

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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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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December 2017

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM on 21 November was attended by 21 people including Councillors Simic and Baxter. The following were elected to PPCfR's Committee: Co-Chairs - myself and Dennis Fisher, Treasurer - Fiona Olney-Fraser, Secretary - Deb Stewart, Members - Jo Bond and Denis Frankel. Special thanks to Fiona for all her support and work on many fronts; to Sylvia Edgar who stepped down as Minute Taker; and to Jo Bond who does such a great job with the *Mungo* snail mail outs. Highlights of the group's activities over the past year are outlined in my Chair's Report, attached.

Following the meeting, guest speaker Benson Saulo, Head of Community Strategy at Australian Unity, gave an inspiring talk about his life with many insights into what he called his '*disciplined non-conformist*' approach. Dennis Fisher's personal comments about his background and own journey

along the Reconciliation path capped off a very memorable evening.

L-R: Rosemary Rule, Benson Saulo, Dennis Fisher and Fiona Olney-Fraser



Mungo Expands

Todd Condie, CoPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, says that, following a request by all their Community Development managers, *Mungo* is now being included in the Council's *Real News* internal newsletter which goes out to 1000 staff.

End of Year BBQ

In keeping with tradition, our last meeting for the year is a barbecue at Gasworks Arts Park, Richardson St, Sth Melbourne, from 6.00 pm, **Tuesday 19 December**. BYO food, drinks, chairs, friends, pets. If the weather is bad, please ring me re venue, 0418 675 734.

Looking Back and Forward

We've had a fantastic year. A record crowd came to Sorry Day lunch, we've welcomed new members and held a wonderful 20th *deadly* birthday celebration. I look forward to coming together again in 2018 to continue our work within our community, host events and to present another writing competition. I'd also like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting: Tuesday 20 February 2018, 6.30 pm, South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. All welcome

PM DASHES REFERENDUM HOPES

Prime Minister Turnbull dashed hopes for a referendum to establish a new Indigenous advisory body in October, saying the idea is neither *'desirable nor capable of winning acceptance'*. The Government formally rejected the key recommendation of the Referendum Council. The new advisory body would *'become seen as a third chamber of Parliament'* said the PM. The Government has *'taken a step backwards,'* says a spokesperson from the Northern Land Council. The decision has met with anger from Indigenous people from across the country who endorsed the landmark *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. The Uluru proposal was rejected at Cabinet five months on from the historic constitutional summit in Central Australia. The Government has now formally rejected the key recommendation of the Referendum Council - a report it commissioned to consult widely with Indigenous people on constitutional change. Malcolm Turnbull said: *'Our democracy is built on the foundation of all Australian citizens having equal civic rights, all being able to vote for, stand for and serve in either of the two chambers of our national Parliament - the House of Representatives and the Senate. A constitutionally enshrined additional representative assembly which only Indigenous Australians could vote for or serve in is inconsistent with this fundamental principle.'*

Other views

Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt denied the Government had been cowardly. *'It's a pragmatic level of thinking about the reality of what will fly with the Australian people and what won't,'* he said. Shadow Assistant Minister Pat Dodson said: *'That's a real kick in the guts for the Referendum Council and certainly a slap in the face of those proponents.'* He hoped the Uluru Convention's other main proposal - for a Treaties commission outside of the constitution - was not junked. The Senator pointed to reports earlier this decade that called for racial sections of the constitution to be removed, along with a statement acknowledging First Peoples. Senator Dodson co-chaired an expert panel which in 2012 suggested repealing a section that allows Parliament to make laws for racial groups, and scrapping another part that contemplates excluding specific races from voting. The Referendum Council's Noel Pearson described the decision as devastating for the Indigenous community. *'I think Malcolm Turnbull has broken the First Nations hearts of this country, expressed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.'* Victoria's Aboriginal Affairs Minister Natalie Hutchins said the Federal Government had turned its back on Aboriginal

people. Victorian Liberal senator James Paterson, a vocal critic of the Uluru proposals, said he welcomed the cabinet's decision. But Jill Gallagher, chief executive of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, said the Uluru recommendations were modest and achievable. *'I believe fully in my heart of hearts that the Australian population would have supported a referendum [on an advisory body] and I don't think anyone should pre-empt what the Australian population would do,'* Ms Gallagher said. Joe Morrison from the Northern Land Council said the Government had taken a step backwards. *'I think the Parliament's failed the nation in terms of providing the requisite level of leadership here, and I think Prime Minister Turnbull needs to explain himself. The proposal that was created out of Uluru was ... a key part but there was also the truth and justice-telling. But they were also laying the foundations for the substantial changes to the constitution.'* Josie Crawshaw, a child protection advocate and a delegate at Uluru, was deeply disappointed. *'While our children are languishing in the jails and our communities are poverty-stricken, they've just wasted 10 years of a conversation, and tens of millions of dollars, to shelve this,'* she said. Rod Little, co-chairman of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, said: *'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been let down once again.'* Reconciliation Victoria were deeply disappointed to hear the government's dismissive response to the final report.

MUNGO MAN RETURNS TO COUNTRY

The crowdfunding appeal for the *Return of Mungo Man* was launched at Koorie Heritage Trust several weeks ago. No funding was received from any level of government. At this event, Dr Jim Bowler, who originally found the remains, presented a casket made from 6000-year-old fossilised red gum from Mungo to the three traditional owner groups. This was to contain the remains for the trip home and was also a reconciliation gesture by Jim. After witnessing this, my partner Keith Gove and I decided we had been presented with an opportunity to witness a very special event, so we booked our passage to Mungo. Subsequently we were told that the event was invitation-only, but we thought we could at least go to the national park and check out the surroundings and the visitor centre, just to be there on such a special day - 17 November 2017. Upon arrival at the visitor centre we were told that we could go to the ceremony about 10 kilometres away, so off we sped.

It was held at a site near where the remains had been found 42 years ago and taken to Australian

National University without consultation with the traditional owners. They had been agitating for the return of their ancestor and other remains ever since, so this was a day of enormous significance for them.

The remains were carried from Canberra in a hearse from the collection of Melbourne Museum. Originally the hearse was purchased for the Aboriginal Funeral Service in the '70s after they found that white funeral directors did not understand their needs. When they no longer used it, they requested that it be placed in the collection as it held so many special memories of loved ones for them. The hearse was totally re-conditioned for the journey and was met with smoking and other ceremonies along the way from Canberra. When I was in the museum recently to guide tours, I ran into Aunty Di Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder, who was there for the smoking ceremony which sent the hearse off to Canberra.

At Mungo, we sat in a semi-circle with hundreds of others facing the traditional owners and other dignitaries. A smoking ceremony was held, then many speeches, dances and songs were performed. Most of the singers had written songs specifically to celebrate the occasion. While the songs continued, the remains were loaded back into the hearse to be taken to a secret resting place. For many years, the traditional owners have been lobbying state and federal governments for funding for a keeping place, but no money has been forthcoming.

On the Thursday before, a religious ceremony written by Vicki Clark - Mutti Mutti woman, self-described 'Catholic girl' and RecVic council member - had taken place. On the Saturday after the ceremony, a concert was held in the newly-developed river front precinct in Mildura. It featured singers including Archie Roach, Kutcha Edwards, Isaiah Firebrace and Shane Howard along with dancers from all over Australia, including the Torres Strait Islands. Aboriginal people from remote communities said they felt called to come and celebrate and honour the return to country of Mungo Man.

The significance of Mungo Man is huge because he revealed not only how ancient Aboriginal culture is, being dated at 42,000 years old, but also its sophistication. This burial had taken place with ritual and anointment with ochre, at a time in history when it had been thought that mankind was not developed to a point where this would be done. It was a great privilege to be present at his return to country.
Ro Bailey, RecStonnington

JUVENILE JUSTICE ROYAL COMMISSION

The Don Dale Youth Detention Centre will be shut down within three months and sweeping changes made to address '*shocking and systemic failures*' in the Northern Territory's youth justice system after a landmark royal commission. The final report of the royal commission into NT child detention and protection, released in November, declared the system had long failed to rehabilitate children, protect human rights and comply with relevant laws, saying the problems '*occurred over many years and were known and ignored at the highest levels.*' One of the key recommendations was to advocate for a lifting of the age when children can be charged, brought to court and imprisoned, from 10 years to 12 years. The \$54 million inquiry was sparked when footage of boys being tear gassed, being made to wear spit hoods and being shackled, was aired on television last year. Commissioners Margaret White and Mick Gooda said their recommendations would save nearly \$336 million over the next decade, if implemented. The report also called for a new Children's Court, implementation of an early intervention family support program, and a Commission for Children and Young People, under a comprehensive reform program the report said was aimed at restoring the '*failed detention and child protection systems in the Northern Territory.*' Commissioners Mick Gooda and Margaret White said: '*The failures we have identified have cost children and families greatly, they have not made communities safer and they are shocking.*'

Eighty-nine per cent of the minors in out-of-home care are Aboriginal, as are 94 per cent of those in detention. The commission recommended a suite of measures, including improved engagement with community groups, to address the disproportionate figures.

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples said early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation must be the priorities in the justice system. '*Governments must embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led community controlled solutions. Equally, there needs to be guaranteed long-term investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to ensure they are sufficiently resourced to build the capacity to work with government,*' co-chair Rod Little said.

2017 VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HONOUR ROLL

Congratulations to Boon Wurrung Elder, Arweet Carolyn Briggs, one of nine Aboriginal Victorians inducted into the 2017 Victorian Aboriginal Honour

Roll in Melbourne on 21 November. Recognising the achievements of Aboriginal people, past and present, each inductee has dedicated their life to helping others and giving back to their community, while fighting for self-determination and equality. The nine whose stories will be added to the Honour Roll, on permanent display in the Victorian Parliament, include: June Atkinson-Murray, Muriel Bamblett AM, Arweet Carolyn Briggs, Vicki Clark, Joyce Johnson, Diane Kerr, Eddie 'Kookaburra' Kneebone, Elizabeth Maud Morgan-Hoffmann and Brien Nelson. www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria

FIRST ABORIGINAL WOMAN IN VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT

The Victorian Greens claimed a shock victory last month in the Northcote by-election following a large swing against the Labor government. Lidia Thorpe became the first Indigenous woman to be elected to state parliament after a more than 10 per cent swing against Labor in the inner-Melbourne seat.

VICTORIAN TREATY

The Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission will be established in early 2018, aiming to strengthen independence for the Victorian Aboriginal community on the path to Treaty and ensure the community remains at the heart of the process. The Commission's primary role will be to operationalise the outcomes of the Aboriginal Community Assembly and establish the Aboriginal Representative. It will build on the work of the Aboriginal Community Assembly and other community consultations led by the Aboriginal Treaty Working Group. The Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission will cease to operate once the Aboriginal Representative Body is established. www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/treaty

REC VIC UPDATE

The joint AGM and Victorian Reconciliation Network Forum held on 28 October attracted over 50 Reconciliation members and supporters, representing 15 local Reconciliation groups from across Victoria, including individual community members, organisational representatives and people new to Reconciliation. Guest speaker was Jacob Boehme of the Narangga and Kurna nations, SA, now Creative Director of Yirramboi First Nations Art Festival in Melbourne.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON NEWS

The next meeting for Reconciliation Stonnington will be held at Prahran Community Learning Centre, 6.00 pm, **Wednesday 13 December**. At this meeting we will be pleased to welcome council officer Julie

Fry, Community Support and Diversity Co-ordinator, and new member of her team, Nicole Dewhurst, Cultural Diversity Officer: Aboriginal Reconciliation. Nicole's job will be to implement Council's new RAP and we are eagerly looking forward to meeting her. We will be sharing Xmas refreshments, all welcome, enquiries to Ro on 9819 9106. *Note:* Our first meeting for 2018 is **Wednesday 14 February** at the above venue.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of four Reconciliation Stonnington members - who are all pre-school educators passionate about Aboriginal Curriculum - Windsor Community Children's Centre's Director, Rose Kelly, arranged for their 'special friend' - writer and storyteller Monty Boori Pryor - to address the children recently.



ST KILDA BAPTIST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Yirmmal is one of the entertainers performing at the Festival which includes art and craft, face painting, food, drinks and door prizes. The Festival supports St Kilda Gatehouse and Pay A Sack Forward. **Sunday 3 December**, 3.00-7.00 pm, 9 Pakington Street, St Kilda. Details: Stacey Aslangul, Minister, St Kilda/Elsternwick Baptist, 0402 217 750.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY WORKSHOP

This workshop will provide an overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures with a specific focus on content relevant to architects, landscape architects, interior designers and planners. The content is delivered in a variety of different methods, including creative and interactive activities, reflective group discussions and multi-media presentations. **Monday 4 December**, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Level 2, Australian Institute of Architects, 41 Exhibition St, Melb. www.iadv.or.au

SERPENT DREAMING WOMEN PROJECT

This project aims to shift perceptions and create awareness through performance. The site-specific piece will draw links between Indian, Indian diasporic, and Australian Indigenous women, as they explore their complex and long relationships with each other's cultures and Mother Earth, simultaneously political and poetic, contemporary and timeless. **Wednesday 6 December**, 6.00-8.00 pm, Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum, Nicholson Street, Carlton. Free.

GAWURRA'S CONCERT

Stanley Gawurra Gaykamangu, a future Elder in his island community, draws on traditional Gupapungu language songs in creating his contemporary music. Already inspiring comparisons with renowned musician Dr G Yunupingu, Gawurra's culture, songlines, personal journey and musical understanding are embedded deep within his soulful voice and moving songwriting. In concert on **Thursday 7 December**, 7.30 pm, Recital Centre, Southbank. Ticket \$40, \$30. Bookings: 9699 3333.

BUNJILAKA MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBITION

Black Day, Sun Rises, Blood Runs which tells the story of six different massacres involving First Australians is opening at Melbourne Museum. It is a multi-media map, drawn from the Victorian Massacre Map published in 1991 by the Koorie Heritage Trust, showing the sites of massacres across regional Victoria. Curator of the exhibit Genevieve Grieves said it was a work many years coming as it was originally intended to be part of the First Peoples' Exhibition when it opened in 2013. 'Black Day, Sun Rises, Bloods Runs *contains stories hidden from history and long-overdue to be told,*' Genevieve said. '*Guided by our inspirational Yulendj Group we are telling these stories with authenticity and sensitivity, to enable all Victorians to move forward in recognition and understanding of the truth of past tragedy.*' The six narrators are Aunty Esther Kirby (North-west), Isobel Morphy-Walsh (North-east), John Clarke (Western District), Aaron Morgan and Aunty Eileen Alberts (Western District), and Rob Hudson and Rhonda Coates (Gippsland and East Gippsland). The exhibition is at the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum.

THE CANOE PROJECT - STORIES FROM THE COLLECTION

This project brings together objects from the Koorie Heritage Trust and from Victorian Aboriginal community members. It aims to share the historical, cultural and social significance of the items in the lives of community members. The films and the collection items, which include newly-recorded oral histories and respective artefacts and artworks, are installed in a four-metre long canoe table at the KHT, Level 3, Yarra Building, Federation Square, Melbourne, until early 2018. This project has been established in partnership with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions at the University of Melbourne – CHE (www.historyofemotions.org.au). CHE is a multi-sited, interdisciplinary humanities research centre involving five universities and key stakeholders from across Australia and internationally.

ARCHIE ROACH

As part of the Corner Hotel's 21st Birthday Celebrations, Archie Roach will be celebrating 20 years of *Looking for Butterboy* on **Tuesday 5 December**, The Corner Hotel, 57 Swan Street, Richmond. Details at <http://cornerhotel.com/gigs/> Tickets via Eventbrite.

ARTS NEWS

Past Legacy: Present Tense

This exhibition looks at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from city and bush studios who have made their mark by reinterpreting and transforming semiotic signs and customary objects of another time and place into something daringly different and modern. Contemporary Indigenous artists make intercultural works in organic and new media that memorialise and interrogate history, honour customary practices and forms of material culture, and reference systems of shared signs and symbols in innovative ways. NGV Australia, Federation Square, Level 3, Indigenous Art, until January 2018, 10.00 am–5.00 pm daily.

Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters

Seven years in the making, one of Australia's most ambitious exhibitions is being presented at the National Museum of Australia. *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* captures the ancient creation story of the Seven Sisters as they traverse the sky from Roebourne in Western Australia through more than 500,000 square kilometres to the remote Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands further east. Inawinytji Williamson, a Senior law woman and custodian of the songline at Kuli, says the Tjukurpa, or dreaming, is very important. The Seven Sisters songlines tell the story of a journey made by a group of female Ancestral beings who are pursued by a powerful, mythological, shape-shifting figure; a man called Wati Nyiru or Yurlu. The creation story travels through many people's country like the Martu, Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara lands. Songlines are a cross-cultural term, a passport to the deep knowledge embedded in the land which we all now share. They are foundational stories about the creation of this continent and are critical to the sense of belonging for all Australians. The show is described as a world-first in scale and complexity, showcasing hundreds of paintings and photographs, objects, song, dance and multi-media to narrate the story. It also features the world's highest-resolution travelling DomeLab under which visitors can be immersed in images of rock art, animated art works and the transit of the Orion constellation and the Pleiades star cluster.

It allows the audience to be transported to the Seven Sister sites, following the trail of the stunning art and installations, effectively 'walking' the songline. It comes after lengthy on-country tracking and community collaborations with the National Museum. Until February 2018.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

- ANTaR Victoria has a good range of merchandise, including books, flags and key rings, available at reasonable prices. They'd make ideal Christmas presents and the funds generated help this leading Reconciliation-focused organisation continue their work. Check out their list by visiting www.antarvictoria.org.au or contact Brigid: brigid@antarvictoria.org.au.
- Koorie Heritage Trust, Federation Square, has a modest range of merchandise in their shop. Book lovers can also find a range of titles by Indigenous authors at good book stores such as The Avenue in Albert Park and Books Illustrated in Middle Park. Look for authors such as Stan Grant, Bruce Pascoe, Anita Heiss, Jane Harrison, Alexis Wright, Henry Reynolds and Kim Scott.
- Alperstein Designs is an Australian-owned company which entered the marketplace in 1996, designing and manufacturing a unique range of lifestyle products for the gift and Indigenous/tourism industries. Their products are designed and developed in Australia by their creative team alongside prominent Australian artists and designers to produce a unique range of products, including Aussie Made Cotton Socks, hand creams and merchandise featuring brilliant artwork from Warlukurlangu Artists' Aboriginal Corporation of Yuemdamu. Visit www.alpersteindesigns.com.au, 03 9584 5333, E: info@alpersteindesigns.com.au.
- Yarn Strong Sista is offering a 50% discount on all their merchandise, including books, until 9 December by visiting their warehouse, Unit 2/ 88-96 Western Avenue, Westmeadows, 9.00 am-4.00 pm. View via www.yarnstrongsista.com.au, 9338 3492.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Lists are always popular in the lead up to the summer holidays, so in keeping with the trend, this list includes some, but by no means all, Indigenous cultural tours and festivals taking place in 2018.

- Uluru Festival (first held in August 2017) March 9-11 and June 22-24, coinciding with the *Field of Light* created by British artist Bruce Munro, a spectacular solar-powered light installation. ayersrockresort.com.au traeller.com.au/uluru
- Mala Walk, Uluru, is among a myriad of Indigenous activities available at Ayers Rock Resort. parksaustralia.gov.au
- Arnhem Land, NT. Garma Festival, held every August, brings together Indigenous people, politicians, academics, business leaders and everyone else for exhibitions, traditional activities, discussions, singing and dancing. yyf.com.au
- Walking With Spirits, Beswick. Experience the ancient Aboriginal tradition of corroboree and enjoy the stunning lakeside beauty of Malkgulumbu (Beswick Falls) in the NT - a remote sacred site not normally accessible to the general public. Celebrate Beswick-Wugular Community's vibrant culture once a year in July, one night only, in the spectacular setting of Malkgulumbu on Jawoyn country. www.djilpinarts.org.au
- Cairns Indigenous Arts Festival, held over three days in July, celebrating Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, music, dance, performance and fashion. <https://www.ciaf.com>
- Tjapukai Cultural Centre, Cairns. Explore local history and culture and enjoy a night-time corroboree and other experiences. tjapukai.com.au
- Mossman Gorge, Qld. Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk through the rainforest seen through Indigenous eyes. mossmangorge.com.au
- Lombadina - Experience life with a WA coastal community on the Dampier Peninsula north of Broome through hunting for bush tucker, snorkelling and fishing. lombadina.com
- Yingadi Immersion, Vic/NSW. Experience and explore Aboriginal spirituality and connection to land, walking with Mutthi Mutthi woman Vicki Clark in the footsteps of her ancestors at Lake Mungo and Balranald, usually in April and August. Expressions of Interest/application to Yingadi Immersion Coordinator: yingadi@edmundrice.org.

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, COPP.

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

