

TREATY. IT'S TIME.

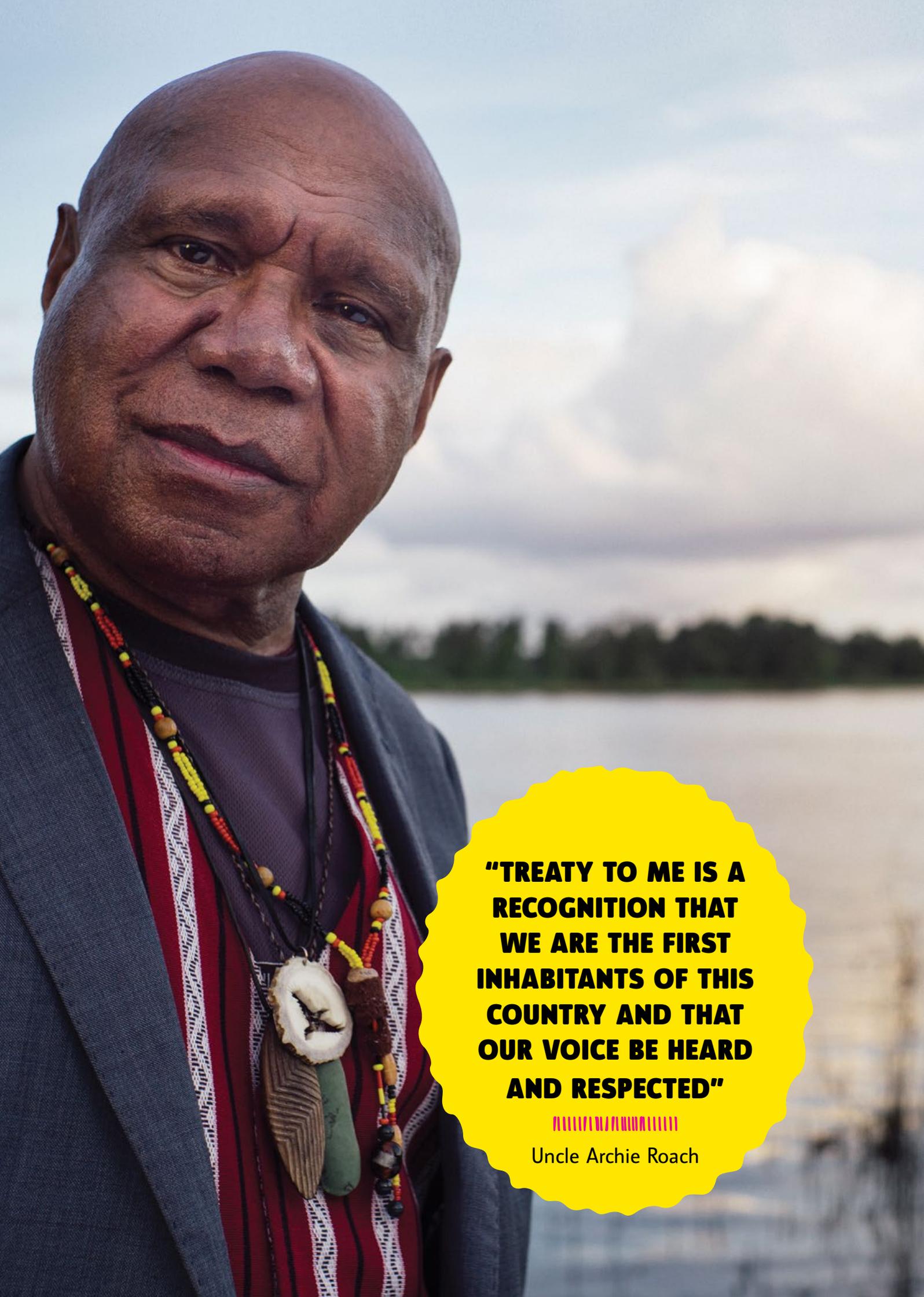
YOUR CANDIDATES

NORTH EAST

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Election 2019



First Peoples'
Assembly of
Victoria



**"TREATY TO ME IS A
RECOGNITION THAT
WE ARE THE FIRST
INHABITANTS OF THIS
COUNTRY AND THAT
OUR VOICE BE HEARD
AND RESPECTED"**



Uncle Archie Roach

VOTING IS OPEN FROM 16 SEPTEMBER – 20 OCTOBER 2019

**Treaties are our self-determining right.
They can give us justice for the past and hope
for the future. The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria
will be our voice as we work towards Treaties.**

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria will be set up this year,
with its first meeting set to be held in December.

The Assembly will be a powerful, independent and culturally
strong organisation made up of 32 Victorian Traditional Owners.

If you're a Victorian Traditional Owner or an Aboriginal or
Torres Strait Islander person living in Victoria, you're eligible to vote
for your Assembly representatives through a historic election process.

Your voice matters, your vote is crucial.



HAVE YOU ENROLLED TO VOTE?

To be able to vote, you'll need to make sure you're enrolled. This will
only take you a few minutes. You can do this at the same time as voting,
or before you vote.

The Assembly election is completely Aboriginal owned and independent
from any Government election (this includes the Victorian Electoral
Commission and the Australian Electoral Commission). This means,
even if you vote every year in other elections, you'll still need to sign
up to vote for your Assembly representatives.

Don't worry, your details will never be shared with Government, or any
electoral commissions and you won't get fined if you decide not to vote.

**To enrol to vote or learn more about enrolling,
visit www.firstpeoplesvic.org/enrol**

WHERE AND HOW TO VOTE

Voting is easy and will be open from 16 September until 20 October 2019.

You can vote in person at various polling places around the state, via post or online at www.firstpeoplesvic.org/vote

On your ballot, you'll need to write the number '1' in the box next to your favourite candidate, number '2' next to your second favourite and so on until you number at least three boxes. You may then, if you wish, number some or all of the remaining boxes in your order of preference.

In your region, you're voting to elect three representatives to the Assembly.

Learn more about all the voting regions at www.firstpeoplesvic.org/your-region



HOW TO VOTE IN PERSON

To vote in person, you can access any of the polling booth locations across the state.

At the polling location the team will ask you for your name and address to mark you off the roll, then provide you with a ballot. If you have questions, they can show you how to fill out the ballot correctly and give you an opportunity to practice if you want.

If you have not yet enrolled to vote, you can do this at the same time, **remember to bring ID with you.**

HOW TO VOTE ONLINE

After you have enrolled, you will be sent your Enrolment ID Number by email, letter or SMS. As voting commences, you will be sent another email, letter or SMS with your password and instructions on how to vote.

You will be asked to enter your Enrolment ID Number and Password sent to you. These are unique to you and cannot be used by anyone else.

You will be asked to click the candidates in the order you wish to vote for them. You will then click Next and will see a confirmation screen. Click Finish, and your vote will be cast. You cannot change your mind after this step.

If you haven't filled out the ballot correctly, the system will tell you and ask you to fix it before submitting.

HOW TO VOTE BY POST

If you selected that you wanted to vote by post when you enrolled, you will be mailed a ballot and instructions to the address provided.

Read the instructions carefully and then fill out the ballot.

To ensure your vote is valid you will need to sign the envelope before returning to us. Put this in the reply paid (free) envelope provided.

You must post your vote by 20 October 2019 and it must be received by us by **30 October 2019** to be counted.

If you haven't already, you may request a postal ballot until 5pm 14 October 2019.

POLLING PLACES

You can vote in person in your region at the following locations and times:

📍 **Njernda Wellbeing Centre**
86 Hare Street, Echuca

Weekdays 9:00am–5:00pm
Monday 30 Sept – Friday 4 Oct
Monday 7 Oct – Friday 11 Oct

📍 **Aldara Yenara:**
The Emmanuel Cooper OA Centre*
207–217 Wyndham Street, Shepparton

Weekdays 10:00am–6:00pm
Monday 30 Sept – Friday 4 Oct
Monday 7 Oct – Friday 11 Oct

📍 **The Cube Wodonga**
118 Hovell Street, Wodonga

Weekdays 10:00am–6:00pm
Monday 30 Sept – Friday 4 Oct
(closed Thursday 3 Oct)
Monday 7 Oct – Friday 11 Oct

📍 **Mansfield Library**
Cnr High and Collopy Streets, Mansfield

9:30am–5:30pm
Tuesday 1 Oct

📍 **Gorranworrabul house (Seymour Health)**
Bretonneux Street, Seymour

9:00am–5:00pm
Thursday 3 Oct

📍 **North East Support and
Action for Youth Inc. (NESAY)**
86–90 Rowan Street, Wangaratta

9:00am–5:00pm
Thursday 3 Oct

All venues (unless marked) are wheelchair accessible. If you have accessibility issues, let the team know and they'll be able to help you, including coming out to your car if needed.

*Venue has steps

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- ⦿ If at the time of enrolment, you selected online or postal voting, you don't need to do anything, information will be sent to you.
- ⦿ If at the time of enrolment, you didn't select online or postal, you can change this anytime by calling **1800 TREATY** or emailing **vtac@austelect.com**
- ⦿ You can vote at any polling booth regardless of your town or voting preference.
- ⦿ If you decide you want to vote online after enrolling, contact us at **1800 TREATY** or emailing **vtac@austelect.com** to request an online ballot. This request may be made **until 9pm 20 October 2019**.
- ⦿ If you decide you want to vote by post after enrolling, contact us at **1800 TREATY** or emailing **vtac@austelect.com** to request a postal ballot be sent to you. This request may be made **until 14 October 2019**.



NEED HELP?

Let us know how we can help.

You can call Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission on **1800 TREATY (1800 87 32 89)**.

To get in contact with your local Assembly Election Officer, visit **www.firstpeoplesvic.org/get-in-touch** or Contact the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission on **1800 TREATY (1800 87 32 89)**.





**"TO ME,
TREATY MEANS THE
RECOGNITION OF PAST
INJUSTICES AND THE
COMMITMENT TO ACTIONS
THAT WILL PROMOTE TRUE
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
AND EQUITY WITHIN
OUR COMMUNITIES"**



Kyeema Coombs

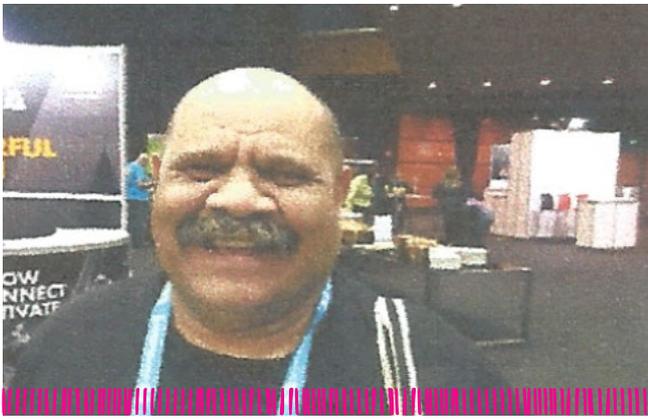
MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

**The following is a list of candidates
you can vote for in the First Peoples'
Assembly of Victoria Election 2019.**

**Read their candidate statements
to learn a bit more about them.**

**Candidates are listed in the order
they appear on the ballot.**

Statements have been prepared by the individual candidates, they have not been edited unless they have exceeded the word count.



STEPHEN J WALSH

I stand as a candidate for the first peoples assembly Victoria as a Taungurung man and elder, I have been a member for over 5 years of Taungurung Council and served as Director and deputy chair for over 4 years of my time there. I have committed to support Taungurung communitys amplical ansestory family of the Hamilton family.

My involvement in the Victorian treaty process in Victoria has been to attend many of the discussions and workshops as a traditional owner as we ll as being a representative of my organisations interest.

As a elder of the Taungurung council I have also good relationships with many other traditional owner groups including our neighbors being Yorta Yorta, Gunai/Kurnai, Wurundjeri and Dja Dja Wurrung. I have also had the opportunity to be involved in the Kulin Nations Tanderrum 2017 as an elder of Taungurung.

I have have had an opportunity to be involved in many different discussions



HENRY ATKINSON

I am an Elder of the Wollithiga Clan, the traditional owners of our country. I follow the ancestral line from Kitty Atkinson, a Wollithiga woman.

My whole life encompasses education and the continuance of my peoples culture and heritage of over 100,000 years. Therefore a treaty must be established for the protection of my peoples now and into the future.

Protection with a treaty will allow the future of younger generations to continue with honour and pride in caring for their traditional Lands.

**NO PHOTO
SUPPLIED**

NARTARSHA BAMBLETT

Yorta Yorta women from my father Gordon Bamblett is the son of the late Lesley Bamblett son of Lulla Morgan and Alf Bamblett. I wish to be a member of treaty to be a connection and a communicator for my people from my elders, my elder generations and my generation to those of my sons and ones yet to come to be heard and represented.

I see treaty as a stepping stone of the past 230 years to the present pain my people have endured to walk together as one nation as a state towards healing, understanding and agreement of common grounds.

I aspire to see this further close the gap for our people to start a better healing and living from now on to the future of breaking the cycle from our people, indigenous communities from the inside to the outer nation as one.



GREGORY JAMES

I am a very proud Yorta Yorta man, my tribe has a history of ancestors and elders who fought for rights and treatment for aboriginal people in the early 1900s, so I would like to continue their legacy in a modern perspective. I wish to be a member of the First Peoples because we need representatives that can communicate with our people and provide the voice which reflects local issues.

I believe I have a detailed understanding of what our tribe requires. I firmly believe treaty is every bodies business. A specific treaty agreement with our local council and chamber of commerce, a Victorian Treaty Agreement ultimately a National Treaty which addresses constitutional recognition and focuses on rewriting our Australian history from an Aboriginal perspective.



MATTHEW ATKINSON

I wish to be a member of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria, because I want to see positive changes for all of our people. I believe treaty will be the start of a lot of positive change for us and I want to be apart of the conversation.

Our selfless elders fought for us to be equal and we now have a chance to nagioate with Government to give our people a voice. I wish to be a voice for the younger generations and to stand respectfully with our past and present elders.



MICHAEL HARDING

As a Taungurung gulinj, I am passionate about the possibilities of what self-determination can achieve for us. I believe that my experience and knowledge working within the community and with various agencies, would enable me to make a meaningful contribution in the assembly.

I believe that in being a member of the assembly, it is critical to engage with our communities continually throughout this process. In order for our people to be able to negotiate successful treaties, we need a comprehensive treaty framework, a fair treaty authority and adequate self-determination fund.

I want to be part of the process that helps our people to be able to negotiate a treaty on a fair playing ground.



LEANNE MILLER

I am a descendant of the Dhulanyagen Ulupna clan, Yorta Yorta people. My grandparents are Selwyn and Geraldine Briggs AO (nee Clements), my mother Frances Mathysen (nee Briggs). My family has a strong and long-standing commitment to Aboriginal affairs. I am a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Social Equity and Executive Director, Koorie Women Mean Business

I would welcome the opportunity to engage around the provisions and interpretations of the Act developed as part of the Treaty. I believe a Treaty could strengthen and uphold the strong fundamentals of the tide of history which effects our planning for growth as a clan, community and through partnerships. It draws on my key strengths: community engagement, policy writing and negotiation experiences.

I have an extensive advocacy background working in Indigenous, legal, corporate and women's sectors. I have represented Australian Indigenous Women at the United Nations and undertaken four international UN Fellowships

My broad views on Treaty are:

Published treaties are open to interpretation at every point of the process.

It should embrace the key Human Rights Acts and reflect a number of comments and recommendations put forward to date.

GERALDINE ATKINSON

I am from the Kalithiban of the Bangerang Nation which is located within the Goulburn Valley region, my mother was Esmeralda Bamblett nee Morgan who was born on Cummeragunja Reserve she was the great granddaughter of Bagot Morgan who was a resident of Maloga and Cummeragunja and noted as Bangerang traditional owner from the Goulburn Valley area.

I wish to be a member of the First People's Assembly of Victoria I believe that I can contribute positively to the discussion which will advance the Treaty process for the whole of the Victorian Aboriginal community. I am very passionate and committed to advocating and working for advancement of Aboriginal Affairs at local, statewide and National levels. I have been actively involved for the last four decades enabling me to bring this experience and knowledge required in the work of advancing the Treaty process.

Treaties will provide Aboriginal people of Victoria with legitimate recognition as First Nations people to negotiate sustainable funding agreements, protection of heritage and cultural rights which ensures that our future generations will not have to be beggars within in their own Sovereign lands.



**"TREATY TO ME
IS THE START OF
JUSTICE FOR THE WRONGS
FROM FIRST CONTACT TO
PRESENT DAY. IT'S ABOUT
ENSURING A JUST AND
EQUITABLE FUTURE FOR THE
GENERATIONS TO COME"**



Douglas Briggs

TREATY.
IT'S TIME.

MORE INFORMATION

Call 1800 TREATY (1800 873 289)

www.firstpeoplesvic.org



First Peoples'
Assembly of
Victoria

TREATY
FOR VICTORIA