

# Mungo...



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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 2019

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Womin Djek

Welcome to 2019, a year declared the International Year of Indigenous Languages - a timely reminder that Australia is home to more than 250 distinct languages, dating back 12,000 years or more. Today, only around 120 of those languages are still strongly spoken, and unfortunately some are also at risk of being lost as Elders pass away. Find out more about First Peoples' languages in Australia via <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/indigenous-australian-languages>. Meanwhile, I invite you to become involved with our group and talk about a range of other topics such as 26 January, Treaty, constitutional recognition, activities within our City of Port Phillip, and our events such as Sorry Day. Newcomers are warmly welcomed. Please note that for the foreseeable future, our monthly meetings will be held in the South Melbourne Town Hall's Multi-Purpose Room, first door on Fishley Street, up the stairs opposite the Theatrette.



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**Indigenous Languages**

### Yaluk-ut Weelam Ngargee (YWN)

This family-friendly local event celebrates Australia's Indigenous cultures and local talent with Mojo Juju, The Merindas, Squid Nebula, Kalyani Mumtaz, Brett Lee, Robert Champion and Kee'ahn, plus market stalls, face painting, crafts and workshops including creating miniature gardens using recycled materials. This year the inaugural YWN Summer Concert will be held at Memo Music Hall on **Friday 1 February**, and will be remembering Louisa Briggs, an important figure in the clan's history, followed by the Festival next day in O'Donnell Gardens, St Kilda. <https://ywnf.com.au>

### 26 January

Discussions continue about Australian identity and the place of the First Peoples and their relationship with non-Aboriginal Australians, including moves to change our

national day celebrations from 26 January. The implications of these discussions for local governments have been making news. At the time of writing, the City of Port Phillip was in the process of considering a 'notice of motion' with regard to holding a Mourning Ceremony that will outline Aboriginal Australian aspects of history, prior to their 26 January citizenship ceremony. On the day, Invasion Day events were held in Treasury Gardens, Parliament House and Belgrave. *Mungo's* print deadlines means I can't review them, but have included an item about the on-going debate below.

### Aboriginal Heritage Walks

Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish, PPCfR's Co-Chair, conducts Aboriginal Heritage Walks at the Botanic Gardens and forwarded some recent feedback: *'Den gave our group a wondrous experience. A palpable connection to the land and a desire for more understanding of Aboriginal culture were heavily fostered throughout the walk.'* You can ask for Den when booking a walking tour at [www.rbg.vic.gov.au/whats-on/aboriginal-heritage-walkon](http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/whats-on/aboriginal-heritage-walkon), or 9252 429.

### Vale Noelleen Ward

It is with sadness that I report that Noelleen, our inspiring and highly-regarded friend and member, passed away in December shortly before her 92nd birthday. A large crowd gathered in St. Silas Anglican Church, Albert Park, on 22 December to celebrate her remarkable life, hearing about her love for her family, especially her devoted husband Harry, her letter writing campaigns and lifelong commitment to social justice. Judith Jackson's Acknowledgement of Country set the tone for those who spoke about different aspects of her life, including my short speech about Noelleen's involvement with our group. My condolences to Harry and all the family.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next meeting: 6.30 pm, Tuesday 19 February**  
South Melbourne Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room (opp. Theatrette), Fishley Street, South Melbourne.  
**All Welcome.**

## 26 JANUARY DEBATE

Australia Day has been known by various names over the years and has been held on different dates. It was in 1935 that 26 January was first christened 'Australia Day', and in 1994 the date became official, with 26 January originally celebrating the arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships in 1788. It is now widely believed that to have a truly inclusive national celebration for all Australians, a day needs to be found that includes, honours and celebrates the First Nations peoples who have lived on this land for over 60,000 years. 26 January's Australia Day for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a painful day that marks the start of colonisation. Rodney Dillon, Palawa man and Indigenous Rights Advisor at Amnesty International Australia says that: *'26 January is a hard day for all of our mob. Aboriginal people always feel sad on Australia Day; it marks the end of freedom for our people.'*

Along with the Let'sChangeTheDate campaign and calls from other prominent people, ANTaR Victoria and RecVic have each announced their support for a continuing national conversation about shifting our national day from 26 January to help reflect on who we are as a nation, what we stand for, and what date in our history best reflects these values and attributes. Late last year, RecVic wrote to the Mayors and CEOs of all of Victoria's 79 councils encouraging them to carefully consider how they commemorate the day, urging them to consult with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community about how to appropriately mark the day. They provided some simple ways to mark 26 January respectfully, and ways to acknowledge members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. See RecVic's Protocols and Suggestions via Maggolee ([www.maggolee.org.au](http://www.maggolee.org.au)) which provides resources for and about local government Reconciliation efforts.

## CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION REPORT

The Joint Select Committee on constitutional recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples presented its final report to the Parliament in November. According to Senator Pat Dodson who co-chaired the Committee it is too soon for Australia to go to a referendum on the question of constitutional recognition of Indigenous people. The report presented a clear argument for both constitutional recognition and a constitutionally-enshrined Voice to parliament. Senator Dodson and his co-chair Liberal MP Julian Leeser have previously stated their support for constitutional recognition *'as a part of the broader project of Reconciliation and recognition of their unique status in our nation'*. As the final report stated: *'In order to achieve a design for The Voice that best suits the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Committee recommends that the Australian Government initiate a process of co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.'*

The final report comes after years of advocacy for constitutional recognition including work by the Referendum Council, an expert panel established by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, a previous Joint Select Committee and last year's Uluru Statement from the Heart that called for an Indigenous Voice to federal parliament which was rejected by former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. The final report is available at [www.aph.gov.au/jsccr](http://www.aph.gov.au/jsccr).

*Footnote:* PPCfR received an unsolicited submission to the Joint Select Committee from David Latimer, developed after he read the Uluru Statement from the Heart. David, who was elected to the anti-racism committee at Sydney University as an undergraduate, was involved in the movement for an Australian Republic and presented views on constitutional reform at the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee in 2004 and 2008. He is currently working as a cultural consultant and author based in Beijing, and is not a member of a political party. He prepared a submission to the discussion on how the Voice could be incorporated into Australia's constitutional system. David's proposal was accepted for a brief mention in the final report on constitutional recognition.

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Constitutional\\_Recognition\\_2018/ConstRecognition/Final\\_Report/section?id=committees%2freportjnt%2f024213%2f26674#footnote43ref](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Constitutional_Recognition_2018/ConstRecognition/Final_Report/section?id=committees%2freportjnt%2f024213%2f26674#footnote43ref)

## WELCOME PROTOCOL UPDATES

The Welcomes and Acknowledgements Protocol has been updated on the Aboriginal Victoria website. This includes a new interactive map which shows the boundaries of the Formally Recognised Traditional Owners throughout Victoria. This map includes a search bar for street addresses. Clicking on any location on the map tells you if Traditional Owners have been formally recognised for the area, who to contact to organise a Welcome to Country, and who to refer to in an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners. Updates have also been made to clarify the advice set out in the Protocol, including:

- advice as to why it is important to follow the Protocol
- explanations of the circumstances in which a Welcome to Country or a specific Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners is appropriate
- a list of all Formally Recognised Traditional Owners and the Traditional Owner name(s) that should be referred to in an Acknowledgement
- advice for plaques, signs, and email signatures.

Where Traditional Owners have not been formally recognised (such as for the Melbourne CBD), the Protocol recommends a general acknowledgement without referencing any Traditional Owner groups in particular. The Protocol was developed in consultation with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group, Native Title Services Victoria and Department of Justice and Regulation Native Title Unit.

## IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Victorian Government is supporting self-determination by improving the community facilities for a number of Aboriginal organisations across Victoria. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gavin Jennings announced a series of grants for Aboriginal organisations across Western Victoria to improve their facilities. They include: Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to develop Stage 1 of a Keeping Place for Gunditjmarra people to reinforce the strengths of its community and culture; Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service Inc for repairs and minor works on the Ngootyoong Mara Cultural Healing Centre; Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative to develop a business case on a multi-purpose facility to promote culture and community engagement; Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Cooperative to develop a business case to investigate bringing its healthcare, community services and corporate services under one roof. Details: <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/boost-for-western-victorian-aboriginal-organisations/>

## REC STONNINGTON NEWS

Rec Stonnington will meet on **Wednesday 13 February** at 6.00 pm in the Prahran Community Learning Centre - all welcome. Enquiries to Ro on 9819 9106. We will discuss some topical articles on Change the Date and how to broach the topic with our local council, and will also be planning our information stall for the annual Stonnington Flavours Festival where we hope to have pebbles available to be painted into paper weights with Aboriginal designs. We recently congratulated the council on finally releasing their new RAP and will be handing out copies at our Flavours stall, so hope to see you there. *Ro Bailey*

## NAPIER STREET HOSTEL ACKNOWLEDGES NAIDOC WEEK

Over the years, a number of our members have been residents at Napier Street Aged Care Hostel in South Melbourne. At the hostel, catering staff traditionally prepare special menus to acknowledge such occasions as Melbourne Cup, Christmas, New Year, Australia Day, Chinese New Year and Bastille Day. It was therefore great to read in their 2018 Annual Report that the catering manager Becky Mariano said: '*...this year, the most notable catering experience we had was during NAIDOC Week. Getting hold of bush spices was a challenge and so, for next year, we vowed to get better in our quest to have good tucker to mark the occasion.*' Congratulations to the catering staff for this initiative. Hopefully more organisations will follow this example.

## INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION (ILF)

The ILF is supporting UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019), raising awareness of the need to preserve and revitalise Indigenous languages. Last year, ILF's programs reached more isolated communities than ever. Their community publishing program provided and shared a strong collection of books which they had developed in

Arabana, Kriol, Pitjantjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra; a record 88,000 books were gifted to 280 remote communities (40% greater than 2017). Eight beautiful new books were published and written by Aboriginal children and Elders, and an early literacy Book Buzz program was gifted to over 30 playgroups and healthcare centres in QLD, WA, SA and NT. [www.ilf.org.au](http://www.ilf.org.au)

## ARTS NEWS

### ***A Night With Uncle Jack***

Spend a night with national treasure, award-winning actor, Aboriginal Elder and activist Uncle Jack Charles, annotating his colourful life and brilliant career in words and music. Hosted by



Jack Charles

broadcaster Namila Benson.

**Saturday 9 February**, 7.00-10.00 pm, The Melba Spiegel tent, 35 Johnston St, Collingwood Tickets \$25 - \$40. Info: 1800 710 499, [www.eventfinda.com.au](http://www.eventfinda.com.au)

### ***Too-roo-dun***

Too-roo-dun has brought together Victorian Aboriginal communities to create an immersive and imagined exhibition celebrating the Bunyip. Curated and developed by Lisa Waup and Baluk Arts together with Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Baluk Arts, Winja Ulupna Women's Recovery Centre, Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place, Casey Yarn & Art Group, and Bunjilwarra Koori Youth Alcohol and Drug Healing Service. Opening celebration 6.00-7.30 pm **Thursday 7 February**, with an Acknowledgement of Country and special guests including Uncle Jack Charles. Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood, until **Friday 29 March**.

### ***Confined 10***

This excellent exhibition showcases the talents of people involved in The Torch's Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program. One hundred percent of the sale price of each artwork goes directly to the artist. At the Carlisle Street Arts Space, St Kilda, until **Wednesday 27 February**; free. [www.thetorch.org.au](http://www.thetorch.org.au)

### **The Torch**

A new coffee table book entitled *Indigenous Artists, A Selection of the Best - The Torch Collection* celebrates the strength of artwork created through The Torch's Prison program, featuring 126 artworks from 77 artists.

### **The Koorie Art Show**

The Koorie Art Show is one of the most important annual exhibitions showcasing Koorie visual arts and artists. It is an open-entry, non-acquisitive Awards exhibition, presenting the works of emerging to senior Koorie and Victorian-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building, Federation Square, until **Sunday 24 February**.

