**25 June 2019**

### Talking Treaty in NAIDOC Week

A free community event titled Talking Treaty will be held to celebrate NAIDOC Week, welcoming Wadawurrung woman Corrina Eccles to lead a thought-provoking discussion.

Surf Coast Shire Council will host the event in Torquay on Wednesday 10 July, with people invited to attend as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.

With this year’s theme ‘Voice Treaty Truth – Let’s work together for a shared future’, the event is an opportunity to encourage and support deeper local conversations. Mayor Rose Hodge said Talking Treaty was for non-Indigenous and Indigenous people.

“Many people would have seen that the Victorian Government is working with Aboriginal Victorians towards Australia’s first treaty, so our Talking Treaty event is timely,” she said.

“It will see Corrina discuss what treaty is and what it might mean for Wadawurrung and for Victoria. It could cover reconciliation, it could be an avenue for truth-telling or it could recognise the unique position of Aboriginal Victorians. We’re so excited to hear Corrina’s insights as she leads this important discussion.”

Talking Treaty will be held at Council Chambers, Torquay from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Wednesday 10 July. To book, visit [**www.eventbrite.com.au/e/63841209777**](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/63841209777).

NAIDOC Week will be celebrated from 7 to 14 July. Council is also supporting a series of Art Talks events. People are invited to join decorated artist and curator Maree Clarke at Qdos Arts Lorne on Sunday 7 July for Revisiting the Past as she recognises the sovereignty of Aboriginal culture in Australia.

On Sunday 14 July, award-winning writer Jock Serong will headline a free Rewriting the Past session at Torquay Library, focusing on using fiction to think about the truth of white settlement. Places are limited to 20 people. Mr Serong will also lead a Rewriting the Past session at Qdos Arts later in the day.

“NAIDOC Week is a highlight on our annual calendar. What better way to get involved than to be part of important conversations,” Cr Hodge said. “I encourage people to embrace the week as an opportunity to learn from and celebrate our Indigenous people.”

The Surf Coast Shire spans the lands of three Aboriginal nations - Wadawurrung, Gulidjan and Gadabanud.

For more information about NAIDOC Week and details of Council-supported events, visit [**www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/NAIDOC**](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/NAIDOC).

**Not for publication:**

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