

Mungo...

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.



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

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April 2019

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Boon Wurrung word of the month: Balert – strong

Guest Speaker

It was a pleasure to hear from Alison Craigie-Parsons at our March meeting. I know everyone present appreciated the friendly, frank and personable way she spoke, as a self-described 'off-country Black,' about her cultural heritage, interesting and varied career, and her current role as Coordinator, Indigenous Access & Equity, at Star Health based in St Kilda. Alison graciously stayed on afterwards for refreshments, mingling with the guests, among them newcomers and long-time supporter Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson.



(Above) Fiona Olney-Fraser (left) with Alison Craigie-Parsons;
(Below: left to right) Liz Gallois, Janine Wilder and Alison.

RecVic Forum

Members are invited to attend RecVic's Melbourne-based Statewide Reconciliation Forum to be held at the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, 47 Patterson St, Ringwood East, on **Saturday 6 April**. See inside for more details.

Treaty Forum

Our group is applying for a small grant to help offset costs associated with hosting a public Forum in support of the Treaty process; a way of raising awareness and informing the non-Aboriginal community about the importance of Treaty/ies. Planned for later in the year, we'll work in consultation with the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission as part of RecVic's Treaty Engagement Process, and I'll post updates over the coming months.

Yirramboi

I attended the launch of the Yirramboi First Peoples' Festival hearing about some of the mostly-free events being presented under the guidance of Boon Wurrung woman and Creative Director Caroline Martin, from **2-12 May**. Highlights, along with a review of the James Boyce/Shane Howard event in St Kilda, will be included in the next issue.

Diary Dates

PPCfR's community lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day will be held on **Friday 24 May** prior to the official observation day on **Sunday 26 May**. I'll post more details next month along with news of some of the key events being held during National Reconciliation Week in the City of Port Phillip, and elsewhere, from **Monday 27 May**.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16 April, 6.30 pm
Liardet Community Centre (aka Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre), 154 Liardet Street, Port Melbourne. Enter via door corner Lalor & Farrell Streets, opposite Coles carpark. **All Welcome.**

HISTORY AND SONG

On Sunday 24 March, over 200 people gathered at the St Kilda Town Hall for a special event initiated by the St Kilda Elsternwick Baptist Church. Those attending were treated to a vivid description of the forgotten history of their own city. The Reverend Tim Costello, the last Mayor of St Kilda, introduced James Boyce, the well-known Australian historian and author, who presented a fascinating account of the European settlement of Melbourne and subsequent dispossession of the Kulin People from what was to become the State of Victoria. A Tasmanian with an exceptional gift for writing accessible and lively history, James spoke about his book *1835: the Founding of Melbourne and the Conquest of Australia* and referred to another of his books, *Van Diemen's Land*. Both books have won a number of awards and *Mungo* readers are strongly encouraged to purchase and read them. Inspiring music was provided by singer/songwriter Shane Howard, a longtime supporter of the Aboriginal community and mentor to many Aboriginal musicians. Responding to James, Ngardarb Francine Riches spoke movingly from her own experience. Ngardarb comes from the Kimberley region of north-west Australia, a member of the Arriyol clan of the Bardi people, and her story is like many of our First Australians. Her people were forced to leave their home on Sunday Island when the government closed the mission there; she was born in Derby native hospital as her mother was not allowed in the white hospital. Ngardarb is an internationally-known artist whose work is simultaneously beautiful and powerful. She works with her husband Tony providing pastoral care within the Indigenous community in the west of Melbourne. A number of participants from the local Galiamble and Winja Ulupna drug and alcohol recovery programs contributed songs, inviting the audience to join them, and were warmly received. Proceeds from the event will help support the Church's Community Kitchen program.

Digby Hannah

MELBOURNE INDIGENOUS TRANSITION SCHOOL

The Federal Government will build a new \$2.1 million boarding school for 18 Indigenous girls to enable them to study at high schools in Melbourne, partnering with the Richmond Football Club to help students attain top-class educations. Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (MITS) has already seen around 60 Indigenous girls and boys undertake Year 7 studies before moving to partnering schools. Currently, girls who finish the Year 7 program are either sent to boarding schools or to host families. The new girls-only alumni boarding house will enable the students to remain at MITS and maintain cultural ties. (Until now, the school has relied heavily on private donations). *'Many of our students speak English as their second or third language, so often they may appear to have, for example, Year 4 ability in reading when in fact their ability is considerably higher,'* says MITS executive director Edward Tudor. The school has a teacher-student ratio of about one to five and has been able to work closely with each student at the level they are at rather than sticking rigidly to the Year 7

curriculum. The students' own culture and language are incorporated into lessons which has proven effective in boosting engagement, a key issue for many Indigenous communities. MITS relies heavily on psychologists and counsellors to support its students, and health and wellbeing are continually monitored. The MITS classrooms are housed at the Richmond Football Club's Korin Gamadji Institute, just down the road from the boarding house. Students have the opportunity to interact with staff and players. MITS graduates have gone on to accept scholarships at partner schools including St Kevin's College, Brighton Grammar School, Sienna College, MLC and government school Templestowe College. Visit www:mits.vic.edu.au

LANDMARK COMPENSATION

The High Court has released its decision on whether Elder Terry Jones and the rest of the Ngaliwurru and Nungali People should be compensated for the dislocation and hurt caused by the construction of water tanks and 52 other acts that impaired or extinguished their Native Title. The court's unanimous decision was that they should be compensated, and was the first occasion for the court to rule on an entitlement to compensation for the loss or diminishment of Native Title. The Ngaliwurru and Nungali Peoples have lived in an area called Timber Creek, a tributary of the Victoria River, the longest river in the Northern Territory, for as long as Aboriginal people have occupied the continent. The British Crown claimed sovereignty over what is now known as the Northern Territory in 1825. In 1975, an area around Timber Creek was proclaimed as a town by the NT government who built roads and allocated allotments for houses for the new township of Timber Creek. The Ngaliwurru and Nungali Peoples were not asked if they wanted to cede their land for the town.

The Process: In 2016, John Mansfield of the Federal Court awarded the claimants about \$2 million for the economic loss of their land, and \$1.3 million for the non-economic or spiritual aspect of their loss. On appeal, a full Federal Court reduced the amount of economic loss by about \$400,000, but left intact the \$1.3 million for non-economic loss. The High Court reduced the compensation for economic loss by another \$400,000, but significantly it left intact the \$1.3 million for non-economic loss. The court endorsed Mansfield's assessment of the spiritual and emotional hurt suffered by the Ngaliwurru and Nungali Peoples, an assessment he had arrived at by listening to first-hand accounts of the claimants and anthropologists. The commonwealth, as well as other states and territories, strongly resisted the size of the award. The court's majority judgment - credited to Chief Justice Susan Kiefel as well as Virginia Bell, Patrick Keane, Geoffrey Nettle and Michelle Gordon, built upon Mansfield's assessment of the nature of this spiritual loss. The judgment introduced new imagery and metaphor to help think about the impact on Indigenous Australians when land has been interfered with. The Timber Creek decision has been hailed as the most significant ruling on Indigenous land rights since Mabo and Wik, but if it demonstrates the usefulness of courts as a place to seek redress, it also underlines the

weaknesses of that system – and ours take a long time to get anything done: a 20-year battle in this particular instance. The High Court has shown it is prepared to listen to Indigenous Australians.

RECVIC FORUM

RecVic's Statewide Reconciliation Forum - Treaty in Victoria: We All Have a Role - is being held on **Saturday 6 April** at the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, 47 Patterson St, Ringwood East, 12.00 noon arrival for registration and lunch, 12.30 pm start. The special guest speaker is Jill Gallagher AO, Victorian Treaty Commissioner. Topics include the Treaty Engagement Project Launch - Phase 2, RecVic updates and Local Reconciliation Group/Network updates. All welcome. Registration essential via <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=478190&>



Jill Gallagher AO, Victorian Treaty Commissioner

REGIONAL CONVERSATIONS

The final Regional Conversations on Aboriginal-led accountability of government will be held on **Tuesday 2 April**, 10.00 am-12.30 pm at VACSAL, 496 High Street, Northcote. For further information and event details, visit engage.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-led-accountability.

VICTORIAN HONOUR ROLL OF WOMEN INDUCTEES

Aunty Lynne Killeen and Aunty Lyn Warren are among 21 women inducted in 2019. Lynne has been Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer for the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) since its establishment in 1996 and is a respected Elder in her own community. Lynne is responsible for coordinating all NAIDOC Week activities at DPFC and has organised radio station 3CR's annual broadcast *Beyond the Bars*, which is Australia's only live prison radio broadcast and gives a voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates. Aunty Lyn Warren, a proud Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba woman and matriarch of her own family, grew up not knowing her Aboriginal heritage or her own mother. Lyn was raised by her paternal grandmother, unaware of her Aboriginality until she was 43 and her mother had already passed away. She joined the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC), was Chairperson for 14 years and remains a director. She is a long-term board member at Women's Health

Loddon Mallee, Vice-Chairperson of the Bendigo NAIDOC Committee, on numerous other committees, involved in mentoring programs through Corrections Victoria, and an advocate for culturally-appropriate messaging and approaches.

NEWS FROM REC STONNINGTON

Rec Stonnington members took part in City of Stonnington's Flavours Multicultural Festival for Harmony Day on 16 March. This year Council tried a different timeframe, starting at 3.00 pm and finishing at 9.00 pm, as the event clashed with the Grand Prix and they hoped to get interest from people returning after the race. We found that it was quieter than usual. Our stall was situated in Greville St with many trendy passers-by, but the trouble was that's what they did - they passed by. Those who did stop at our information stall, however, including a local police officer and a couple of tertiary students, were very interested and valued the handouts we were offering, so that was rewarding. We also provided art activities for children in the form of Aboriginal boomerangs and hands on what's called 'scratchboard' which could have a design scratched onto them. These were popular and some children worked on them for a surprisingly long time until they were happy with their design, causing their parents to wait patiently (mostly).

The next day, Keith Gove and I went to *Music for the Mob*, part of the Brunswick Music Festival, featuring Alice Skye, an up-and-coming young singer/songwriter, and Emma Donovan and the PutBacks. It was very pleasant sitting in the park in the sunshine, listening to these terrific Aboriginal musicians. They were preceded by a thoughtful and moving Welcome to Country by Auntie Di Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder, who, in the light of the tragic events in Christchurch, urged us to speak to someone we didn't know and get to know them to find out what we shared in common. In different ways, it was a satisfying weekend in touch with First Nations' culture. *Ro Bailey, Rec Stonnington*



Rec Stonnington's Ro Bailey and Tom Moloney at City of Stonnington's Flavours Multicultural Festival for Harmony Day.

WOMINJEKA FESTIVAL

Wominjeka Festival 2019 is a Ngargee - a Kulin cultural event - held on the banks of the Maribyrnong to bring people together to celebrate the arts, stories, songs and the river. **Friday-Sunday 5-7 April** presented by the Footscray Community Arts Centre, 45 Moreland Street, Footscray. Ph: 9362 8888; reception@footscrayarts.com

YOTHU YINDI & TREATY PROJECT

Founding members of Yothu Yindi will be joined on stage by special guests including Shane Howard, cabaret artist Kamahi Djordon King and singers Yirringa Yunupingu and Yimala Gurruwiwi to celebrate Treaty. One night only, **Saturday 4 May**, Hamer Hall, as part of the 2019 Yirramboi Festival. Details: <https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/>

GREAT BOOK SWAP

Two hundred years ago there were over 500 or more Indigenous languages spoken in Australia, but how many are still spoken today? This year, as part of UNESCO's focus on Indigenous languages, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) invites people to find out why Aboriginal languages matter by registering for a Great Book Swap. This year's program is ambitiously aiming to get 1000 registered workplaces, schools, libraries and book clubs on board! Ambassadors include Jared Thomas, Natalie Ahmat and Justine Clarke, helping to give Indigenous children in remote Australia a voice – through literacy. Sign up for a Great Book Swap. E: info@ilf.org.au

LOST CONVERSATIONS

This new book aims to ignite the energy that's needed to enact change for a better Australia and build a dialogue between black and white Australians on how to work together, created by black and white Australians. The authors hope to encourage people to read, share, talk or even argue about the content and join in conversations. The book is available free of charge in PDF format from www.lostconversations.com.au, or E: lostconversations@gmail.com.

UNDERCURRENT AT KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST

During a residency at the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT), Bangerang artist Peta Clancy collaborated with the Dja Dja Wurrung community to research, develop and create a major series of large format landscape photographs responding to a massacre site on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, and the resulting exhibition *Undercurrent* runs until **Sunday 28 April**, KHT, Fed Square. The KHT's Fostering Koorie Art and Culture Residency Program along with *Undercurrent* have been supported by the Federal Department of Communication and The Arts' Indigenous Languages and Arts Program, with generous support from Gandel Philanthropy and cultural support and collaboration from the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

GURRUMUL'S AWARD

The award-winning streak for Gurrumul Yunupingu's posthumously-released album continues with the

awarding of the prestigious Australian Music Prize. It comes with a \$30,000 prize and his album was chosen by a panel of 21 judges as the best album of 2018 based on artistic merit. Djarimirri (Child of the Rainbow) took four years to record and was completed just weeks before the musician's death in July 2017 after a long battle with kidney and liver disease. The album sought to balance the two worlds and traditions that Gurrumul's life and career existed in, fusing traditional Yolngu songs and sounds with orchestral arrangements from the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

BAKER BOY

Baker Boy, aka Danzal Baker, Young Australian of the Year, will be on stage at St Kilda's Esplanade Hotel to kick off his Australian Cool as Hell tour and promoting the single of the same name. Espy's Gershwin Room, 8.00 pm, Friday 5 April. www.esplanade.hotel.com.au

TV VIEWING

Marngrook Footy Show

Back on air with the original panel back together, Gilbert 'Gilly' McAdam returns to the desk after his gap year co-hosting the show alongside Indigenous media stalwart Grant Hansen and long-time co-presenters Shelley Ware and Leila Gurruwiwi. Showcasing NITV's and *Marngrook's* ongoing commitment to Australian women's footy and Indigenous women's representation in sports media, the season will include a strong, rotating contingent of AFLW players and prominent Indigenous women, with guests including Natarsha Bamblett and Kirby Bentley. Wednesday nights alternating to Thursday when there is no AFL fixture, 7.30 pm, NITV (Ch. 34). NITV will also run Facebook Live sessions and more digital content.

Anh's Brush With Fame

Series 4 starts in April on ABC and ABC iView, Wednesdays, 8.00 pm, when Anh interviews and paints his special guests including singer Archie Roach, who, by the way, for the first time in his nearly 30-year recording career is releasing a very special 3-CD box set in April. Called *The Concert Collection, 2012-2018* it features live recordings from three concerts: *Into The Bloodstream 2012, Let Love Rule 2016* and *Dancing With My Spirit in 2018*.

PRO SURFER SOLAMAN BAILEY

Solaman 'Soli' Bailey was recently elevated to Championship Tour status ahead of the 2019 surf season, and will compete wearing a unique jersey that sports the Aboriginal flag on one sleeve. The 23-year-old will become the first pro surfer to compete under the flag at the top level. 'As much as I was super excited to represent Australia and what we stand for, it was also an opportunity for me to show some love, and show a bit of my culture,' said Bailey whose Indigenous heritage comes from his mother's side of the family. 'I am part of the Yaegl people which consists of [people] from Maclean right through to Coffs Harbour, Bundjalung Country.'

