Agenda

1. **Procedural Matters**

   1.1 **Election of Chair**

   Motion 1: That James Crafti be elected chair
   Mover: Van Rudd  Seconder: Jordan White
   Carried

   1.2 **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners**

   So Acknowledged

   1.3 **Attendance**

   Van Rudd, James Crafti, Hannah Samuel, Alex Edsor, (Jordan White)

   *Please note the name in brackets is still pending the decision of the Electoral Tribunal as to whether they are officially a committee member

   1.4 **Apologies**

   Nil

   1.5 **Proxies**

   Nil

   1.6 **Membership**

   Nil

   1.7 **Adoption of Agenda**

   Motion 2: That the agenda be adopted as presented
   Mover: Jordan White  Seconder: James Crafti
   Carried

2. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

   Motion 3: That the minutes of the last three VCA Dept minutes be confirmed
   Mover: Van Rudd  Seconder: Jordan White
   Carried
3. **Office Bearer's Report**

   Nil

4. **Motions on Notice**

   Nil

5. **Other Motions not on notice**

   **Grants Application Process**

   **Motion 5.1**

   That the VCASA Grants due date be extended from May 12\textsuperscript{th} to May 26\textsuperscript{th} due to delays in producing the application guidelines and posters for publicity

   Mover: Van Rudd    Seconder: Alex Edsor

   Carried without dissent

   **Stop the Closures of Aboriginal Communities**

   **Preamble:**

   State Liberal government’s November announcement that it will be closing around 150 remote Aboriginal communities. Premier Colin Barnett initially called the remote communities, most in the Kimberley and Pilbara and home to up to 15,000 people, “economically unviable”. Later, speaking to the ABC, he claimed that the “appalling mistreatment” of children was the reason for the closures.

   Since the announcement one of the communities Perth’s Matagarup (Heirisson Island) is standing strong and has been protesting their removal. WA Aboriginal Affairs Minister Peter Collier has assured Indigenous people they will be fully consulted before any decision to close remote communities. Yet, 50 police were sent in to remove the camp by force.

   Nhunda Wadjari Yamatji man Shaun Harris tells of the state’s attempt to clear the camp: “They came galloping in on mounted police then they sent the sniffer dogs in. They even brought a mobile prison cell.“The way they came in was pathetic, ridiculous, just to intimidate us … It was mainly elders, women and children at the site, people who weren’t just squatting for there for fun – they have nowhere else to go.”

   Prime minister Tony Abbott revealed his usual blatant racism on ABC radio 13 March: “What we can’t do is endlessly subsidise lifestyle choices if those lifestyle choices are not conducive to the kind of full participation in Australian society that everyone should have.”

   It is clear that Aboriginal people historically in this country have't had the ability to make lifestyle choices. Firstly the land was stolen from them, they've been massacred
and forced into protectorates away from homelands, starved of their cultural and political voice. They've had their children stolen from them and they account for the highest percentage in Australia's growing prison systems.

This systemic racism is fueled by key economic and political forces that bind corporate and government interests together. One of those relationships motivated the ruling elites over 100 years ago (from Britain and locally) to drive for pastoral leases. Now it's dead set digging. WA is known for it's riches resulting from the mining sector – the billions flowing from holes in Aboriginal land to the pockets of Lang Hancock (now Gina Rinehardt) - but hardly any money going to the owners of the land. Royalties from these leases goes to government treasuries to fund other useless projects. But as mining commodity prices drop, the government goes even harder, and tries to kick more Aboriginal people off the land for more leases to keep up cash flows. As mentioned, WA Premier Barnett's lifestyle is tearing to shreds the already unbearable life of others. We've seen what happened during the northern territory intervention!

In spite of all this, the Aboriginal community resist as they have done for over 200 years. Importantly, the wider community joins in. Protests against the closures have arisen from WA to Melbourne. The last protest in Melbourne on May 10th had about 5000 people stage a sit-in on the road at the intersection of Flinders and Swanston St in the CBD. This has lifted spirits for many, and the next rally in Melbourne is planned for May 1st. The demands to the Abbott govt have been simple: Stop the Closures of Aboriginal Communities

**Motion 5.2:** That VCASA support the fight against the closures of Aboriginal communities.

Possible actions: Discussion around what sort of events (eg Reconciliation week) VCASA can be involved in on campus in conjunction with Wilin Centre. Possible film screenings, lectures, forums, art exhibitions? Etc

Mover: Hannah Samuel    Seconder: Jordon White
Carried

**Motion 5.3:** That VCASA (VCA Dept) pay the fine(s), from the Special Events budget line, that may be imposed upon James Crafti (VCASA Campus Coordinator in 2014) in the impending court case against current Liberal Party Deputy Leader Julie Bishop.

Mover: James Crafti    Seconder: Hannah Samuel
Carried without dissent

6. **Next Meeting**
   April 30th @ 8.30am, May 7th @ 8.30am, May 21st @ 8.30am
7. Close

Meeting Closed at: 9.22am