National Reconciliation Week
27 May — 3 June 2016

KNOWING COUNTRY MORNING TEA
Thank you for hosting!

National Reconciliation Week
A time to celebrate, reflect and commit to a conversation of reconciliation for a better and stronger Australia

Every year between 27 May and 3 June people across Australia come together to celebrate the culture and history of the First Australians. The start and conclusion of National Reconciliation Week are marked by two significant turning points in Australian history.

27 May 1967
On 27 May 1967 the Australian government held a referendum to alter the Australian Constitution. More than 90 per cent of Australian voters chose ‘Yes’ to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the census and give the government the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

3 June 1992
On 3 June 1992 the High Court of Australia decided that the declaration made by the British that Australia was terra nullius (empty land, or land that belongs to nobody) should not have been applied. The Mabo decision recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have rights to the land that existed before the British arrived, and that those rights still exist today.

The Mabo decision was named after Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo, a community leader and human rights activist from Mer (Murray Island) in the Torres Strait who believed Australian laws on land ownership were wrong, and who fought to change them. The decision was a turning point for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights, because it acknowledged their unique connection with the land. It also led to the Australian Parliament passing the Native Title Act in 1993.

One week...
Only the beginning

National Reconciliation Week gives us the opportunity to celebrate and demonstrate commitment to the aims of reconciliation. But it is only the beginning of a longer journey that extends throughout the year.

In line with the University of Melbourne’s Reconciliation Action Plan, we believe the University community has the opportunity to be at the forefront of the reconciliation conversation.

We encourage all staff and students to actively participate in the reconciliation process through the range of events and activities on offer across campus every year.

Knowing Country Morning Tea
Time to have a yarn

The Knowing Country Morning Tea is a fun way to come together, find out about Australia’s traditional lands and language groups, have a yarn about country, and raise funds to support Indigenous education at the University of Melbourne.

The Aboriginal Australia Map attempts to represent all language or tribal or nation groups of Indigenous people of Australia. It indicates general locations of larger groupings of people including smaller groups such as clans, dialects or individual languages in a group.

Support materials for a fabulous informative morning tea

- Map of Aboriginal Australia your guests can engage with to think about their life moments – big and small – and on what traditional lands they took place.
- Sticker/Map key to names for traditional Aboriginal lands.
- Posters (4) to promote the Knowing Country Morning Tea around your department.
- Selection of stickers your guests can take away and wear during National Reconciliation Week.
- Box for gold coin donations.
HOW TO HOST A KNOWING COUNTRY MORNING TEA

Rest assured, you don’t have to be an expert on Indigenous affairs to be an expert host of a fabulous, fun, informative Knowing Country Morning Tea! Simply follow these easy steps...

1. Set a date and decide on a venue for your Knowing Country Morning Tea.
2. Put up the 4 posters around your department (eg in lifts, tea rooms etc) to promote the Knowing Country Morning Tea.
3. Use Outlook to send an invitation to your colleagues. That way all relevant details (including time, venue etc) will go directly into your colleague’s email calendars. Include information about the gold coin donation to the University of Melbourne Indigenous Student Fund.
4. On the day of the Knowing Country Morning Tea, place your map of Aboriginal Australia in a prominent position.
5. Lay out your supply of stickers.
6. Find a prominent spot for the donation box.
7. Be on hand to welcome your colleagues as they arrive.
8. Make a short presentation explaining why we’re hosting the Knowing Country Morning Tea. Use the map and stickers to start the conversation about country and point out areas of interest on the map (eg where the University of Melbourne campuses are). We’ve made this easy by giving you a card that has a key to names for traditional Aboriginal lands.

Gold coin donations go directly to UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE INDIGENOUS STUDENT FUND

Indigenous students face a range of costs: tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses. This situation can be further complicated depending on their family circumstances and ABSTUDY eligibility. As such, it’s often difficult to anticipate what form of support Indigenous students require year to year, and traditional scholarships lack the agility to meet their changing needs. For this reason the University of Melbourne has established the Indigenous Student Fund.

Most are eligible for the Government’s ABSTUDY scheme, but there are a growing number whose parents’ combined income is just high enough to make them ineligible. For these students, the cost of a University education is simply out of reach.

By taking a flexible approach based on the greatest needs of our students at any given time, the Indigenous Student Fund overcomes this ever-growing challenge.
Murrup Barak
Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development
Old Physics Building
Parkville campus
T: 1800 457 528
E: murrup-barak@unimelb.edu.au

Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development
234 St Kilda Road
Southbank campus
T: 9035 9327
E: wilin-centre@unimelb.edu.au

Useful websites
Reconciliation at Melbourne
about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership/reconciliation/home

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
(Information about the Aboriginal Australia map)
aistsis.gov.au

Museum of Australia
(Information on 1967 referendum)
indigenousrights.net.au

Reconciliation Australia
reconciliation.org.au

Recognise
(Information on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples)
recognise.org.au

Screen Australia
(Information on Eddie Mabo and native title)
mabonativetitle.com