

TUNNERMINNERWAIT AND MAULBOYHEENNER COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE



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INVITATION

The building of the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner monument has begun. If you're in the Melbourne CBD, go down and have a look (corner Franklin St and Victoria Pde – opposite the Old Melbourne Gaol). The Melbourne City Council has organised an Official Opening for:

**2:00pm Sunday 11th September
at the monument site**

It is important all those people who have attended the yearly celebrations join us on the day. Without your efforts Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner would still be a footnote in Australian history.

The significance of this monument goes far beyond its presence.

When the Gurindji walked off Vestey's and began their sit down strike 50 years ago, it heralded the beginning of the modern Land Rights Movement.

When the High Court in 1992 (almost 25 years ago) found, as a result of Eddie Mabo's historic legal challenge, that Native Title had not been extinguished by the colonisation process, Land Rights were put at the centre of political debate in this country.

The establishment of the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner monument in the CBD of a major Australian city to men who paid the ultimate price for resisting the colonisation process, puts the Frontier Wars at the forefront of the reconciliation process between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. Publicly recognising the resistance against colonisation is pivotal to kick starting a stalled reconciliation process that is based on justice, not charity.

This journey began in 2004 as a result of the white washing of the brutality of the colonisation process by powerful political and media forces in this country who almost succeeded in their attempts to deny this country has a black history. It has been a long journey that has taken many twists and turns. It is important those people involved in that journey are recognised and not written out of the historical record.

AIMS:	To hold a yearly commemoration on the 20 th January at the site the execution took place - (Cnr Bowen & Franklin Sts, Melbourne), To acknowledge the injustice of what happened in January 1842, To highlight the unfinished business that still exists between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, To work towards the establishment of a significant public monument to publicly acknowledge what happened on that fateful day.
PATRON:	Carolyn BRIGGS - Boon Wurrung Elder & Spokesperson for Boon Wurrung Foundation
CONVENOR:	Dr. Joseph TOSCANO
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Doug CHESSMAN, Joy FRENCH, William FRENCH, Ellen JOSE, John O'BRIEN, Rick SIMPSON

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I would like to personally thank our Patron, Boon Wurrung Elder Carolyn Briggs. The other members of the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner Commemoration Committee; Ellen Jose, Joy French (deceased), Bill French, Doug Chessman, John O'Brien, Rick Simpson and Bill Pickering.

I would also like to thank Robbie Thorpe, Sharon Firebrace, Gary Foley, Claire Land and Aunty Patsy who stood by us in this struggle. Melbourne City Councillors Cathy Oke, Jackie Watts and Rohan Leppert whose political support was pivotal to the building of the monument. The Melbourne City Council, led by Robert Doyle, for having the courage to politically back this project and to finance and build the monument. The successful artists Trent Walter and Brook Andrew who led the team that made the monument a reality. The Melbourne City Council staff who have been involved in this project over the past decade and those men and women who built the monument. Without their help this project would not have come to fruition.

Finally, and most importantly of all, I would like to thank all those nameless supporters who have attended the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner Commemoration on the 20th January every year since 2004, whose participation in a process that was initiated and pushed along by radical elements within the white and black community, including Community Radio 3CR, has ensured the recognition of the past will help us to understand the present and change the future.

JOIN US ON THIS HISTORIC DAY

2:00pm Sunday 11th September
at the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner monument
(corner Franklin St and Victoria Pde, Melbourne – opposite the Old Melbourne Gaol)

I hope to see you, your children, family and friends at the Official Melbourne City Council Launch.

All the best,

Dr. Joseph TOSCANO / Convenor
Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner Commemoration Committee

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