

Koorie Heritage Trust Annual Report 2015 – 2016



Koorie Heritage Trust Inc
Gnookayimoo, Marra Koorie

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www.koorieheritagetrust.com

ABN 72 534 020 156

The Koorie Heritage Trust acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of Melbourne, on whose lands we are located.

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are advised that this document may contain the names and/or images of people who have passed away.

Cover Image: Koorie Heritage Trust, view from level 2, Yarra Building. Photo James Murcia, 2015

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Terminology

The term Koorie is commonly used to describe Aboriginal people of Southeast Australia; however, we recognise the diversity of Aboriginal people living throughout Victoria including Koories and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people from around Australia. We have used the term Aboriginal in parts of the report to include all people of ATSI descent.

Wominjeka/Welcome: Vision and Purpose

Our Vision

To live in a society where Aboriginal culture and history are a fundamental part of Victorian life.

Our Purpose

To promote, support and celebrate the continuing journey of the Aboriginal people of South Eastern Australia.

Our Motto

Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki/Give me your hand my friend.

Our Values

Respect, honesty, reciprocity, curiosity.

Our Centre

Provides a unique environment rich in culture, heritage and history, which welcomes and encourages Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to come together in the spirit of learning and reconciliation

Our Governance

We are a not-for-profit Incorporated Association governed by the Trust's Rules of Association and by a Board of Management.

STRATEGIC GOALS

ENGAGE with Victorian Aboriginal Communities

GROW the Collections

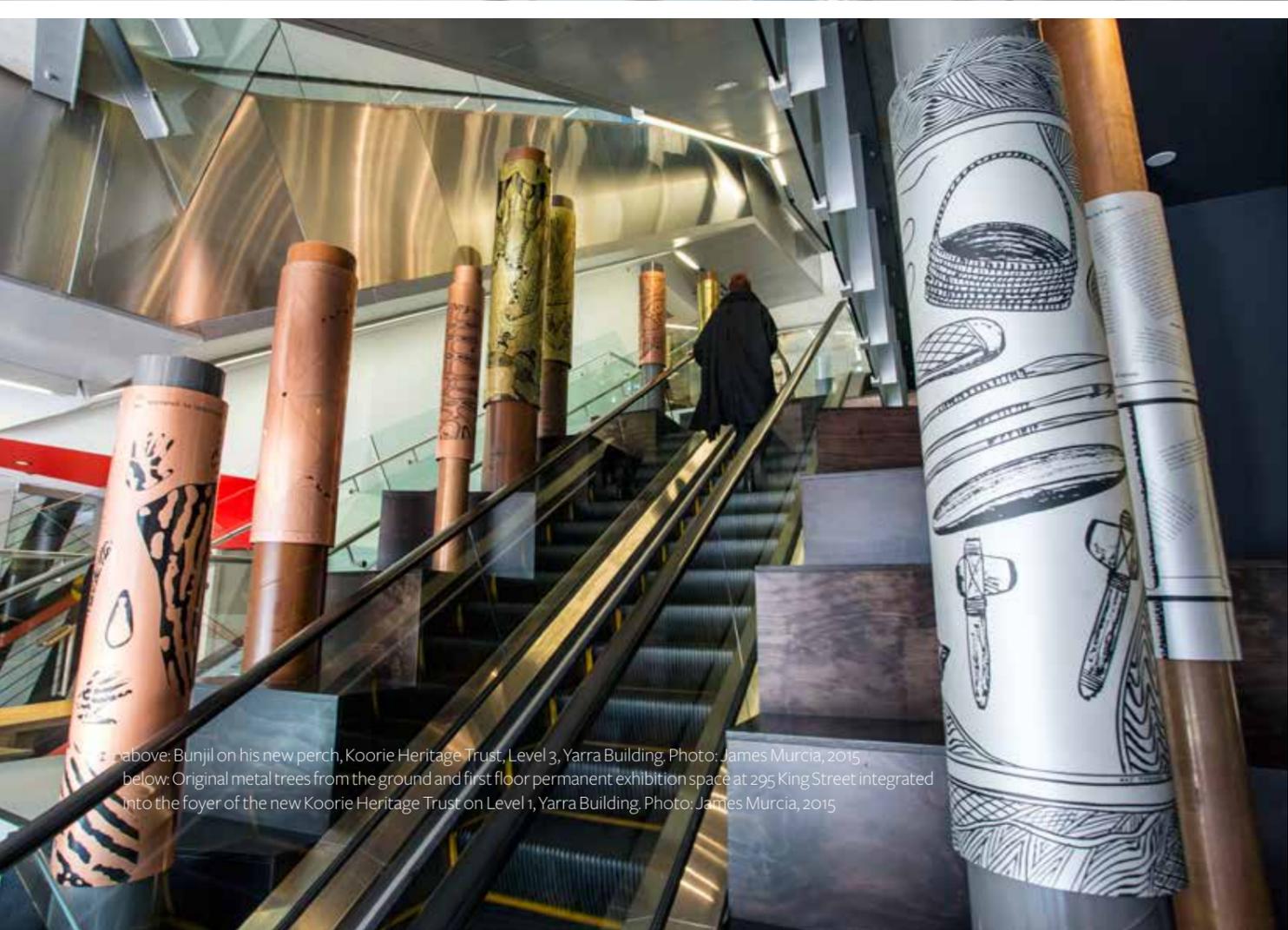
REACH new audiences

ENRICH our visitors' experience

DEVELOP our people and capabilities

Entrance wall to the new Koorie Heritage Trust
on Level 1, Yarra Building. Photo: James Murcia, 2015





Interim Chairperson's Report

Ian Hamm

Wominjeka – Welcome

I am pleased to present the Koorie Heritage Trust's Annual Report outlining our activities and operations in the twelve months from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

The Koorie Heritage Trust supports and promotes the diversity of South East Australian Aboriginal peoples and celebrates our contemporary culture informed by a 60,000-year old collective history. We are a not for profit Aboriginal owned and operated organisation with our Aboriginal communities as key stakeholders. At the Trust, we offer a wealth of skills and expertise including cultural knowledge, community and corporate networks, collection management, curatorial, education and research experience. In line with our values of respect, honesty, reciprocity and curiosity, we are also a place for everyone; a unique, inclusive and welcoming space for all people to experience, learn, connect and reconnect with the substantial and varied Aboriginal culture, heritage and histories of Victoria. We provide a unique, culturally rich environment that welcomes and encourages Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to come together in the spirit of learning and reconciliation.

We recognise that what it is to be an Aboriginal person living in Victoria today is continually reinvented and expanded, and we are committed to fostering genuine engagement through authentic and accessible programs and services that push the boundaries of how we connect with our stakeholders. We constantly monitor and measure our successes in order to:

- ensure we are an organisation valued by the Aboriginal and broader community
- be recognised as a key Aboriginal creative and cultural attraction
- develop key partnerships with corporate, philanthropic and cultural organisations
- increase the number of Aboriginal KHT employees and members of the KHT Board

Our activities this year would not have been possible without the support of the Victorian Government including, the Hon Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries; the Hon Natalie Hutchinson MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Andrew Abbot, Director Creative Victoria, and his staff; Angela Singh, Executive Director, Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (until September 2015) and Jason Mifsud, Executive Director, Office of Aboriginal Affairs (from March 2016) and their staff; the Federal Government through its Ministry for the Arts; and the City of Melbourne through its Triennial Arts Grants Program.

To consolidate our future, the Koorie Heritage Trust depends for inspiration on the backing and generosity of the Victorian Koorie and broader Indigenous communities. Among the many donors and sponsors who gave us unstinting support and commitment in the last year, I wish to pay particular tribute and give thanks to my fellow Board members – Genevieve Grieves, Jim Berg (until September 2015), John Norman, Lindy Blashki, and Judge David Parsons. I acknowledge especially, the hard work of outgoing chair Annette Vickery who resigned from the role and the Board in September 2015. Annette's dedication, commitment and professionalism in steering the Trust during a time of great change reflect her outstanding abilities. The opportunity to take over from Annette, as interim chair, is a privilege for me. I also welcome new Indigenous members to the Board – Dr Shannon Faulkhead, Tim Kanoa and Mick Harding – and look forward to working with them and the rest of the Board in the coming year.

Finally, I want to thank Tom Mosby, our CEO, and his staff for their commitment, dedication and hard work in making the first year in our new home at Federation Square a huge success.

Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki, Give Me Your Hand My Friend, and let us celebrate together the history, culture and peoples of Koorie Victoria.

above: Bunjil on his new perch, Koorie Heritage Trust, Level 3, Yarra Building. Photo: James Murcia, 2015
below: Original metal trees from the ground and first floor permanent exhibition space at 295 King Street integrated into the foyer of the new Koorie Heritage Trust on Level 1, Yarra Building. Photo: James Murcia, 2015

Report Of The Chief Executive Officer

Tom Mosby

The Koorie Heritage Trust is the oldest community owned and run Aboriginal cultural centre in Australia and the 2015-2016 financial year was a momentous time for us as we simultaneously celebrated our thirtieth anniversary while moving into our beautiful new home at Federation Square's Yarra Building in the heart of Melbourne.

The new location brings Koorie peoples, communities and culture from the literal and figurative fringes and places them at the centre of a contemporary, urban CBD, surrounded by other major cultural institutions, reached by public transport from every part of metropolitan Melbourne, and overlooking the river used for tens of thousands of years by the Kulin.

I am pleased to report that since our move in July 2015, and despite only being fully operational in the new premises since September 2015, visitor numbers have more than doubled for the year ending 30 June 2016 over the previous (and last) year at the old premises in King Street on the western edge of the city.

Trust staff put in outstanding work on the move, and I particularly thank our General Manager, Giacomina Pradolini, who managed this huge project on deadline and under budget. I also acknowledge the support of our Board of Management and key partners including legal firms Ashurst and Arnold Bloch Liebler, and professional services firm KPMG, who provided our Building Advisory Group with the expertise of Graeme Taylor (their National CRES & Projects Lead) and Mary Jovic (their Projects, Property & Operations Manager).

Carey Lyon, Fiona Lew and Sam Hunter from Lyons Architecture, and Jefa Greenaway and Rueben Berg from Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria delivered a beautiful, award-winning space that reflects our purpose – promoting, supporting and celebrating the continuing journey of the Aboriginal people of South Eastern Australia. Responding to community feedback on visual and physical access to our collection, our architects designed

innovative visible storage throughout the public areas and in our new storeroom, increasing access to the collections and allowing many more items to be publically displayed.

In recognition of this, we received a Museums Australia Award – Medium Museums for “relocation and outstanding development of programs and access to their collection” at Museum Australia (Victoria) Awards in July 2016.

We launched our brand new galleries on 4 July 2015, only two days after we moved into Fed Square, with *Ritual Connection to Country* by Maree Clarke and a performance and installation, *The Aborigine is Present*, by Robyne Latham. That we were able to deliver these projects in time for the 2015 NAIDOC celebrations is testament to the meticulous planning and hard work of our staff.

In September 2015, having completed unpacking our collections into new onsite, museum-standard collections storage, we celebrated the public launch of the whole building with several events, including our second exhibition, *Wominjeka: A New Beginning*, commemorating the Trust's three decades of collecting, and a public 30th Birthday party in Fed Square.

We have re-opened our library, rebuilt and expanded our Cultural Education unit with a full team of cultural educators and tour leaders under a new unit manager, and engaged a Public Program Co-ordinator with the assistance of the Australian Cultural Fund's Creative Partnerships Plus 1 Program.

Our greatly increased public programming now includes four to six public events per month – artist talks, kids' school holiday activities, workshops, forums, and collaborations with other Melbourne festivals. The Cultural Education Unit delivered over 350 learning, professional development and Indigenous Cross Cultural Awareness Training sessions in 2015-2016, the equivalent of one or more every day of the year. We reached educational institutions, government departments, major international businesses, sporting groups, Aboriginal community organisations and

Tom Mosby, CEO Koorie Heritage Trust and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, the Honourable Robert Doyle. Photo: James Henry, 2015



philanthropic and service bodies. The Strategic Partnerships Program delivered schools leadership, cultural competence and resources programs in-house and regionally.

Our tours, including the Birrarung Falls Walk, Scar Tree Walk and Birrarung Wilam (River Camp) Walk, drew 6,446 participants from schools, tertiary institutions and corporate organisations. We have no doubt that we will surpass this number in the next year, our first fully operational in the new premises.

Our internationally recognised Koorie Family History Service team received 266 new requests for family trees and family history information in 2015-2016, and provided a confidential service to more than 1000 clients (slightly up on last year) who include members of the Stolen Generations and their families, clients in custody, other Koorie Community members and individuals wanting to trace possible Aboriginal heritage.

The team also provided family history information sessions both on and off site to a variety of Indigenous organisations, and provided family history presentations at the Bringing Them Home Forum, the Koori Courts Conference and Corrections Victoria's Koori Staff Network.

In October 2015, the KFHS Manager met with Ilyasah Shabazz (CEO of Ilyasah Shabazz Enterprises and daughter of Malcolm X) and three of her staff during a visit to the KHT in October 2015. Ms Shabazz and her team were particularly interested in the service provided to Stolen Generations clients and especially how records are accessed and family trees pieced together.

In line with our values of **Respect, Honesty, Reciprocity and Curiosity**, the Koorie Heritage Trust aims to deliver an authentic, immersive urban Aboriginal arts and cultural experience to Fed Square visitors in a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment that cannot be duplicated by any other arts

and cultural organisation in Melbourne. Our exhibitions program and retail shop are a big part of this experience.

Besides the exhibitions and collection displays already mentioned, we had another five in the main galleries, one on level three and two that toured.

For *Dead Tongue* (1 August – 13 September 2015), in a tie-in with a blockbuster exhibition *David Bowie Is* at our Fed Square neighbour the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, the Trust commissioned Melbourne-based Bidjara artist Christian Thompson to make new work responding to the themes in Bowie's 1983 music video *Let's Dance*.

The *Koorie Art Show 2015* (5 December 2015 – 28 February 2016) received more than 120 entries from 70-plus artists, an increase on the previous year, and exhibited a shortlist of 98 works. For the first time, the show accepted three-dimensional works and we added two extra awards and doubled the prize money of two others thanks to our sponsors. The judges, artist Yhonnie Scarce and artist/curator and CEO of The Torch, Kent Morris, were both hugely impressed with the increased calibre and quality of works presented.

Ngujarn and Nakun: Belonging in the Other (12 March – 15 May 2016) presented work from four generations of the Mullett family, within which, cultural knowledge and connection to land has driven an artistic tradition passed down from the oldest members through to the youngest. Steaphen Paton curated work by his grandparents, the late Uncle Albert Mullett and Aunty Rachel Mullett, and their children, grandchildren (including himself) and great grandchildren from sources including the Koorie Heritage Trust.

Close to You: The Lisa Belleair Picture Show (21 May – 17 June 2016) coincided with the tenth anniversary of the passing in 2006 of Indigenous activist, photographer, broadcaster, poet, feminist, academic and performer Lisa Belleair, a Minjungbul, Goernpil, Noonuccal, Kanak woman primarily based in Melbourne. Curated by close friends, artists Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser, and cousin Kim Kruger from Lisa's vast photo archive at the Trust, the exhibition showcased a quarter century of Melbourne Indigenous community life. The exhibition and

a catalogue, supported by three universities, contributed to positioning Lisa Belleair as a significant Australian Indigenous photographer.

Shooting Star (25 May – 19 June 2016) celebrated Reconciliation Week 2016 and Dreamtime at the 'G in partnership with Essendon Football Club. The debut solo exhibition of AFL legend and Brownlow Medallist Gavin Wanganeen (Kokotha), attracted a record audience of new visitors to the Trust's level three space with mainstream media coverage including the VIP opening broadcast live to Channel 9 news.

Wominjeka: A New Beginning travelled to East Gippsland Art Gallery (17 May – 22 June 2016) with assistance from National Exhibitions Touring Support Victoria, and will tour to three other venues in the next year. A selection of works from the exhibition *Ganagan (Deep Water): Waterways in Koorie Art and Life* went to Kyneton Town Hall (21 May–July 2016) with support from Macedon Ranges Shire.

In July 2015, we launched shop KOORIE, our new retail experience at Federation Square. I would like to acknowledge the support of Paul Bonnici and his staff from Create Communicate 2C for their assistance in developing the retail space's visual merchandising. At shop KOORIE, we are for and by Koorie. All our stock items are designed and/or crafted in South East Australia by Koorie artists and craftspeople as well as the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who call the South East of Australia home. At the entrance to the ground floor galleries, shop KOORIE is an integrated part of our educational experience – another opportunity for our visitors to learn about the uniqueness of South East Australian Aboriginal peoples, cultures and communities through art, craft and design. All profits from the shop continue to be used to support, through sales, both the artists who produce our stock and the Trust's core programs and services.

I gratefully acknowledge for their invaluable ongoing support, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria's Organisations Investment Program, the State Government's Community Support Fund through the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (which supports our Koorie Family History Service, our Oral History Program and contributes to our operational activities), the Federal Ministry for the Arts

Indigenous Hip Hop Projects,
30th Birthday Concert. Photo: James Henry, 2015



through its Indigenous Visuals Arts Industry Support and Indigenous Culture Support programs, and the City of Melbourne's Triennial Arts Grants Program (providing much needed support to our ongoing exhibitions program, particularly our long-term exhibitions planning).

I thank Lend Lease for their continued sponsorship of our Koorie Art Show through the Lend Lease Reconciliation Award. Our exhibition *Ngujarn and Nakun: Belonging in the other*, guest curated by Steaphan Paton, benefited from financial help from the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, and Sofitel as accommodation sponsor. Generous funding from the Faculty of Arts at University of Melbourne, La Trobe University and Victoria University Moondani Balluk Academic Unit made possible the production of a full-colour, 72-page catalogue for the *Close To You: The Lisa Belleair Picture Show* exhibition.

I acknowledge that a functioning database is a key tool for organisations such as ours and thank the RE Ross Trust whose grant has enabled us to implement a much needed client relationship management database through which we track and use information in all aspects of our business.

We are registered as a tax-deductible gift recipient. As a not for profit organisation, we rely on the wide network and generosity of our many friends and supporters to continue the important work we do in bridging the gap between Koories and the wider community, and contributing to the reconciliation agenda. I acknowledge the bequest left to the Trust by the late Aunty Norma Gleeson. Her legacy is a lasting testament to her advocacy for Aboriginal rights and particularly her work assisting organisations to achieve their aims. This year, the interest from the bequest supported Maree Clarke's exhibition *Ritual Connection to Country*.

Thank you to the members of the Trust's Board of Management for their support this year. I welcome and look forward to working with the Board into the future.

Many thanks also to my staff for their continued dedication and support; my managers – Jenny Bates (Koorie Family History Service), Charlotte Christie (Collections, Exhibitions and Public Programs), Judy Allsop (Retail and Front of

House), Rob Hyatt (Education) and Giacomina Pradolini (General Manager – and our Exhibitions Co-ordinator Jan Duffy and the many guest curators and artists who worked with us this year in delivering our exhibitions and public programs.

During the year, we said a fond farewell to staff members Ren Gregoric, Angela de Martino Rosaroll, Katherine Clarke, Jamie Keleher and Len Tregonning (who we were happy to welcome back in a casual role). I thank them for their contribution to the success of the Trust this year, and wish them the very best in all their future endeavours.

We welcomed back Nerissa Broben, Senior Collections Curator, as well as new starter Naomi Velaphi (Public Program Co-ordinator) whose role was made possible through funds raised through the CPA Plus 1 program. We also welcomed Rob Hyatt (Education Manager) together with Donna Blackall and Jordy Kamara Edwards (new cultural education officers), Tamika Collins and Adrian Cox (retail) and Kate Campbell (Koorie Family History Service). We greatly appreciate our volunteers, particularly in the collections area, who helped to safely complete the mammoth collections relocation task, which would not have been possible without them or the patience and tireless effort of Collections Co-ordinator Jane Walton who worked with them. Finally, I want to thank our Moogji Club Members for their generosity and ongoing support.

The Koorie Heritage Trust promotes and supports the diversity of South East Australian Aboriginal peoples and celebrates our strong and continuing contemporary culture grounded in a 60,000 year old history. We are a place of pride for our Koorie communities as visitors, clients and stakeholders as well as being a key contributor to the diverse cultural life of Melbourne so I want especially to acknowledge and thank all members of the Koorie and broader Indigenous communities in Victoria. You have been a major part of the momentous change that the Trust has been through, and are crucial to our future success. I look forward to your ongoing support and welcoming you to the Trust at Federation Square.



Kat Clarke, Koorie Art Show, Indigenous Engagement Officer, in the library of the new Koorie Heritage Trust, Level 3, Yarra Building. Photo: James Murcia, 2015

Our Programs

Koorie Family History Service

The Trust's Koorie Family History Service (KFHS) was established in 2001 from recommendations of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families presented in the 1997 Bringing Them Home report. The Service was created specifically to assist survivors of the Stolen Generations and their families to access personal adoption and ward files, family history records and cultural information. Our first priority is therefore to help Stolen Generations clients and their families with their healing journey. More broadly, our Family History team assists members of the Victorian Koorie Community trace their family tree back as far as possible and provide family history information about their direct ancestors.

We acknowledge that the personal information clients entrust us with may be sensitive and the KFHS team undertakes to maintain the strictest level of confidentiality, including over information on its large family tree database (17,170 entries to date). We generally rely on clients to provide birth, death and marriage information for relatives born after 1920, but can also use the Births, Deaths and Marriages index and other resources to research people born before 1920. This is a lengthy process and can take months or years to complete for each individual entry.

Through its Community Support Fund, the Victorian Government supports the KFHS to provide this confidential, client-based, genealogical research service.

Jennifer Bates providing Family History Information Session for the Koorie Elders Planned Activity Group from Latrobe City. Photo: James Murcia, 2015

Koorie Family History Workshop participants with Margaret Bates, Lionel Bamblett and Jennifer Bates from the Koorie Family History Service, October 2015. Photo: Naomi Velaphi, 2015

Lionel Bamblett researching in the National Library of Australia, Canberra. Photo: Jennifer Bates, 2015



Client Requests

In 2015-2016, the KFHS received 266 new requests for family trees and family history information, averaging 22 new requests per month and provided a service to 1018 clients, an increase of 43 clients over 2014-2015. At the end of the 2015-16 financial year, the Family History team was actively researching 627 client requests, had completed research on a further 174, with the remaining 217 requests awaiting activation when the client application forms are completed and returned to KFHS.

Of the 627 requests being actively researched last year, 129 were from members of the Stolen Generations, 173 were family tree requests from Koorie Community members, 305 were family history requests from individuals wanting to trace possible Aboriginal heritage and 20 requests were from clients in custody.

Family History Workshops

The KFHS held a family history workshop onsite at the Koorie Heritage Trust in October 2015 with special guest Georgia Harris who is the new Reference Officer at the Koorie Records Unit of the Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV). Georgia answered questions from participants about accessing records at PROV and the National Archives of Australia. Participants included the Elders Planned Activity Group from Healesville and other invited attendees.

In October 2015, the KFHS also provided an outreach family history workshop in Horsham at the Barengi Gadjin Land Council, at the request of their staff and Elders Group.

In April 2016, the KFHS held a Family History Workshop at the Trust for the Aboriginal Family Decision Making unit of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Gippsland. DHHS Gippsland specifically requested this workshop, which focussed on training workers to trace family trees and compile family histories for children under 18 who are in out-of-home care.

Family History Information Sessions and Presentations

The KFHS provided family history information sessions to the CEO and Board of the Mallee and District Aboriginal Services Koorie Elders Planned Activity Group, to Latrobe City, the Elders Planned Activity Group from Healesville, and Indigenous students from La Trobe University.

The KFHS Manager met with Ilyasah Shabazz (CEO of Ilyasah Shabazz Enterprises and daughter of Malcolm X) and three of her staff during a visit to the KHT in October 2015. Ms Shabazz and her team were interested in the KFHS and the service provided to Stolen Generations clients, especially in terms of how records are accessed and family trees pieced together. Ms Shabazz was enthusiastic about the KFHS and keen to spend more time with the unit in the future.

The KFHS Manager also provided Family History presentations at the Bringing Them Home Forum in November 2015, the Koori Courts Conference in May 2016, and at Corrections Victoria's Koori Staff Network in June 2016.

Professional Development

The KFHS continued to support its staff to take up professional memberships to assist with their professional development as researchers and genealogists. All the KFHS staff are full members of the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV), and our new research staff are participating in training sessions at the GSV and the State Library of Victoria (SLV) at least once a month.

The KFHS are also represented on key advisory groups, such as the Koorie Records Taskforce and the Victorian Aboriginal Records Advisory Group (VARAG). The KFHS Manager chaired VARAG until December 2015, and is a Partner Investigator on the 'Coranderrk - Minutes of Evidence' Australian Research Council (ARC) Project.



Koorie Klaus with some excited children at Koorie Krismas
Photo: Tatjana Pitt, 2015

Rob Hyatt, Koorie Heritage Trust Education Manager with the Woomeras Indigenous Women's AFL Squad Photo: AFL staff, 2016

In August 2015, the KFHS team visited Sydney for a week of professional development and met with staff from the Indigenous Services Team at the State Library of NSW and the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs Family Records Unit. The team spent time researching family history in the Mitchell Library where they had a guided 'behind the scenes' tour. They were privileged to spend an afternoon talking family history at the Tent Embassy on The Block in Redfern with Elders who were among the original residents of The Block. The Elders shared some of their knowledge and stories with the Family History team.

In November 2015, the KFHS staff further extended their professional development with a week in Canberra to meet with staff from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program of the National Museum of Australia, and the

Indigenous staff from the National Library of Australia (NLA). Our team researched historical documents in the AIATSIS Library and the NLA, and got a guided 'behind the scenes' tour through the National Library building.

Acknowledgements

For all their ongoing support of our Family History unit and assistance to our research staff and clients, the KFHS would like to thank the following individuals and organisations: Bringing Them Home counsellors, caseworkers at Link-up and Connecting Home, the Department of Human Services – Family Information Networks and Discovery, the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, the Koorie Records Unit at the Public Record Office of Victoria, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Open Place, Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self-Help (VANISH), Care Connect, Bert

Williams Aboriginal Youth Services, Yitjawardik Men's Residential Recovery Centre, Child and Family Services in Ballarat, the Family Records Unit at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in NSW, the Community and Personal Histories Unit at the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in Queensland, the State Library of Victoria, the Genealogical Society of Victoria, the Indigenous Services team at the State Library of NSW, the National Library of Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander program of the National Museum of Australia, Aboriginal Victoria, and the Victorian State Government.

We again acknowledge the courage of our clients in sharing their stories and are ever mindful of the trust that is placed in our unit. We always endeavour to maintain the highest level of confidentiality and respect for every request that is lodged with our Service.

Cultural Education

2015-2016 has been another successful and productive year for the Cultural Education Unit with many additions and developments. Our team now has a dedicated manager, Rob Hyatt, who joined us in January, taking over Indigenous Cross Cultural Awareness Training (ICCAT) co-ordination and unit management from the CEO, and management administrative duties from Pauline Sloane, the Curriculum Development co-ordinator. Rob comes to us after 17 years at the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services where he was most recently State Co-ordinator, Indigenous Sport and Recreation.

Tours

Tours attract media attention, which promotes both the tours themselves and the Koorie Heritage Trust as a whole. In the last year, our high-profile tours included one for the Collingwood Football Club website program, *Cloke's Community*, in which we took Travis Cloke on the new Scar Tree Walk to Yarra Park. This attracted over 80,000 views in the lead-up to the AFL's Sir Doug Nicholls Round. In other major publicity, the ABC ran an interview with Rob Hyatt during a tour and invited listeners to call in and win their own tour with us, while SBS ran an interview about the tours and the Trust on their program *Living Black*.

Coinciding with the move to Federation Square and the retirement of Uncle Len Tregonning and Donna Blackall as Education Officers and Indigenous Cultural Interpreters, the number of tour participants between September 2015 and February 2016 fell compared with the previous comparable period. During this time, Stephen Tregonning continued as a casual with assistance from Tim Stares who joined the unit as an assistant to Rob and part time Cultural Educator. Rob has now rebuilt our casual tour guide base to include Jordan Edwards (Mr NAIDOC 2016), Tamika Collins, and Uncle Len Tregonning and Donna Blackall who came back to us as casual Cultural Educators.

Now we have a full complement of guides, involvement in cultural tours is rising again. In the last year we reached 6,446 participants drawn from schools, tertiary institutions and corporate organisations. We have no doubt that we will surpass this number in the next year, our first fully operational year in the new premises.

The Cultural Education Unit, through its tours, also serviced community groups including: the Commission for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Aboriginal Partnerships South Eastern Australia, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation branches and the Koorie Academy of Excellence. We supported organisations delivering Aboriginal-targeted programs including the Cathy Freeman Foundation, Footy Means Business program, the AFL Indigenous and Diversity programs, the AFL's National Indigenous Women's Team, and the Scotch College, Wesley College and St. Kevin's College Indigenous programs.

Indigenous Cross Cultural Awareness Training

The Cultural Education Unit delivered 266 learning sessions during the year, together with twelve professional development sessions and 87 Indigenous Cross Cultural Awareness Training sessions. The Strategic Partnerships Program delivered schools leadership, cultural competence and resources programs in-house and regionally at Wangaratta, Tallarook and Warragul.

We delivered ICCAT sessions to a range of groups including State Government departments, Local Government, corporate, business and community organisations, and individual members of the general public. We provided training workshops in on-going partnerships with organisations including Chisholm Institute, the City of Melbourne, the Victorian Public Sector Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services. Notable and well-received sessions included those to global professional services firm KPMG, international law firm Ashurst, the YMCA, the Breast Cancer Network Australia and the Salvation Army. The KPMG session culminated with the launch of Reconciliation Week to the company's staff at which athlete Kyle Vander Kuyp was guest speaker. KPMG posted the event on its company website and twitter feed, further promoting the Koorie Heritage Trust.

Education Partnerships and Professional Development

The Cultural Education Unit has been busy strengthening partnerships and, overall, it has been a very successful year, with the promise of expansion into new partnerships and programs.

We presented at the History Teachers of Victoria National Conference, and again delivered professional development to Overnewton Anglican Community College arts unit, Teach Australia and Melbourne University's Masters of Teaching Humanities program. We teamed with Federation Square Education to deliver a very successful schools program for the Melbourne Writers Festival, and the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria has introduced a new study design that makes a perfect pairing with our tours. In addition we reviewed texts for children's publisher Walker Books.



above: Launch of the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square. Photo: Peter Bennett, 2015

right: Aunty Di Kerr and Arweet Carolyn Briggs conduct the welcome to country at the launch of the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square. Photo: James Henry, 2015

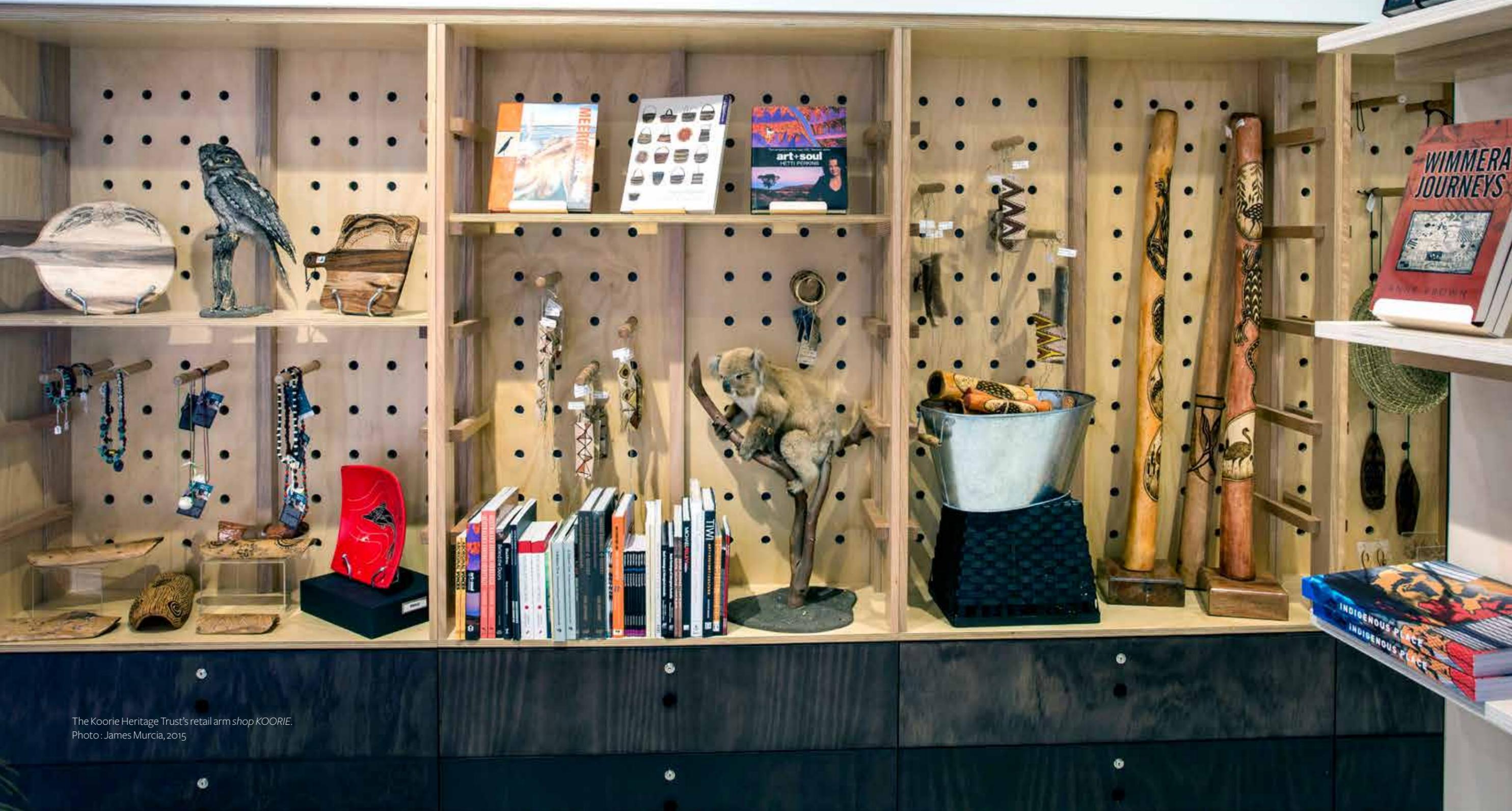
This year we became a member of the Arts Centre Melbourne's ArtsConnect9 (AC9) group, which funds rural schools to participate in cultural programs in the metropolitan area. We have had three schools attend the Trust via this program.

As a part of ongoing Professional Development requirements, members of the Education Unit attended Virtual Excursions Australia's REveal Conference at ACMI to investigate the use of media in programs and as a promotional tool. Members have also attended online professional learning sessions through the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and the Curriculum Development co-ordinator was invited to attend a consultation session for the Education State Consultation paper

We look forward to the developing opportunities in the coming year.



shop KOORIE



Retail and Venue Hire



Customers in *shop KOORIE* at the launch of the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square
Photo: Peter Bennett, 2015

shop KOORIE, now centrally located at Federation Square, is open seven days a week selling a wide variety of Victorian Aboriginal-designed and produced products to international, interstate and local visitors. Our handmade and limited edition stock includes unique toys, baskets, boomerangs, sound makers, pottery, glass, jewellery, badges, postcards, clothing, books and exhibition catalogues – from small mementoes, souvenirs and presents to something larger but packable to take overseas or interstate in your luggage or for use as corporate gifts.

The new, beautifully designed and fitted-out ground floor Federation Square retail space is smaller but more focused than at King Street. Visitors come to the Trust to see, hear and learn about Victorian Aboriginal people, and *shop KOORIE* offers an opportunity to take away something tangible expressing the uniqueness of

South East Australian Aboriginal peoples, cultures and communities through art, craft and design.

Our carefully curated stock is now virtually all produced or designed by an expanding list of Victorian and Victorian-based Indigenous artists including Uncle Oswald Egan (Mutti Mutti) who supplies us with boomerangs, bullroarers and clapsticks, Kirsten Atkinson (Bangerang) who makes bird mobiles and brooches, and Lee Clarke (Mutti Mutti, Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta, Boon Wurrung) and Deb Matthews who both produce jewellery. We have an exclusive new range of three t-shirts designed by Jefa Greenaway (Wailwan, Kamilaroi) the Director of Greenaway Architects and co-founder and a director of Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria (IADV). The t-shirts carry the label of Greenshoot Designs, a social enterprise established to help artists market their products.



Bnym Indigenous Ceramics available at *shop KOORIE*

The *shop KOORIE* staff continually sources new products, and we are currently having samples produced of notebooks, magnets, coasters and cards featuring images from the Koorie Heritage Trust collection.

Importantly, *shop KOORIE* provides opportunities for the local Koorie community to promote and sell their art while educating the public to the differences between the art and customs here in Victoria and other states. We build on the strengths of Aboriginal people and the role of Aboriginal culture in developing resilience and prosperity, and directly benefit Victorian Indigenous people through a retail model that makes financial returns to artists and communities while contributing to the viability of the Koorie Heritage Trust.

“Some beautiful pieces here. You are doing important work to help preserve our culture and ancient knowledge through the works here. Keep up this important work for our mobs and our nation more broadly.”

**Richard Weston, CEO,
The Healing Foundation 3/4/2016**



Koorie Heritage Trust venue hire rooms
Photos: James Murcia, 2015

Venue Hire

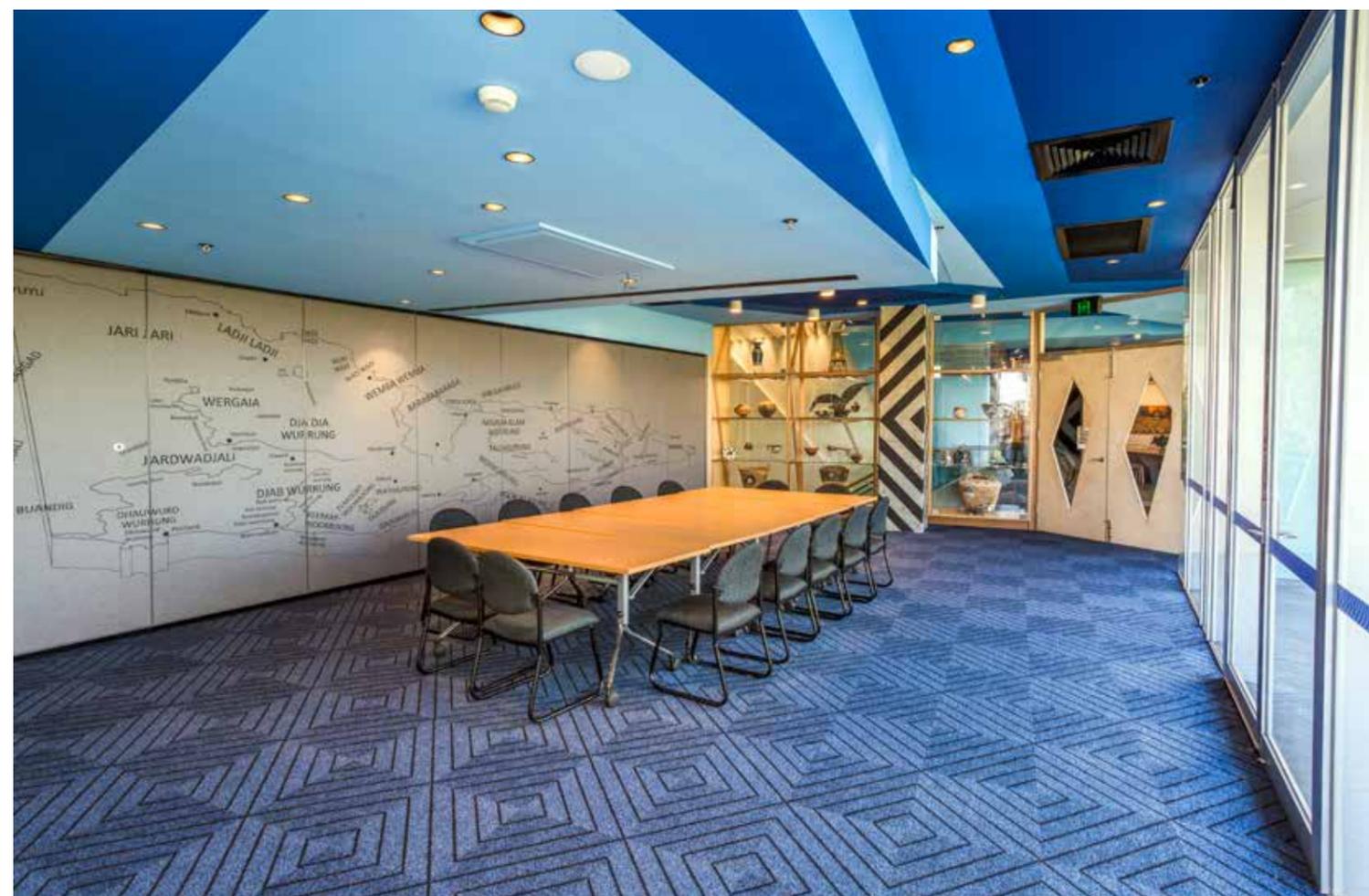
The Koorie Heritage Trust has two meeting, conference or function rooms with balcony views for hire on the third floor of the Yarra Building at Federation Square. The Aunty Joyce Johnson Room overlooks the river, and the Uncle Stewart Murray room overlooks Federation Square. The Trust's position only one or two minutes walk from Flinders Street Station, Swanston Street and Flinders Street trams, a public car park and the river must make it the most easily reached of central City meeting spaces.

The meeting rooms can be set up in various configurations for events as diverse as stand-up cocktails, conferences, workshops or staff planning days, and may be hired individually or opened up to create one large space. Depending on the configuration, we can accommodate from 20 to 150 people. The rooms are equipped for on-screen presentations from various

sources including via wifi. They can be booked by the hour, the day or longer, from early morning through to the evening and at the weekend. We provide tea and coffee and can arrange catering at various prices for large and small groups.

We will also negotiate special event hires for the level three foyer gallery space and level one galleries.

Users of the spaces so far have included Aboriginal organisations, Government departments, philanthropic organisations, businesses, and student and professional bodies. Despite only operating fully since September last year, we estimate that our whole-year venue hire income for 2015-2016 will be up by around 15% on the last full year at the old premises.



Koorie Heritage Trust permanent collections store,
The Yarra Building at Federation Square.
Photo: Peter Bennett, 2016



Collections, Exhibitions and Public Programs

Collection Management

Over the month of July 2015, we moved our collections to the new premises at Federation Square and the end of this financial year marks a full twelve months in our new building.

To relocate the collections, we spent the second half of the previous financial year preparing, planning, packing, updating records on our digital catalogue and overseeing the design and installation of our new storeroom and gallery facilities. In July 2015, the Collections staff worked with International Artwork Services to physically move the packed collections. Using two teams of staff and volunteers – one at King Street and one at Federation Square – and a single truck, we packed 3900 artworks and objects, 2000 oral histories, 50,000 photographic archives and 6000 library items and brought them across to Federation Square over five days. Each box was ticked off the prepared inventory list and stored in temporary locations in the storeroom, ready to be unpacked. We moved the entire collection without loss or damage.

In order to increase access to the collections and put more items on display, our new premises are fitted out with custom-designed visible storage, both in the collection storeroom and throughout the level three public area. Display cabinets and drawers are incorporated into the walls of the upper level to showcase the quantity and diversity of our artworks and objects collection. For the launch of the new building in September 2015, we created a collection display of over 200 items. This display is changed every three to six months, depending on conservation requirements and, since opening these areas to the public in September 2015, we have shown a further 100 items.

The new storeroom itself was designed to increase access and visibility of the collection, even for items not on public display. The storage cabinets have glass doors and pull-out shelves and the entire collection is on a rolling compactus so that, despite a huge reduction in storeroom floor space from our previous

location, we are still able to house the entire collection on-site at Federation Square. The collections team worked for nine months with volunteer conservation and museum studies students from Melbourne University's Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials and Conservation unpacking the collection and rehusing each item in new permanent locations. Where required, we made custom mounts to properly support objects, including rests and supports for eel traps, ceramics, baskets and wooden objects, decreasing risk of damage while in storage.

While preparing collection items for display, the collections team began thorough condition reporting of objects and in the past year completed over 350 condition reports, which have been uploaded to the collections digital database. They have also undertaken treatments of approximately 20 objects from the collection, including brush vacuuming cleaning treatments, tape removal, and the inspection and cleaning of Uncle Wally Cooper's large bark canoe, which underwent extensive treatment before going on display on level two.

Like the new galleries, the new storeroom has greatly improved environmental conditions with conservation air-conditioning and humidity control, a dry-pipe fire suppression system and specialist lighting. At the Museum Australia (Victoria) Awards in July 2016, the Koorie Heritage Trust received a Museums Australia Award, Medium Museums for the "relocation and outstanding development of programs and access to their collection". The award highlighted the innovative way we responded to community feedback on visual and physical access throughout the building.

In the past year, four new items were donated to our artworks and objects collection, including a small grinding stone believed to be from the Goulburn River area of the Murray-Darling Basin, and a wooden club and shield, discovered in a Salvation Army secondhand store. Research showed the club and shield to be consistent with others in our collection created as souvenir objects at the Lake Tyers mission. We also



acquired an early-mid nineteenth century wooden parrying shield from Western Victoria – a fantastic example with carved designs inlaid in ochre – purchased by Carey Lyons and Jo Crosby from the Moss Green Auction House and donated to the Trust for our 30th Birthday.

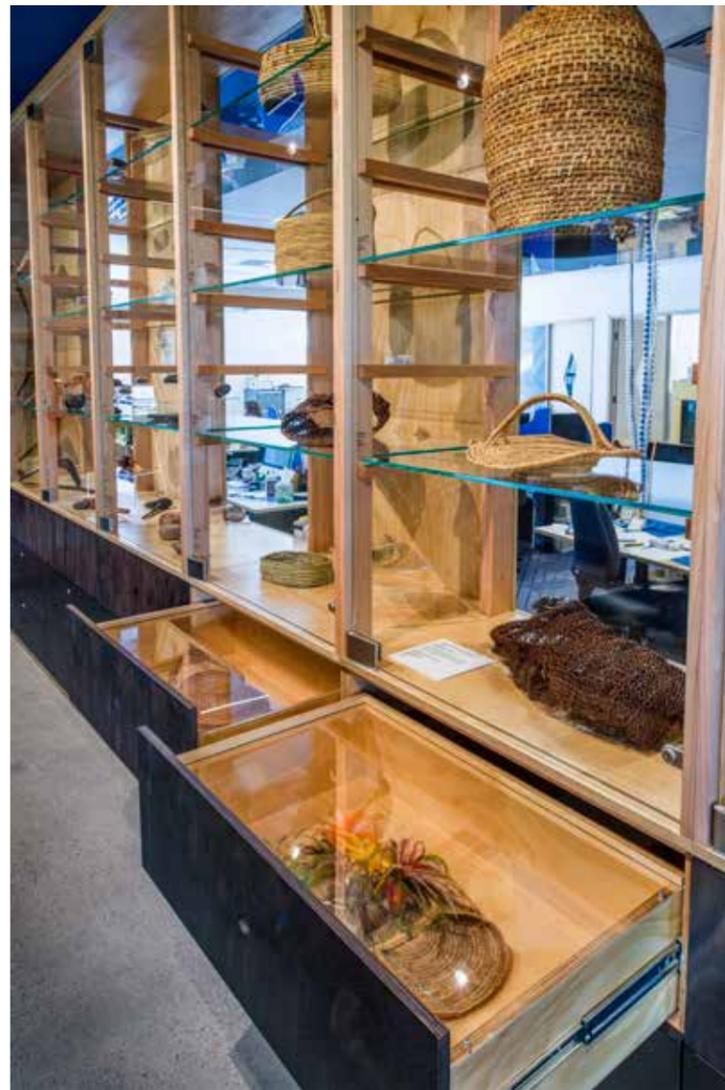
After unpacking into our new storage facility, the collections team reactivated the Oral History and Library collections, with planned recordings and an Oral History exhibition to be staged in early October 2016. The library was also re-opened to researchers with eight library requests processed.

We currently have the following total items catalogued in detail on our MIMSY XG collections database: 3,977 artworks, objects and artefacts, 3,824 photographs, 2,003 oral history recordings and 4,749 library items. In addition to this database, we manage access to the remainder of our collection items through the use of finding aids. These aids cover 860 folders of paper records in the Jim Berg Archive, approximately 15,000 stone tools and 85,000 photographs. While unpacking the collection, we updated over 2,000 location records, and uploaded over 200 thumbnail images of objects to the database.

In preparation for the exhibition *Close to You: The Lisa Bellear Picture Show* (21 May – 17 June 2016) featuring images from the Lisa Bellear photographic collection, the collections team worked with guest curators to digitise a further 1,126 photographs in high resolution and identify people and events in each of the photographs. This has greatly increased potential access to the collection, and the digitised images will be added to our digital catalogue in the coming months.

Collection Access

With the assistance of the Education team and Family History Unit, the Collections team, facilitated a behind the scenes tour of the Trust's holdings with several groups representing over 100 community members from groups including the Mallee District Aboriginal Service Board, the Dandenong District Elders Group, Aboriginal Community Elders Services, La Trobe University Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Indigenous students,



Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies staff and Indigenous artists from Gallery Kaiela in Shepparton.

The collections team also facilitated the loan of nine items to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, for the exhibition *Murruwaygu: Following in the Footsteps of our Ancestors* (28 November 2015 – 21 February 2016).

The exhibition, curated by Jonathan Jones, celebrated the Aboriginal culture of South East Australia by exploring one particular strand of Koorie practice – the use of line by male artists. The collections team assisted the curator to research our collection and we loaned several parrying shields, including our highly significant shield by William Barak, and two works on paper by Tommy McRae.



Previous and above: Open collection display, Level 3, The Yarra Building at Federation Square. Photo: James Murcia, 2015

We processed four image reproduction requests during the past year, including the reproduction of photographs of Archie Roach for his latest album cover, images of Lisa Bellear for an as yet unpublished anthology of Lisa's poetry edited by Jen Jewel Brown, and the reproduction of images of Uncle William Cooper for an exhibition at Footscray Community Art Centre, *Call from the West: The continuing Legacy of Mr William Cooper* (15 January – 24 February 2016) curated by Kimberley Moulton.

Finally the collections team facilitated several research requests from artists and curators working with the collection for our exhibition program, including artist Steaphan Paton to view works by the Mullett

family in preparation for his exhibition *Ngujarn and Nakun: Belonging in the other* (12 March – 15 May 2016), and guest curators, Virginia Fraser, Kim Kruger and Destiny Deacon to research and digitise over 1,000 images from the Lisa Bellear Photographic Collection in preparation for the exhibition *Close to You: The Lisa Bellear Picture Show* (21 May – 17 June 2016). Throughout the year, the team assisted artist Lee Darroch, who is currently undertaking an institutional residency with the Trust through a Federally-funded Indigenous Institutional Development Fellowship, to look at and research possum skin and kangaroo skin cloaks in our Collection in preparation for her exhibition opening at the Trust in October 2016.

Exhibitions

The Koorie Heritage Trust opened its new galleries in Federation Square to the public in July 2015, three months before opening the entire building in September 2015. Like our storerooms, the new galleries feature conservation air-conditioning and humidity control, dry-pipe fire suppression system and a combination of specialist LED track lighting and dimmable LED downlights. The exhibitions program continues to showcase the diverse artists and arts practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Victoria and all exhibitions are accompanied by catalogues and room sheets with images, artist statements and essays.

Through sales of works and artist and curator fees, the exhibition program provides invaluable professional and financial support to our artist community. Notable sales this year included the purchase by the National Gallery of Victoria for their Indigenous Collection of two works by Jaye Early from the 2015 Koorie Art Show, *Never apologise for not being yourself because we're made that way* (winner of the 2015 University of Melbourne Murrup Barak Innovation Award) and *Portrait of self as a boy as a cartoon without a red hat with blood thudding in both ears*. This makes two years in a row that the NGV has acquired award-winning work from the Koorie Art Show, a testament to the importance and quality of our exhibition program.

Robyn Latham: *The Aborigine is Present* video still featuring Deborah Cheatham and a member of the public. July 2015



Our exhibitions in the last year included works in paint, photography, sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance and involved more than one hundred artists, curators and mentors.

The Aborigine is Present

4 July – 26 July 2015 and

Ritual: Connection to Country

4 July – 13 September 2015

To launch our new gallery space, the program opened with exhibitions by two local Indigenous artists, Robyne Latham and Maree Clarke, who both have long relationships with the Koorie Heritage Trust, and whose careers have both shaped and been shaped by the Trust over its 30 year history.

Robyne Latham, a Melbourne-based Yamatji artist, created a performance and installation work, *The Aborigine is Present*, as a response to the place Aboriginal communities occupy in contemporary Australia, and the often perceived invisibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities living in Melbourne. The work drew inspiration from New York-based performance artist Marina Abramovic's *The Artist is Present*, and invited non-Indigenous audience members to sit across from members of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and be 'present' in recognition of our shared humanity. The opening performance, held during NAIDOC week, was filmed and broadcast live to Federation Square's big screen.

Ritual: Connection to Country presented an installation by Mutti Mutti, Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta and Boon Wurrung artist Maree Clarke who is from Mildura in North-West Victoria. The exhibition featured a projected sound and video work expanding Clarke's exploration of her community's mourning practices as part of her continuing re-engagement with culture and work on raising awareness of her community's strength. Emotionally and politically charged, the two exhibitions announced the Koorie Heritage Trust's presence at Federation Square.

Dead Tongue

1 August – 13 September 2015

To complement the Australian Centre for the Moving Image's blockbuster exhibition *David Bowie Is*, the Koorie Heritage Trust commissioned *Dead Tongue* by Melbourne-based Bidjara artist Christian Thompson as a response to the themes in Bowie's 1983 music video *Let's Dance*. The work combined a video self-portrait installation with a newly composed song by Thompson, written in Bidjara language and a series of photographic self-portraits titled *The Imperial Relic*.



Christian Thompson with Maree Clarke at the opening of *Dead Tongue*. Photo: Jane Walton, 2015

Wominjeka: A New Beginning

19 September – 22 November 2015

Inspired by 30 years of collecting at the Koorie Heritage Trust, *Wominjeka* (a Woiwurrung word meaning welcome) opened to coincide with the public launch of the whole of our new Federation Square home. Continuing the Trust's history of incubating, supporting and promoting South-East Australian Aboriginal art, the exhibition engaged five early-career Koorie artists, paired with established artist mentors, to create new works responding to the Trust's significant collections of objects,

artworks, archives and oral histories. Artists Georgia MacGuire (Wurundjeri), Marlene Gilson (Wadawurrung), Mitch Mahoney (Boon Wurrung), Josh Muir (Yorta Yorta, Gundiitjmarra) and Raymond Young (Gunnai, Gundiitjmarra, Yorta Yorta) worked with mentors Maree Clarke (Mutti Mutti, Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta, Boonwurrung), Lee Darroch (Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti, Boon Wurrung), Ray Thomas (Gunnai) and Peter Waples-Crowe (Ngarigo, Wiradjuri). The resulting works were exhibited with the collection items that inspired them.



Kent Morris, CEO The Torch and Josh Muir, artist with his work, *We Will Survive*, 2015, digital print on aluminium. Photo: James Henry, 2015

Koorie Art Show 2015

5 December 2015 – 28 February 2016

For the third year, the annual Koorie Art Show assembled in one inclusive space the diverse talents of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists. For the 2015 show, we received more than 120 entries from 70 plus artists, an increase on the previous year, and exhibited a shortlist of 98 works in the two galleries in our level one exhibition space. For the first time, the show accepted three-dimensional works, reflecting the varied media, styles and subject matter of contemporary Koorie artists. Entrants were a mixture of emerging, mid-career and established artists drawn from metropolitan and outer-metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. In 2015, we added two extra awards (the University of Melbourne Murrup Barak Innovation Award, and the Kane Construction 3D Award), and the prize amounts for the Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in Any Media and the Lend Lease Reconciliation Award were doubled. The judges, artist Yhonnie Scarce and artist/curator and CEO of The Torch, Kent Morris, were both hugely impressed with the increased calibre and quality of works presented.



Wominjeka exhibition installation.
Photo: James Murcia, 2015

The Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in Any Medium (\$2,000) went to Kelly Koumalatsos for her work, *Ngarrenjuk Wile* (possum fur) (akua ink on black paper). The Lend Lease Reconciliation Award (\$2,000) went, for the second year, to Marlene Gilson, this time for her work *Travellers* (acrylic on bark). The University of Melbourne Murrup Barak Innovation Award (\$1,000) went to Jaye Early for his work *Never Apologise for not being yourself because we're made that way* (synthetic polymer paint and high gloss enamel on canvas). The Kane Construction 3D Award (\$500) went to Dominic Bramall-White for his work, *Moomba Message Stick* (burnt acacia and glass). The Moogji Club People's Choice Award (\$500), which attracted more than 700 votes, went to Leslie Stanley for his painting *The First Song Bird*.



Parrying shields, foreground shield, maker unknown, Victoria, mid 19th century details, Wominjeka. Photo: James Henry, 2015



left to right: Tony Isaacson, Managing Director, KANE Constructions; David Lehmann, Lend Lease Executive General Manager, Southern Region, Natalie Hutchins, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ian Hamm, Chairperson Koorie Heritage Trust Andrew Abbott, Deputy Secretary, Creative Victoria and Tom Mosby, CEO Koorie Heritage Trust at the 2015 Koorie Art Show opening. Photo: James Henry, 2015 below: 2015 Koorie Art Show opening Photo: James Henry, 2015



**Ngujarn and Nakun:
Belonging in the Other**

12 March – 15 May 2016

This exhibition presented work from four generations of the Mullett family, within which, cultural knowledge and connection to land has driven an artistic tradition passed down from the oldest members through to the youngest. The artists included the late Uncle Albert Mullett (Gunnai/Kurnai) and Aunty Rachel Mullett (Gunai, Monero Ngarigo) and their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren – Kerrie Clarke, Kynan Clarke, Tehya Clarke, Seamus Clarke, Liam Clarke, Richard Mullett, Michael Mullett, Colin ‘Chook’ Mullett, Jennifer Mullett, Ben Pender, Luke Johnson, Hollie Johnson, Timothy Paton, Doris Paton, Steaphan Paton, Sienna Paton and Njarala Paton. Curated by Steaphan Paton, who is an award-winning contemporary artist and one of Uncle Albert and Aunty Rachel’s grandchildren, the exhibition assembled paintings, wooden tools and weapons, ceramics and installations drawn from the individual artists, the family’s private collections and the Koorie Heritage Trust’s artworks and objects holdings.

Doris Paton, ceramic pot ceramic (fired clay and slip), 1994
Ngujarn Nakun Belonging in the Other
Photo: James Henry, 2016



**Close to You:
The Lisa Bellear Picture Show**

21 May – 17 June 2016

Coinciding with the tenth anniversary of her passing in 2006, this exhibition featured photographs from the Koorie Heritage Trust’s Lisa Bellear Collection, and paid tribute to the life and work of Lisa Bellear. A Minjungbul, Goernpil, Noonuccal, Kanak woman, Bellear was primarily based in Melbourne pursuing her varied interests as an Indigenous activist, photographer, broadcaster, poet, feminist, academic and performer and was widely admired within the Australian Indigenous community. Curated by close friends, artists Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser and cousin Kim Kruger, this exhibition showcased a selection from Bellear’s photographic collection, through which she documented over a quarter of a century of Indigenous community life including marches, community celebrations, portraits, signs and graffiti, and personal moments. By 2006, she had created a collection of over 30,000 images, now held by the Koorie Heritage Trust. With financial support from La Trobe University, the Faculty of Arts at Melbourne University and Moondani Balluk Academic Unit at Victoria University, the curators created a significant catalogue with essays from artists, curators and writers including Celeste Liddle and Brenda L Croft, as well as photographs and writings by Lisa Bellear. The exhibition and catalogue contributed to positioning Lisa Bellear as a significant Australian Indigenous photographer.

Shooting Star

25 May – 19 June 2016

To celebrate Reconciliation Week 2016 and Dreamtime at the ‘G, in partnership with Essendon Football Club, we presented *Shooting Star*, the debut solo exhibition of artist Gavin Wanganeen. Best-known as an AFL legend and Brownlow Medallist with countless other awards and a glittering career spanning some 300 games at Essendon and Port Adelaide, Gavin is a descendent of the Kokatha people of the Western Desert in South Australia. His exhibition, on our level three space, attracted a record audience of new visitors to the Trust with mainstream media coverage including the VIP opening broadcast live to Channel 9 news.



Ngujarn Nakun Belonging in the Other installation featuring work by Jenny Mullett and Steaphan Paton. Photo: James Henry, 2016
Close to You: The Lisa Bellear Picture Show. Photo: James Henry, 2016



clockwise from top left:

Tom Mosby, CEO at the opening of *Close to You: The Lisa Belleair Picture Show*

Rachael Maza, Artistic Director, Ilbijerri and Talgium Edwards

Kylie Belling (Yorta Yorta/Wiradjuri/South Sea Islander woman) speaking at the opening of *Close to You: The Lisa Belleair Picture Show*

Kelly Koumalastos and Nerissa Broben, Snr Curator, Koorie Heritage Trust

All photos: James Henry, 2016



"Learning weaving techniques from Marilyn Nicholls was truly wonderful. I particularly enjoyed the stories behind how they harvested the grasses to weave, a lovely afternoon"
Adult Workshop participant

Shooting Star VIP opening, 25 May 2016.

Gavin Wanganeen and Pippa Hansen at the VIP opening.

Photos courtesy of the Essendon Football Club, 2016.



Touring Exhibitions

In the past year we toured two exhibitions to regional Victoria. *Wominjeka: A New Beginning* travelled to East Gippsland Art Gallery (17 May – 22 June 2016) with assistance from National Exhibitions Touring Support Victoria, and will tour to three other venues in the next year. A selection of works from the exhibition *Ganagan (Deep Water): Waterways in Koorie Art and Life* was also toured to Kyneton Town Hall with support from Macedon Ranges Shire. *Ganagan* invited visitors to see Victoria's waterways through Koorie eyes and included works from the Koorie Heritage Trust collection representing many Koorie cultural groups from South Eastern Australia.

Public Programs

To accompany our exhibitions and engage with topics of interest to the public and the Koorie community, we arrange a number of public programs and events throughout the year. In 2015, we engaged a Public Program Co-ordinator, Naomi Velaphi, with the assistance of the Australian Cultural Fund's Creative Partnerships Plus 1 Program. This allowed us to increase our public programming and we now hold four to six public events per month including artist talks, kids' school holiday activities, workshops, forums, and collaborations with other festivals around Melbourne such as the *Human Rights Arts and Film* festival and the *Light in Winter* festival. Highlights included two public forums in collaboration with the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and Theatreworks, our first Koorie Krismas Family Day and our winter solstice celebration.

One of the first public events in our new premises at Federation Square was our inclusion in the 2015 Open House Melbourne Festival. Throughout the weekend of July 30 and 31 we ran tours throughout the building with the project architects from Lyons Architecture and Indigenous Architecture and Design Victoria, discussing the Koorie design features of the new building. We attracted more than 260 visitors.

On Saturday September 5, the Koorie Heritage Trust collaborated with ACMI to present an artist talk by contemporary Indigenous artist, Christian Thompson, followed by the public forum *Let's Dance: In Between the Message*

and the Medium. The forum brought together a range of voices to discuss Indigenous representation in non-Indigenous media and give historical context to David Bowie's iconic music video for 'Let's Dance'. The forum, featuring speakers Deborah Cheetham, Nikki Ashby, Shane Howard and Kutcha Edwards with chair Sean Redmond, was a companion piece to Christian Thompson's *Dead Tongue*, and coincided with ACMI's *David Bowie* exhibition. The biggest event in the past year was our combined 30th Birthday celebration and the launch of our new building on 19 September 2015. The entire building was officially opened to the public for the first time at this event with a private VIP event, a free public concert on the Federation Square stage and the opening of the exhibition *Wominjeka: A New Beginning*. Inside, the Honourable Natalie Hutchins MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Right Honourable Lord Mayor Robert Doyle officially launched the Trust's new premises. Outside, the Koorie Heritage Trust rocked Federation Square with a free 30th Birthday Concert celebrating Koorie people's cultures and communities. We cut and served a giant birthday cake and MC, Constantina Bush, led a concert featuring Victorian and Melbourne-based Indigenous performers, including Jessie Lloyd with the Mission Songs Project, Philly, Indigenous Hip Hop Projects, the Tiddas Choir, and the Djirri Djirri women's dance group whose performance celebrated Wurundjeri culture.

Our most recent series of events for Federation Square's *Light in Winter* festival was another public programming highlight for the year. On 7 June 2016, with Wurundjeri language expert Mandy Nicholson, we held a language workshop around the *Light in Winter* Leempeeyt Weeyn (which means campfire in the Gunitjmarra language) in collaboration with the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages. On 15 June, to accompany the exhibition *Close to You: The Lisa Bellear Picture Show*, a poetry reading around the fire paid tribute to Lisa Bellear as a poet. The event, hosted by actor Pauline Whyman, featured readings by Tony Birch, Jeltje Fanoy, Ardy Tibby, Kamarra Bell-Wykes and Jean Taylor.

right top: Cathy Leatham-Harrup conducting Bush Tukka workshop at Koorie Krismas. Photo: Tatjana Pitt, 2015
right bottom: Learning Circle weaving workshop with Donna Blackall, 2016. Image Koorie Heritage Trust



We also celebrated the winter solstice and *Light in Winter* with *Baabapul Kwii-Ap – A Taste of Bushtukka*. In short and intimate gatherings, artist Cassie Leatham-Harrap (Taungurung, Wurundjeri) shared knowledge and bush food recipes on a tasting journey around our level three Canoe Table.

Circles Program

The Koorie Heritage Trust ran a number of talks and workshops under the *Circles Yarning, Learning and Family* program. The program is based on the concept of the circle as a distinct symbol in Aboriginal traditional design and as a way to share knowledge and information through everyday activities, whether gathering for a creative activity or simply getting together for a yarn.

Yarning Circles

Our Yarning Circles program included a series of artist and curator talks with Christian Thompson (5 September 2015), Georgia MacGuire (21 November 2015), Kelly Koumalatsos (20 February 2016), cousins Steaphan Paton and Hollie Johnson as part of the *Human Rights Arts and Film Festival* (7 May 2016), Gavin Wanganeen (26 May 2016), and a live broadcast on 3CR with Virginia Fraser, Kim Kruger and Destiny Deacon, curators of *Close to You: The Lisa Belleart Picture Show* (26 June 2016). The Circles program also featured a forum in partnership with theatre companies, Theatre Works and ARTHUR, titled *Making Family Art: Visual, Performative and Historical Perspectives* (19 April 2016). Hosted by playwright Jane Harrison (Muruwari), the forum's panellists – museum curator and researcher Kimberley Moulton (Yorta Yorta), writer and director Andrea James (Yorta Yorta) and playwright Elise Hearst – discussed art making and family storytelling across generations.

Learning Circles

This year, our learning circles workshops program began monthly weaving circles with Yorta Yorta weaver Donna Blackall around our level three Canoe Table at Friday lunchtimes. The workshop gave keen weavers a chance to build projects over the months, and all sessions were sold out.

We also held two learning circle weaving workshops, *Weaving and the Environment* (2 April 2016), with master weaver Marilyn

Nicholls (Waddi Waddi, Yorta Yorta, Barrapa Barrapa, Dja Dja Wurrung, Ngarrindjeri). Marilyn explored traditional weaving techniques and shared knowledge of the natural materials used, including environmental issues related to where she harvests native grasses, and gave a pine needle weaving workshop (28 May 2016), using the introduced plant species. Aboriginal people employed pine needles as an alternative weaving material after British settlement in Victoria inhibited access to traditional lands where sedge grasses were previously harvested.

Finally, we held a series of community-only net weaving circles with artist Glenda Nicholls (Waddi Waddi, Yorta Yorta) on 18 and 19 June for men, and 25 and 26 June for women where community members learned how to make large nets referencing the tools of Glenda's ancestors.

Learning Circle weaving workshop with Donna Blackall, 2016. Image Koorie Heritage Trust



Family Circles

In the past year, we began running regular Family Circle events for young people and families, generally coinciding with school holidays. The highlight of our Family Circle was the *Koorie Krismas* family celebration – Christmas with a Koorie twist – on 19 December 2015 when we celebrated the festive season with an afternoon of family-friendly activities. We began with a Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri elder Aunty Di Kerr, followed by performances from the Koorie Tiddas Youth Choir, James Henry, Jessie Lloyd, Tiriki Onus, Monica Weightman and Robert Champion. Throughout the afternoon, visitors could participate in basket weaving with Yorta Yorta weaver Donna Blackall and Wurundjeri weaver Lititia Smith, and a Bush Tucker talk and demonstration with Cassie Leatham-Harrap (Taungurung, Wurundjeri), along with storytelling with Mandy Nicholson (Wurundjeri), plus colouring-in and other games and activities. The afternoon finished with an appearance by Koorie Klaus who took photos with the kids and gave out Koorie presents.

Koorie Tiddas Choir performs at Koorie Krismas. Photo: Tatjana Pitt, 2015



Our other Family Circle activities included a community-only workshop with kids from the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency's program on 27 January 2016. Sixteen kids participated in a river walk and workshop with Cassie Leatham-Harrap. Using natural grasses, raffia and nuts collected along the river and eco-dyed wool, they created bush toys inspired by creation stories and many of their creations were installed in the drawers of the Canoe Table on level three as a pop-up exhibition to be viewed by the public.

During the April school holidays, we held another three Family Circle programs. Annette Sax, a Taungurung artist and cultural facilitator ran two kids' workshops – *The Possum Hunt Puppet Show – Storytelling and Making* (1 April 2016) and *Yurri's Birthday Storytelling and Making* (5 April 2015), in which kids participated in Koorie culture through storytelling and making artworks using traditional materials. At a third workshop (8 April 2015), Taungurung artist Mick Harding invited kids to create their own wangin (boomerang) decorated using traditional wood-burning techniques.

Activities: Advocacy and Research

Committee Representation

Tom Mosby, Chief Executive Officer, is currently on the board of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and the Bangarra Dance Company. He was on the Board of the Public Galleries Association of Victoria to May 2016.

Jennifer Bates, Manager of the Koorie Family History Service, represented the Koorie Heritage Trust through her involvement in a number of committees including the Joint Victorian Archives Centre Consultative Forum and the Victorian Aboriginal Records

Advisory Group. She stepped down as Chair of Victorian Aboriginal Records Advisory Group in December 2015. She is a Partner Investigator on the ARC-funded 'Coranderrk – Minutes of Evidence' project.

Pauline Sloane, our Curriculum Development Co-ordinator, continues to sit on the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI) Consultative Committee working on Framework for Embedding Koorie Cultures, Histories and Perspectives in Victorian Schools.

Indigenous Hip Hop Projects leading the crowd at 30th Birthday Concert. Photo: James Henry, 2015



Donors and Supporters

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Office of Aboriginal Victoria (Formerly Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria),
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Department of Education and Training

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Moogji Club

Moogji is a Victorian Aboriginal word which means mate or special friend. Our friends in the Moogji Club receive a range of privileges while at the same time supporting our programs. Working with us, our Moogji Club friends help to raise awareness and appreciation of the cultural diversity of Koorie culture and contribute to the broader goal of reconciliation for all Australians.

In April 2016, we launched our new Moogji Club card, which features the blossom of the Manna-Gum Tree, the leaves of which are used in Welcome to Country smoking ceremonies.

We currently have 227 active Moogji Club members.

“Thanks Lenny for your amazing presentation/tour. Our class (Deakin) of Melb/Australian/International students learnt so much from your extensive knowledge and generous clear communication.”
E. Spalding, 8/4/2016

Individual Donors

Bequests

The Koorie Heritage Trust gratefully acknowledges those who have chosen to remember us in their will. Their gifts are invaluable to the on-going achievements of the Trust:

Ms Norma Gleeson
Ms Lilian Renard
Ms Jessica Scott Wills

Annual Giving Appeal 2015-2016

We would like to thank everyone who donated to our annual giving appeal – your support is truly valued!

\$10,000 – \$15,000

Bell Charitable Fund
Carey and Jo Lyon
Ron Merkel and Beth Charles

\$5,000 – \$9,999

BHP Giving
Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation
Ricci Swart

\$1,000 – \$2,999

Andrew Clark and Sarah Tiffin
Tony Ellwood
John M Landy
Christopher Mitchell
Brian Newman
Ralph Renard
Estate of Mr Keith Leslie Roberts
Telstra Big Pond*
Chris and Cheryl Thomas
Noel and Jenny Turnbull
Tony Warren*

\$500 – \$999

Clarks Cleaners Pty Ltd
Suzanne Davies
Sabin Fernbacher
Archbishop Dr Philip Freier
Justice Peter R A Gray
Lea Guillaume
Rachel Guillaume
Ann Jacobs
Edmund Lovegrove
Noel McKernan
Michael Miler*
Dr Barrie and
Diana Pittcock

\$200 – \$499

Ann Annand
Sandy and Tony Cahir
Joanne Clark
Sally and David Dammary
Barry Fradkin
Marlene Gilson
John Haasz
Shona Hawkes
Leigh Matthews
Merle Mitchell
Sally Mitchell
Matthew Phillips
Carey Rohrlach
Judith Ryan
Cathy Scott
John F Stewart
Tony Trood
Geoff & Judy Webb*
Susan Wood

\$100 – \$199

Joel Becker &
Giacomina Pradolini
John Billings
Deb Blaber
Julia Bruce
The Connies - Roberto
D'Andrea
Brian Doyle
Mark Dreyfus QC MP
Ian Duncan
Elsie Edenhall
Bruce A Fisher
Candida Franco
David Godkin
Barbara Hadkinson
Jack Isaacs
Carmel Laragy
Helen Light
Robert Macguire
Frances Mackieson
Marian Maddern
Mary Mahoney
Mary-Anne Micallef
Sally Mitchell
Penny Morison
Susan Oliver
Naomi Saporta
Elizabeth Sevier
Johnny Sloans
Maira Smith
Shirley Southcombe
Noel Tovey
Stephen Valery
Yoland Wadsworth
Ruth Wexler
Ruiyuan Yang

>\$100

Rick Barker
Margaret Bullen
Margaret Campbell
Elspeth Chambers
Brian Doyle
Bill Field
Herbert Smith Freehills
David Godkin
Jeremy Graham
Pat Grainger
Helena Grunfeld
Judith Hampton
David Hall
Margaret Judson
George & Jacky Kefford
Suzanne Mackinnon
Ian MacMillan
Robert Maguire
Peter & Lynette Matic
Diane Nicholas
Frank & Christine Oliver
Mary Owen
Barry Parsons
Beverley Phillips
Maira Playne
Barbara Praetz
Shirley Ramsay
James Richardson
Carey Rohrlach
Johnny San Marcos
Pauline Schwarcz
Clive Scott
Johnny Sloane
Margaret Spong
Peter & Dorothy
Sutherland
Jim Weatherill
Susan Weigall
Ronald White
Judith Anne Whitehead

*The Koorie Heritage Trust would like to thank Kallie Blauthorn and Andrew Penn, who asked guests to donate to the Trust in lieu of gifts on the occasion of their recent wedding.

Governance

We are a not-for-profit Incorporated Association governed by the Trust's Rules of Association and by a Board of Management.

Board Members 2015–2016

Office Bearers

Annette Vickery, Chair
(resigned September 2015)
Ian Hamm
(Deputy Chair, Interim Chair from October 2015)
John Norman
(Treasurer)
Tom Mosby
(Secretary/Non-voting)

Ordinary Members

Judge David Parsons SC
Angela Clarke
(resigned October 2015)
Peter Nash
Jim Berg
(resigned September 2015)
Genevieve Grieves
Lindy Blashki
Mick Harding
(from May 2016)
Dr Shannon Faulkhead
(from May 2016)
Tim Kanoa
(from May 2016)

Committees

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee assists the Chief Executive Officer with relevant operational issues and undertakes tasks as delegated by our Board of Management.

Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Audit and Risk Management committee ensures the integrity of our accounts and financial statements, monitors our internal and external audit functions, and establishes and maintains internal accounting controls and appropriate risk management systems.

Building Advisory Committee

The Building Advisory Committee was established to monitor the Trust's relocation and ensure appropriate risk management throughout the process.

Norma Gleeson Bequest Advisory Committee

The Norma Gleeson Bequest Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Board regarding income from the Norma Gleeson Bequest to support specific Collections based activities.

Indigenous Hip Hop Projects, 30th Birthday Concert.
Photo: James Henry, 2015



Staff

2015-2016

Office of the CEO

Tom Mosby
Chief Executive Officer
Giacomina Pradolini
General Manager
Kathrine Clarke
Database Administrator / KAS Indigenous
Engagement Officer (to February 2016)

Collections and Exhibitions

Charlotte Christie
Snr Collections & Exhibitions Manager
Nerissa Broben
Snr Curator, Collections
Jan Duffy
Exhibitions Co-ordinator
Naomi Velaphi
Public Programs Co-Ordinator
(from October 2015)
Jane Walton
Collections Co-ordinator
Ren Gregoric
Relocations Officer (June -October 2015)
Angela de Martino Rosaroll
Relocations Officer (to August 2015)

Cultural Education

Rob Hyatt
Education Manager (from January 2016)
Pauline Sloane
Curriculum Development Co-ordinator
Len Tregonning
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural
Interpreter (Casual from February 2016)
Stephen Tregonning
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural
Interpreter (Casual)
Timothy Stares
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural
Interpreter (from May 2016)
Donna Blackall
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural
Interpreter (Casual from May 2016)
Jordan Edwards
Education Officer/Indigenous Cultural
Interpreter (Casual from April 2016)

Front of House and Retail

Judy Allsop
Retail Manager
Timothy Stares
Customer Services Officer (until May 2016)
Kieran Stewart
Assistant Customer Services Officer
Tamika Collins
Assistant Customer Services Officer
Adrian Cox
Assistant Customer Services Officer
Luke Metcalf
Assistant Customer Services Officer
(Casual from June 2016)

Koorie Family History Service

Jennifer Bates
Koorie Family History Service Manager
Lionel Bamblett
Researcher/ Genealogist (who is on twelve
months leave from March 2016)
Margaret Bates
Researcher/ Genealogist
Kate Campbell
Researcher/ Genealogist (from April 2016)
Timothy Stares
Researcher/ Genealogist (from May 2016)

Finances

Mary Mahoney
Accounts Officer
Jamie Keleher
Bookkeeper (to February 2016)

Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have volunteered at the Koorie Heritage Trust over the last twelve months.

Adele Barbara
Ainslee Meredith
Amy Heffernan
Ashley Gilmour
Bella Atkinson
Bridget Hale
Candice Cranmer
Eleanor (Elle) Vallier
Elia Shugg
Grace McKenzie-McHarg
Hanna Sandgren
Helen Merritt
Hester Lyon
Irene Finkelde
Jade Hadfield
Jasper Coleman
Julianne Bell
Karla Way
Keira Hudson
Lauren Ravi
Lois Waters
Lucy Alice Moore
Madeleine Francis Price
Meenah Harrison
Ren Gregoric
Rosie Cook
Ruby Awburn
Sally Kilby
Samantha Hamilton
Shannon Klaassen
Soma Garner
Vanessa Lau
Zora Sanders



Tom Mosby, CEO Koorie Heritage Trust, Ellen Sandell, State Member for Melbourne and Adam Bandt, Federal Member for Melbourne.

Tom Mosby, CEO Koorie Heritage Trust and Arweet Carolyn Briggs.
Photos: James Henry, 2015

“Fascinating and a great place to visit. Beautiful artworks and much cultural interest. Thank you.”
W. Brougham, Redfern Sydney

Financial Report

We are pleased to present the audited accounts of Koorie Heritage Trust for the year ending 30 June 2016. Copies of the full audited accounts can be obtained by contracting the Trust on 03 8662 6300.



Launch of the Koorie Heritage Trust at Federation Square. Indigenous Architect and Design Victoria's Jefa Greenaway can be seen behind the gathering table. Photo: Peter Bennett, 2015

**Statement of Profit or Loss
and other Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Grant and funding income	1,074,318	3,062,989
Trading income	880,990	409,419
Other income	205,933	207,068
Shop retail income	173,694	151,200
Profit/(loss) on sale/write off of property, plant & equipment	13,663	(250,981)
Administrative expenses	(528,362)	(596,901)
Shop retail expenses	(83,595)	(121,777)
Project specific expenses	(571,078)	(420,024)
Employee related expenses	(1,107,019)	(955,361)
Depreciation and Amortisation expenses	(192,366)	(3,237)
Surplus / (Deficit) from Ordinary activities for the year	(133,822)	1,482,395
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) after income tax from ordinary activities	(133,822)	1,482,395
Other Comprehensive Income		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		
(Decrement)/Revaluation of investments	(30,466)	23,667
Total Comprehensive Income after income tax	(164,288)	1,506,062

**Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash assets	382,856	914,531
Receivables	152,169	163,119
Inventories	43,327	28,343
Prepayments	11,218	71,557
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	589,570	1,177,550
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	3,734,884	4,508,244
Property, plant & equipment	5,581,135	4,561,625
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	9,316,019	9,069,869
TOTAL ASSETS	9,905,589	10,247,419
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	155,586	167,429
Provisions	83,152	63,897
Income in advance	79,220	264,174
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	317,958	495,500
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	317,958	495,500
NET ASSETS	9,587,631	9,751,919
EQUITY		
Retained surplus/(deficit)	8,471,869	8,605,691
Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,115,762	1,146,228
TOTAL EQUITY	9,587,631	9,751,919



Koorie Heritage Trust Inc

'Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki'

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Federation Square
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www.korieheritagetrust.com