



The Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group (LJG) is an unincorporated body which provides a voice for traditional owner groups in Victoria. It lobbies governments for improvements to policy, legislation and in how government goes about its business, to achieve greater land justice for all of the Traditional Owners of Victoria.

Message from the Co-Chairs

We are pleased to welcome you to the latest edition of the Land Justice Group newsletter as the newly elected Co-Chairs of the Land Justice Group.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Land Justice Group for entrusting us with this important role and to thank Melissa Jones and Graham Atkinson for the tremendous effort and time they have dedicated to the cause over the past few years as Co-Chairs.

At our May meeting, the Land Justice Group elected a new five person executive comprised of two Co-Chairs and three Executive members, to take the place of the previous four Co-Chair positions. The election represents a significant step for the Land Justice Group towards a more defined structure. We are pleased to announce that Graham Atkinson was elected to the Executive and we also welcome two new Executive members – Geoff Clark and Darren Perry. All members of the Executive have the same responsibilities and roles; however, as Co-Chairs we will continue to be the primary contact for the Land Justice Group.

Cultural Heritage has been a key priority for the Land Justice Group and we have provided significant input into both the Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the Registered Aboriginal Parties Inquiry over the past few months. The Land Justice Group strongly believes that the preservation and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is vital in order to protect our living culture, traditions and beliefs. We recently developed a second submission to the Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act providing further practical and positive feedback on the issues and options put forward by the Government. You can find all recent submissions on our website – www.landjustice.com.au

We would like to extend a warm invitation to groups that are not currently represented on the Land Justice Group. We are committed to providing a voice for all Traditional Owner groups across Victoria and having full representation will make our voice stronger and harder to ignore. We urge groups that don't currently have a representative to consider nominating one representative and a deputy, in writing to the Secretariat, please see the back page for more details.

We hope to see you at the Land Justice Summit on August 10 and 11 2012. It's your opportunity to shape the agenda of the Land Justice Group for the year ahead. See page three for information.

Yours in the struggle



Bobby Nicholls &
Annette Xiberras
Co-Chairs



Executive. Left to right: Geoff Clark, Graham Atkinson and Darren Perry

Land Justice Group Representatives

Barapa Barapa	Bobby Nicholls	Tati Tati	Richie Kennedy
Bidawal	Bevan Harrison	Taungurung	Bernadette Franklin
Boonwurrung	Carolyn Briggs	Wadawurrung	Bryon Powell
Dhudhuroa	Gary Murray	Wadi Wadi	Vince Kirby
Dja Dja Wurrung	Graham Atkinson	Wamba Wamba	Stewart Taylor
Goolagin	Ron Arnold	Waywurru	Margaret Gardiner
Gunaikurnai	Robert Critch	Wergaia	Gayle Maddigan
Gunditjmara	Thomas Day	Wotjobaluk	
Eastern Maar	Geoff Clark	Yupagulk	Melissa Jones
Latji Latji		Yorta Yorta	
Monaro	Julie Mongta	Wurundjeri	Annette Xiberras
Ntait	Darren Perry		

Land Justice Summit

Friday 10 August 2012

Saturday 11 August 2012

Please contact Drew Berick for further information

For further information

Please contact your representative or:

Drew Berick Community Liaison Officer
9321 5304 dberick@ntsv.com.au

Katie Phillis Land Justice Group Secretariat
03 9321 5337 kphillis@ntsv.com.au

Postal address:

Land Justice Group Secretariat
PO Box 431

North Melbourne, Vic 3051

Toll free: 1800 791 779 or

(03) 9321 5319

Visit our website www.landjustice.com.au

Land Justice Group members meet approximately every three months in Melbourne. The group continues a long tradition of Traditional Owner activism for land justice in Victoria.

If your group is not represented on the Land Justice Group please consider nominating a representative in writing to the Secretariat.

Help us raise awareness of the Land Justice Group by passing this newsletter to friends and family.



Natural Resource Management Update

Continuing the momentum from recent Murray Darling Basin Plan submissions, which were presented to the Chief of Staff to the Minister for Water at the MLDRIN/NBAN meeting in May (see pictures below), the NRM sub-committee has been engaged with the Office of Water (DSE) and Parks Victoria in the development of aspects of the draft State Water Strategy.

A new chapter titled “Traditional Owner and Aboriginal involvement in waterway management” has been drafted for inclusion in the Victorian Strategy for Healthy Rivers, Wetlands and Estuaries (VSHREW). The chapter and whole strategy will go out for public consultation in the coming months.

A case study on joint management for the 2012 Victorian Catchment Condition Report is also currently in development.



L-R Luke Gardiner, Mark Gardiner and Jida Gulpilil-Murray



Chief of Staff, Luke O'Sullivan

Aboriginal Heritage Act Update

The review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 is now into its second stage and the Land Justice Group provided a further submission in response to the Government's Issues and Options Paper.

The Land Justice Group argued that Government could improve the ability of Traditional Owners to protect, preserve and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage for the benefit of all Victorians by:

- establishing a traditional-owner-controlled statutory authority
- properly acknowledging traditional owners as the sole owners of cultural heritage
- amending certain sections of the AHA to establish an open, transparent and deliberative RAP recognition process
- ensuring that the process for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria is properly resourced
- supporting the cultural heritage system with effective enforcement and other policies that promote Traditional Owner involvement in cultural heritage decisions.

The submission also stressed the need for Government to work in partnership with Traditional Owners on proposed changes to the AHA to alleviate the frustration experienced by Traditional Owner groups currently attempting to protect and preserve our cultural heritage, whilst at the same time improving the effectiveness of the system for everyone.

Read the full submission on the Land Justice Group website – www.landjustice.com.au

Invitation to the Second Land Justice Summit

The second Land Justice Summit will take place on Friday 10 August 2012 and Saturday 11 August 2012 at the Ivanhoe Convention Centre in Melbourne.

The summit is an opportunity for Traditional Owners from across Victoria to gather together and decide the priorities for the Land Justice Group over the following 12 months.

Ideas for discussion include:

- An update on the work of the Land Justice Group since the last summit.
- Cultural heritage, including repatriations
- Constitutional recognition and sovereignty
- A policy for Victorian Traditional Owners on Natural Resource Management

All Victorian Traditional Owners are welcome and two members from each Traditional Owner group (the representative and deputy) will be eligible for full funding to attend. The Land Justice Group can also reimburse travel expenses for a further two representatives from each group.

If you are interested in coming along, please contact Drew Berick on 9321 5304.

Vote for Darren Perry in the National Landcare 'People's Choice' Award



Congratulations to Darren Perry, executive member of the Land Justice Group, for reaching the finals of the National Landcare Awards.

Darren was nominated for his work on major environmental infrastructure projects at Mulcra Island, one of north-west Victoria's most culturally-sensitive sites.

Darren encouraged Aboriginal groups to work with each other and with other stakeholders to identify potential issues and protect the unique riverine floodplain country that is Ngintait Country for all Australians to share.

You can vote for Darren at : www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalawards/

Creative Land Use Agreement for Dja Dja Wurrung

The inaugural Dja Dja Wurrung Cup was held in March and represented the culmination of a successful ILUA (indigenous land use agreement) negotiation between the Dja Dja Wurrung native title group and the Charlton Harness Racing Club.

A number of harness races were named after Dja Dja Wurrung apical ancestors and a recognition plaque was placed at the entrance to Charlton Park. Rebecca Phillips (pictured) of Dja Dja Wurrung unveiled the plaque and cut the ribbon.



The Dja Dja Wurrung cup will be held every year to boost cultural recognition in the Charlton Area.