



## Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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# 2016-2017 Annual Report

## Wominjeka – Welcome

*Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yalukut Willam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present, and acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.*

### Elections at the Annual General Meeting

During our previous AGM on 18 October 2016, the following officers were elected unanimously:  
Co-Chairs - **Rosemary Rule** and **Dennis Fisher**;  
Treasurer – Fiona Olney-Fraser; Minute-taker - **Sylvia Edgar**. I'd particularly like to thank outgoing Treasurer **Gael Wilson** for her many years of service, as well as the other members who regularly come to meetings, help get *Mungo* out, and host stalls. It is your support and commitment that keeps this group going on so strongly.

Following the election, guest speaker **Kent Morris**, CEO of The Torch, talked about his own journey and the art program he's introduced to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prison inmates.

### Business

Our monthly meetings have invariably been well attended and I've been encouraged by the new people I've met, several of whom have quickly helped out at events which is much appreciated.

### Talks

**Dr Sushena Krishnaswamy**, a new PPCfR member, gave us some interesting insights into her stints working as a physician in Alice Springs at our June meeting. COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer **Todd Condie** and Reconciliation and Health Promotion Cadet **Daniel Carter**, regularly come to meetings and tell us about Council initiatives.

### Schools

**Gael Wilson** and **Deb Stewart**, who successfully ran our schools program for many years, personally contacted principals and teachers to inform them that the Boon Wurrung Foundation will now be coordinating the schools program.

### National 2017 Sorry Day Lunch

A record crowd of more than 100 people attended our Sorry Day Lunch, including **Mayor Bernadene Voss**; Councillors **Katherine Copsey** and **Adam Brand**; Member for Albert Park **Martin Foley**; representatives from several faith groups, community organisations, and from the Holden car company; a couple of children; and two students and their teacher from Elwood College. A minute's silence was held for the Stolen Generation who we honour on this day. Elder **Judith 'Jacko' Jackson** gave a warm Acknowledgement of Country. **Dennis Fisher's** masterful work as MC once again engaged all the guests, while **James Henry** smoothly entertained the group and sang one of his songs in language. I was interviewed beforehand by Radio 3CR but was disappointed that *The Leader* newspaper did not cover the event. My heartfelt thanks to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes including **Gael Wilson**, **Jo Bond**, **Deb Stewart**, **Fiona Olney-Fraser**, **Denis Frankel**, **Yosefine Deans**, **Liz Gallois**, **Helen Hoffman**, **Todd Condie** and his team members, and **Jacek Przybyl**. (**Arweet Carolyn Briggs** and Greens Senator **Sue Pennicuik** sent their apologies).



### Art for Reconciliation Exhibition

**Meg Davoren-Honey's** Exhibition was held at Gurutzia Gallery, St Kilda. It was officially opened on 19 November by **Noel Tovey AM**, following a warm Acknowledgement of Country by **Judith Jackson**. As the gallery does not charge commission, Meg donated part of the sale proceeds to Star Health's Youth Program. (Star Health was formerly Inner South Community Health Service.)

## Writing Competition

Building Bridges was the theme of our third Writing Competition and was a great success, attracting over 400 entries from around the state and from every St Kilda Park Primary School pupil. It also attracted a generous donation of the \$500 first prize from **Graeme Wilson**, Wilson Real Estate, and another donation from agent **Greg Hocking**. The awards ceremony was held at Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park, on 22 November 2016. Cash prizes and certificates were handed out to the winners of the adults and primary school categories as selected by our judges - Aboriginal author **Jane Harrison** and Emeritus Professor **Dr Clare Bradford**, who is internationally regarded for her research into how children's books depict Indigenous peoples and cultures. A handsome booklet with all the winning entries was given out to everyone. My thanks to the judges, to **Liz Gallois** for instigating and coordinating this major project, and to members **Gael Wilson**, **Deb Stewart**, **Yosefine Deans** and **Fiona Olney- Fraser** for their help. We plan to run the Reconciliation Writing Competition again in 2018 so stay tuned for details.



**Awards Night.**  
Front row: Clare Bradford, Graeme Wilson, Elder Judith Jackson. Back row: Rosemary Rule, Jess Allender, Indigenous Coordinator, St Kilda Park Primary; Todd Condie, Indigenous Policy Officer, City of Port Phillip.

## Networks

PPCfR is a good networker! We continue to be well represented at the Local Reconciliation Groups' forums hosted by RecVic and ANTAR Vic, and at their joint AGM in October. We regularly provide items for RecVic's monthly e-newsletter. We entered - but did not win- the Victorian Local Government Association and Reconciliation Victoria's Community HART (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together) Award, based on our successful Sorry Day lunches.

We appreciate our ongoing relationship with the BoonWurrung Foundation.

Elsewhere, we donated to and attended the Homeless Memorial in St Kilda; supported events organised by the St Kilda/Elsternwick Baptist Church such as the Galiamble Art Exhibition; hosted a table at the 2016 Long Walk Women's fundraising luncheon; and provided news items for COPP's Divercity magazine as another way of raising community awareness of our work.

A group of PPCfR members took a tour of Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre hosted by **Ro Bailey**, a volunteer guide at Melbourne Museum and Secretary of RecStonnington. The group sends *Mungo* out to their members each month.

## Communications

Once again, we produced and delivered eleven issues of our informative *Mungo* newsletter to an audience of over 3,500 people including RecVic and RecStonnington. Thank you to **Jo Bond** and **Ian Spalding** for organising the snail mailouts, and to **Todd Condie** who sends out the email version, and to the staff in **Martin Foley's** electoral office for printing the newsletter. I'm grateful to **Joe Malignaggi** who keeps our **ppcfr.org** site updated and well maintained even if he's travelling outside the country.

## City of Port Phillip (COPP)

PPCfR is always pleased to support the Council's Reconciliation-focused activities such as their Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week flag-raising ceremonies and events.

We are a key stakeholder in their first successfully implemented Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and in the development of their second one (launched July 2017). The RAP explores employment opportunities, builds awareness and understanding, and enhances cultural and economic development for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders: a major achievement for Council and the community.

I'm very grateful for the ongoing support our group receives, both financial and in-kind, from the City of Port Phillip, especially their Indigenous Policy Officer **Todd Condie** for his valuable advice, support and encouragement. We were a co-sponsor of **Judith Jackson's** successful nomination that led to her well-deserved induction into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll and we were delighted to congratulate **Jacko** personally at a special event held for the community at St Kilda Town Hall.



**Todd Condie, Rosemary Rule and Mayor Bernadene Voss congratulate Elder Judith Jackson on her induction into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.**

## Looking Ahead

It is a privilege to be a member of such an active and effective Reconciliation group. Again, I'd like to thank everyone who helps us continue the work started 20 years ago. It's an impressive achievement to keep building upon.

**Rosemary Rule, Co-Chair, 21 November 2017**



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