

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

ABN: 444 16 152 998
P.O. Box 1446, St Kilda South, Vic 3182
Phone: (03) 9699 8804
Mobile: 0418 675 734
Email: rosemary.rule@gmail.com
www.ppcfr.org

The Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yalukit Wilum clan of the Boon Wurrung Nation who are the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land.

This newsletter is supported by a Community Grant from the City of Port Phillip, and we acknowledge Martin Foley MP, State Labor Member for Albert Park, for his ongoing support.

April 2018

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

2018 Reconciliation Writing Competition

I'm delighted to announce the 2018 Reconciliation Writing Competition with the theme Don't Make History a Mystery. It is open to **all** adults (except writing comp judges, committee members and their families) and to secondary and primary students in Victoria, offering a total of \$4,200 in prize money for winners across the adult and five student categories. Judges include Professor Tony Birch, award-winning author of books such as *Ghost River*, *Shadowboxing*, *Blood* (shortlisted for the 2012 Miles Franklin Award) and *The Promise* (shortlisted for the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award), who is the inaugural Dr Bruce McGuinness Research Fellow at the Moondani Balluk Centre at Victoria University, and winner of the 2017 Patrick White Literary Award; and Emeritus Professor Clare Bradford, who is internationally regarded for her research into how children's books depict Indigenous peoples and cultures and who has published thirteen books – Clare is also a long-time PPCfR member. We have been fortunate to attract sponsorship and support from Wilson Agents, Future Leaders, Benson Saulo and Dr Kate O'Brien, Avenue Bookstore, City of Port Phillip, Greg Hocking and Cayzer Real Estate.



2018 Reconciliation Writing Competition Judge – acclaimed author and academic Professor Tony Birch.

Entries close **Friday 24 August 2018**. The informative flyer is attached to this issue and can also be downloaded from www.ppcfr.org. Enquiries: writingcomp2018@gmail.com or call 0418 675 734. I'll keep you posted on developments.

Supporting the Uluru Statement

At our recent meeting, we decided to write a letter in support of the Federal Government's revised reception of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Makarrata, and the recommendations of the Referendum Council Report - something of a victory for bi-partisanship among our politicians. Thanks to Liz Gallois for compiling the thoughtful letter that has been sent to the Liberal and Labor leaders, Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs, Co-Chairs of the Referendum Council Committee and Rec Vic. It'll be interesting to see the responses received!

Sorry Day Lunch

Please mark **Friday 25 May** in your diary to come and join us for our lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day at the South Melbourne Community Centre. Special guests include Aboriginal Elders, MC Dennis Fisher and singer/storyteller Dave Arden. Details next month. (The lunch is being held the day before the official Sorry Day, **Saturday 26 May**.)

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting: Tuesday 17 April, 2018, 6.30 pm,
South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street,
South Melbourne. All Welcome.

REC VIC NEWS

The next annual Reconciliation Network Regional Forum and tour on Wurundjeri Country will be held from **April 14-15** with accommodation available at a camp near Coranderrk, Healesville, on the Saturday night.

The Forum will be held at Candlebark Farm on Saturday afternoon. There is a minimum charge to cover costs, and interested people should book via Rec Vic, info@reconciliationvic.org.au

Volunteer opportunities - Rec Vic is looking for a volunteer to help with some basic admin work in their office in Collingwood on a regular or occasional basis. Hours are flexible. They are also seeking a small pool of volunteers to assist with social media moderating. Varied times and days available. People interested in joining their dynamic and friendly team can contact Damian O'Keefe – info@reconciliationvic.org.au

STONNINGTON RECONCILIATION

The group is seeking an Honorary Treasurer, someone to be a point of contact and to prepare a financial report for the AGM, for which an audit is not required. Please send enquiries to Ro Bailey, 9819 9106, ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au. Their next meeting is at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 11 April, Grattan Gardens Community Centre, Prahran. All welcome.

WILIN CENTRE EXPANDS

For over 15 years, the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development has connected Indigenous visual and performing artists and design students with a pathway to their future in the arts. The Centre will be expanded and relocated to cater for significant growth and provide a new, engaging street presence and frontage on Southbank Boulevard. With the new frontage, the upgraded and improved Wilin Centre will increase visibility of the University of Melbourne's Indigenous arts and cultural activities, and create new opportunities for engagement with the public and supporters. The \$1.5 million refurbishment and repurposing of an existing building on the Southbank campus will provide a sufficient footprint to accommodate the scaled-up Wilin Centre. Work gets underway this year.

INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION (ILF)

In 2018 the ILF will focus resources on their early-literacy Book Buzz program. Nicole Whiles, a Wiradjuri woman with nearly twenty years' experience in education working with Indigenous and disadvantaged communities, has joined the program team which is made up of Tina Raye and Cindy Manfong. She will visit the APY Lands in South Australia to work with Amata Playgroup to create two new board books in Pitjantjatjara language. ILF's patron, the Hon Quentin Bryce AD, CVO, has spoken about the importance of learning how to walk in two worlds, inspired by the work of students from Concordia College who wrote about the challenges they experience daily in the publication *Two Ways Strong*. The ILF is keen for schools or businesses to begin their Reconciliation journey by supporting their advocacy campaign, the Great Book Swap. It is a real

opportunity for all Australians to be part of the change to make a difference. Donations welcome. Learn more via www.ilf.org.au

Note: Last year, the ILF supplied 63,000 new, culturally-relevant books to the communities that needed them most (a 40% increase on the previous year). This year they have increased supply to 90,000 books due to growing demand from communities. The books are ready to be distributed to over 280 communities.

STOLEN GENERATIONS' RECORDS EXPUNGED

The Victorian Government last month announced landmark action to reverse a policy which saw members of the Stolen Generations given criminal records. It comes after last year's NITV News investigation, which exposed the practice, was raised in the Victorian parliament. Members of the Stolen Generations and others taken into state care will have their public records updated to remove criminal convictions recorded against their names after they were removed from their family. Following the NITV News investigation the Government launched an inquiry that involved consulting with police and Indigenous advocates, and has tabled a letter in parliament outlining a range of actions to be taken. These include a formal apology to the victims of the previous policy, changes in the current policy, and, if required, an agreement to make changes to the law to ensure children taken into care are never again given criminal records. Prior to 1992, there was no clear distinction between welfare and criminal court proceedings. As a result, care and protection applications were recorded alongside charges, convictions and sentences, which would resurface during background checks. Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos said the government had worked with a range of stakeholders, including Care Leavers Australasia Network, Berry Street, Open Place and Connecting Home, as well as Aboriginal advocacy groups such as the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and the Woor-Dungin Criminal Record Discrimination Project. *'The Andrews Labor Government has been consulting closely with stakeholders and we will continue to work with them as we take the steps to right this wrong.'*

MELBOURNE DREAMING APP

Aboriginal activist William Cooper's story is one of many to be included in an app called Melbourne Dreaming that charts the city's Aboriginal history. The app stems from Meyer Eidelson's book of the same name and guides people through the city and places of significance. From the edges of Port Phillip Bay to the hunting grounds of Chapel Street or the Burnley Ngargee (corroboree) tree in the heart of Richmond, you can discover Aboriginal Melbourne's rich cultural heritage; past and present. Designed for self-guided tours, with the new app you can spend from thirty minutes to a day exploring. The power of the app is that it gives people the opportunity to access, perhaps for the first time, information about a place they might walk past every single day and not realise is a critical part of the history of their city. Now available on iTunes and Google Play.



One of the significant sites from the Melbourne Dreaming app.

ULURU STATEMENT - REVISITING OUR HISTORY

'As history's victor, the Commonwealth has yet to give a true indication that white fella Dreaming has changed. Symbolic recognition alone is an impoverished vision... It is precisely for this reason that the Uluru Statement From The Heart called for 'substantive constitutional change and structural reform' and asked us to confirm that we have overturned our assumptions – however it's potential still waits to be realised.' These are among the ideas thoughtfully articulated in an article by Mark McKenna, Professor of History at the University of Sydney, in his article titled *Moment of Truth: History and Australia's Future* included in the March edition of the *Quarterly Essay*. Recommended reading.

ABORIGINAL ASTRONOMY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders developed a number of practical ways to observe the sun, moon, stars, and planets to inform navigation, calendars, predict weather and influence Law and social structure. A talk entitled *Australian Indigenous Astronomy: 65,000 Years of Science* exploring the many ways in which Indigenous Australians encode scientific information in their traditions, and some of the ways in which they pass this knowledge on to successive generations, is being given by Dr Duane Hamacher. Dr Hamacher is an astronomer and Senior Research Fellow at Monash University Indigenous Studies Centre who specialises in Indigenous astronomical and geological knowledge. **Friday 20 April**, 7.00-8.00 pm, Theatre of All Nations, St Monica's College, 400 Dalton Road, Epping. Tickets via Eventbrite.

FRONTIER WARS – AND MORE

Colony: Australia 1770-1861 and Frontier Wars is the largest survey of colonial art in Australian history, and, significantly, looks at the dispossession of Aboriginal people, telling their stories through their eyes. The exhibition has been put together by Myles Russell-Cook, NGV's curator of Indigenous art, and includes themes of terra nullius, genocide, missions, the Stolen Generations, desecration of land and waterways, and art emerging on the frontier. It is the sister exhibition to *Colony* which responds to the world as depicted by colonial artists. At the NGV, Federation Square, until mid-July.

REINTRODUCING WURUNDJERI CULTURE

The Friends of Steele Creek invite you to their community festival for 2018 on **Sunday 22 April**, 11.00 am-3.00 pm, Lower Maribyrnong River Land Park. All welcome!

BIG DANCE

Big Dance is Australia's biggest, free, inclusive, participatory dance festival, presented by Ausdance Victoria and Ausdance NSW. The idea is to learn the Big Dance choreography and to join thousands of Australians at one of the events performing the dance together under the guidance of contemporary choreographers Frances Rings (Bangarra, NAISDA) and Craig Bary. The choreography is broken up into red, white and black colour groups, representing Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures coming together to share the red heart of Australia.

Check out <http://www.bigdance.org.au/learn>.

Free workshops are on in Victoria in April for students, families and friends, led by Big Dance Teaching Artists. The Big Dance Festival is on International Dance Day, **Sunday 29 April**, running simultaneously in Federation Square, Victory Park, Castlemaine, and Melba Park, Lilydale, at 2.30 pm, with live feeds between Sydney and Melbourne. Details: Ausdance Victoria, 9689 2055; www.ausdancevic.org.au

MARNGROOK FOOTY SHOW

The Marngrook Footy Show is a sport panel show on NITV which this year is being screened at the new permanent time of 8.30 pm on Wednesday nights. The 2018 Marngrook panel includes a new co-host - Essendon and Sydney legend Derek Kickett - who joins Shelley Ware, Grant Hansen and Leila Gurruwiwi. *'Marngrook is as relevant as any other football show, with a panel that is representative of those who play and watch the game,'* Executive Producer Grant Hansen says. *'We always strive to make a family-friendly footy show that champions the important contribution Indigenous Australians make to our great game, and I'm looking forward to this new season of footy analysis, player interviews, and conversations with our new panel members alongside legends of the game.'*

ARTS NEWS

Gurrumul the Movie

The first screenings of a new documentary film about the life and music of Gurrumul will be released in selected cinemas in late April. The brilliant singer played with Yothu Yindi and the Saltwater Band. He then embarked on a solo career, played for the Queen and President Barack Obama, and won Arias and other awards. Despite his fame he always maintained close connections to his birthplace, Galiwinku (Elcho Island). *Note:* Tradition dictates that a person's name not be spoken for years after their death, however, clan leaders have agreed to a special dispensation of the rule so that the film can be shown.

The Song Keepers

The Song Keepers documentary tells the story of women who are preserving the world's oldest sacred songs, connecting Germany to Indigenous history through Hermannsburg, near Alice Springs. This new film was made during the women's recent national and international tour. **Sunday 15 April**, 2.00 pm, Lido.

Reconciliation Writing Competition 2018



The BoonWurrung Corroboree Tree, or Ngargee Tree, one of Victoria's oldest living things, is between 300 and 500 years old and is sacred to the Traditional Owners of the land where St Kilda sits today

(Photo courtesy of Todd Condie)

Don't Keep History A Mystery

The Reconciliation Writing Competition organised by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation is open to all Victorians to explore ideas about our past and our connection with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture, and to develop a deeper understanding of our national story

All styles of writing are encouraged including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Work must be original. Open to all Victorians except PPCFR committee, judges and their families

Word Limits

Adults- 1500 words or 50 lines of poetry
Secondary Students- 600 words or 30 lines of poetry
Primary Students- 400 words or 20 lines of poetry

All winning entries will be published in a booklet presented to prize-winners at the Awards Ceremony

Judges include the renowned writer and academic **Professor Tony Birch** and academic **Emeritus Professor Clare Bradford**

Prizes

Adults 1st \$500 *donated by Wilson Agents*
2nd \$300, 3rd \$200

Students

Years 10–12 *The Andrew McCutcheon 1st prize \$500 donated by Future Leaders*
2nd \$300, 3rd \$200

Years 7–9 1st \$500 *donated by Benson Saulo and Dr Kate O'Brien*
2nd \$300, 3rd \$200

Grades 5 & 6 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50
Grades 3 & 4 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50
Grades Prep-2 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

Entries close Friday 24th August 2018

Winners will be notified on 1st October 2018 and invited to the

Awards Ceremony

to be held on 16th October 2018 at
Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park

Submit entries along with your name, school and year level to writingcomp2018@gmail.com or post to Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, PO Box 1446, St Kilda 3182

For more information contact Rosemary Rule on 0418 675 734 or visit www.ppcfr.org



Proudly supported by
the City of Port Phillip

Future
Leaders



avenue BOOKSTORE

If anyone knows how to delete a final blank page in a word doc, please email me at bigowlbooks24@gmail.com. Ed