

#WEAREEQUESTRIANVICTORIA



Recognise and Acknowledge Traditional Owners and Custodians

November 2022

vic.equestrian.org.au
evarena.org.au



EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA RESPECTS
AND HONOURS ABORIGINAL
ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.
WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE STORIES,
TRADITIONS AND LIVING CULTURES OF
ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ON THIS LAND
AND COMMIT TO BUILDING A BRIGHTER
FUTURE TOGETHER.

An important aspect of recognition is the acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and Elders at all Equestrian Victoria events, forums, public functions and in public documents.

By including a Welcome to Country ceremony or Acknowledgement to Country, an opportunity is presented to pay recognition and show respect to the cultural protocols conducted today.

Acknowledgement of Country

When should the Traditional Owners and Custodians be acknowledged?

It is important to consider that conducting an Acknowledgment of Country should not be viewed as a protocol, and instead an integral value of your club.

- Public Speeches
- At the beginning of an event
- At presentations
- Large meetings and forums
- Education Courses
- Special functions

Who should perform the acknowledgement?

- At smaller events, functions, meetings and courses, the first speaker should perform the acknowledgment. Each individual speaker following may then choose to acknowledge the Traditional Owners if they decide.
- Keynote speakers and MC's.
- For larger events, it is recommended that consultation with Aboriginal people of the community where the event takes place is conducted, ensuring the ceremony pays the appropriate level of recognition and involves the correct people.

How should traditional owners and custodians be acknowledged?

1. Generic Acknowledgement

This should be used if you don't know the name of the people on whose land you are gathered, or if multiple Aboriginal peoples identify as Traditional Custodians for that area.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. (Equestrian Victoria/ Event Name/ I) extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

2. Acknowledgement specific to location and community

You should use the recommended acknowledgement shown below if you know the name of the people on whose land you are gathered.

I wish to acknowledge the custodians of this land, the [insert the appropriate Aboriginal group/clan] people. I pay my

respect to the Elders past and present. (Equestrian Victoria/Event Name/ I) extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

3. General

This should be used Australia wide – webinar / website / printed material.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Equestrian Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

How can I locate information on the Traditional Owners and Custodians?

- Local Council Websites
- State and Aboriginal Affairs
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
- Local Aboriginal Land Council
- AIATSIS
- [Welcome to Country and Acknowledgements Map](#)

Welcome to Country Ceremony

What is a Welcome to Country ceremony?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities traditionally perform a welcoming ceremony for people who visit their country.

A 'Welcome to Country' varied from speeches to traditional dance and smoking ceremonies, and continues today. 'Welcome to Country' is a cultural service, and incorporates a fee.

'Welcome to Country' must occur at the opening of the event in question, preferably as the first item. A 'Welcome to Country' is considered a right, and not a privilege.

When should we organise a Welcome to Country?

- State and National level events
- Opening of significant events
- Major events & functions

Who can perform a Welcome to Country?

A Welcome to Country **CAN ONLY BE** conducted by Traditional Owners and Custodian of the land in question. Asking an Aboriginal person to perform a Welcome to Country when they do not belong to the Traditional Owner group may cause them embarrassment and may offend the Traditional Owners.

How can we organise a Welcome to Country?

Equestrian Victoria will work with Event Directors, Traditional Owners and Custodians and appropriate stakeholders in the lead up to these events.

Flags

It is recommended that an Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Flag is present at each major event. A flag protocol can be found in Appendix 3 - Flag Protocol.

Printed Publications

Each printed publication, including programs and event times, should include the below in some format. A page for event programs can be found in Appendix 1.

Website Frontage and Email Footers

It is recommended that each website and email footer displays the below.

"Equestrian Victoria acknowledge the traditional owners of all lands on which we do business, and we pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future. We acknowledge the important contribution the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander peoples make in creating a strong and vibrant Society"

Signs

Signs should be affixed at the entry way and in prominent public area's. Equestrian Victoria has produced posters that can be found in Appendix II.

When, What.

Small event

ie. monthly dressage event

When:

At the beginning of the event over the loudspeaker, and/or at the beginning of presentations.

Generic Example:

"Welcome to the [event name] for today's [event level/or type]. Firstly I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today".

Significant/large participation event with presentations

ie. DJWTS, MI3DE

When:

At the beginning of the event over the loudspeaker, and/or at the beginning of presentations.

Generic Example:

"Welcome to the [event name] for today's [event level/or type]. Firstly I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today".

Significant/large internal meetings or meetings with external participants

Board/Committee meetings, AGM, member meetings

When:

At the beginning as part of Welcome and housekeeping.

Generic Example:

"Welcome to today's meeting/event. I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today"

When, What.

Development programs, courses, training / development events

ie. Coaching and officials courses

When:

At the beginning as part of Welcome and housekeeping.

Generic Example:

"Welcome to today's meeting/event. I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today"

Virtual Acknowledgement of Country

ie. Webinars, zoom meetings, Video Presentations

When:

At the beginning of the event over the loudspeaker, and/or at the beginning of presentations.

Generic Example:

Victorian audience: "[organisation] acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We are respectful of the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal Peoples from all of the Victorian Aboriginal Nations."
Australia wide audience: "In the spirit of reconciliation, [organisation] acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today."



*Equestrian Victoria acknowledges the
Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
peoples of this nation.*

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the
lands on which our we are located
and where we conduct our sport.*

*We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders,
past and present.*

*Equestrian Victoria is committed to honouring
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'
unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the
land, waters and seas and their rich contribution
to society.*

Thank you to Koorie Heritage Trust for reviewing this document. Please visit their site and education programs: korieheritagetrust.com.au.



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Equestrian Victoria
Celebrating our love of the horse

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