

# Reconciliation Action Plan

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## Statement of Commitment

The EcoCentre acknowledges the Yalukit Wilam clan of the Boon Wurrung people as the first people to inhabit the Port Phillip bay region within which the EcoCentre is now located.

The EcoCentre respectfully acknowledges their Elders past and present and the continuing deep relationship which the people have for country. Through consultation and programs which involve local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples, the EcoCentre is committed to continue to care for the country.

By establishing strong links with the Elders of the local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities, the EcoCentre is committed to assist in their efforts to achieve social justice and improve their access to country, housing, health, education and employment opportunities.

## Our Vision

The Reconciliation Action Plan developed by the EcoCentre is our commitment to continue to build upon and enhance the existing working relationship which already exists with the local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities. Through the actions outlined in our plan we will consult with these communities to ensure that we are promoting the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities and have confidence that we can look forward to a future of mutual respect, harmony and equality.

## Our Reconciliation Plan

Our Reconciliation Action Plan is being developed and implemented in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The plan seeks to undertake practical projects with defined outcomes and with measured tangible benefits. Progress against actions will be measured and the plan will be integrated with the recently developed 3 year Strategic Plan for the EcoCentre (2012-2015).

One example of an EcoCentre collaborative program which is currently active is the Country Connect project.

This project, which commenced in 2011, is in partnership with the Boon Wurrung Foundation. The project is funded by the Federal government Caring for Country program and aims to provide guidelines to enable local land managers and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities to proactively protect cultural heritage sites from gradual destruction due to erosion, weed invasion

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and unmanaged human foot traffic. The project also provides a practical focus to bring together members of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities with government agencies and non-Aboriginal community groups to increase awareness of issues and the possibilities of shared solutions.

Details of The Plan are outlined below in Table 1.

Actions underway and/or completed as at December 2012 are listed in Table 2, Appendix 1.

**TABLE 1: RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

#	Objectives	Measurable Outcome	Actions underway or completed (numbers refer to listed actions Appendix 1)	Timeline (Year 1,2,3) Year 1 =end 2013.
<b>A. Recognition</b>				
A 1	The Management & Board of the EcoCentre will review the management and implementation of the EcoCentre RAP	The plan will be reviewed biannually at Board meetings		1-3
A 2	The RAP will be promoted to all stakeholders	Incorporate the plan into the web site and Strategic Plan.		1
A 3		Review & discuss RAP with local and state-wide Indigenous organisations		1
A 4		Review & discuss RAP with City of Port Phillip and other local Governments		1
A 5	A Statement of Commitment will be prepared and promoted to stakeholders	Display statement at EcoCentre and incorporate into web site		1
A 6	Incorporate symbols of welcome and identity at the EcoCentre	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander flags will be displayed at EcoCentre and on web site	16 8	1
A 7	When an Aboriginal person is not available to give a Welcome to Country then a non-Aboriginal will give an Acknowledgement to Country & show respect for the traditional owners of the land on which the event is taking place.	Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement to Country given prior to all Board & other significant gatherings and events. Communicate & monitor.	14	1-3

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#	Objectives	Measurable Outcome	Actions underway or completed	Timeline
<b>A. Recognition (ctd)</b>				
A 8	Promote Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander culture and contributions to EcoCentre	Create Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander button on web site		1
A 9		Add links on web site to Boon Wurrung Foundation and other indigenous organisations.		1
A 10		Display indigenous art and pre-settlement antiquities at the EcoCentre.		1-3
A 11	Recognition of significant Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander events and dates including Australia / Invasion/Survival day, Sorry Day, Mabo Day, NAIDOC week, Reconciliation week & Yalukit Wilam Ngargee.	Include calendar of events on web site.		1-3
<b>B. Leadership &amp; Participation</b>				
B 1	Provide support and leadership opportunities for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders	Provide meeting space for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander groups		1-3
B 2		Encourage affiliation of local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander groups		1-3
B 3	Support ongoing programs which involve Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders	Progress all activities and programs which involve Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples and interests.	4 5	1-3
B 4	Support protection of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders living culture and heritage sites	Collaboration on Country Connect project with Boon Wurrung Foundation	1 4	1-3
B 5	Support the building of leadership and skills capacity in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders	Identify new opportunities for programs and activities at EcoCentre which are suitable to involve Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.	9 11	1-3
B 6		Mentor, employ and/or engage with Aboriginal people wherever possible in EcoCentre programs.	9	1-3
B 7	Support Bush Tucker programs	Develop and maintain Aboriginal Cultural gardens at EcoCentre, Inner South Community health Services and St Kilda Sea Baths. Look for opportunities to replicate.	7 8	1-3

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#	Objectives	Measurable Outcome	Actions underway or completed	Timeline
<b>Leadership &amp; Participation (ctd)</b>				
B 8	Connect with key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander lines of communication	Publicise EcoCentre events in key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander forums and media.		2-3
B 9	Explore sources of funding for Boon Wurrung programs	Secure federal funding for Bush Tucker gardens at other sites eg Community Health Centres		1-3
B 10		Work with Boon Wurrung Foundation to identify and secure funding for joint projects.		1-3
<b>C. Education &amp; Training</b>				
C 1	Facilitate integration / presentation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders living cultural knowledge with environmental programs in school and community education programs	Evaluate, deliver & monitor programs which are suitable for co-delivery	3 12 13	1-3
C 2	Establish Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander heritage walks programs in St Kilda Botanical gardens	Advertise program and dates on web site	9	1-3
C 3	Encourage development of projects /programs which show local Aboriginal historical culture and link to current environmental sustainability messages.	Work with Boon Wurrung Foundation to document and show pre-white settlement land use.	4	1-3
C 4	Identify opportunities to educate and train Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders within EcoCentre Programs	Develop horticultural training and mentoring program for Aboriginal people		1-3
C 5	Hold events at EcoCentre which aim to educate others about Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders history & living culture	Screen relevant movies & documentaries. Host and publicise event in lead up to significant Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders dates.	10	1-3
C 6		Host an Exhibit including art works, aimed to educate visitors on the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders.		1-3
C 7	Promote other events which aim to educate others about Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders history & living culture	Promote and engage others in events such as the Framlingham Aboriginal Tours		1-3

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#	Objectives	Measurable Outcome	Actions underway or completed	Timeline
<b>D. Relationships &amp; Connections</b>				
D 1	Build relationships with key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander organisations and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities	Monitor key groups in area and level of interaction, including continuing work with the Boon Wurrung Foundation and Inner South Community Centre (Our Rainbow Place).	15	1-3
D 2	Collaborate with City of Port Phillip in identifying programs which support their RAP.	Conduct activities which are aligned with and support specific actions in CoPP RAP		1-3
D 3	Provide ongoing support for Boon Wurrung Foundation and local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander groups and communities.	Continue to collaborate in order to identify ongoing needs of the foundation and the resources and activities at the EcoCentre which can support their objectives, especially those which result from actioning Strategic Plan.	2 6	1-3
D 4	Explore opportunities to enhance reconciliation by developing relationships and working with other organisations. E.g. Government Departments	Facilitate engagement between government depts. and local Aboriginal projects eg assisting Aboriginal Affairs in development of RAPs and delivering programs which satisfy their action plans.		2-3
D 5	Promote attendance of EcoCentre members and, as appropriate, facilitate excursions to key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander events	EcoCentre members attend events. At least one group excursion arranged each year.		1-3

## Monitoring our Progress

To ensure that our progress remains on track and meets our Reconciliation Action Plan commitments, the Board and management of the EcoCentre will regularly review and report on progress throughout the year. Major bi-annual reviews, which will feed into the EcoCentre Strategic Plan, will be undertaken in November and May.

# Reconciliation Action Plan

## APPENDIX 1

**TABLE 2: Actions Underway and Completed - 2012**

Action #	Project /Objective	Aims	Funding	Status
1	Country Connect	Develop guidelines for practical protective works on Aboriginal cultural sites	Caring for Country (Federal Gvt) \$20,000	Guidelines endorsed by Vic Dept Planning & Community Development
2	Boon Wurrung Strategic & governance planning	Provide a strategic focus for Boon Wurrung Foundation business development	Unfunded	Strategic overview completed(refer to Appendix 2 for Overview)
3	Schools Reduce Environmental Impacts	Sessions with Elders	City of Port Phillip \$9,000	Schools Team workplan
4	Indigenous Concepts of Sustainability	Research Aboriginal concepts of social and environmental sustainability from Cultural Heritage Assessments	City of Port Phillip \$8,000	Historical resources are available at Boon Wurrung office
5	Indigenous Concepts of Sustainability	Program of 4 local community events presenting natural ecology of eastern Port Phillip Bay and local indigenous perspectives	City of Port Phillip \$5,500	Based on previous trail Walks for Yulukit Willum Ngargee festival – first walk planned for Feb 2013
6	Arts & Cultural Hub	South Yarra warehouse planning , design and function, in conjunction with Boon Wurrung Foundation.	Private benefactor low cost lease	Ongoing
7	Sea Baths Cultural garden	Display of cultural plants at St Kilda beach	Sea Baths contract	Active & Ongoing
8	EcoCentre cultural garden	Display of cultural plants	Unfunded	Planning with view to establish in 2013
9	Walking trail from Ngargee Tree to St K beach	Develop natural history & local Aboriginal culture trail research & publication, especially pre-white settlement	Public Records Office \$7,000	Initial research completed with Boon Wurrung Foundation. Walking Trail tours underway.
10	Women of the Sun screening	DVD doco drama on Boon Wurrung women stolen by sealers	EcoCentre	Screening early 2013
11	Yarra Plume project	Bay Care project incorporating Aboriginal perspectives on healthy waterways	EPA Magistrates court order \$5,500 (Boon Wurrung component)	Boon Wurrung contracted to provide Welcome to Country and educational services. Concludes June 2013.
12	Schools program	'Bush Time' Professional Development for teachers with	Dept Educ & Early Childhood	July 2012 through to June 2015

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		Indigenous Elders in outdoor settings	Development \$3,000	
13	Schools program	Professional Development for teachers covering Aboriginal Histories & Cultures, curriculum links	Part funded by fee for service. Additional sources being investigated	4 workshops in 2013 being planned
14	Acknowledgement to Country	To show respect for the traditional owners of the land on which the event is taking place.	Unfunded	All Board meetings - ongoing
15	Our rainbow Place, Inner South Community centre		Unfunded	Hosted Xmas gathering at EcoCentre attended by 150 people.
16	Incorporate symbols of welcome and identity at the EcoCentre	To show respect for and welcome Aboriginal and Torres Strait island peoples to the EcoCentre	Unfunded	Flags acquired from local Federal member 11/12.

## APPENDIX 2 – Boon Wurrung Strategic Plan - December 2012



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