

# Mungo...

The Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung Nation who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land.



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**December 2019**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boon Wurrung Word of the Month:

*Weegabil nye-wilny* – Old Man Sun, Summer

### 2019 Annual General Meeting

Unfortunately, due to family illness, Diana David, Reconciliation Victoria CEO, was unable to attend our AGM on 26 November at the Emerald Hill Library, so we improvised and talked about how we might work together and extend our reach into communities. Michael Scott, Community Services Program Manager at Uniting, spoke about their new Reconciliation Action Plan and also about the plans he'd like to explore and develop

as a recently-elected member of the Rec Stonnington committee.

**Michael Scott speaking at our AGM about Uniting's Reconciliation Action Plan.**

As well as giving a warm Acknowledgement of Country, Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson spoke about some of the activities she's involved with, including Veg Out. Deputy Mayor, Cr Tim Baxter, presented the

group with a Certificate of Appreciation '*In recognition of your ongoing commitment to the Community and the City of Port Phillip*' which was unexpected but valued recognition, and I was very touched to receive a beautiful bunch of flowers from the group.

On the business side of the meeting, the following committee members were unanimously re-elected for another year: Co-Chairs – Dennis Fisher and I; Treasurer – Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary – Deb Stewart; Committee members - Jo Bond and Denis Frankel. Together we work as a particularly effective

team of dedicated, generous people with a shared passion for our First Nations' people and their culture. Thanks to everyone who attended. See my Chair's Report below that outlines our work over the past twelve months.

### Council and Treaty News

Read inside about the City of Port Phillip's proposal for **Sunday 26 January** – a Morning of Mourning – along with an update about Victoria's historic First Peoples' Assembly to work towards developing a Treaty.

### Congratulations

To Archie Roach, named the 2020 Victorian Australian of the Year, on being chosen to represent Victoria at the Australia Day awards. Archie runs Ruby's Foundation, named after his late wife Ruby Hunter, which looks to improve opportunities for young First Nations' people through art and culture. Congratulations to Parbin-ata Carolyn Briggs AM of the Boon Wurrung on her election to the First Peoples' Treaty Assembly, one of 21 members who will be the voice of Aboriginal people in Victoria in the future Treaty process. Congratulations to those inducted into the 2019 Aboriginal Honour Roll. Congratulations to soprano and composer Deborah Cheetham AO who won the \$60,000 prestigious Melbourne Prize for Music, and to singer, songwriter and multiple ARIA nominee, Mojo Juju, winner of the \$18,500 Development Award.

### Looking Ahead

We take a break in January but will be back with plenty of news in the February 2020 issue of *Mungo*. Don't forget that the Yaluk-ut Weelam Ngargee Indigenous Arts and Cultural Festival will be held in St Kilda on **Saturday 1 February**. In the meantime, I'd like to wish all our members and friends an enjoyable festive season and I'll look forward to re-connecting with you next year.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 December**, from 6.00 pm, End of Year Barbecue, BYO. Gasworks Arts Park, Richardson Street, South Melbourne. All Welcome. If the weather's poor, ring 0418 675 734 for alternative arrangements.



## LATEST GOVERNMENT PLAN

The Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, has dismissed suggestions the Coalition's plan for a Voice to Government is going against community demands, insisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders just want their voices heard. The Government faces criticism from Indigenous leaders and representative bodies who are disappointed the Prime Minister has ruled out enshrining a Voice to Parliament in the constitution, as was recommended in the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2017. *'Communities weren't focused on a Voice to Parliament, they were focused on how do we get our voices heard about the issues that impact on us on a daily basis about our communities,'* Mr Wyatt said. Thomas Mayor, a delegate at the 2017 convention that drafted the Uluru Statement from the Heart, described the Government's proposal as a *'minimalist response. The thing to keep in mind here is our collective experience, the history of our struggle, is every time that Indigenous people build a voice that is strong enough to make a difference, the government destroys it,'* he said, adding: *'This shift to Voice to Government, it's a real slap in the face.'*

The government has allocated more than \$7 million to the design process and the group will have a year to put forward its proposals. Mr Wyatt has flagged they might get longer if needed. Many will feel a sense of déjà vu when hearing the announcement of a co-design process for a Voice to Government, seen as yet another process in the long journey of Indigenous people to set things right and for their voices to be heard. The achievement of the Uluru Statement should not be underestimated. Uluru dialogue participants were community members and the 12 regional dialogues were run by communities themselves, with facilitation and technical advice provided by the Referendum Council. The national convention that produced the Uluru Statement was made up of delegates elected by their communities from the regional dialogues. This was a process unlike any other in the history of Indigenous affairs. The Uluru process drew its authority from the voices of Indigenous people taking part as representatives of their communities, including dissenting voices within communities, yet reached the deliberative consensus of Voice, Treaty and Truth. The committee acknowledged the Uluru Statement was a game changer and a First Nations' Voice to Parliament (not government) was the only viable option.

By way of a follow-up, Minister Wyatt has appointed a senior advisory group tasked with overseeing the design of a First Nations' Voice. Members include Noel Pearson, Mick Gooda, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, June Oscar, Pat Turner and emerging Melbourne-based Indigenous leader, Benson Saulo. Updates on the outcomes of the advisory panel meetings and related news will be included in *Mungo* next year.

## FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

History has been made with Aboriginal communities in Victoria being the first in the country to elect their First

Peoples' Assembly representatives. After counting the preferences of every voter, the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission has announced the results of the 2019 First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria election. For the Metro area which includes Port Phillip - one of five regions represented - they are (in alphabetical order): Esmerelda Glenda Bamblett, Muriel Pauline Bamblett, Rueben Berg, Carolyn Briggs, Matthew Burns, Tracey Evans, Trevor John Gallagher, Ngarrra Murray and Alister Thorpe. A further nine people have also been appointed by formally recognised Traditional Owner groups with a reserved seat on the First Peoples' Assembly. Over 70 Traditional Owners put their hand up across the state to lead Treaty discussions. The inaugural Assembly meeting will be held on 10 -11 December at Parliament House, Melbourne. Keep up to date with news via <https://victreatyadvancement.org.au/>

*Note:* The recently launched Treaty Advancement possum skin cloak, a mosaic of 72 possum pelts inscribed with art, messages and sentiments from 288 Aboriginal people across Victoria during the Commission's extensive Treaty roadshow, will be displayed at the Melbourne Museum until Feb 2020.

## COUNCIL NEWS

The City of Port Phillip will look at a report on **Wednesday 4 December** that investigates the holding of a Morning of Mourning ceremony on **Sunday 26 January 2020** to *'recognise and commemorate the loss of country, and a remembrance of Ancestors and Elders who maintained traditional elements of our community's ancient cultural heritage since colonisation circa 1835'*. The Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council, the legal arm of the Boon Wurrung Foundation, approached Council with the concept. Discussions have taken place between the then Mayor, Dick Gross, (Cr Bernadene Voss is the current Mayor), and the CEO of the National Australia Day Council in Canberra, with the latter being supportive of local Indigenous ceremonies for Australia Day where the morning stage is one of solemnity and Indigenous recognition.

Council is once again hosting its annual Indigenous arts festival, Yalukut Weelam Ngargee, at O'Donnell Gardens in St Kilda, near Luna Park, on **Saturday 1 February 2020**. The line-up of artists, a mixture of established and emerging, is still to be announced. Check their website closer to the date: [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au)

## RECVIC AND ANTAR AGMS

Following a warm Welcome to those gathered on Wurundjeri Country, Moderator Charles Pakana knitted things together between the formal part of the meeting, including elections, and introducing the guest speakers: Thomas Mayor, a staunch advocate for the Uluru Statement of the Heart; Lidia Thorpe, the first Aboriginal woman in Victoria's Parliament; and Belinda Duarte, Co-Chair RecVic. Each spoke passionately, often from differing perspectives, during a day full of

respectful, robust discussion focused on unpacking what Treaty, Statement from the Heart and Self-Determination look like in the midst of ongoing injustice, and what we as group members can do at a grassroots level. We were sung to by Wurundjeri woman Chenile Chandler, a talented up-and-coming singer, and heard some fascinating yarns from Uncle Jim Berg to round out the day. Refer RecVic's Statewide Reconciliation Forums page for news.

### VALE JANE TOMBS

Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson's warm and personal Acknowledgement of Country to her dear friend Jane Tombs set the tone for the service for this long-time PPCfR member who passed away in October. Rosemary Rule gave a brief outline of Jane's



involvement with the group, and Dennis Fisher spoke movingly about Jane, finishing with a short poem he'd written in her honour. She will be missed.

**Jane Tombs was a long-term member of PPCfR and sadly passed away in October.**

### SENATOR PATRICK DODSON IN MACNAMARA

Senator Dodson delivered the Marek Edelman Lecture *On the Road to Reconciliation* to a packed audience in the Glen Eira Town Hall on 7 November. Senator Dodson eloquently interwove elements of Edelman's story with those of Aboriginal Australians and their treatment by successive governments. He also expressed his dismay at the dismissal of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the latest plan for a Voice to Government. Boon Wurrung Elder Janet Galpin delivered a warm Welcome to Country. Interesting speeches followed from MC Arnold Zable who had met Marek Edelman in Warsaw, and Josh Burns, Member for Macnamara, who organised the event on behalf of Labor's Jewish Bund. Guests included Labor luminaries Mark Dreyfus and John Thwaites, several former COPP councilors, and current PPCfR members. Event proceeds were donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.  
*Rosemary Rule*

### MARNGROOK FOOTY SHOW

For the past 12 years, Leila Gurruwiwi and her Marngrook Footy Show colleagues have presented a popular sports panel program that serves Australia's Indigenous audience and beyond, but last month, SBS axed the NITV show. Leila says she as well as the show's creator and host, Grant Hansen, and the

rest of the team behind it are '*not going down without a fight*' and '*hope that common sense prevails*'. Since news that Marngrook Footy Show would no longer be airing on Indigenous-produced TV station NITV, an online petition has fuelled momentum as it campaigns for the show to continue on another network, if not SBS or NITV.

### RACHEL PERKINS BOYER LECTURE

In her 2019 Boyer Lecture *The End of Silence*, Rachel Perkins echoed the Uluru Statement from the Heart's call for a First Nations Voice to Parliament and a process of agreement-making and truth-telling between governments and Indigenous peoples, to enable a deeper understanding of this nation's shared past and a path towards Reconciliation. Rachel reminded us of the significance of the Uluru Statement and why it's the most important message Indigenous people have sent to their fellow Australians in over four decades, and referenced the work her father Charles Perkins and others did. The three 2019 Boyer Lectures were broadcast on ABC RN and are available as podcasts on the ABC Listen app, Apple and other podcasting apps.

### NATIONAL DREAMTIME AWARDS

Former Labor senator and two-time Olympian, Nova Peris, was honoured as the recipient for the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 Dreamtime Awards. Tennis star Ashleigh Barty was named Person of the Year and Female Sportsperson of the Year. Other winners included Institute of the Year: Koorie Education, Deakin University, and Female Artist of the Year: Jessica Mauboy.  
Details: [www.dreamtimeawards.com.au](http://www.dreamtimeawards.com.au)

### CULTURE IS LIFE

Belinda Duarte is the CEO of Culture is Life which supports and promotes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led solutions to affirm and strengthen culture and to prevent youth suicide. The incidence of suicide among Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 24 is four times higher than that of non-Aboriginal young people, and the prevalence of intentional self-harm among Aboriginal young people is more than two times higher than for non-Aboriginal young people. The interconnected issues of cultural dislocation, personal trauma and the ongoing stresses of disadvantage, racism, alienation and exclusion have contributed to heightened risk of mental health problems, substance misuse and suicide. Culture is Life recognises the complexity of the issues and backs Aboriginal-led solutions that deepen connection to culture and country for Aboriginal young people.  
<https://www.cultureislife.org> to learn more.

### ILF TRIVIA NIGHT

Come along to a night of book trivia, laughter and fundraising to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's programs in remote Indigenous communities, with Brian Nankervis as host.  
**Wednesday 4 December, 6:00 pm, Fitzroy Town**

Hall, 201 Napier Street, Fitzroy. Seating is limited; bookings essential. Contact ILF, info@ilf.org.au

### HONOURING WILLIAM COOPER'S KRISTALLNACHT PROTEST

*Kristallnacht Cantata - A Voice of Courage* is a musical event honouring the 81st anniversary of the Kristallnacht protest by Indigenous leader, William Cooper. The program includes an introduction to the story that inspired the Cantata, a performance by the Indigenous choir Yeng Gali Mullum, and more.

**Sunday 8 December**, 7.00 pm, Temple Beth Israel, 76 Alma Road, St Kilda. Tickets \$49, \$39; [www.trybooking.com/BGPFA](http://www.trybooking.com/BGPFA)

### BUNJILAKA MUSEUM

As well as the exhibitions, there are daily eel feedings at 1.45 pm. Watch the short-finned eels in Milarri Pond enjoy their daily feed, learn about the importance of these fish to Aboriginal people and our aquatic ecosystems, and see the animals that share the eel pond: native silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*) and Macquarie turtles (*Emydura macquarii*). Included in Museum entry fee.

### NGV EXHIBITIONS

*Marking Time* explores the persistence of images, signs or text painted or drawn on a range of surfaces in

Indigenous Australia, from ancient times until now. NGV Australia, Federation Square, free, until end Jan. *Black Bamboo: Contemporary Furniture Design From Mer, Torres Strait*, is a shared curatorial initiative between the National Gallery of Victoria, Cairns Art Gallery and Gab Titui Cultural Centre, with the support of Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC. NGV Fed Square until April.

### KOORI HERITAGE TRUST

Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency Workshop for Individuals and Small Groups, **Thursday 5 December**, 9.30 am-1.00 pm, \$240. Details: Koori Heritage Trust, Federation Square, 8662 6300.

### RECOMMENDED READS

*Sand Talk – How Indigenous Thinking Can Save The World* - Tyson Yunkaporta; *Too Much Lip* - Melissa Lucashenko; *Dark Emu, Dark Emu Junior* and *Salt* - Bruce Pascoe; *The White Girl* - Tony Birch; *Born Again Blakfella* - Jack Charles; *Tell Me Why* - Archie Roach; *Finding the Heart of the Nation* - Thomas Mayor; *Welcome to Country (youth edition), An Introduction to our First Peoples for Young Australians* - Marcia Langton; *After the Carnage* - Tara June Winch; *Barbed Wire and Cherry Blossoms* - Anita Heiss; *Deep Time Dreaming* - Billie Griffiths; *Gulpillil* – Derek Reilly.

Our AGM at the Emerald Hill Library in November was well-attended by members and friends of PPCFR.





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# 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Wominjeka – Welcome

*Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respects to their Elders, both past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.*

### Elections

At the Annual General Meeting on 20 November 2018, I read my Chair's Report, which was moved and accepted, as was Fiona Olney-Fraser's Treasurer's Report. The following officers were unanimously elected to the PPCfR Committee: Co-Chairs - Rosemary Rule and Dennis Fisher; Treasurer - Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary – Deb Stewart; Committee Members - Jo Bond and Denis Frankel. I value and appreciate your continued support that keeps our group strong and vibrant.

Afterwards, special guest Morris Stewart, conductor of the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, spoke of the journey he and his wife Barbara had taken since visiting Alice Springs in 2006 on a painting expedition and accepting an invitation to get a choir to sing some African freedom songs. This led to their involvement with the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, concerts at the Sydney Opera House and Melbourne Recital Centre, performances in Germany, a documentary, and television appearances. It was encouraging to hear that the choir's achievements help change the social architecture of how Aboriginal people are perceived by the broader community.

### Activities

PPCfR's 2018 Reconciliation Writing Competition was a resounding success, culminating in a wonderful awards presentation at the Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park, on 16 October, attended by many of the finalists, their families, teachers and friends. While entries came in from around Victoria, the bulk were from St Mary's Primary, Albert Park Primary and Albert Park College. The judges - Bryan Andy, Tony Birch and Clare Bradford, selected the 18 finalists who were presented with a certificate, a cash prize and a complimentary copy of the booklet containing all the winning entries. The hard work of my colleagues Deb Stewart, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Gael Wilson, Jo Bond,

Sushena Krishnaswamy, Janine Wilder and Vivienne McCutcheon, was well rewarded. We had a lot of support from Martin Foley, MP; Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson; the City of Port Phillip - particularly Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy; sponsors Graeme Wilson of Wilson Agents, who donated the \$500 First Prize for adults; Geoff Cayzer of Cayzer Real Estate; Greg Hocking; Vivienne McCutcheon, the late Andrew McCutcheon and Helen Sykes on behalf of Future Leaders; Benson Saulo and Dr Kate Reid; Provincial Events; and the Avenue Bookstore's Chris Redfern, Scott MacNeil and staff.

Another successful event the group hosted was our Treaty - A Community Conversation forum at the St Kilda Town Hall on 22 August, attracting 140 people. Boon Wurrung Elder Janet Galpin's insightful and personal Welcome to Country set the tone for an informative evening and the audience was very engaged as they listened to the inspiring speakers - Diana David, RecVic CEO, and Richard Frankland, academic, author and songwriter. My thanks to the wonderful team whose hard work ensured the event ran so smoothly.

### Guest Speakers

We were privileged to hear from some interesting speakers at our monthly meetings. Last August, Todd Condie treated us to a fascinating insight into the workings of a North Queensland Aboriginal Corporation of which he is a board member, Dreamtime stories, and his career path which has led to him to being engaged as COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer. In March this year we heard a frank and fascinating talk from Alison Craigie-Parsons about her cultural



Guest Speaker Alison Craigie-Parsons (right) with PPCfR member Fiona Olney-Fraser.

heritage, life and current work as Coordinator, Indigenous Access & Equity at Star Health, St Kilda. In May, historian Sue Taffe spoke about her book *A White Hot Flame* which details the life of visionary campaigner for justice for First Australians, Mary Montgomerie Bennett. In July, Wiradjuri woman Michelle Griffiths from the Australian Dingo Foundation, spoke about our native dingoes and shared her poetry.

### National Sorry Day Lunch

Around 110 guests squeezed into the South Melbourne Community Centre on 24 May (two days ahead of the official date) to commemorate this significant day. They included Boon Wurrung Foundation Elder David Tournier who performed a Welcome to Country; COPP Mayor Dick Gross; Councillors Tim Baxter and David Brand; Martin Foley, Member for Albert Park; Sue Pennicuik; Serge Thomann; Elder Judith Jackson, RecVic's CEO Diana David; Father Turi Hollis; teachers and students from St Michael's Grammar; and groups from DOXA Youth Foundation's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, Gowrie Victoria, Star Health and Galiamble Men's Alcohol and Drug Recovery Centre. Todd Condie invited guests to observe a minute's silence to reflect on the Stolen Generations commemorated on Sorry Day, and on the unacceptably high rates of suicide among Indigenous youth. PPCfR Co-Chair Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish, performed as MC, reading poems and interacting with the audience in a most engaging way. In between songs, Pirritu Brett Lee yarned about his background. Auntie Jacko and Todd presented the door prizes, including tickets from AFL's Indigenous group to the Dreamtime at the G game. It was another very special day that drew positive feedback from guests and subsequent invitations for other speaking engagements.



(Left to right) Pirritu Brett Lee, Dennis Fisher, Elder Judith Jackson and Diana David at our Sorry Day lunch. (Below) COPP's Jordan Sutardy (left) and Todd Condie with St Michael's Grammar students.



### Networks

PPCfR members continue to connect with and support several community groups, attending the Local Reconciliation Groups' forums hosted by RecVic

and ANTAR Victoria, and the BlakWiz celebration for Reconciliation Stonnington's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (Our team came a close second.) We've also supported and promoted the work of the Homeless Memorial, Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda Baptist Church and the Boon Wurrung Foundation, amongst others.

As a follow up to the Sorry Day lunch, PPCfR Co-Chair Dennis Fisher was invited to speak to a whole-school assembly at St Michael's Grammar in July. Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy went along with him for what they later described as a particularly meaningful event. Later, Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and I were invited by Children's Garden Kindercare in South Melbourne to be their special guests at a fundraiser to support Steiner Education and the Miriam Rose Foundation.

### People

I'd like pass on my condolences to the family of Ian Spalding, a founding member of the group, who passed away in April, and to another dedicated member, Jane Tombs, who died in October. I'd like to congratulate Parbin-ata Carolyn Briggs AM of the Boon Wurrung on her election as one of the 21 members of Victoria's First Peoples Treaty Assembly.

### Communications

*Mungo*, our monthly newsletter, continues to be a good news source for events, circulating annually to over 3,500 as well as members of RecVic and Rec Stonnington via their e-networks. I'm very appreciative of Fiona Olney-Fraser's expert editorial and design help; the staff in Martin Foley's electoral office who print copies; Jo Bond who then sends out the snail mail version; Todd Condie who emails the online version; and Joe Malignaggi who posts the newsletter on our [ppcfr.org](http://ppcfr.org) website no matter where in the world he is.

### City of Port Phillip (COPP)

We acknowledge the many initiatives generated by the Council under the guidance of Todd Condie and we're proud to be a member of their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) working group and attend and support their well-organised events during Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. We also acknowledge the appointment of Jordan Sutardy as Aboriginal Health and Reconciliation Officer, and Jarra Karalinar Steel as Indigenous Arts Officer.

I am grateful for the ongoing financial and personal support our group receives from councillors and staff.

### Looking Ahead

We plan to present another Writing Competition for adults and students next year, a lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day and another Treaty-focused forum. We also welcome ideas and suggestions for guest speakers and other activities in 2020. In the meantime, I'd especially like to thank the core group of people who willingly give up their time and who work hard to maintain PPCfR's profile as an important and active community group; one that makes a difference.

**Rosemary Rule, Co-Chair, 26 November 2019**

