

KOONDEE WOONGA-GAT TOOR-RONG – THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER IS COMPLETED!

The Fellowship of Indigenous Leadership network will be very pleased to hear that the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Led Philanthropic Fund in Victoria has now been established.

Named for country by prominent Wurundjeri Elder, Auntie Dianne Kerr, Koondee Woonga-gat Toor-rong means “to give jointly, to share together” in Woiwurrung language.

On Monday, the 19th November, by an ancient scar tree in the MCG carpark, Koondee Woonga-gat Toor-rong came into being with a special ceremony compered by Hayden Raysmith, from Towards a Just Society.

After a Welcome to Country from Auntie Di, Julia Spindler spoke about how Towards a Just Society was very pleased to be handing over the funding operations of a sub-fund that had invested in Aboriginal Victoria for the last 14 years but now the time was right for change. Terori Hareko-Samios and Stephanie Armstrong, Board members of Koondee Woonga-gat and Executive Officer of the new fund, Peter Aldenhoven, acknowledged the generosity of this act and accepted the responsibility for carrying forwards this exciting opportunity.



In attendance for the ceremony were a number of family members and long time contributors to Towards a Just Society, representatives of the Australian Communities Foundation (where the new fund is located) and Woor-Dungin (who provide administrative support for the fund) as well as Maree Davidson and Glenda Morrison from the Fellowship of Indigenous Leadership.

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As many Fellowship of Indigenous Leadership alumni will be aware, the transition process leading up to this handover has unfolded over the last two years, in a steady, considered and respectful way, involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait engagement and ownership at all stages.

Koondee Woonga-gat Toor-rong will honour the legacy of Towards a Just Society and their belief in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agency by evolving its own distinctive Indigenous grant-making vision and practice based around traditional cultural values and the principle of self-determination.

The launch of the new fund will take place in early March, 2019 and grant-making will commence thereafter focussing on Fellowship of Indigenous Leadership and Woor-Dungin networks across Victoria.

It is anticipated that, over time, Koondee Woonga-gat Toor-rong will go from strength to strength and develop a significant profile as a game-changing player in Victorian Indigenous philanthropy.