National	7,500	6,239	8,443
Community Support Fund			61,985
- Melbourne City Council	2,169	1,980	-
BANK INTEREST	306	423	607
SEA OF HANDS WALK	2,182		-
TREATY QUIZ NIGHT	-	6,027	-
GST - Received	-	169	65
OTHER	-	714	-
DONATIONS TO YORTA YORTA WEEKEND			1,175
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>90,655</b>	<b>69,715</b>	<b>107,668</b>
<b>PAYMENTS TO SUPPLIERS &amp; EMPLOYEES</b>			
COMMUNITY EDUCATION	21,083	9,953	-
NEWSLETTER	5,272	1,032	1,450
WORKCOVER INSURANCE & PUBLIC LIABILITY	846	1,231	-
AUSTRALIA POST	3,852	142	15
ADVERTISING		450	-
TELSTRA	1,238	-	-
MERCHANDISE MATERIALS	16,273	4,531	5,130
ACCOMODATION	2,213	-	-
OFFICE WAGES	9,221	19,266	16,657
PHOTOCOPYING	596	204	-
SOH WALK	4,032	-	-
PETTY CASH	450	200	100
VOLUNTEER TRAVEL	166	-	-
OFFICE & COMPUTER EXP	784	1,119	1,636
MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS	72	96	156
GST - Paid	107	-	-
BANK CHARGES	529	270	714
TREATY QUIZ NIGHT	-	4,194	-
TREATY PROJECT	-	21,010	48,860
PLANNING DAY	-	507	500
CONFERENCES			268
IMAGINE DAY			170
TREATY CONFERENCE SUBSIDY			600
YORTA YORTA WEEKEND			5,114
FANNING THE FLAMES PROJECT- CSF			20,559
NATIVE TITLE PROJECT			2,000
WEBSITE PROJECT			700
POSTERS			1,036
			-
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>66,733</b>	<b>64,205</b>	<b>105,226</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE ) IN CASH HELD</b>	<b>23,922</b>	<b>5,510</b>	<b>2,443</b>
<b>CASH AT BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>18,256</b>	<b>42,178</b>	<b>47688</b>
<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>42,178</b>	<b>47,688</b>	<b>50,131</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF CASH</b>			
CASH AT BANK	22,178	27,688	6,226
SHORT TERM DEPOSIT	20,000	20,000	12,472
BSL FTF ACCOUNT			31,426
	<b>42,178</b>	<b>47,688</b>	<b>50,124</b>

<b>AUSTRALIANS FOR NATIVE TITLE AND RECONCILIATION (VIC) INC</b>							
<b>BANK RECONCILIATIONS</b>							
<b>AS AT 30 TH JUNE 2003</b>							
					<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
					<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CASH AT BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>					<b>18,256</b>	<b>42,178</b>	<b>47,688</b>
<b>RECEIPTS FOR YEAR</b>					<b>90,655</b>	<b>69,715</b>	<b>107,668</b>
					<b>108,911</b>	<b>111,893</b>	<b>155,356</b>
<b>PAYMENTS FOR YEAR</b>					<b>66,733</b>	<b>64,205</b>	<b>105,232</b>
<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>					<b>42,178</b>	<b>47,688</b>	<b>50,124</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION -</b>							
<b>BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENT 30/06/</b>					<b>22,391</b>	<b>28,012</b>	<b>5,514</b>
Add Deposits in Transit					-	229	1,442
Less Unpresented Cheques					261	312	125
Less Adjustment for Bank Error					(47)	241	605
<b>CASH ON HAND AT YEAR END</b>					<b>22,178</b>	<b>27,688</b>	<b>6,226</b>
<b>AMOUNT ON TERM DEPOSIT</b>					<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>12,472</b>
<b>BSL FTF ACCOUNT</b>							<b>31,426</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH AT YEAR END</b>					<b>42,178</b>	<b>47,688</b>	<b>50,124</b>

<b>AUSTRALIANS FOR NATIVE TITLE AND RECONCILIATION (VIC) INC</b>							
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>							
<b>AS AT 30 TH JUNE 2003</b>							
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>							
<b>Stock of Merchandise</b>					<b>8915</b>		
<b>Debtors</b>					<b>4437</b>		
<b>Cash in Hand</b>					<b>6,226</b>		
<b>BSL FTF account</b>					<b>31,426</b>		
<b>Term Deposit</b>					<b>12,472</b>	<b>63,476</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>							
<b>Sundry Creditor - BSL</b>					<b>4,465</b>		
<b>Annual Leave Provisions</b>					<b>2,006</b>	<b>6,471</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>						<b>57,005</b>	

# FANNING THE FLAMES OF RECONCILIATION PROJECT

**Prepared by: Frank Hytten 18th Oct  
03**

**Ph: 9419 3613**

## **Introduction**

The Fanning the Flames of Reconciliation Project (FtF Project) has been operational since the 1st of February 2003 - just under 9 months. It has been a very busy time, but the next phase of the project poses far greater challenges for the FtF Project and ANTaR Victoria. This report aims to highlight the key issues encountered over the last nine months and those anticipated over the next twelve months.

## **Activity & Issues to Date**

The work done to date falls into four broad groups. Firstly is the work at a local community level, secondly work with local government and thirdly, work at a state-wide level, in particular, with other non-government organisations (NGO's). Fourth is the ongoing administration of the project and of ANTaR Victoria.

To start with the last area first; the FtF Project Evaluation Advisory Group has worked hard on a brief that was offered to potential evaluators for the project. This group has since negotiated to engage Boarderlands Co-operative Inc to conduct the evaluation over the next two and a half years. Meanwhile the FtF Project Sub-Committee has most recently, been busy with the employment of two new Community Development staff for the project as well as a replacement for Fiona in the Office Coordinator role (half for the FtF Project and half for ANTaR Victoria). In addition the usual meetings, reports and liaisons (eg. with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence (BSL) and Reconciliation Victoria) have been undertaken.

At the level of the local community, our initial plan was to work with existing ANTaR groups in Moreland (Wills), Darebin (Batman) and Ballarat and gradually move into the local government areas (LGA's) of Hume, Moonee

Valley and Yarra. This process has been more difficult than anticipated because local ANTaR groups are already as active as they can be and where ANTaR groups do not currently exist (in the latter three LGA's), the work of creating energy and cohesion has proved a long and slow task. Nevertheless work is proceeding in small ways in all six areas, with connections gradually being developed with various other community loci such as Neighbourhood Houses, service groups, schools, 'Ethnic', Aboriginal and church groups and the Councils' themselves - in particular, the councils' Aboriginal Advisory Groups (however titled). In addition the FtF Project worker has presented at several meetings, workshops and conferences and been offered many additional leads, speaking engagements and opportunities to work with people towards genuine reconciliatory actions. The City of Knox for example requested ANTaR's support in the development of a consultation process and is now developing an Action Plan towards reconciliation.

Also at the local level, liaison with Aboriginal people has been a priority. The building of trusting relationships is a slow process, but one that is essential if our work is really to be guided by Aboriginal people. Attending meetings and functions, reading constantly and not playing politics is essential to this much longer term and foundational aim. Without trust, people cannot guide us and without trust, we cannot get on with OUR job, without feeling the need to consult endlessly - thereby pressuring and absorbing the very limited resources available in the Aboriginal community.

Work with local governments is extremely important. They are the level most likely to respond to Aboriginal concerns and aspirations, particularly in the areas in which we have chosen to work. Apart from the 'symbolic' gestures of 'acknowledgment' and 'welcomes to country', flag flying and 'Reconciliation Action Plans', it is conceivable

# FANNING THE FLAMES OF RECONCILIATION PROJECT (continued from page 7)

that it will be local governments that will be the first to actually do something. Such actions could include Indigenous Land Use Agreements, 'pay the rent' schemes and genuine local support in relation to access to housing, education, childcare and health.

Work at a state wide level includes liaison with Reconciliation Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Scouts and Guides, Landcare and the Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace, among others. Progress has been slow and limited by time and other resources, but has been evident in terms of policy input, commitments and attention. Much more needs to be done at this level, but we can only proceed at the pace set by NGO's themselves.

## CHALLENGES FACING US OVER THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

Our work will proceed in much the same directions over the next twelve months, albeit in potentially different ways. Our new workers will bring different skills, experiences and outlooks. Local governments will continue to develop ideas, initiatives and plans and we will continue to work quietly to influence and support these in context of our understanding of (based on our relationships with), the aspirations of local Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. The real challenge is to move these beyond the current levels of 'symbolic' gestures. We need to raise the discussion to the level of talking about how to ACHIEVE land justice and will continue to work towards building the type of relationships that will allow Indigenous people to give us honest feedback, guidance and direction.

Our work at the local community level will also continue, but we believe it must become more action oriented. That is, we need to finish every contact, presentation and workshop by offering options that people can act on - and with some means of getting a commitment from each participant or the

organisation, to DO something. The same applies to the work we do at the statewide and NGO level. Gentle follow-up and further supports will then occupy an increasing amount of our time.

As the evaluation takes shape, our challenge will be to assess the worth of our work towards a genuine Reconciliation, and not just to measuring our level of activity - by far the easier option. We are heading into somewhat uncharted waters here and will have to hold our nerve, as we will struggle to find relevant means for measuring quality. The evaluation process proposed is 'Action-Learning-Research' based and will therefore be a continuing, multi-layered process of feedback between all players over the next two and a half years. We may be challenged to rethink our way of working, and maybe even our aims.

## Conclusion

The ride so far has been bumpy and rough and often feeling like a wander through a dark and unfamiliar forest. But it has also always been interesting, challenging and deliberate. We look forward to the next twelve months by when we will have clearer answers to the many questions we still have about how to "DO" genuine reconciliation.

We invite your support and more importantly, your participation at the local level, in generating contacts, commitments and leads.



Frank Hytten fans the flames at Pyrenees Shire Council