

Appendix I: Acknowledgement of Country Guidelines for Activity Leaders

VNPA Acknowledgement of Country guidelines for smaller activities (less than 30 people), e.g. small citizen science activity, small campaign activities, bushwalk, education activity, formal meetings

Leaders are strongly encouraged to carry out an Acknowledgement of Country for all activities, however it is not compulsory. The below are some suggested options for leaders for an Acknowledgement of Country.

To carry out an Acknowledgement of Country, leaders are encouraged to research the location of the activity and note the Traditional Custodians of the land where the activity is planned. This should be used to inform a place based Acknowledgement of Country for that activity. For information on Traditional Owner groups across Victoria, see <https://achris.vic.gov.au/weave/wca.html>

Option 1: (for when the formally recognised Traditional Owner group is known):

I/we acknowledge the <insert name of people here (e.g. Yorta Yorta)> people, First People of the land/sea on which we <gather/meet/walk/research/learn about/care for> today, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I/we extend that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be here today.'

Option 2: (for areas where there are no formally recognised Traditional Owner groups):

I/we acknowledge the First People of the land/sea on which we <gather/meet/walk/research/learn about> today, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I/we extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be here today.'

Leaders may also wish to include VNPA's formal Acknowledgement of Country to one of the above two options.

The Victorian National Parks Association also acknowledges the many First People of the area now known as Victoria, honours their continuing care for and connection to Country. VNPA supports Traditional Owner joint-management of parks and public land for conservation of natural and cultural heritage.