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President’s Report

ANTaR faced many challenges during the 2017/18 Financial Year, both in terms of our advocacy for, and solidarity with, First Peoples and with our internal structures. Our involvement in the First Peoples’ led campaigns - the Redfern Statement Alliance, Close the Gap and Change the Record - saw us share the disappointment due to a lack of response by the Federal Government. Once again, despite promising so much they have done little to address over two centuries of injustice and disadvantage. We had hoped that the Federal Government would see the RSA, in particular, as a major opportunity to reset the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies, particularly in the context of the yet to be determined refresh of the COAG Closing the Gap policy framework. The National Peak organisations continue to be inadequately funded, thereby limiting their ability to be a conduit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in the policy space. Their ideas and suggestions are merely ‘put into the mix’ of Federal Government policy deliberations rather than be treated as the experts they are on policy and program delivery. Their outright rejection of the Statement from the Heart is symptomatic of a government that is yet to go beyond a ‘mission manager’ mentality. ANTaR has sought to support the efforts of the peak bodies through advocacy and solidarity, to effectively approach politicians and in raising awareness amongst the general community.

In terms of our internal organisational matters, ANTaR has experienced temporary financial difficulties, which we have overcome in the medium term. Our National Director (ND), Andrew Meehan, resigned, and he is now working with Reconciliation Australia. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit well and from April 2018 Paul Wright, formerly the Secretariat for the Close the Gap Campaign and the National Health Leadership Forum, has been our new (fresh faced) ND. We owe Andrew Meehan a lot for his intellect, drive and diligence as ND for the past five years and his key role in supporting and advising the RSA, Close the Gap and Change the Record campaigns. Andrew is highly respected by the national First Peoples’ leadership and while we will miss him at ANTaR he won’t be lost to the cause.

Paul is a welcome addition to our small but dynamic national team and will bring fresh ideas, determination, intelligence and charm in the coming years.

ANTaR is now an adult - 21 years of working in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - and that means reviewing our role and our focus. Our key focus is often referred to as the ‘unfinished business’ of reconciliation, including issues such as treaty(ies), truth telling and realising self-determination. These issues are embodied in the Redfern Statement and the Statement from the Heart. We see 2018/19 as the period in which we reflect on, review and revitalise our purpose and actions. We seek to embody a grown-up movement which takes its lead from the national leadership of the First Peoples. Our present challenge is to determine what that means for ANTaR nationally and at the state/territory level. With the coming Federal Election there is much work to be done to ensure better outcomes for First Peoples, and ANTaR will be ready to play its role and continue to pursue our vision for a mature nation built on respect for, and implementation of the rights of, First Peoples.

In closing, I want to thank our past and present National Directors, staff, Board members and Council members for the great work that they have done this year, and during what has often been under difficult circumstances.

And of course a big thanks to you our members and supporters.

Dr Peter Lewis
National President
It has been another big year for ANTaR and more importantly, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia. Long-time National Director, Mr Andrew Meehan, ended his time leading ANTaR to join Reconciliation Australia (RA). Our loss is certainly Reconciliation Australia’s gain and it has further entrenched our collaboration and engagement with RA and the important work they do.

ANTaR continued to provide close support as a member organisation of the Close the Gap and Change the Record campaigns. Working with our fellow campaign steering committee members, we have worked hard to advocate for a better strategy to come from COAG’s Closing the Gap Refresh process. ANTaR has supported the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations in pushing all Australian governments to enter into genuine partnership and co-design.

ANTaR is also a member of Just Reinvest NSW and I sit on its Executive Committee. It has been very encouraging to see the justice reinvestment programs continue to grow and have a great impact in the Bourke community in northern NSW and we are keen to see the NSW and Commonwealth governments increase investment and expand justice reinvestment projects into other communities around the State.

We continue to be a member of the Racism. It Stops With Me campaign and have supported the successful public messaging campaigns tackling racism over the last 12 months.

Of course, alongside the Closing the Gap Refresh process, the biggest policy issue for Indigenous Affairs over the last 12 months has been the consideration of constitutional reform on the back of the Statement from the Heart, declared at Uluru in May 2017. The ill-conceived rejection of the Statement from the Heart - with its appeal for a Voice in the constitution and a Makarata Commission that would lead a process of agreement making and truth-telling – was a cynical and cowardly response from the Commonwealth Government. The subsequent establishment of a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples has provided ANTaR, its many supporters and partner organisations with an opportunity to state our strong support for long overdue constitutional reform and our support for the Statement from the Heart and its invitation to us all to make some huge strides towards reconciliation.

ANTaR provided submissions and appeared before the Joint Select Committee and we have taken every opportunity to keep our members and supporters up to date with the discussions on this critical issue.

The last 12 months have continued the unwanted trend of the last decade in political turbulence, with the instability making it harder to get Government to focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs as a national priority. It is particularly in times like this where organisations like ANTaR and our partner organisations, collaborating on social justice campaigns, are needed to continue to hold governments to account and remind Australia of our responsibilities to uphold the rights of the First Peoples of this continent.

**The Future of ANTaR**

In 2018, ANTaR began the important process of considering how we might continue to grow and evolve to ensure we remain a useful and positive force in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ANTaR has been a strong and consistent voice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs for two decades now. When ANTaR was formed in the late 1990s, as a peoples’ movement to advocate for better approaches to Native Title and Reconciliation, there were no other non-government organisations solely focused on this agenda. Subsequently, other major not-for-profit organisations have also started to provide some advocacy and campaign focus in this space, which is very welcome.

Since the early 2000s, organisations such as Reconciliation Australia and the Healing Foundation have been formed to further the cause of reconciliation, recognition and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, along with growing numbers of Indigenous peak organisations and social justice campaigns in health, justice, child protection and other areas.
ANTaR has continued to be a coordinating point for both First Nations Peoples and the many non-Indigenous Australians with a strong interest in seeing Australia reconcile its brutal colonial history with the traumatic displacement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations that had been on this continent for millennia.

It is now time to think through how we can be effective in fulfilling our purpose and in what way ANTaR is uniquely placed to make its contribution. We will be communicating these considerations to members and supporters over the coming months and we look forward to your input.

Finally, I want to thank our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander friends, leaders and their peak organisations.

I am very grateful to the ANTaR Board for their wisdom, direction and support. Led by our President, Dr Peter Lewis, we have passionate and experienced Board Directors that are a testament to the strength of our organisation.

Thanks to the staff for all your hard work and commitment over the last year. We are a small team that is never shy in going above and beyond for ANTaR. I thank our regular volunteers – Wendy Rayner and Sue Downes – and the many other volunteers that have given their time to support our community stalls or muck in at Sea of Hands clean up working bees. We couldn’t do it without you.

I very much look forward to the next year and am excited about the opportunities ahead as we work towards a truly reconciled Australia.

Paul Wright
National Director
ABOUT ANTAR NATIONAL

ANTaR is a national movement of Australians in support of justice, rights and respect for Australia’s First Peoples. We are an independent and non-partisan organisation, affiliated with a national network of state and territory ANTaR groups.

OUR VISION
A just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights as First Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.

OUR PURPOSE
To engage, educate and mobilise a broad community movement to advocate for justice, rights and respect for Australia’s First Peoples.

OUR PRINCIPLES
We actively support the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination.

We are committed to social justice and the full realisation of human rights, including those expressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We believe in empowerment and community development.

We believe in speaking up about injustice and inequality.

We believe that all Australians have a role to play in achieving a just Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights as First Peoples are recognised, respected and enjoyed.

THE WAY WE WORK
We are guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and leaders in setting our campaign priorities and direction.

We partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and people.

We seek to build alliances across sectors in support of common goals.

We hold governments to account and advocate for alternative policy solutions based on evidence.

We seek to educate the broader community about justice, rights and respect for Australia’s First Peoples.
ANTaR is involved in a wide range of important work that directly responds to our organisational vision and purpose. Making a unique contribution, that is often behind the scenes, ANTaR looks to provide strategic advocacy and policy support to a range of campaigns and coalitions that are dedicated to pursuing a reconciled Australia.

We have ongoing priority issues around ‘changing the date’, safeguarding the protections of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, and fixing the juvenile justice system in places like the Northern Territory. ANTaR also aims to be responsive to issues that arise, like our petition to remove the ill-conceived appointment of a non-indigenous ‘Special Envoy’ to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The generous support of our many donors means that we can continue to fight the good fight, in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, leaders, organisations and communities.

Constitutional Reform and the Statement from the Heart

The culmination of the Referendum Council’s work to provide advice to the Federal Parliament with options for Constitutional Reform, saw the coming together of over 300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates from across Australia to Uluru in late May 2017.

The subsequent declaration of the Statement from the Heart was a powerful and generous invitation from its authors to transform the push for reconciliation by enshrining a representative ‘Voice’ for First Peoples in the Constitution and forming a Makarrata Commission that would work on agreement making and truth telling.

Despite the cynical and short-sighted decision of the Government to reject the Statement from the Heart, many thousands of Australians have expressed their support and have called on Government to reconsider their decision. Parliament established a Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition Relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, with Senator Patrick Dodson and Mr Julian Leeser MP co-chairing, for the purpose of determining a way for constitutional reform.

ANTaR has provided submissions to this process and the National Director appeared before the Joint Select Committee to state our support for the Statement from the Heart.
Just Reinvest NSW

ANTaR is a proud member of Just Reinvest NSW and the National Director sits on its Executive Committee. In 2013, Just Reinvest NSW began working with the Bourke community in north-west NSW on the first major justice reinvestment trial in Australia, the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project.

ANTaR provides strategic advocacy and policy advice to Just Reinvest NSW and has lobbied the NSW government directly and in coalition with Just Reinvest’s partner organisations to adopt justice reinvestment as a statewide policy.

Close the Gap

It has been another big year for the Close the Gap Campaign. In early 2017, Prime Minister Turnbull announced that COAG’s Closing the Gap Strategy would undergo a ‘Refresh’ process in order to establish the targets and structure to deliver the next phase of the Strategy. ANTaR has worked hard to support the Close the Gap Campaign and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisation partners to participate in this ‘Refresh’ in good faith.

The Campaign launched a critical piece of analysis (A Ten-Year Review of the Closing the Gap Strategy) in February 2018. The Review found that with the Government funding cuts and policy uncertainty coming from the political upheaval over the last decade had effectively stalled the Strategy’s progress. COAG must continue to be held accountable for the persisting gaps in life expectancy and health outcomes. The Close the Gap Campaign remains the most authoritative coalition of health and human rights advocacy, working with peak organisations in Australia, and it continues to play a critical role in pushing for an equitable and culturally safe health system that is free of institutional racism.

Change the Record

ANTaR continued to provide close support to the Campaign with very active work on the Change the Record Steering Committee. The Campaign also undertook a lot of advocacy for the Closing the Gap Refresh process and in support of the Australian Law Reform Commission’s 2018 ‘Pathways to Justice’ Report.

In response to the Royal Commission into Juvenile Detention in the Northern Territory, the Campaign launched its National Plan of Action on Youth Justice ‘Free to be Kids’ in November 2017 in Canberra. ANTaR provided the Sea of Hands for an installation at the launch and we were also heavily involved in the political advocacy, meeting with politicians and advisors.

ANTaR is once again auspicing the Change the Record Campaign Secretariat as a way of directly supporting the important work of the Campaign.

Hands Up! Program

For 20 years, the Sea of Hands has been making community visits creating a focal point for engagement on reconciliation. This important community education and engagement work also expands our movement, and campaign activity by promoting and engaging the community on ANTaR’s work.

Hands up! is our Sea of Hands program for school and community group installations.

20 schools and community groups utilised the hands as part of National Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week to engage students or communities, mark the week, and raise awareness on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the support of the NSW Teachers Federation and Reconciliation Australia’s Narragunnawali program.
Key Facts about our Development Program:

- Our appeals this year brought in $174,522 in income; other appeals around campaigns raised $59,227; and monthly donations from the Sea of Hands Partnership (regular donors) fell back to $133,908.
- Expenses for these activities was at 8% of the income.
- 1,552 donors supported our Annual Appeals and digital campaigns together with 581 Sea of Hands Partners.

Sources of Income

- Annual Appeal 30%
- Sea of Hands Partnership 23%
- Events 2%
- Merchandise 4%
- Other income 10%
- Partnerships 1%
- Bequest 30%

Hands Up! for National Reconciliation Week

We would like to thank International Towers Barangaroo and the legal division at Macquarie Bank for partnering with ANTaR to promote reconciliation with their employees and throughout the Barangaroo precinct in Sydney. We are also grateful for the long term enduring support of Gilbert and Tobin.

These partners joined with 16 schools, churches, sporting groups and local communities to display the Sea of Hands during their own National Reconciliation Week events.

The Estate of the Late June Hadden

We were very grateful to have received a bequest from the Estate of the Late June Hadden. Her legacy will have a lasting impact on the sustainability of our campaign work, Sea of Hands movement, and the broad network of advocates we support.
## Finance Report

### Profit & Loss - July 2017 through June 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td>COS - Merchandise</td>
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<td><strong>Total Cost of Sales</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Suspense</td>
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<td><strong>Net Profit/(Loss)</strong></td>
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### Balance Sheet - June 2018

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<tr>
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<th>Selected Period</th>
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<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Inter-State Office Amounts Due</td>
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<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
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<td>Current Year Earnings</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$219,775.40</strong></td>
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VICTORIA

Office governance has been undergoing restructuring this year and will continue do so as we look to hire a new member of staff for fundraising in 2019. We have developed an Indigenous consultation paper to establish rules of guidance, re-established relationships with stakeholders including reconciliation groups, reviewed our financial resources and fundraising methods as well as risk assessment and insurance.

Advocacy and Campaigns

The Treaty process has continued with the establishment of the Treaty Advancement Commission (Treaty). Around the state, Treaty circles have been held with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to ensure that the process is transparent and receptive to guidance from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The next stage is the establishment and election of an Aboriginal Representative Body.

In June 2018, ANTaR Victoria launched ‘Victorians for Treaty’, a campaign which aims to raise awareness and support of the Victorian Treaty process. As well as providing extensive research online around the history, importance and current process of treaty, we plan to facilitate Treaty events to educate non-Aboriginal Victorians.

To prepare for the state election in November 2018 we released an election scorecard which outlines six areas of concern for Aboriginal Victorians and how the three major parties have addressed these issues in the past and on their current campaign platform. The six areas covered are Treaty, education, health, land and waters, out-of-home care and justice.

Education and Engagement

As usual, we ran two stalls on Invasion Day. One was at Share the Spirit at the Treasury Gardens and the other was at Survival Day at the Belgrave Gardens.

In 2018, we aimed to extend the reach of our engagement with the help of our communications volunteer, Alex. We have done this through eNews, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. To assist local reconciliation groups we have found and assisted volunteers in setting up Facebook pages for Reconciliation Banyule and Port Phillip Friends for Reconciliation.

Our volunteers Alex, Gabrielle, Brigid and Amina spoke at Wesley College about how to be a good ally to First Peoples by providing resources and discussing the need for self education.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANTaR SA Inc. has been supporting, promoting and encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders’ land rights, including the protection of their peoples’ native title rights and interests in land, sea, and inland waters.

Advocacy and Campaigns

ANTaR SA has been canvassing supporters and the public about their views regarding the impact of the Australian Constitution on Aboriginal people, including repealing Section 25. The Justice Campaign is concerned at the prevalent incarceration rates and the minimum age of a child’s criminal liability. This topic was raised by an Adelaide Hills Amnesty International Group attending the August 2018 committee meeting for our grassroots leaders and has resulted in ongoing community discussion. We strongly support Federal, State and Local government action over Closing the Gap and note that the ongoing issues in relation to the Constitutional Recognition campaign, including the “race powers” under the Constitution, have a negative impact on Closing the Gap.

ANTaR SA has maintained its ongoing partnerships with The Journey of Healing of SA Inc, The Roma Mitchell Legal Community Centre and Adelaide City Council. It supports the Aboriginal Alliance Coalition Movement (AACM), which was inaugurated with the assistance of Professor Tom Calma when he was Social Justice Commissioner and charged with raising the Letters Patent with the SA State Government. The AACM was developed as an umbrella for grassroots Aboriginal activities across the State with an Aboriginal Cultural Protocols group being its latest Aboriginal initiative. It joins two long standing SA grassroots movements, the State and National Aboriginal Political Parties (APP) and the Aboriginal Liberation Movement (ALM).

Education and Engagement

ANTaR SA members participated in the 2018 Survival Day at Tandanya National Aboriginal & Islander Cultural Institute, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC March and NAIDOC Family Fun Day Celebrations. We had stalls at the 2018 National Apology Day (City) and National Sorry Day (City) events and distributed over 500 of our A3 & A4 size Treaty Calendars at these grassroots events. We continue to support a Sea of Hands installation by ongoing involvement in an Australia-wide Red Centre Aboriginal Bush Tucker initiative.
ACT

ACT has had another big year. The David Hunter Memorial Lecture 2017 was a night of inspiration and hope. We have also undertaken lots of advocacy and maintained close liaison with Aboriginal organisations and traditional owners. A big focus in 2018 has been the high number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the ACT in out-of-home care. ANTaR ACT members joined the annual Frontier Wars March on ANZAC day this year. The march is a peaceful, respectful, and solemn memorialising of all those who died in conflicts between Aboriginal people and the colonists from the early years until as late as 1934.

Inspired by events in Victoria it seems, on June 25 the ACT Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Rachel Stephen-Smith has told NITV news that the ACT government is open to discussing a treaty process with Traditional Owners in the Canberra region. ANTaR ACT Members met during the year with former Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, to discuss with him how such a process might proceed in the ACT with full participation of traditional owners.

Advocacy and Campaigns

In early 2018, ANTaR ACT members did a lot of letter writing and held face to face meetings with the ACT government ministers, as well as an opposition members, including Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Megan Fitzharris, Health Minister, and Shane Rattenbury the Minister responsible for Corrections. We raised the following issues:

• the inadequate operation of the Healing Farm, which, though officially opened, is barely operating, and certainly not as intended as a residential rehabilitation centre;

• the recommendations of an inquest into the death in custody of Steven Freeman;

• youth justice and the ACT justice reinvestment trial program;

• the very high rates of children in out-of-home care in the ACT;

• the need to re-open the Boomanulla Oval (an important sports facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT, which has been closed for several years now and needs repairing); and

• the need to work on all the issues listed above through local Aboriginal organisations within a self-determination framework.

ANTaR has maintained good communication with the Steering Committee for Our Booris, Our Way, the Review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the ACT child protection system.

In October 2018, the Steering Committee for Our Booris, Our Way released its Interim Report, and we will continue our advocacy on this issue.

Education and Engagement

Our major educational event of the year is the David Hunter Memorial Lecture which is in October 2017 focused on the Sea of Hands 20 year anniversary. The first ever Sea of Hands was held outside Parliament House in Canberra. Looking back, Tristan Ray and David Cooper (who both participated in 1997) were at the lecture, as well as Shannan Dodson. Looking forward, Chris Bourke and Jennie Gordon, from the Uluru Statement Working Group also attended. Chris attends our meetings when he can and keeps us updated.

This year we held a very successful stall and planted thousands of hands in design of the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag at the ACT’s First Reconciliation Day public holiday celebration in Glebe Park. In early 2018, we also began a Reading Group which focussed on reading Indigenous authors.

We post regular updates to our website and Facebook page that provide a fantastic source of information about Aboriginal-related events and activities happening across Canberra. These events are held by both ANTaR and many other Canberra institutions that focus on Aboriginal issues.

We continue our presence at many local events through holding stalls, including during NAIDOC Week, as well as others. We also educate ourselves and supporters through meeting with local Aboriginal traditional owners and organisations to learn about their work and offer our support.

This year we also attended the wonderful 30th birthday celebrations for Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, and we have tried to support many of the issues Winnunga Nimmityjah and other Aboriginal organisations in the ACT are working for.

This year we supported the First Nations Writers Network Workshop. We also supported the event in late 2017 to welcome Clinton Pryor at the end of his Walk for Justice from Perth via Central Australia and many other places. We had a stall at that very thrilling event at the Tent Embassy where we gave him a very rousing and well-deserved welcome! In line with our goal to learn more about the ACT as an Aboriginal landscape, we organised a beautiful educational walk in September 2017 with Richie Allen from the Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, exploring important sites in North Canberra.
QUEENSLAND

There is an enormous amount of work to be done if Australia is to go anywhere near achieving social justice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. ANTaR Queensland are of the view that little will change without an almost seismic shift in the knowledge, education and attitudes of non-Indigenous Australians. In a nutshell, the work of ANTaR Queensland is to contribute to that seismic shift.

Regarding fundraising activities, we successfully conducted several major events, including the screening of Zach’s Ceremony and a trivia night event at the New Farm Bowls Club. With time and effort by our valued membership committee, volunteers, and our valued members, these events were able to successfully raise an impressive return of funds towards our cause. During 2017, these activities helped us raise nearly $8,000 towards our cause.

Advocacy and Campaigns

We have made significant contributions to our campaigns for Justice Reinvestment and the Removal of Children. We have continued to be involved in the Stolen Wages issue particularly in our support for the applicants in the current Federal Court case. We have kept abreast of news briefs on Native Title and Closing the Gap as well as providing significant information through our website on questions around Constitutional Recognition and Treaty. There is considerable information on all our campaigns on our Queensland website at http://antarqld.org.au/

The Balanced Justice Campaign took a substantial best practice, evidence-based charter for Youth Justice (YJ) reform to the state election in late 2017. It consisted of 12 major reform measures. It was sent to every candidate registered by the Electoral Commission, and to every participating party organisation. Following the election outcome, it was decided by the government that the YJ system should be removed from the Attorney General portfolio and located in the Youth, Families and Child Safety portfolio. Submissions have been made to three parliamentary inquiries and to the Australian Law Reform Commission’s inquiry into Indigenous Incarceration

Education and Engagement

As a result of investment over the last couple of years we now have a very significant social media presence, particularly through our Facebook site. This is updated almost on a daily basis and we frequently have over 1,000 people per week looking at the various posts. Given the nature of contemporary activism, this social media presence has been a real success.

During the year we established a Book Podcast Club ANTaR Qld Group using a dedicated Facebook group at: https://www.facebook.com/pg/AntarQld/groups/?ref=page_internal.

Shortly, we will commence an education discussion Skype group on Clare Land’s book Decolonizing Solidarity: Dilemmas and Directions for Supporters of Indigenous Struggles.

NEW SOUTH WALES

In early 2018, the ANTaR NSW committee made the decision to dissolve as an incorporated body due to a number of reasons relating to limited membership and other constraints.

There are still many thousands of active ANTaR supporters and friends in NSW and ANTaR National will continue to undertake work that is specifically relevant to NSW. For example, National Director - Paul Wright - is on the Executive Committee of Just Reinvest NSW and is also developing great partnership with the NSW Reconciliation Council.
Western Australia

Advocacy and Campaigns

Our involvement in national campaigns has been largely restricted to sharing campaign content through social media posts.

We have maintained active engagement with ANTaR’s Campaigns and Advocacy Committee and it is pleasing that our lobbying for activity that makes a difference at a grassroots level is being seriously considered by the National Board in their review of ANTaRs purpose and organisation.

Education and Engagement

The Sea of Hands have had strong demand again for a variety of events and organisations.

Our commitment to our grassroots projects briefly outlined below is continuing and they are slowly yet surely gaining more traction in the community.

Our digital language project based on the Sea of Hands which aims to connect more people with country, language and culture by enabling them to learn how to say hello in the many ancient languages of this land has been renamed from Kaya to Hello.

ANTaR WA is currently negotiating the first paid use of the Hello project word database with the City of South Perth.

Our sustainable food growing project SUN is breaking new ground and our collaborations this year include the Department of Communities, the WA Local Government Association, Perth NRM, St Pats, the WA Community Garden Network, the Waste Authority and Moorditj Keila.

As President of the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network I am raising the awareness of the community garden movement as ‘contemporary Australian custodians’ of land, as like First Nations’ peoples we care for land we do not own and share our produce.

Our Youth Media initiative is also making progress as the poem I wrote about the life of stolen generation ANTaR WA committee member Lois Olney has been made into a song which we are now planning a youth produced video of.

ANTaR WA is represented on the City of South Perth’s Aboriginal Reference Group which is currently developing a RAP and also seeking funding for a Youth Media video production.

The photo below shows the Mayor of Fremantle Brad Pettit with Lois Olney and myself prior to ANTaR WA’s ‘WATCH Listen Yarn’ function at Clancy’s Fish Pub in Fremantle.

At that event we presented two ANTaR WA Moorditj Awards: one To Brad for his role in the Change the Date movement, and one to Western Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treasurer for being the first Aboriginal Treasurer in Western Australia.

The photo captures each of our projects: The Noongar word for hello is projected on the screen in the background, the produce is from the SUN gardens and was donated to St Pats and Lois will be featured in our Youth Media project.
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