

# TREATY FOR VICTORIA







# **SOVEREIGNTY**

# **NEVER CEDED**



**FIRST PEOPLES'  
ASSEMBLY OF  
VICTORIA**





# First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Annual Report 2025

## WE PAY OUR RESPECTS

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay our deepest respects to all Elders, past and present.

Our work takes us through all Country in the area now known as Victoria, from the coast to the mountains, the rivers and the plains. We give thanks to all who welcome us to their unceded lands and waters, and further extend that gratitude to all First Peoples in Victoria who have generously offered their time, their ideas and their feedback to help guide this shared journey to Treaty.

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that the following publication may contain images of deceased persons.

Thanks to the photographers and artists for their assistance throughout the year and taking many of the photographs and artwork featured in this report:

Leroy Miller and Amina Briggs



# Statewide Treaty is almost here.

Rueben Berg & Ngarra Murray  
Co-chairs, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria



## HEY FRIENDS

We're the Co-chairs of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and this past year has been our biggest one to date! Whether you've been a part of this journey since the start, or just got on board, there is a lot to update you on.

We're proud to deliver this report on all the activities and progress that has been made and provide an update on what's to come on the journey to Treaty in Victoria.

In this last year, for the first time ever in this country, Treaty negotiations began between the Assembly and the State, with a ceremonial opening on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country in November 2024.

For over six years we've been collecting ideas from the Community. And now we're presenting them to Government and putting those ideas to action to get Treaty done.

It's an exciting time, being in a position to sit down with Government and begin to enact

real change for our Community. But as you can imagine, it is a huge body of work — and we have been taking it one step at a time.

Some of the key early discussions centred around transferring decision making powers about First Peoples into the hands of First Peoples, creating a mechanism for ongoing Truth-telling, and establishing an ongoing democratic body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria.

**We also want to make sure there is accountability built into Treaty, to ensure promises are kept.**

Coinciding with that, Traditional Owner groups have also made progress in establishing the pathways for their own Traditional Owner Treaties, which will reflect place based needs and aspirations. We've seen funding distributed through the Self-Determination Fund to assist these groups in progressing and organising themselves in their journey to Treaty too.

Throughout this report you'll be able to learn about some of the things we've been negotiating, but we also want to reiterate that Treaty is a living, breathing document, and this is just the first of what's to come.

**We will always be seeking input from Community to understand the needs, wants and desires of our people, and how Treaty can make them a reality.**

Since the Assembly was created in 2019, we've heard from tens of thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from every corner of the state.

It has been a huge culmination of six years of work by the Assembly, and many decades more by our Communities across Victoria before us.

We've made immense progress but are always conscious of the large body of work that is still yet to be done.

While we're proud of all the work we've been doing, we are always

looking to strengthen our position and get as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Victoria on board.

Whether you're a young person, an Elder, or somewhere in between, we encourage all of you to get enrolled and be part of Treaty.

We will have a significant Treaty Election coming up in the first half of 2026, and if you want to put yourself forward, or cast your vote on who you want to see on the Assembly, make sure you get enrolled now. It doesn't matter if your contribution is big or small, everything is valued.

**Treaty must reflect the staunch voices and trailblazers of our Community, past and present, and deliver real outcomes. We keep this in the front of our mind always, and will continue to do so as we negotiate Treaty.**

*Wurruk* — Rueben Berg

*Booyen* — Ngarra Murray





# Beginning of Treaty Negotiations

In a historic moment in 2024, negotiations began for Australia's first ever Treaty.

At a ceremony in November on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country in Melbourne at the Darebin Parklands, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian Government officially started negotiations for the first Statewide Treaty.

The event saw hundreds of Traditional Owners, Community, and allies gather around a ceremonial circle. Dancers from every region of Victoria then performed prior to the Premier, the Governor and Members of Cabinet arriving. Five fires were lit to Welcome visitors to the event.

Afterwards, the Assembly Co-chairs and the Premier spoke about the beginning of Statewide Treaty Negotiations.

Following the speeches, there was a performance by Uncle Kutcha Edwards and Amos Roach, as well as an exchange of cultural objects.



## SPEARS AND WOOMERA

Timmy Church, a Gunditjmara man of the Kerrupmara clan, created a set of Spears and a Woomera. They were created on Country and presented at the Ceremonial Opening of Treaty Negotiations.

The artwork on the Woomera is representative of the diversity of the Traditional Owner Groups, nations and clans we have in Victoria. Just like the Assembly.

The Woomera is an extension of us, an extra joint for our arm, to propel the spears forward. The Premier was presented with the Woomera for safe keeping.

Each spear in the set had a different head, symbolising different tools for different jobs. Those spears travelled back to Communities in different regions.

We presented these two items, Spears and a Woomera, because they are two things that get better outcomes when they are used together.



# THIS YEAR AND BEYOND

## BIG STEPS ON THE JOURNEY TO TREATY



### We declared we are ready to the Treaty Authority

In July 2024 the Treaty Authority held an event at Melbourne Museum to receive an official declaration from the Assembly. We declared we are ready to negotiate Statewide Treaty with the Victorian Government.



### Negotiations with Government begin!

Kicking off in November 2024 the Assembly began negotiating Australia's first Treaty with the Government. It began with setting the ground rules and establishing a process to negotiate further Treaties.



### Hosted our Statewide Treaty Gathering 2025 in Naarm

Following our big Treaty Gathering in Geelong in 2024, we hosted our second in Naarm at the MCG in March 2025. We saw hundreds of First Peoples from across the state come together to share their ideas and aspirations for Statewide Treaty.



### Held a series of ACCO and Traditional Owner Forums

Throughout 2025 we held a series of both ACCO and Traditional Owner forums to hear bespoke advice from the experts in each sector and area. For our Treaty to be strongest, we must seek advice from the people on the ground.



### ✓ Strengthening our Electoral Roll

Every year we grow our electoral roll, because we know our strength is in our numbers. Treaty is strongest when all our people are enrolled. Our roll is completely independent from Government, and it is owned and operated by the Assembly.

### ✓ Continue to empower our Communities towards Traditional Owner Treaties

Traditional Owner Groups have been increasing their level of readiness for their own Treaties. Through the Self-Determination Fund and the Treaty Authority Register, Traditional Owner Delegations are on the cusp of negotiating their own Treaties.

### ✓ Embedding our Culture into Treaty

In preparation for Treaty the Assembly has engaged with a variety of Traditional Owner artists and creatives to embed culturally significant elements and items within Treaty to represent our unbroken and significant Culture and Lore.

### ✓ Bringing young people and Elders together

Through both our Youth Forums and our Elders Group we continue to ensure every step of the journey to Treaty has oversight from both knowledge keepers, and future generations.

### ✓ Two Deadly concerts

We took Treaty Day Out to Gunaikurnai Country in Gippsland for 2025.

We saw the likes of A.B. Original, Troy Cassar-Daley, Electric Fields, 3%, Emily Wurramara and more spread the word of Treaty to thousands of First Peoples and allies.

We also held a joint festival with Wyndham City Council, a one-off Treaty in the Park event in Werribee on Wadawurrung Country headlined by Dan Sultan.

### ✓ Engaging and mobilising our allies

We continue to build our relationships with ally organisations across sectors to build support for Treaty in all communities.

Through education and campaigning, we are ensuring that everyone who calls Victoria home can learn about the history and importance of Treaty and take action to support it.









WE ARE THE FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA

NORTH WEST



JACINTA CHAPLIN  
Wadi Wadi and Wamba Wamba



JASON KELLY  
Mutthi Mutthi and Wamba Wamba



RODNEY CARTER  
Dja Dja Wurrung



MELISSA JONES  
Latje Latje and Jupagulk  
Reserved Seat holder representing  
First People of the Millewa Mallee  
Aboriginal Corporation



LOWANA MOORE  
Wamba Wamba Reserved Seat  
Holder for Wamba Wamba  
Aboriginal Corporation



DYLAN CLARKE  
Wotjobaluk, Jaadwajali, Jadwaa,  
Wergaia and Jupagulk  
Reserved Seat holder representing  
Barengi Gadjin Land Council  
Aboriginal Corporation



DJARAN  
MURRAY-JACKSON  
Dja Dja Wurrung, Wamba Wamba, Yorta  
Yorta, Dhudhuroa, Waywurru, Barapa  
Barapa, Wergaia and Wiradjuri Reserved  
Seat holder representing Dja Dja  
Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

NORTH EAST



MATTHEW BURNS  
Taungurung  
Outgoing Reserved Seat holder  
representing Taungurung Land  
and Waters Council Aboriginal  
Corporation



BELINDA BRIGGS  
Yorta Yorta, Wamba Wamba



KALEY NICHOLSON  
Taungurung  
Incoming Reserved Seat holder  
representing Taungurung Land  
and Waters Council Aboriginal  
Corporation



LEVI POWER  
Yorta Yorta



NICOLE ATKINSON  
Bangerang and Gunditjmara

METRO



ALISTER THORPE  
Gunaí, Yorta Yorta, Gunditjmara  
and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung



AUNTY ESME  
BAMBLETT  
Bangerang, Taungurung and  
Wiradjuri



INDI CLARKE  
Wemba Wemba, Mutti Mutti, Boon  
Wurrung, Trawlwoolway and Lardil



NERITA WAIGHT  
Yorta Yorta and Narrandjeri



LISA BRIGGS  
Gunditjmara



TROY AUSTIN  
Gunditjmara



BARRY  
FIREBRACE-BRIGGS  
Yorta Yorta and Ulupna



UNCLE SHANE  
CHARLES  
Wurundjeri, Boon Wurrung  
and Yorta Yorta



NGARRA MURRAY  
Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta,  
Dhudhuroa and Dja Dja Wurrung



AUNTY TRACEY EVANS  
Gunditjmara and Bundjalung



GNERICK GNERICK  
GARY MURRAY  
Dhudhuroa, Yorta Yorta,  
Barapa Barapa, Dja Dja Wurrung,  
Wamba Wemba, Wergaia, Wiradjeri  
and Waywurru



ZOE UPTON  
Bunurong and Trawlwoolway  
Reserved Seat holder representing  
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal  
Corporation



UNCLE ANDREW  
GARDINER  
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung  
Reserved Seat holder representing  
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural  
Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

SOUTH WEST



AUNTY DONNA  
WRIGHT  
Kerrupmara, Nillaan, Gunditjmara,  
Dhauwurd wurrung, Djab wurrung,  
Kamilaroi



JORDAN EDWARDS  
Gunditjmara, Waddawurrung  
and Arrente



RUEBEN BERG  
Gunditjmara  
Reserved Seat holder  
representing  
Eastern Maar Aboriginal  
Corporation



SHEREE LOWE  
Peek Whurrung, Djab Whurrung  
and Kirrae Whurrung

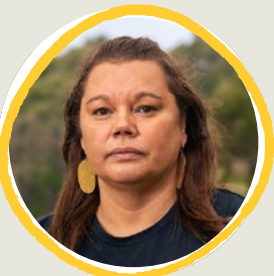


UNCLE MICHAEL  
'MOOKEYE' BELL  
Gunditjmara and Boandik



UNCLE BRYON  
POWELL  
Wadawurrung  
Reserved Seat holder representing  
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners  
Aboriginal Corporation

SOUTH EAST



ALICE PEPPER  
Gunnai, Yorta Yorta,  
Mutti Mutti, Gunditjmara  
and Arrente



BRIAN STEVENS  
Gunaí



PETER HOOD  
Kurnai



TROY MCDONALD  
Gunaikurnai  
Reserved Seat holder representing  
Gunaikurnai Land and Waters  
Aboriginal Corporation

Welcome to the new Members of the  
First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria



LISA BRIGGS  
Member for the Metro Region

Proud Gunditjmara woman Lisa Briggs joined the Assembly in August 2024. Lisa stated:

“Ngata, my name is Lisa Briggs and I am a proud Gunditjmara woman from the western district of Victoria with connections to Framlingham and Lake Condah Mission. I live off Country in Naarm, Wurrundjeri Country and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.

The next step is a journey where we commence negotiating with government on what we would like to see within a Statewide Treaty or Treaties. I would like to see a Treaty that invests in our culture, lands and language as that is our foundation.”



KALEY NICHOLSON  
Taungurung Land and Waters Council  
Aboriginal Corporation

Kaley Nicholson is a proud Taungurung woman who joined the Assembly in March 2025. When joining the Assembly Kaley said:

“I am honoured to be elected as the Taungurung Representative on the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. I want to thank my people for placing their trust in me to represent them at the Treaty table.

Growing up in rural Victoria, I understand the unique challenges our Mob face in the regions. Deeply entrenched poverty and having to navigate systems that were never designed for us means that access to services and genuine economic opportunities, can often feel out of reach. Treaty must deliver real change for our communities, no matter where they live. It needs to break down barriers, create new opportunities, and ensure that Traditional Owners and all First Peoples across the state are supported to care for Country, strengthen community, and build a strong future for the next generations.”



# STATEWIDE TREATY

## HERE'S WHAT WE'RE NEGOTIATING...

Since 2019, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has been yarning with Community in every corner of the state. The elected Assembly Members have been listening to First Peoples' needs, hopes and aspirations.

We have taken these ideas to the negotiating table and pushed hard to ensure that Self-determination is at the heart of Australia's first ever Treaty!

## DECISIONS ABOUT US MADE BY US

The First Peoples' Assembly will have meaningful decision-making powers, independent from Government that will enable our people to deliver practical solutions at a local level for generations to come.



## STRENGTH TO HOLD GOVERNMENT TO ITS PROMISES

We will have the power to hold Government to its promises and make sure they are up to scratch and delivering for First Peoples.



## TRUTH-TELLING & HEALING

We believe ongoing Truth-telling will foster understanding and healing. We will ensure all Victorians learn the truth about the past, and that the work of the Yoorrook Justice Commission is taught through our education system.



## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP

First Peoples have a long history of leaders and trailblazers. We will continue to build our knowledge, leadership and skills to strengthen our Self-determination.





## STRONG & PROUD IN CULTURE

First Peoples' cultures and languages will be respected. We believe that sharing and celebrating our culture will bring everyone closer together.

This Treaty will honour our ancestors and maintain our continuing connection to Country and uphold our cultures, Lore and Law.



## STRONGER TOGETHER

Treaty is strongest when all our communities are enrolled so we'll continue to grow our independent electoral roll and represent First Peoples with a range of advocacy.



## A TREATY FOR THE GENERATIONS

We aren't stopping here. In fact, this is the beginning of a new Treaty era.

We're pushing for an agreement that will set the standard for future Statewide Treaties — creating better outcomes for our communities now and for generations to come.

## LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

In addition to the Statewide Treaty, the various Traditional Owners across Victoria will be able to build on this work and negotiate Treaties that reflect the priorities in their areas. These will empower local decision-making at a community level! Those negotiations will unfold over the coming years at different paces – it's not a case of one-size-fits-all.

“Whether it’s caring for land and keeping culture strong or improving the way services like health and education are delivered at a local level, we want to negotiate a Treaty that will empower Aboriginal communities for generations to come.” Rueben Berg



# DJAARA FIRST TRADITIONAL OWNER GROUP TO BEGIN JOURNEY TOWARDS TREATY

This year saw the first Traditional Owner group begin their journey towards a local Treaty.

The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA) formally notified the Treaty Authority – the independent body responsible for overseeing Treaty negotiations – that they seek to negotiate a local Treaty that reflects their aspirations and priorities.

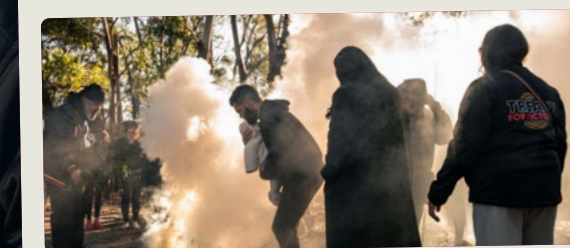
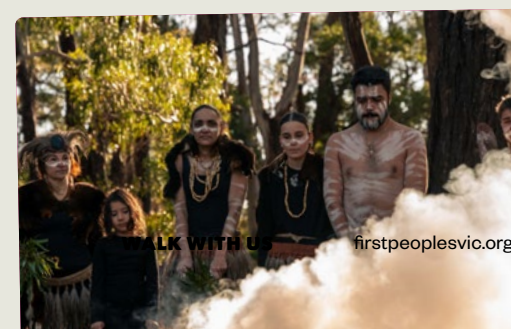
While the Assembly is negotiating a Statewide Treaty with the Victorian Government on behalf of all First Peoples across the state, Traditional Owner groups can negotiate their own local Treaty with government that would allow them to use their local knowledge to come up with practical solutions for their Community.

The process for negotiating local Treaties is outlined in the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

Djaran Murray-Jackson, the Dja Dja Wurrung Reserved Seat Holder at the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and a DJAARA Board Director, said a local Treaty will be led by the Dja Dja Wurrung people and focus on the issues that are important on Djandak (Dja Dja Wurrung Country in the Djaara language).

**“Country, our connection to the land, is such an important part of who we are as Aboriginal people, so there’s no doubt that initiatives around land and caring for Country will be a focus for the negotiations.”**

DJAARA will now take steps to form a Delegation to negotiate a local Treaty while continuing to consult with Community on their priorities for Treaty. After that, the Victorian Government would then be formally invited to begin negotiations.







## Self-Determination in Action

While the Assembly focuses on the Statewide Treaty, we also know Traditional Owners are progressing their own Treaties. The Self-Determination Fund assists them in doing so through a flexible model which is built around each groups' needs and wants on their journey to Treaty.

The Self-Determination Fund was created by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria as part of the path to Treaty in Victoria.

It ensures Traditional Owners can enter Treaty negotiations on a more level playing field. This is through two key functions.

The fund supports Victorian First Peoples in the Treaty negotiation process by empowering Communities to organise and assist in forming delegations for their own Treaties.

The second way the fund assists First Peoples is creating capacity for greater wealth and prosperity for our future generations.

**Traditional Owner Treaties are not a one-size-fits-all approach, and through the Self-Determination Fund, First Peoples are enabled to approach Treaty on more equal footing.**

The Fund is overseen by and reports to the democratically-elected Members of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, but is managed by an independent group of experts — all First Peoples with a range of experience in financial and governance matters.

## SINCE JULY 2024, THE SELF-DETERMINATION FUND HAS FUNDED:

- Aboriginal Hammond Family
- Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation
- Barapa Barapa
- Bidwell-Maap Aboriginal Corporation
- Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Dalka Warra Mittung Aboriginal Corporation
- First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation
- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Konermar Buller Jaithmatang Pty Ltd
- Mid North West Nations
- Nindi-Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngurai Illum Wurrung First Nations Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Tati Tati Kaiejin Ltd
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Wadi Wadi Land and Water Indigenous Corporation
- Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation
- Waywurru First Nations Clans Peoples
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Dhudhuroa First Nations Clans Peoples
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC







Auntie Judith Dalton-Walsh



Auntie Lyn Thorpe



Uncle Daniel Kelly



Auntie Kerry Tregonning



Auntie Geraldine Atkinson



Auntie Margaret Atkinson



Auntie Kelly Koumalatso



Auntie Thelma Chilly



Uncle Mick Harding



Uncle Trevor 'Reg' Abrahams



Uncle Cliff Wandin



Uncle Alan Brown



Auntie Muriel Bamblett



Uncle Anthony Egan



Auntie Jennifer Beer



Auntie Doreen Lovett



Uncle Larry Walsh



Uncle Henry Atkinson



Uncle Leonard Clarke



Auntie Joyce Kennedy



## Meet the Elders Keeping us Culturally Strong

The Elders' Voice was established in 2024 to provide cultural wisdom and guidance to the Assembly throughout our work towards Treaty.

The Elders' Voice has hit the ground running, meeting for the first time in April 2024 and providing advice and guidance on Treaty elements as we headed into negotiations and beyond. Between their collective wisdom, and the knowledge they hold, they are best positioned to support and assist Members in their progress towards Treaty.

The Elders' Voice Co-chairs, Auntie Esme Bamblett and Uncle Rodney Carter facilitate and communicate the work of the Elders' Voice to the broader Assembly on a regular basis.

With a big year ahead, the Assembly will continue to work closely with the Elders' Voice to ensure oversight and cultural guidance is embedded along every step of the way towards Treaty.



Uncle Rodney Carter and Auntie Esme Bamblett  
Elders' Voice Co-chairs

"The Treaty for Victoria contains the essence of those Elders who fought for it and for those today who have continued this fight. It is of the utmost importance that the Elders' Voice is clearly articulated during the Treaty negotiations to ensure we are culturally appropriate by recognising their collective wisdom. Elders are central to our Kinship, the glue that contains our culture and holds our communities together, they are the holders of our culture, past, present and into the future. Listening to the Elders' Voice for Treaty will ensure our community not only survives but thrives." **Auntie Esme Bamblett**

"There are many people that hold very significant memories and places in our hearts and minds, in particular our Elders. They have been so important during our own life journey and when they get to a greater age there is some form of reverence that we hold for them that comes from our love and our respect. As it has been only a few generations since we were invaded the memories that Elders bring forward passed on from those early contact experiences is extremely important knowledge for us to learn from in that part of our history, it can make us stronger and more staunch in what we do to advocate for our rights. TREATY is one of those tasks before us to work on together with our Elders and their wisdom leading the way." **Uncle Rodney Carter**





## Treaty Authority

The Treaty Authority is the independent body that oversees and facilitates Treaty-making in Victoria. It plays a vital role in both the Statewide Treaty process, as well as local Traditional Owner Treaties.

The Treaty Authority works to find common ground between negotiating parties, and provide resolutions for disputes should any dispute arise through negotiations.

The Treaty Authority is made up of five First Peoples' leaders with diverse skills and backgrounds to ensure their operations are grounded in Lore, Law and Culture.

### Values and Principles

The Treaty Authority has four key values which underpin everything they do. They are; Fairness, Honour, Responsibility and Connection.

The Treaty Authority centres Self-determination and empowerment to ensure a culturally strong and safe process. Fairness, equality and good faith, these are all principles that enable Treaty-making to be transparent and provide mutual benefit to all parties and Victorians.

### The Negotiations Register

The Treaty Negotiations Register is a publicly available resource that shows who is negotiating a Treaty, what Country it covers and the status of the negotiations. It is managed by the Treaty Authority and is designed to provide information as well as tools, such as an interactive map, to allow for transparency in the Treaty process.

The Register also receives entries from the State as a Primary Negotiating Party and any additional parties that may be invited by the two Primary Negotiating Parties.



## Young people shaping Treaty

Our Elders and Ancestors paved the way for Treaty and soon, our young ones will be living it! That's why it's so important for young First Peoples to have their say and help shape Treaty.

The Youth Voice brings young First Peoples together and empowers them on the journey to Treaty. It is guided by Youth Voice Convenors, elected Assembly Members Alice Pepper and Jordan Edwards, and open to all young First Peoples with ties to Victoria aged 12-28.

Through our Youth Voice activities, young people can learn about Treaty, connect to culture, grow their leadership and assert their voice and aspirations for Treaty.

A highlight from the past year was our Naarm Statewide Treaty Gathering, where our Youth Voice Convenors held sessions for young people to yarn about Treaty and what kind of future they want it to create.

Our Convenors, Alice and Jordy were also invited to host a workshop at the Koorie Youth Council's 2025 Summit called 'Treaty Now!' It was a deadly session yarning with young people from across Victoria about Statewide Treaty and what they want it to deliver.

Our team also got out to the 2024 VACSAL Junior Football Netball Carnival where we yarned with young people and gathered their feedback, ideas and hopes for Treaty through an online survey.

Treaty will create change for generations to come – and with our young ones helping lead the way, we know the future is looking bright.



Artwork by Kurnai artist TJ



“The Assembly has a strong purpose, and that is to reclaim our people’s power and freedom to make the decisions that affect our families, our communities, our Country, our lands and waters. I encourage everyone who walked, literally, with Commissioner Lovett, to walk with us on the journey to Treaty.”

Ngarra Murray



## Yoorrook and the Walk for Truth



Yoorrook was Australia’s first formal Truth-telling process, and for the past four years has heard powerful truths from people across the state, about the impacts of colonisation, systemic injustice, as well as the strength, resistance and achievements of First Peoples.

From these truths, Yoorrook put together their final report. But before delivering this report there was one more task at hand.

Commencing on 25 May in Portland, Yoorrook Commissioner Travis Lovett, a proud Kerrupmara Gunditjmara man was joined by thousands of Community and allies for the Walk for Truth.

Portland, Gunditjmara Country, is where colonisation began in Victoria. The walk went through Warrnambool, Colac, Geelong and Footscray, finishing on 18 June at the steps of Parliament in Naarm on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country.

The walk provided an opportunity for everyone to come together to walk for truth, and also to celebrate the strength and resilience of First Peoples.

Our people have a long history of action through the power of walking, out of necessity, out of protest and for awareness.

Message Sticks were collected from Communities all along the journey and were delivered at Parliament House. These were not a gift, but rather a call for Government to hear the Truth that came out of Yoorrook.

While Yoorrook has wrapped up, it is only the closing of a chapter of Truth-telling in Victoria. Truth and Treaty go hand in hand. We want all Victorians to continue to learn the truth about the past and hear our stories. The Assembly will push for ongoing truth and storytelling to foster this understanding and healing.

Yoorrook has played a crucial part in our journey to Treaty, and we will make sure their legacy is carried forward.

Congratulations to Commissioner Travis Lovett for leading the Walk and to the 10,000 Community members and allies who joined along the way.

We also want to share our heartfelt thanks to the Yoorrook Commissioners who ensured our stories were not only told, but listened to. The Chair, Aunty Eleanor Bourke, and Commissioners, Travis Lovett, Sue-Anne Hunter, Professor Maggie Walter, Hon. Tony North, Dr Wayne Atkinson and Kevin Bell AM KC.



SOME OF OUR ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NAIDOC March 2024

Every year thousands of First Peoples and allies take to the streets of Naarm to celebrate and advocate for our people. This year we had a presence in the March and had a bunch of yarns through our information stall.

Regional Treaty Forums

We held many Community Forums across the state to make sure everyone, from every region, could be involved in the path to Treaty.

Healesville Family Day 14 December

Family and friends came together at Healesville for a day of cultural activities, a feed and a chance to catch up. It was time to spend with Community, yarn with Assembly Members and learn more about our shared journey to Treaty.

Movies Under the Stars

While the weather was kind, we held a series of movies under the stars at the Fitzroy Stars Oval in Thornbury. There were food trucks, popcorn, dress-ups and more. We held four nights; Hocus Pocus, Home Alone, The Sapphires and Top End Wedding.

Statewide Treaty Gathering Naarm

Following our 2024 Gathering in Geelong, this year we held a Gathering in Naarm over 2 days to yarn with Community about the journey to Treaty and give an update. We had some workshops, and a few keynotes speakers, as well an update from the Elders' Voice, the Youth Voice and the Co-chairs.



WALK WITH US

26

SCHOOL VISITS



25  
PRISON VISITS



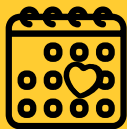
WALK WITH US



688

EVENTS

INCLUDING FORUMS FOR  
COMMUNITY, TRADITIONAL  
OWNERS AND THE ACCO  
SECTOR, YARNING CIRCLES  
PLUS OUR HUGE STATEWIDE  
TREATY GATHERING







## OUR GROWING SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

# Blak excellence to a big audience

### Celebrating First Peoples

We've always known how deadly our Community is, and we want to share that fact far and wide. Our Members and Community are always doing amazing things, and we are making sure their achievements don't fly under the radar.

### Competitions

Every year we run competitions and campaigns to help First Peoples and allies get involved and be part of the fabric that makes Treaty. This year we ran our first ever Treaty Art Project and Deadly Xmas Fundraiser. We also held giveaways at both the Senior and Junior VACSAL Statewide Football & Netball competitions.

### Keeping our Community up to date

Along with face-to-face Engagement, we understand the need to have broad ways to be in contact with Community to keep everyone up to date on the journey to Treaty. Whether it be a yarn over the phone, an online event, our monthly eNewsletters, a livestream with our Members or a post on socials — the Assembly is always committed to providing relevant and important information to everyone on our electoral roll.

❤️ **600K**  
Engagements

👤+ **110K**  
Total followers

🎥 **490K**  
Video views

👁️ **6.9M**  
Impressions



# TREATY DAY OUT

In 2025 we brought the party to Gunaikurnai Country with Treaty Day Out Gippsland, which saw 3,000 Community and allies show their support for Treaty!

There was a powerful line-up of: A.B. Original, Electric Fields, Troy Cassar-Daley, 3%, Emily Wurramara, MpathSoul, Uncle Dave Arden, Canisha, Fonzi and Uncle Kutoha Edwards. We were also joined by our two deadly MCs Shiralee Hood and Isaac Compton.

Working together with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation the event also showcased local cultural performances and a Welcome to Country. Thank you to Auntie Michelle Dow, Uncle Lloyd Hood and Uncle Wayne Thorpe for Welcoming us to Gunaikurnai Country, and to the Boorun Boys, Djeetgung Girls and Gudu Dancers for shaking a leg.

Treaty Day Out Gippsland marked our fifth and final concert, bringing the party to all five of the Assembly's voting regions. We've had shows in Shepparton, Bendigo, Naarm, Ballarat and now Morwell. In that time, we've showcased so much Blak excellence, built enormous momentum for Treaty and brought over ten thousand people along for the ride.

## Treaty Day In

We kicked off Reconciliation Week 2025 with a big comedy tour, visiting prisons all across Victoria. Treaty Day In featured Isaac Compton and Kevin Kropinyeri.

We want to give back and recognise everyone's contribution on the journey to Treaty, and ensure everyone's voices are heard. That includes our most vulnerable people, and those whose voices are too often silenced or ignored.

On the path to Treaty, no one gets left behind.








SUN 24 NOV 2024 • WYNDHAM PARK  
WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY

# TREATY IN THE PARK WERRIBEE



## DAN SULTAN

MO'JU • KUTCHA EDWARDS  
BROLGA • MADI COLVILLE-WALKER  
+ SPECIAL GUEST ISAAC COMPTON

TREATY FOR VICTORIA | FIRST PEOPLES COUNCIL OF VICTORIA | Wadawurrung | wyndhamcity | PLAKKIT

TICKETS → [TREATYINTHEPARK.COM](https://TREATYINTHEPARK.COM)







8 FEBRUARY 2025 • GUNAIKURNAI COUNTRY  
GIPPSLAND SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PARK, MORWELL

# TREATY DAY OUT GIPPSLAND

**A.B. ORIGINAL**  
**TROY CASSAR-DALEY**  
**ELECTRIC FIELDS • 3%**  
**EMILY WURRAMARA**  
MPATHSOUL • UNCLE DAVE ARDEN • CANISHA  
AND **UNCLE KUTCHA EDWARDS**  
PLUS MORE DEADLY LOCAL ACTS

TICKETS → [TREATYDAYOUT.COM](https://TREATYDAYOUT.COM)







## FRIENDS OF TREATY

# Inviting allies to walk with us

The path to Treaty in Victoria is historic and it has been walked for over two hundred years. This journey is led by First Peoples, but allies have always been invited to walk alongside.

Last year, we launched our Friends of Treaty initiative to provide a roadmap for ally organisations to support Treaty. Many NGOs, including unions, environmental groups, charities, local reconciliation groups and religious organisations, have since made a public pledge in support of Treaty for Victoria. They have also committed to taking concrete actions to demonstrate that support, through collaboration, education, advocacy and activation.

This year, we have partnered with established ally organisations to run public education campaigns, so that everyone who calls Victoria home can learn about the history and importance of Treaty, and how they can support it. We have organised Treaty Education Forums, in partnership with local groups and councils, to educate and spread awareness among organisations, businesses and communities.

We want our allies to amplify the message of the Assembly and be loud about their support of Treaty. So, we have developed a Friends of Treaty Toolkit to enable them to spread the word and build support for Treaty in their own networks and communities. The media, public and political landscape can change quickly, so it is important our supporters know when and how to wield their power. The Toolkit helps allies assess where and how they can apply political pressure, engage with the media and educate the broader community.

All of this will ensure that the Assembly has a powerful supporter base of allies to call upon at key moments in the Treaty journey. It also means that allies are connected to the Assembly and Treaty, leading to a future where Treaty is woven into the cultural, political and civic fabric of Victoria.

To find out more about making the Treaty pledge, or to access our Friends of Treaty Toolkit, visit

[firstpeoplesvic.org/walk-with-us](https://firstpeoplesvic.org/walk-with-us)

“With profound respect for the sovereignty, culture and rights of First Peoples, VTHC is proud to walk with the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria on the journey to Treaty. VTHC recognises that First Peoples are the foremost experts when it comes to their communities, cultures and lands. We also recognise that, as a wider community we have much to learn from their wisdom, story-telling, ways of thinking, culture and practices, and strong connection to Country. It is a privilege to learn from the world’s oldest continuing cultures. With over 65,000 years of connection to land, waterways, language and community, the knowledge of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters is vital.” **Victorian Trades Hall Council, Treaty Pledge**



**WE'RE STILL HERE**  
**AND ALWAYS WILL BE**





By enrolling with the Assembly, you get to choose the people who will best represent your views on the journey to Treaty.

Also, when we grow the Assembly's electoral roll, we grow our collective strength and wisdom.

Together we'll be able to negotiate a strong Treaty that improves the lives of our people.

**So enrol today to show your support and help get Treaty done!**



SCAN WITH YOUR  
PHONE'S CAMERA

# GET ENROLLED TO GET INVOLVED

→ [FIRSTPEOPLESVIC.ORG/ENROL](https://FIRSTPEOPLESVIC.ORG/ENROL)

**If you're already enrolled,** encourage more of your Community Members to enrol. If everyone enrolled with the Assembly encourages just one friend to enrol, we can double our strength by doubling our electoral roll and send a clear message to the Government that we mean business.

