

VICTORIAN
ABORIGINAL
HERITAGE
COUNCIL



The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council are pleased to share with you the valuable work we have undertaken this year. As a friend of the Council, your support and continued engagement with our work is important. We look forward to working with you in 2019 to realise our vision of a community that respects and understands Aboriginal cultural heritage and the cultural responsibilities of Traditional Owners.

Council Membership

In August, Council said farewell to two long standing members who had both served on Council since 2007 when the Council was established under the [Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006](#).

Eleanor Bourke stepped down from her role as a Council Member and Chair in early August. **Mick Harding** stepped down from his role on Council in late August. Both Eleanor and Mick have held numerous leadership roles over their time with the Council. We thank them for their dedicated service to the Council and to the community and wish them well in their next endeavours.

The Council undertook to find three new members to serve on Council earlier in 2018 and in October new members [Kenneth Stewart](#) and [Racquel Buis-Kerr](#) joined Council in addition to [Bonnie Chew](#), who is returning to the Council.



New Chairperson

The new Chair of Council elected for 2018-19 is [Rodney Carter](#). The Deputy Chair is [Sissy Havea](#).

Honour Roll Award for Council Member Geraldine Atkinson

Council Member Geraldine Atkinson was inducted into the [Victorian Aboriginal Honour Role](#) in October this year. Since the 1970s Aunty Geraldine has been dedicated to increasing the educational opportunities available to the Aboriginal community. We would like to acknowledge Geraldine's lifelong accomplishments and add our congratulations to Geraldine and her family.



Aboriginal Place Naming Workshops continuing into 2019

The Council has delivered a number of facilitated community workshops on the subject of Aboriginal Place Naming, in conjunction with the [Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages](#) and [Geographic Names Victoria](#) since June 2018. We have delivered workshops in five of the Registered Aboriginal Party regions, and Council would like to deliver a workshop in every RAP region by late 2019. Please contact the Council office on vahc@dpc.vic.gov.au or phone on 03 9651 2643 to discuss with one of our support staff members.



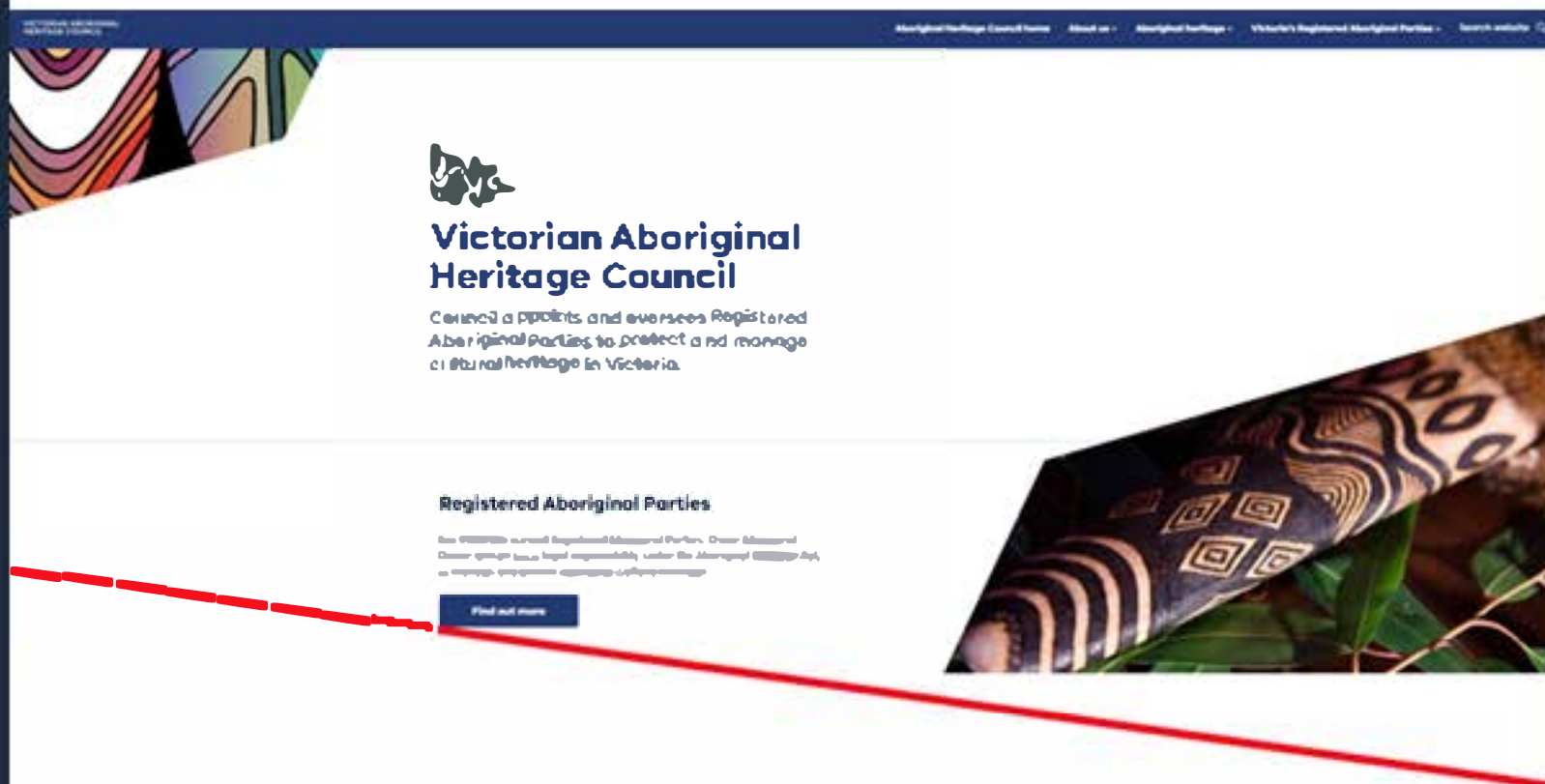
New website

In midOctober the Council launched its new website

www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au

We have definitely come of age, after celebrating our ten year anniversary in 2017, by launching our new semi-independent website and a new logo. Our new site has reinvigorated Council's business and made information about Council's core functions more accessible to more communities and individuals across Victoria.

Council's new logo depicts four shields imposed over the outline of the State of Victoria. The shields represent supporting, respecting and celebrating our land, culture and life. The colours of the shields represent the four environments that make up our Country – gold and ochre represent desert sands and dry country, green for the forests and grasslands, blue for the waters, rivers and lakes and the purple colour represents our metropolitan regions as well as the basaltic and volcanic plains.



To all of our project partners, and to the new colleagues we met in 2018 – we look forward to working with you in 2019. As we come to the end of this year, The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council wishes you a safe and enjoyable festive season.