

Stolen wealth games

ANTaR Victoria WELCOMES

all athletes and visitors to Melbourne

We hope you do your very best in the competition and enjoy the Games

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US

Celebrate with us the achievement of Indigenous people in Australia, who have succeeded in so many fields, despite the many hurdles placed in their way and against the odds. A number are members of the current Australian Commonwealth Games team. Others are artists performing in cultural festivities associated with the Games.

WHO WE ARE

ANTaR Victoria is an organisation of non-Indigenous people. We aim to support Indigenous people in their campaigns for justice. We have agreed to offer moral, logistic and resource support to the current Stolenwealth Games and Black GST actions. We are a non-profit, community based and primarily volunteer staffed organisation.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THAT

Indigenous people on this continent were once very wealthy. They had a thriving culture, coherent belief systems, lots of food, a rich ceremonial and social life and of course, very strong connections to the land and waters on which they lived and that was central to everything about being Indigenous

This wealth has been stolen. Indigenous people had thrived for over 60,000 years. Barely 200 years ago there were over 400 Indigenous Nations on this continent. Today Indigenous people in Victoria own less than .01% of the land. No war has been declared, no Treaty signed and no compensation offered.

Indigenous culture, land, language, belief systems, social structures and even children were stolen. Non-Indigenous institutions and individuals forced them off the lands on which they lived, disallowed their using their own languages, punished them for their belief systems, raped and/or massacred them, destroyed their kinship connections, removed their children, broke up families, clans and destroyed their social structures of law, authority and decision making

Deliberate policies of assimilation and denigration followed. These sanctioned both neglect and the 'turning of an official blind eye' to policies that created or allowed an innate racism in every aspect of the dominant legal and social structure. Specific policies even tried to 'whiten' Indigenous people to 'better' assimilate them. By virtually every statistic available, Indigenous people remain the most marginalized and disadvantaged group in this (new) nation Australia. Needless to say the consequences of such policies remain open wounds for many Indigenous people

Australia is one of the richest countries in the world. However, unlike comparable countries like New Zealand and Canada, Australia has made few inroads into the appalling state of Indigenous life. Unlike both of these countries, Australia has made no treaties with the original occupants who were dispossessed of their land and has allowed virtually no self-determination.

Australia's official stance remains one of unrepentant denial. Our Federal Government refuses to acknowledge facts, turns a deaf ear and blocks all attempts to negotiate genuinely with Indigenous people. The reality of this (now de facto) policy is that there has been no significant progress on any of the official statistics used to define well being for Indigenous people in the last 20 years. This is unacceptable.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help change the deliberate inertia of Governments and other institutions – in particular, the Australian Federal Government. Very simple actions that take very little time and cost next to nothing can make a difference!

DO NOT allow the successes to be used to gloss over the brutal reality of what most Indigenous Australians have to confront on a daily basis – racism, opportunities denied and lives tragically cut short.

Join us in calling upon the Australian Governments the many institutions that have been a part of the oppressing and exploiting forces in the past - churches, Unions, NGOs and those in the corporate world, to commit themselves to brokering genuine agreements which respect Indigenous self determination.

FOR OVERSEAS VISITORS

Please think about the people in your own country who have been disadvantaged by colonialism. The "Commonwealth" exists as an aftermath of the Empire, created by exploitation, war, theft, massacre, oppression and the destruction of Indigenous societies through the playing of endless games. Indigenous people around the world have suffered and **continue to suffer** as marginalised, exploited and lied to second-class citizens.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Only when our different histories and life circumstances are reconciled, can there be genuine unity within the Australian nation. We have put together a number of ideas you can use to support Indigenous people and more importantly, inform and activate non-Indigenous people to actively participate in working towards a genuine reconciliation.

- Check out the ANTaR Victoria website – www.antarvictoria.org.au
- Keep up to date with the Indigenous led events over the next three weeks - www.blackgst.com
- Join ANTaR Victoria or any other Reconciliation focused organisation – you will find links of the ANTaR Vic website
- Get a speaker or workshop presenter from ANTaR Vic. To come out to speak to your faith group, school, university class, union, staff team, local Council, branch meeting of your political party, workplace, sporting/hobby club, in fact any place, anytime. Talk to us – **(03) 9419 3613** (volunteer hours, please leave a message if unattended)
- Verbally acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which you meet, work, live or speak – suggested wording and location names are available from ANTaR Vic, or try - <http://www.antarvictoria.org.au/Recognition/>
- Use signage, flags and plaques to acknowledge and show support for Indigenous people – some of such material is available from <http://www.antarvictoria.org.au/catalog/index.php>
- Volunteer your time, donate your skills and offer your energy to Reconciliation focused organisations around Australia (and in most countries) and at State and local levels in Australia – check our website for links or ring us
- On the ANTaR Vic web site we have a “What do *they* want?” and a “So, what can *I* do?” information page – check it out and get started. It really IS easy. <http://www.antarvictoria.org.au/treaty/WhatCanIDo.html>



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