

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.

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.

December 2018

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Our Annual General Meeting

Our AGM in the Emerald Hill Library on 20 November got off to a beautiful start in spite of the stormy weather outside with Digby Hannah, accompanied by clap sticks, singing a short Acknowledgement of Country, followed by a formal Acknowledgement of Country warmly delivered by Judith 'Jacko' Jackson. In my Chair's Report (attached) I mentioned some of year's highlights - our 20th anniversary celebration, Sorry Day Lunch and Reconciliation Writing Competition. Fiona Olney-Fraser presented the Treasurer's Report and thanked the Council for their grant that enables us to continue our work. PPCfR's office bearers were unanimously re-elected with Co-Chairs - Dennis Fisher and myself; Treasurer - Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary - Deb Stewart; and Committee members - Jo Bond and Denis Frankel. This great team, supported by members and COPP's Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy, is the backbone of the group, and always encouraging. Cr Tim Baxter spoke about our work and the Council's commitment to their Reconciliation Action Plan before Sushena Krishnaswamy introduced the Guest Speakers - Morris Stuart, choirmaster with the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, and his wife Barbara Stuart.

Morris outlined their journey that began in Alice Springs in 2006 on a painting expedition with an invitation to get a choir to sing some African freedom songs. To their great surprise and delight their involvement with the group, now known as the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, continues, reaching unimagined heights: concerts at the Sydney Opera House and Melbourne Recital Centre as well as in Germany and elsewhere, a documentary and television appearances. Morris believes the choir's accolades and achievements are helping change the social architecture of how Aboriginal people are perceived by the broader community. Their story is inspirational and it was a privilege to have Barbara and Morris share it with us and stay on afterwards for refreshments.



(Left to right) AGM attendees Dennis Fisher, Judith Jackson, Morris and Barbara Stuart, Rosemary Rule and Tim Baxter.

RecVic and ANTaR Combined AGM

Helen Bennett and I attended this AGM last month. A highlight was walking with Uncle Trevor Gallagher around the Darebin Parklands where birds and ducks, as if on cue, appeared to illustrate his stories. Report below.

Year In Review

We take a break in January and will be back with plenty of news in the February 2019 issue of *Mungo*, including details of the Yaluk-ut Weelam Ngargee Indigenous Arts and Cultural Festival on **Saturday 2 February**. In the meantime, I'd like to wish you all a very happy festive season.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 18 December, from 6.00 pm, end of year barbecue, BYO. **All welcome.** Gasworks Arts Park, Richardson Street, South Melbourne. If the weather's poor, ring me on 0418 675 734 for alternative arrangements.

RECVIC AND ANTAR AGM

Under the banner of *Coming Together: Reflecting on Reconciliation and Celebrating Culture*, ANTaR Victoria and RecVic joined forces for their AGM on 27 October. Around 80 RecVic members and friends gathered on Wurundjeri Country at Darebin Parklands, Alphington, to reflect on the past which included a walk along Darebin Park's Spiritual Healing Trail guided by Uncle Trevor Gallagher. The day also included a campfire discussion involving local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members sharing their ideas on the proposal to establish an Aboriginal Knowledge Council, a moving performance by Wergaia and Wempa Wempa singer-songwriter Alice Skye, the AGM and a Special General Meeting that endorsed the proposed rule changes that include a shift to a skills-board.

APPOINTMENTS

RecVic has appointed a new CEO, Diana David, to lead the organisation in its next phase of growth and development. Diana is a descendant of the Kaanju Nation from Central Cape York Peninsula and Kulkagau Ya lama, Western Torres Strait Islands. She comes from a background in community development and engagement and government, most recently working for the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission.

Elsewhere, outgoing Council Members Melissa Brickell, John Baxter and Deb Chapman were thanked, and Aislinn Martin, Professor Andrew Gunstone and Juanita Pope were welcomed to the Board. And, after eight



years, Erin McKinnon has finished her role as Statewide Coordinator with RecVic. Full details: reconciliationvic.org.au

Diana David, newly appointed RecVic CEO.

CAROLINE MARTIN DIRECTS YIRRAMBOI

Caroline Martin has been appointed Creative Director of the YIRRAMBOI First Nations Festival planned for May 2019. A senior Koorie leader, a direct descendant of the Briggs family and Custodian of Boonwurrung Country, Caroline is an experienced senior creative manager and senior policy adviser. She manages her own consultancy, Yalukit Marnang, a First Peoples owned and operated business. Among Caroline's most significant achievements was advocating for the development of the national and international award-winning First Peoples exhibition at Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum, and managing the Koorie community engagement and collaboration process to ensure its ultimate success. Caroline is passionate about developing and delivering programs that aim to strengthen cultural competencies and professional capabilities. She is a resident of the City of Port Phillip.

NATIONAL RAP CONFERENCE

The Moondani Toombadool Centre at Swinburne University of Technology along with Reconciliation Australia and the Korin Gamadji Institute of the Richmond Football Club are co-hosting this Conference that has four broad themes: the role of RAPs in the Reconciliation journey; sharing RAP stories; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives on RAPs; and advancing national Reconciliation issues. Keynote presenters are Dr Jackie Huggins AM; Professor Tom Calma AM and Stan Grant. Richmond Football Club - Swinburne Centre at Punt Road Oval, Yarra Park, Richmond, Victoria, **Wednesday 5 December**, 9.00 am-4.30 pm, \$200. Information: aburt@swinburne.edu.au.

BOROONDARA RECONCILIATION FORUM

The Boroondara Reconciliation Network meeting presented in conjunction with ANTaR last month was very interesting. They had four speakers including Brigid Knight-Braniff, Co-chair, ANTaR Victoria, talking about the different political parties' policies along with representatives from Labor, Greens and the Coalition talking about issues relevant to the upcoming Victorian election and proposed Treaty. About thirty people attended and the chairperson was impressive.

I introduced myself as a representative from PPCfR. A video was played of Jill Gallagher, Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner, addressing the Victorian parliament on Treaty, and the committee's Mick Harding singing in parliament a song in language he and his son had composed. It really was quite a night. I was so glad to be there. *Liz Gallois*

WALKING TOGETHER - WILLIAM COOPER

The Victorian Jewish community will walk together with friends and allies in remembrance and appreciation of William Cooper and to reciprocate the march that he led to the German Consulate in Melbourne on 6 December 1938. While world leadership watched in silent disbelief the events of Kristallnacht, Uncle William Cooper, Secretary of the Australian Aborigines' League and Elder of the Yorta Yorta, led the only known private protest against the Nazi regime. At a time when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people were themselves denied citizenship and other basic human rights, and where they were frequently subjected to appalling physical, social and economic hardships, he chose to stand for our people and our future. Exactly 80 years later, William Cooper's memory will be honoured by making a similar stand on behalf of his people and their future, calling on our elected leaders to work together to ensure that our nations' First People receive recognition in the Constitution and a lasting voice in our national parliament. **Thursday 6 December**, 6.30 pm: Opening Ceremony and Remembrance Walk, Separation Memorial, Flagstaff Gardens. 8.00 pm: Smoking Ceremony & Chanukiah Lighting. Peppercorn Park, Alexandra Gardens. Patrons: Uncle Boydie Turner and Mark Liebler AC. Walk sponsored by the William Cooper Legacy Project together with the Jewish Community Council of Victoria. walkingtogether.org.au

COLONIALISM AND ITS NARRATIVES

This conference aims to bring together new approaches to colonial Australia across the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Colonialism puts a range of practices and discourses into play: violent encounters, dispossession, trauma, 'development', 'civilisation', governance and trade. Keynote Speakers: Professor Tim Bonyhady (ANU), Penny Edmonds (University of Tasmania), Bruce Pascoe, Professor Lynette Russell (Monash University). Australian Centre Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne, Parkville. **10-11 December**. Details: 9035 5511.

INDIGENOUS MURAL FOR ST KILDA

The community of St Kilda-Elsternwick Baptist is excited at the prospect of a mural to be painted on the west wall of the church. Local services for Aboriginal people - Galiamble and Winja Ulupna - are providing the artists for this project. Under the guidance of Viv Parry the artists have begun the process of conceiving the mural's design and planning for particular individual contributions. The mural will be a reminder to the people of St Kilda of the rich history in our area, long before the arrival of white settlers. The mural design will imagine a birds-eye view of what was originally very fertile and productive country.

Before the arrival of Europeans in 1835, the area we know as the City of Port Phillip was occupied by the Yalukit Willam clan - the people of the river. Historians tell us the landscape at the time was a '*temperate Kakadu*', surrounded by sea, river, creeks, lakes and lagoons, and teeming with wildfowl. Working collectively the Yalukit Willam were able to harvest sufficient shellfish, wattle gum, eels, birds, eggs and roots to feed their families and then spend the rest of the day attending to important spiritual, ceremonial, trade and family obligations. When the members of the Baptist church gather, they regularly remind themselves that the uncovered drain at the rear of their church was once a delightful stream flowing from higher ground where St Kilda Cemetery now stands to a wetland in the vicinity of this church and near the site of St Kilda Town Hall. For a period much longer than that of European settlement, this was a place where the Yalukit Willam people camped, communed, gathered food and slept. Their cathedral was the forest, their living water directly from the creek and the spirit of the land as pervasive as the wind. Members of the church and, indeed, all of St Kilda will now enjoy a visible reminder of this.

Digby Hannah

ILF TRIVIA NIGHT

It's time for trivia buffs to start brushing up on their general knowledge for this trivia night hosted by Brian Nankervis with a fantastic array of prizes. All funds raised support ILF programs in remote communities. Fitzroy Town Hall, **Wednesday 12 December**, 6.00 pm. As well as trivia, there will be other fundraising fun and opportunities to support the ILF. Bookings essential. <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=437652&>

ARTS NEWS

Astroman

Talented actor Tony Briggs (*Cleverman*, *Wentworth*, *Rake*) is the co-director of this new play written by New Zealander and fellow First Nations man Albert Belz. Set in Geelong in 1984, *Astroman* is 'a story about a young boy becoming a man, growing into his own skin.' Kamil Ellis plays Jiembra 'Jimi' Djalou and has a twin brother played by Sonny Calen Tassone. Also stars Tony Nikolakopoulos and Elaine Crombie. Arts Centre's Fairfax Studio until **Saturday 8 December**. www.mtc.com.au/plays-and-tickets/season-2018/astroman/

Dreamtime Awards

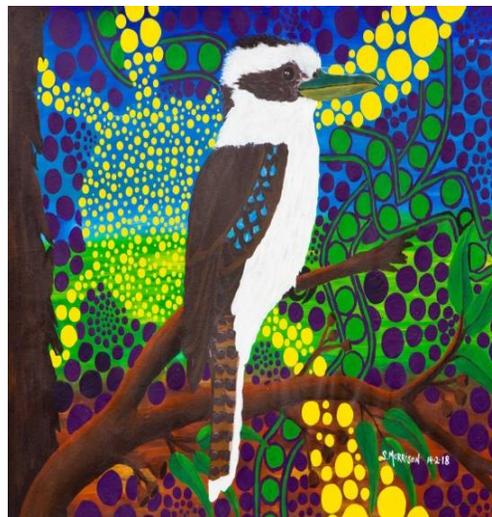
Archie Roach received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2018 National Dreamtime Awards. Full winners' details: www.dreamtimeawards.com.au

Zoo Twilights Concert

Briggs, Archie Roach and Alice Skye will perform at Zoo Twilights, **Saturday 26 January**, 5:30 pm, Melbourne Zoo, Parkville. Tickets \$63.50. All proceeds help Zoos Victoria fight to save the Eastern Barred Bandicoot from extinction. <https://zootwilights.org.au/artist/briggs-archie-roach/>

Confined 10

Another exciting exhibition from The Torch's Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program, *Confined 10* will present over 200 artworks creating a strong visual metaphor for the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system. More than 172 men and women in the program will share their artworks, giving voice to their diverse cultural knowledge, experiences and perspectives. The program provides a range of social and financial outcomes for the artists, with all of the sale price of the artworks going directly to the artist, helping with their rehabilitation process. **Wednesday 30 January - Wednesday 27 February 2019**, Carlisle Street Arts Space, 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda Town Hall, Free, open to the public. www.thetorch.org.au



From The Torch's *Confined 10* Exhibition: *Journey of the Kookaburra* by Sam, Wirangu Peoples, 2018.

Blak to the Future Exhibition

This celebration of Indigenous art showcases some of the most important works by artists of the calibre of Paddy Compass Namadbara, Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, Sally Gabori, Emily Kam Kngwarray, Brook Andrew and Destiny Deacon. The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia, free entry. Until **July 2019**.

The Little Red Yellow Black Book

This highly-illustrated book is an ideal starting point for those who want to learn about the rich cultures and histories of Australia's First Peoples. Written from an Indigenous perspective it covers a range of topics from history, culture and the arts, activism and Reconciliation. In this fourth edition, readers of all backgrounds will learn about significant contributions made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Australian nation. Common stereotypes will be challenged and many struggles and triumphs will be experienced through revealing our shared histories. Each copy includes an A3 folded AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia. \$19.95. www.aiatsis.ashop.com.au

Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Museum Exhibition

Because of Her, We Can! throws a spotlight on nine Victorian First Nations women who have achieved extraordinary things delivering services to community. Extensive storytelling sits alongside stunning images of these remarkable women from various sovereign nations. Objects on display include a series of contemporary digging sticks juxtaposed against digging sticks from Museums Victoria's collection. *Because of Her, We Can!* also provides valuable contextual information about the important history of NAIDOC. First Peoples Tours available 2.00 pm-3.30 pm weekdays. Information: 13 11 02 or <https://museumsvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/>

GIFT IDEAS

Very Koorie Krismas

Celebrating Krismas with a Koorie twist, the Koorie Heritage Trust and Fed Square presents their fourth annual Koorie Krismas event celebrating all things Koorie art and culture. **Saturday 1 December**, 11.00 am-4.00 pm, Fed Square, Melbourne. Join in free activities, live music and workshops throughout the afternoon with a special appearance by Koorie Klaus at 3.00 pm! Free.

ANTaR's Products

ANTaR's Rights Stuff Economic Development Program works to generate economic, cultural and social benefit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by offering a range of vibrant and thoughtful products to Australia and the world. The sale of selected ANTaR products cross-subsidises community enterprises and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses. Profits generated through the merchandise program are reinvested into ANTaR's mission to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Products include diaries, homewares, clothes, Acknowledgement plaques, music. Visit <https://antar.org.au/shop>.

The Torch 2019 Calendars

These calendars feature artworks from 12 men and women participating in the Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community Program, with all artists receiving a licensing fee and all proceeds going towards running the program. Large horizontal calendar \$20 (including postage within Australia). Order through The Torch online shop or <https://thetorch.org.au/gallery/products/>

Indigenous Literary Foundation Merchandise

This merchandise includes T-shirts, tote bags and greeting cards featuring artwork by Arabana artist Kathy Arbon who has illustrated two books published by the Foundation - *Wamparla Apira* (Possums and Tall Trees) and *Can You Dance?* by Sally Morgan. Visit <https://indigenousliteracyfoundation.myshopify.com/collections/all> Products include beautifully written and illustrated books in traditional languages.

TV PROGRAMS

Family Rule features Perth's Rule family headed up by matriarch Daniella Rule and her mob of nine girls. The program looks at how they navigate adolescence, young adult life and parenthood, and is created by filmmaker and Noongar woman Karla Hart. Season Two screens Wednesdays, 8.30 pm on NITV. Also available for catch up on SBS On Demand, or join in the conversation #FamilyRules.

Jasper Jones is a movie adapted from Craig Silvey's best-selling Australian novel with a cast including Toni Collette, Hugo Weaving, Levi Miller, Angourie Rice, Dan Wyllie and Aaron McGrath. **January 2019** on NITV. u.au/ebureau/ebook.html#victoran.



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2017-2018 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, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Elections at the 2017 Annual General Meeting

At last year's AGM held on 21 November 2017, guests heard my Chair's Report followed by Fiona Olney-Fraser's Treasurer's Report; both were moved and accepted. Then, the following officers were unanimously elected to the Committee: Co-Chairs - Rosemary Rule and Dennis Fisher; Treasurer – Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary – Deb Stewart; Committee Members - Jo Bond and Denis Frankel. These people are the backbone of the group and their support, guidance and encouragement binds the group together.

Following this business, guest speaker Benson Saulo, Head of Community Strategy at Australian Unity and a descendent from Aboriginal nations of western Victoria and the New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea, gave a thoughtful and inspiring talk about his life and his many achievements. It prompted Dennis Fisher to speak about his own journey and his ideas on ways to work towards Reconciliation, making it a memorable evening.

20th Anniversary Celebration

More than 150 people helped commemorate our '20 deadly years' on 23 October with a glorious celebration at the St Kilda Town Hall. Guests listened to singers from Galiamble and Winja Ulupna under the enthusiastic guidance of conductor Digby Hannah and heard BoonWurrung Elder N'arweet Carolyn Briggs give a warm and personal Welcome to Country. The MC, Leila Gurruwiwi, a NITV Marngrook Footy Show panellist, media personality and mentor, said: *'Working alongside PPCfR has been absolutely wonderful. Everyone who is part of the group is always respectful, engaging and pro-active which is what you always want to see.'*

We learned about the history of the group from Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss and appreciated the compliments received from her and the Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley MP.

Special guest Richard Frankland's passionate speech about a hopeful future was a highlight. *'We need to focus on what we can build together along the way,'* he said. *'There's a light in the distance to help plant seeds for the future of a great Australia that one day will have an Aboriginal Prime Minister - and she'll be magnificent!'* Donning his musician's hat and guitar, Richard invited his Wilin Centre opera singer colleague John Wayne Parsons onto the stage, and encouraged guests to stand up and join in *'You can't be wrong if you're right.'*

My Co-Chair, Den the Fish, read his *Civilisation and Reconciliation* poems. Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer Todd Condie presented three door prizes to winners including an Aboriginal flag signed by designer Harold Thomas; a Boon Wurrung Womin Djeka plaque and merchandise from the Koorie Heritage Trust. We enjoyed the food provided by Sth Melbourne Market's Store 6 (seamlessly delivered by a team of young volunteers guided by Fiona Olney-Fraser), and guests stayed on to mingle for what was a wonderful celebration for a remarkable group.



Dennis Fisher, Judith 'Jacko' Jackson, Rosemary Rule, Gael Wilson, Leila Gurruwiwi, Richard Frankland and John Wayne Parsons helped celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

Reconciliation Writing Competition

It was a real pleasure to be at the Awards Ceremony for our 2018 Writing Competition in October held at Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park. Adults and students from Prep to Year 12 wrote on the theme Don't Keep History a Mystery, and the judges - Mr Bryan Andy, Professor Tony Birch and Emeritus Professor Clare Bradford - had a challenging job choosing two finalists and a winner in each of the categories.



Graeme Wilson with Jeanine Arthur, First Prize winner in the adult category.

I'm very grateful to the sponsors: Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park; Graeme Wilson of Wilson Agents who donated the \$500 First Prize for adults; Geoff Cayzer, Cayzer Real Estate; Greg Hocking; Vivienne McCutcheon, the late Andrew McCutcheon and Helen Sykes on behalf of Future Leaders who donated the \$500 First Prize for Years 10-12; Benson Saulo and Dr Kate Reid who donated the \$500 First Prize for Years 7-9, and to Provincial Events. I'd also like to thank Martin Foley MP; Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson; the City of Port Phillip particularly Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy; and my fellow members of the inspiring Writing Competition committee - Deb Stewart, Gael Wilson, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Jo Bond, Janine Wilder, Sushena Krishnaswamy and Vivienne McCutcheon.

Guest Speakers

Our monthly meetings are well attended and continue to attract new people; this is most heartening. This year we heard from several guest speakers. Anne James, Books Illustrated founder, talked about initiatives taken to promote Indigenous children's books. Dr Sushena Krishnaswamy spoke candidly of her experiences working in hospitals in Alice Springs. Benson Saulo's fascinating background and many achievements were inspiring to hear about, and Bryan Andy, Community Planner with Banyule Council, movingly recounted stories about his work in the prison system, as a writer, event producer and community activist.



(Left) Todd Condie, COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, with Bryan Andy. (Right) Rosemary Rule, Benson Saulo, Dennis Fisher and Fiona Olney-Fraser.

2018 National Sorry Day Lunch

Between them, Master of Ceremonies Dennis Fisher and singer-storyteller Dave Arden shared their personal and moving anecdotes with the 120 guests at this year's lunch on 25 May. We were privileged to have an Acknowledgement of Country given by Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and to hear from the Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss and the Member for Albert Park Martin Foley. The crowd included current and past councillors, representatives from faith groups, Optometry Australia, Star Health, Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, RecStonnington and Sacred Heart Mission. Jacko and Todd presented the door prizes: tickets to *Mandiba*, the musical about Nelson Mandela's life; tickets to the *Dreamtime at the G* game from AFL's Indigenous group; and books from Books Illustrated. The lunch would not have run so smoothly without the help of my colleagues Gael Wilson, Deb Stewart, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Denis Frankel, Helen Hoffman, Jo Bond, Vivienne McCutcheon, Janine Wilder and Digby Hannah.



Dave Arden's singing and storytelling captivated guests.

Communications

Mungo, our monthly newsletter, reached over 3,500 people last year

including members of RecVic and RecStonnington via their e-networks. I'm most grateful to have Fiona Olney-Fraser's expert editorial help. Thank you also to the staff in Martin Foley's electoral office who print copies, to Jo Bond who then sends out the snail mail version, to Todd Condie who emails the online version, and to Joe Malignaggi who posts the newsletter online and maintains the ppcfr.org site with regular updates. A big thank you to Brigid Knight-Braniff who set up a PPCfR Facebook page to promote our work.

Networks

PPCfR members actively participate in Local Reconciliation Groups' forums hosted by RecVic and ANTA Vic, and attend their AGM and special events. I provide items about our activities for RecVic's e-newsletters. We continue our support for RecStonnington, the Homeless Memorial, Star Health, Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda Baptist Church and the Boon Wurrung Foundation.

City of Port Phillip (COPP)

We strongly endorse COPP's Reconciliation initiatives and events held during Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week, and applaud the development of their second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). I am very grateful for COPP's ongoing financial and in-kind support, particularly the help and guidance generously offered by Indigenous Policy Officer Todd Condie.

Looking Ahead

I'd like to thank all the people who so willingly help this active, vibrant group to continue their work, and will look forward to our 21st year of activities.

Rosemary Rule, Co-Chair, 20 November 2018

