

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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February 2018

WOMINDJEKA FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Welcome to another year working together in our community. I must say I was heartened to see that Welcome to Country ceremonies featured significantly in the New Year's Eve celebrations hosted by Melbourne and Sydney City Councils, and hope they will set a positive tone for 2018. Much discussion continues about how or when to celebrate Australia Day, perhaps more poignant because 26 January 2018 also marked several significant milestones. *Mungo's* deadline for printing means it's difficult to report on this year's activities, however, updates on the contentious issue of Australia Day being celebrated on 26 January will continue to appear over the coming months. Some of the (many) views expressed on the matter are mentioned inside.

Writing Competition

We're keen to follow on from the great success of our Building Bridges 2016 Reconciliation Writing Competition by presenting the event again this year. Entries will be sought across the state from adults and students and prize money offered in the various categories. I'd love to hear from anyone interested in helping in any way, perhaps promoting the competition in a school, local community or writing group? We'll talk about the idea and start planning the 2018 competition at our February meeting, however, if you can't attend, please contact me directly.

Yalukut Weelam Ngargee

Yalukut Weelam means 'river home' or 'people of the river' and is a clan of the Boon Wurrung people. Ngargee means to gather for celebration, thus a highly appropriate name for our very own local Indigenous-focused music and cultural festival held in O'Donnell Gardens, St Kilda, Saturday 3 February, noon-9.00 pm. The line-up for this 13th YWN includes the Indigenous Hip Hop troupe Baker Boy, as well as Benny Walker, Brett Lee, Emily Wurramura, Kamali, Robert K

Champion, Lady Lash and soprano Shauntai Batzke who will be on the main stage, plus a range of family-friendly activities elsewhere around the park. Free event. Proudly sponsored by the City of Port Phillip. For details visit www.ywnf.com.au.



Emily Wurramura, one of the YWN Festival performers, sings in both English and Anindilyakwa, the traditional language of her home on Groote Eylandt, NT.

Get Involved

Naturally I encourage you to support our local Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation group, to come along to meetings – newcomers are warmly welcomed – and to read *Mungo*, and pass it on to others, so as to keep informed about issues and events including those of our very supportive Council. They are leaders in the local government arena with their commitment to Reconciliation and to promoting locally-based initiatives. Please think about becoming involved with the peak bodies Reconciliation Victoria and ANTaR Victoria (Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation). Each provides news on politics and topical matters relevant to Victoria relating to our First Nations Peoples.

Vale Andrew McCutcheon

On behalf of PPCfR, I'd like to extend my condolences to Vivienne McCutcheon and her family following the death of Andrew late last year. Andrew's thoughtful insights and suggestions based on many years of experience in a host of areas were always highly valued. Details of his State memorial service held at the St Kilda Town Hall on 30 January will appear in next month's issue.

Rosemary Rule

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

AUSTRALIA DAY

In 2018, the national celebration of this controversial date once again sparked much public and political discussion while marking some significant things.

It appears there is growing support for changing the date of Australia Day as a poll released mid-January showed most people don't know what they are actually celebrating. Just 38 per cent of people surveyed by The Australia Institute knew that 26 January commemorates the landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove. Interestingly, 58 per cent said they didn't mind when Australia Day was held as long as it was celebrated. The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples' survey on the date of Australia Day revealed that 83 per cent of the 1600 respondents surveyed so far supported a change.

It wasn't until 1994 that all states and territories began to celebrate a unified public holiday on 26 January. This year the date marked 230 years since the lives of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation changed forever. It commemorated 80 years since an inspired and courageous group of Aboriginal men and women gathered at Australia Hall in Sydney for a 'Day of Mourning' and to demand education, full citizenship and equality for all. It marked 30 years since one of the largest rallies in Australia's history was held in Sydney, where people demanded recognition, respect and rights for First Nations people. As many Indigenous leaders noted, the date will continue to mark the beginning of the brutal and ongoing dispossession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this country.

Meanwhile in Melbourne, 'celebrations' included an Invasion Day Rally held in the CBD, the *Share the Spirit* Balit Narrun Festival in the Treasury Gardens featuring Dan Sultan and Archie Roach, and the Belgrave Survival Day Festival that featured Gawurra Gaykamangu. RecVic says that commemorating Australia Day has been questioned since at least 1938, when Aboriginal organisations declared it a Day of Mourning. The day has also become known to many since then as 'Invasion Day' as well as 'Survival Day'.

Momentum continues to build to #changethedate. Yarra, Darebin, Moreland and Hobart City Councils have now all voted to make changes to how they mark 26 January, and numerous other councils around the country are also reflecting on their practices and considering their position. More recently, Triple J's decision to shift the date of their annual Hottest 100 Countdown, and Triple M's reactionary response, has stimulated more conversation and debate. These are important conversations to have - and they will continue in the lead up to 26 January in 2018 and beyond.

RecVic supports a continuing national conversation about shifting Australia Day from 26 January. Such a conversation would help us reflect on who we are as a nation, what we stand for, and what date in our history best reflects those values and attributes. RecVic has prepared a position statement and suggestions for

councils. The organisation encourages all Victorians to reconsider how we celebrate Australia Day and to read their position statement. RecVic also provides advice to local government and community members around how to approach 26 January respectfully. Visit www.reconciliationvictoria.org.au

ANTAR National's website presents their views on changing the date of Australia Day and promotes a pledge: *I acknowledge that to the First Peoples of Australia 26 January is a painful reminder of the invasion of their lands and the onset of the Frontier Wars, dispossession, massacres and oppression. I acknowledge the resilience and resistance of First Peoples in the face of that invasion, and their ongoing survival as the oldest living culture on the planet.* Find out more via www.antar.org.au

Rod Little, Co-Chair, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples says that in 2018, all Australians have the historical opportunity to support calls for a Treaty or Makarrata (a Yolgnu word for coming together after a conflict) to provide an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to move forward in partnership with the Australian government.

Greens leader Richard Di Natale started 2018 by campaigning to move Australia Day from 26 January which has prompted accusations from the Turnbull government that the party is attacking national unity. The Greens' decision to make changing the date a top priority '*could end up being more divisive than helpful*' warned Labor MP Linda Burney.

Linda Burney, Shadow Human Services Minister, who is the first Indigenous woman elected to the Federal Lower House, said that the Greens were turning Australia Day '*into a political issue*' and called for a renewed focus on [the Uluru Statement](#) for constitutional recognition and a voice to parliament. But Burney, who told Radio National that 26 January was '*extremely painful*' to First Australians, is an unlikely critic of the Greens' campaign because she is sympathetic to the idea of moving the date. Asked about Labor's position, Burney said there was '*no proposal to change the date*' and '*it won't change any time soon*'. But the opposition wanted Australians to '*think deeply about the truth and true history of this country and [have] it be a day of reflection*', she said. Linda Burney said 26 January was not a day of celebration for First Peoples, and represented the usurping of Aboriginal culture and '*the attack on sovereignty*'. '*The Labor position is very clear and it is broader than just whether we're going to change the date ... that's a very narrow way to look at the issue of Indigenous affairs,*' she said.

Alex Hawke, Assistant Immigration Minister, said he has not heard a '*reasonable argument*' to support changing the date of [Australia Day](#). Hawke said the

national day should not be moved 'just because we have some elements of our history that we're not proud of'.

City of Port Phillip wants to hold further discussions with Port Phillip's Indigenous community before considering whether to change how they celebrate Australia Day while acknowledging it is an important issue that they want to take the time to get right.

People wanting to have their voices heard on the issues can lobby their state and federal politicians, join campaigns mounted by organisations including Amnesty International and Get Up, listen to the considered voices of Indigenous Australians and follow the debate on dedicated Indigenous programs on NITV and ABC's Radio National.

STONNINGTON NEWS

Reconciliation Stonnington will meet next on the second Wednesday of the month, 14 February 2018, at Prahran Community Learning Centre at 6.00 pm. We will prepare for the annual Flavours Festival and discuss some articles on 'Change the Date' to be handed out at our Flavours information stall. All welcome to the meeting. Enquiries to Ro, 9819 9106.

KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST MOVES

Due to the proposed redevelopment of Federation Square, the Koorie Heritage Trust will be relocated from the Yarra Building to the Alfred Deakin Building at Fed Square. Following the announcement KHT issued this statement: '*The Koorie Heritage Trust's Board of Management has made the decision to capitalise on a rare opportunity to relocate the Trust to larger premises but remaining as a crucial element of Federation Square's cultural and creative tenancy. The decision by the Trust's Board was reached after much deliberation.*'

SWEET COUNTRY

Keith Gove and I went to a preview of Warwick Thornton's latest prize-winning film *Sweet Country* at the Nova cinema, followed by a talk by Warwick. The film is based on a true story and set in the Kimberley region and is about soldiers returning from the First World War and their relationships with Aboriginal people who work on their properties. It stars Brian Brown and Sam Neill. The Aboriginal stars are all new to the screen and chosen by Warwick from local people only three weeks before filming began.

It was interesting to hear Warwick speak after the film. The main character, Sam Kelly played by Hamilton Morris, finishes up in chains. Warwick explained that this was very emotional for Hamilton as he recalled that his grandfather had been chained in the past. Coming soon to a cinema near you.

Ro Bailey, RecStonnington.

2018 COMMUNITY HART AWARDS:

Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together

These Awards recognise and promote local governments and community organisations that are

advancing Reconciliation in Victoria. The awards are presented by RecVic and the Victorian Local Governance Association, with support from Bank Australia and Local Government Victoria. More information on the nomination process will be available in RecVic's February eNews and website.

CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE AND CULTURE

Ten years have passed since the Federal Government apologised to the Stolen Generation. Join Bunjilaka to start the day with a smoking ceremony and then hear about the significance of this moment in our history. Tuesday 13 February, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm, Bunjilaka Aboriginal Culture Centre, Melbourne Museum. Information via www.museumsvictoria.com.au

WE DON'T NEED A MAP

Filmmaker Warwick Thornton's documentary investigates our relationship to the Southern Cross in this irreverent ride through Australia's cultural and political landscape. For Aboriginal people the meaning of this heavenly body is deeply spiritual. By contrast, the star-adorned Eureka Flag was emblematic of protest and defiance, a quality that caused it to be adopted by activists and lately the darker side of Australian nationalism. Join filmmaker Warwick Thornton for a Q&A after the screening on Saturday 3 February at ACMI, Federation Square.

FAIRFIELD IN FEBRUARY

Spend a beautiful summer afternoon by the river with family and friends and enjoy some of Melbourne's best music and performances. Bring a picnic or grab food at the kiosk from local vendors. Sunday 4 February, 5.00-7.30 pm, with Emma Donovan and the The Putbacks, Kylie Auldish and NIASHA. On Sunday 18 February, 5.00-7.30 pm, 3CR presents Communities of Sound, Kutcha Edwards, Thando and more. On at the Fairfield Amphitheatre, Fairfield Park Drive. Hosted by Yarra City Council.

THE KOORIE ART SHOW

The Koorie Art Show is the Koorie Heritage Trust's annual event showcasing the diverse talent of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in one inclusive space. The show is an open-entry, non-acquisitive award exhibition, presenting the works of emerging to senior Koorie and Victorian-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. All entries are exhibited in the KHT's Gallery at Federation Square and all are for sale to the public (including the winning works). There are over 130 works on show from across regional and rural Victoria. The exhibition runs until Sunday 25 February.

ART EXHIBITION

Confined 9 features artworks by Indigenous artists who are part of the Torch's Indigenous Arts in Prison program which runs until Wednesday 14 March in the Carlisle Street Art Space (formerly known as the City of Port Phillip's Gallery at St Kilda Town Hall).

