

# 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.



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**August 2019**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boon Wurrung Word of the Month:

*Beerreen* (No more sun; Winter)

### Treaty Conversation Forum

What is Treaty? Why do we need Treaty? Where is Treaty at in Victoria? What role can non-Aboriginal people play in supporting this important work? If these are questions that interest you, please come along to our Treaty Forum and become better informed. The evening will include a Welcome to Country and keynote speeches from Richard Frankland - playwright, scriptwriter, musician and activist, and Diana David - CEO RecVic, with MC/Moderator Keith Gove, Board Member RecVic, on **Thursday 22 August**, 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm start, St Kilda Town Hall. Refreshments provided. Free, but a gold coin donation is appreciated. PPCfR gratefully acknowledges the support received from RecVic, City of Port Phillip and Stonnington Reconciliation to host this forum of such importance to all Australians. Refer flyer on the last page.



Our upcoming Treaty Forum keynote speakers - Richard Frankland and Diana David.

### Budj Bim

What wonderful news to hear that the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in south-west Victoria is the first in Australia to receive world heritage protection solely for its Aboriginal cultural importance, and has been added to the UNESCO world heritage. More inside.

### NAIDOC Week

The City of Port Phillip hosted their commemoration on 8 July. It attracted a great crowd and featured the ceremonial return of a boomerang that was found in



Port Phillip Bay in the 1940s. PPCfR members also attended the St Kilda-Elsternwick Baptist Church on 18 July for a special service and glimpse of their new *Freshwater Dreaming Mural*. Reports below.

*Freshwater Dreaming* mural is the work of 30 talented Aboriginal artists drawn from Galiamble and Winja Ulupna.

### Guest speakers

At our July meeting, our guest speaker, Michelle Griffiths, spoke passionately about her love for the Australian native dingo. Michelle, who has a Wiradjuri grandfather, sang, read a heartfelt poem and commended the work of the Australian Dingo Foundation and Dingo Discovery Sanctuary and Research Centre at Toolern Vale. (PPCfR gave them a donation at Michelle's suggestion). Fifteen members shared refreshments and anecdotes afterwards. PPCfR Co-Chair, Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish, has been invited to speak at St Michael's Grammar to students at their assembly at the Astor Theatre, St Kilda, on **Monday 12 August**. The request came from their students and teachers who attended our Sorry Day lunch and were impressed by Den's masterful MC-ing and poetry reading.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next meeting: Tuesday 20 August, 6.30 pm,** South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. All Welcome.

## BUDJ BIM MAKES HISTORY

The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in south-west Victoria has become the first in Australia to receive world heritage protection solely for its Aboriginal cultural importance. Older than the pyramids, the Acropolis and Stonehenge, it was added to the UNESCO world heritage list at a meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 6 July following a decades-long campaign by Traditional Owners, some of whom were present for the announcement. *'This is a very special day for our community. This landscape, which we have cared for over thousands of years, is so important to Gunditjmarra People,'* Elder Denise Lovett said in a statement. *'The decision also recognises Budj Bim's significance to all of humanity. We are so proud to now be able to share our achievements and story with the world.'* The site was created about 6,600 years ago by the Gunditjmarra people and is considered one of the world's oldest freshwater aquaculture systems. It features the remnants of about 300 round stone huts that are the only remaining permanent houses built by an Indigenous community in Australia – challenging the common perception that all Aboriginal people were nomadic.

*Notes:* Budj Bim is the 20th site in Australia to make it on to the 1,000-strong list; the second for Victoria alongside the Royal Exhibition Building, listed in 2004.

In April 2016, RecVic and ANTaR Victoria organised a Budj Bim tour and Regional Forum at Lake Condah. I was among several PPCfR members who attended. We were taken by Gunditjmarra guide Denis Rose and other Elders around the site of the eel traps, one of Australia's largest aquaculture systems dating back thousands of years. We visited the Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area, a site comprising the volcanic fallout of the eruption of Budj Bim (Mt Eccles) up to 30,000 years ago. The sophisticated transformation of that landscape by the Gunditjmarra people was/is definitive evidence disproving the myth that all Australian First Peoples were nomadic. My



thanks to PPCfR member Sylvia Edgar for this extract from her summary of the forum which appeared in *Mungo*, May 2016. *Rosemary Rule*

**A glimpse of the newest UNESCO world heritage site, Budj Bim.**

## INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION

On 10 July 2019, the Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt announced that a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the constitution will be put to a referendum within three years, promised by the federal government. Mr Wyatt said he wanted to *'bring forward a consensus option'* during this term of parliament. He said: *'the Morrison Government is committed to Indigenous constitutional change.'*

Since then, however, and despite Mr Wyatt's caution, internal contention broke out within the coalition almost immediately, with conservatives objecting that the change could divide Australians on racial grounds.

What was announced? That the government would design the model with First Australians, allocating more than \$7 million to the process. *'The successful 1967 [Indigenous] referendum was the result of tireless advocacy and an extraordinary nationwide momentum for change,'* Mr Wyatt said. *'If we want to see that kind of national consensus again, we need to be thorough and take the time to get it right. Local, regional and national Voice will be achieved.'* (This is in contrast to the hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who met at Uluru in 2017 and demanded an Indigenous advisory body be added to the nation's founding document, which the Turnbull Government rejected saying it would *'inevitably be seen as a third chamber of parliament'*.) Minister Wyatt said he will point to existing *'Indigenous organisations and advisory structures'* as central to this approach, and pledged to work with his opposition counterpart Linda Burney, describing her as *'integral'* to the engagement process.

The referendum question would need to be supported by a majority of voters nationally and by at least four out of six states. One option likely to be considered would see the national Voice established in the constitution but with some details and features enacted through parliament. *'It's an advisory entity ... and it will be legislated by the parliament and its advice won't be open to Labor, so it's a fairly inept instrument in some ways,'* commented Senator Pat Dodson about the proposal. The Labor assistant spokesperson for Reconciliation and Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians said he thinks a referendum could happen much faster than the three-year goal envisaged by Ken Wyatt, as long as party and stakeholder consensus is reached. Senator Dodson said a key challenge for Mr Wyatt would be securing cooperation within the Liberal and National parties, although the Minister has provided no assurances that his government will stay true to all three reform items in the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty and Truth.

*'He (Ken Wyatt) palmed off the responsibility of Treaty to the states and territories, even though the Uluru Statement was delivered to the Australian people,'* Senator Dodson said. *'And the federal government, in a federation, has a principal role and responsibility to resolve settlement and displacement issues with First Nations. It has to display the courage to pursue this with states, territories, the Australian people and First Nations. The time has come to say enough is enough. We must stand up, put our faith in the Australian people and work diligently to achieve the real objectives. We have the alternative of sitting on our hands as an option, adding nothing and preserving the status quo. That's not acceptable. We either deliver the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full or continue down the failed path of soft Reconciliation measures – making white folks feel like*

*they are doing something good for blackfellas and yet doing nothing to heal the nation's wounds and achieving unity and respect. The time has come to prepare for a Treaty. We have a window of opportunity to get the Voice designed and prescribed into law, but public goodwill towards a successful referendum will not last forever. So the words to go into the Constitution should be settled by the parties as soon as possible and then the question put to referendum via a unified education campaign. It should be done in this term of government. By the next election, we should have an agreed framework for the Treaty process and begin getting the nation ready by truth telling and constructive Reconciliation actions,'* Senator Dodson added.

In response to concerns being raised by MPs, the former Chief Justice Murray Gleeson said: *'a constitutionally entrenched but legislatively controlled' capacity for Indigenous people to have input into the making of laws about Indigenous people or Indigenous affairs 'hardly seems revolutionary'*. Mr Gleeson noted that given the constitution currently makes people the potential objects of special laws by reason of their Indigenous status, *'the referendum council considered that an appropriate form of recognition of such people would be to provide them with a Voice to parliament.'*

Refer <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/about-constitutional-recognition> The Uluru Statement from the Heart Explainer Video (Lifetime Access), \$1.00, available from The Education Shop, [online@atom.org.au](mailto:online@atom.org.au); 9525 5302.

## REC VIC LRG FORUM

RecVic's tour and Local Reconciliation Groups (LRG) forum will take place on Wadawurrung Country (Geelong/Surf Coast area) across the weekend of **17-18 August**. A Wadawurrung Traditional Owner will give a tour of culturally significant sites across the region on Saturday, followed by a forum on Treaty and language on the Sunday morning. The LRG forum will take place on Saturday evening and there will be opportunities for socialising around the campfire with a BBQ, mingling and yarning. Events will begin at 10.00 am on **Saturday 17 August**. The cost includes the tour, transport as required, the forum, administration costs, dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Tour and forum with no accommodation: \$120 (\$90 concession); Tour and forum with one night's accommodation \$150 (\$115); Tour and forum with two nights' accommodation: \$180 (\$135). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members free. All welcome; register attendance with Trybooking. Contact RecVic: 90160657 [info@reconciliationvic.org.au](mailto:info@reconciliationvic.org.au)

## NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS

On 5 July in Melbourne there was an amazing turnout through the streets of Melbourne when community walked together, used their voices, danced, sang and enjoyed a deadly concert at Federation Square that was sponsored by Songlines and the City Of Melbourne. At the Victorian NAIDOC Ball on 6 July, the following

Awards were given: Belle of the Ball - Jemma Rocha-Costa; Beau of the Ball - Jermaine Beezley; Pride of the Ball - Caleb Thaiday. In Canberra, winners of the 2019 National Awards were announced including the Lifetime Achievement Award given to David Gulpilil Ridjimiraril Dalaithngu, AM. Full list - <https://www.naidoc.org.au/awards/winner-profiles>.

The City of Port Phillip's NAIDOC Week celebrations at the St Kilda Town Hall on 8 July attracted a great crowd who had the honour of witnessing the ceremonial return of a boomerang that was found in Port Phillip Bay in the 1940s. Black Rock residents John and Sonia Aldous had contacted City of Port Phillip about a very old boomerang that had been in their possession for nearly 80 years. They wanted to know the process of returning the object to the First Peoples of the area as they felt it was time it was returned to its rightful owners. *'This object doesn't belong in this house,'* John said. *'I marvel at the workmanship to shape it so beautifully'.* Boon Wurrung Foundation CEO Gheran Steel said: *'The Boon Wurrung Foundation welcomes the return of this priceless cultural asset. Our community has maintained traditional connections with these lands and waters despite the displacement and hardships we have had to endure for the past 190 years.'* According to COPP's Indigenous staff, the boomerang's markings and etchings are consistent with pre-European occupation. John's father, Cr Sam Aldous, was St Kilda Mayor 1966-



1967 and Inspector of Fruit Exports 1936-1948.

**John Aldous and Janet Galpin from the Boon Wurrung holding the boomerang that was found in Port Phillip Bay in the 1940s.**

Reconciliation Stonnington members Mike, Tom, Alex and Michael enjoyed the opening night of the NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition at Chapel off Chapel. In partnership with Prahran Citizens Youth Centre and City of Stonnington, local artists and students presented their best pieces of work. A smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country from N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs and some words from Mayor Cr Steve Stefanopoulos launched the event, and with around 100 people from Prahran's diverse community the night was a huge success.

*Ro Bailey*



**Reconciliation Stonnington members at the NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition in Prahran.**

## ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE UPTAKE

A record number of Victorian students are studying Aboriginal languages, and enrolments are expected to increase as a new generation of children learn about Indigenous cultures at kindergarten and primary school. Education Department figures show 1,867 state school students were enrolled last year, up from 23 students in 2011. The encouraging figures result from several factors including the introduction of two new courses for Aboriginal language instructors, and an Australian-first \$17.9m initiative that will fund weekly language classes in kindergartens from this year. *Note:* Before colonisation, 250 Aboriginal languages were spoken in Australia. Today, there are fewer than 150 of these languages still used; all but 13 are endangered.

## REPORTING THE NEWS

In July, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* announced they will hire two Indigenous journalists, thanks to a grant from billionaire philanthropist Judith Neilson's Institute for Journalism and Ideas. The papers' editors said the grant would put Indigenous voices at the centre of the papers' coverage of Indigenous issues. The reporters will initially be hired for a 12-month period, providing in-depth reporting and contextualisation of Indigenous life and culture, with the aim to employ them full-time thereafter.

## GARMA FESTIVAL

This year's festival, **Friday 2- Monday 5 August**, takes place at remote Gulkula, a traditional meeting ground in Arnhem Land. The official theme, Garma'lili manapanmirri dhukarryarray'dhun gudar'wu, means Pathways to our Future in Yolngu Matha. The Yothu Yindi Foundation is continuing its media partnership with the ABC for Garma 2019, providing comprehensive coverage of events across all its platforms including *The Drum*, *Behind the News*, and *RN Drive*. See [garma.com.au](http://garma.com.au) for information.

## FRESHWATER DREAMING MURAL

During autumn and winter this year, a stunning mural entitled *Freshwater Dreaming* slowly appeared on the west side of St Kilda-Elsternwick Baptist church, almost like a living creature emerging from the dull brick wall. At the bottom left of the mural, as if surveying the work, is Bunjil, the creator of the Boon Wurrung land who watches over the people of the Kulin Nation. This is the work of about 30 talented Aboriginal artists drawn from Galiamble and Winja Ulupna – the local residential drug and alcohol recovery programs for Aboriginal men and women. In the course of the work, strong relationships developed between the artists and members of the local St Kilda community. Many volunteers, some from within the St Kilda Baptist church community and some from the wider community, have enjoyed turning this dream into a reality. Foremost among the volunteers has been Viv Parry who, for many years, has been facilitator of the art programs at Galiamble and Winja Ulupna. Local graphic artist Tyeli Hannah designed the plaque, which has been installed alongside the mural along with the names of the artists.

On 18 July, about 60 people gathered to celebrate the launch of the mural. They came from the City of Port Phillip, Galiamble, Winja Ulupna, our wider Indigenous community, State Parliament, friends of Viv Parry, the local synagogue and the general community. We celebrated together the gift of our mural, *Freshwater Dreaming*. We acknowledged the land of Boon Wurrung, articulated our cry for justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and celebrated this extraordinary activity of reaching across barriers to be partners together in creating beauty. We shared food, spontaneous live music and conversation. Tony Keenan, General Manager at COPP, formally launched the mural. A couple of the Galiamble residents sang a very moving song written by Roland about his home country, Tarru, in Southern NSW. This was an excellent, catchy song, very heartfelt and a perfect way to conclude the launch.

*Digby Hannah*



## MELBOURNE 2019 WRITERS FESTIVAL

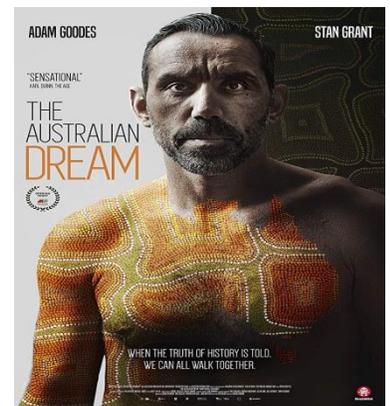
Tony Birch will discuss his new novel *The White Girl* about an Aboriginal matriarch living under the post-war *Aborigines Act*, and will talk with author Melissa Lucashenko about the emotional precariousness of Indigenous Australians at the time, and the lengths we go to protect our family. **Saturday 31 August**, 2.30 pm, State Library, Village Roadshow Theatre, \$19-\$25. Book via <https://mwf.com.au/program/tony-birch-the-white-girl-5586/>

## FILMS

**Angels Gather Here** Aboriginal woman Jacki Trapman returns to her rural hometown, Brewarrina. Her parents' 60th anniversary becomes an occasion for reflecting on how life has changed for the family over the past five generations, and how government policies, past and present, affect them. **Friday 30 August**, 7.00 pm, pizza available from 6.30 pm. Initiatives of Change, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Contribution of \$15 appreciated. [info.au@iofc.org](mailto:info.au@iofc.org); 9822 1218.

### **The Australian Dream**

The official poster for *The Australian Dream* features artwork by Adam Goodes' mother, artist Lisa Sansbury, and was designed with the care and attention of internationally acclaimed Indigenous design agency Balarinji. Written by Walkley Award-winning journalist Stan Grant and featuring Adam Goodes,



*The Australian Dream* uses Goodes' inspirational life story as the prism through which to tell a deeper and more powerful story about race, identity and belonging. It will be screened for the Melbourne International Film Festival's Opening Night Gala, **Saturday 3 August**, and in cinemas from **Thursday 22 August**.

# TREATY

## A Community Conversation

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Richard Frankland**

Author, Filmmaker, Songwriter

Proud Gundjimarra man, Associate Professor, Author, Filmmaker, Singer/Songwriter and Family man. Keynote Speaker in Indigenous Issues including Treaty, Lateral Violence and Cultural Safety.



**Diana David**

CEO Reconciliation Victoria

Proud Kaanju Nation (Central Cape York Peninsula) and Kulkagau Ya lama (West Torres Strait Islands) woman, CEO of RecVic and formerly with the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission.



**MODERATOR** – Keith Gove, Secretary & Board Member, RecVic, Chair, RecStonnington

Victoria is in the process of developing a Treaty with Aboriginal people and is the first state in Australia to enter into formal Treaty negotiations to recognise and celebrate the unique status, rights, cultures and histories of First Nations people. What is the Treaty process? What will a Treaty mean for you and why do we need one? What role can non-Aboriginal people play in supporting this important issue? Join us for a Community Conversation.

**Thursday 22 August, 2019, 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm**

St Kilda Town Hall, 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda VIC 3182

**ALL WELCOME**

**FREE EVENT**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

#### Event Partners

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation  
Reconciliation Stonnington  
Reconciliation Victoria  
City of Port Phillip



#### Information and Bookings

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/treaty-a-community-conversation-tickets-64951064382>

Or visit [www.ppctr.org](http://www.ppctr.org)  
or call 0418 675 734

