

# 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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**July 2017**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### NAIDOC Week

This year's NAIDOC Week begins on **Sunday 2 July**. The theme 'Our Languages Matter' aims to promote, celebrate and emphasise the essential role of Indigenous languages for cultural identity, knowledge and history. There are a wide variety of activities and events being held in and around Melbourne. The NAIDOC flag-raising at Federation Square on **Monday 3 July**, 9.30-11.00 am, officially marks the beginning of NAIDOC Week and will include a smoking ceremony, Welcome to Country and a moment of silence for those who have gone before us.

In the City of Port Phillip on **Monday 3 July**, the Council is hosting a NAIDOC Week flag-raising event featuring a Welcome to Country by Boon Wurrung Arweet Carolyn Briggs, a smoking ceremony, catered lunch and musical performances. St Kilda Town Hall (front lawn), 11.00 am - 1.00 pm. All welcome. Galiamble and Winja Ulupna jointly celebrate NAIDOC on **Thursday 6 July**, 12.00-2.00 pm at 10 Mitchell St, St Kilda. More event details inside.

### Reconciliation is a Journey

'*Reconciliation is a Journey*' is how Linda Burney MP, the first Indigenous woman in the House of Representatives, described matters relating to the release of the profoundly significant Uluru Statement (more below). I hope the majority of the 85,000 people who attended the 'Dreamtime at the G' AFL match on 27 May will be inspired to learn more about their Aboriginal brothers and sisters, to encourage the government to engage more meaningfully with the people and communities across the land, and become involved with the Reconciliation process. To this end, I'm pleased to report that Port Melbourne Primary School held a ceremony to mark Mabo Day with a flag-raising, a speech from the Mayor, and a talk by an Aboriginal man about culture and why it is important for young people to hear about it.

### Guest Speaker

Sushena Krishnaswamy, an infectious diseases physician, talked in frank detail about working in the Alice Springs Hospital from 2012-15. To her surprise she discovered that being in Alice Spring made her feel really 'Australian'. Currently studying for a PhD and working at Monash Medical Centre, she's still drawn back to Central Australia. All those present at the June meeting had much to think about after Sushena's insightful and thought-provoking talk.

### Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll

An unusually large number of people gathered in the St Kilda Town Hall to congratulate 2016 Honour Roll Inductee, Judith 'Jacko' Jackson. Speakers, including the Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss and Indigenous Policy Officer Todd Condie, confirmed that through her work, Jacko is the 'glue' that binds the community together. A delighted Jacko spoke about her early life, arriving in St Kilda and then making Melbourne her home. There are 89 people already on the Roll; nominations are open for 2017.



**Judith 'Jacko' Jackson celebrating with Todd Condie, Rosemary Rule and Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss at the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll presentation.**

### Homeless Memorial

A moving commemoration took place on 21 June at Peanut Farm, St Kilda. An Acknowledgement of Country was given by Aunty Jacko, and Marbee Williams presented a smoking ceremony. We gave a donation and members attended the event.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next meeting: Tuesday 18 July, 6.30 pm**  
South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street,  
South Melbourne. **All Welcome.**

## NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC Week celebrations will be held from **Sunday 2 July to Sunday 9 July**. This year's theme – Our Languages Matter – aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, in linking people to their land and water, and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song. Join hundreds of people expected to join the NAIDOC March, **Friday 7 July**, 10.30 am: pre-March Festival, 11.45 am: March, starting from the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and finishing at Federation Square. For details of events being held around Victoria, contact NAIDOC Victoria, [vicnaidoc@gmail.com](mailto:vicnaidoc@gmail.com)

## LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

The National Gallery of Victoria (Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia) will be holding a discussion with Boon Wurrung Elder Arweet Carolyn Briggs and Wiradjuri writer, teacher and academic Jeanine Leane highlighting the role of language in shaping identity, and why the preservation of Indigenous language is so important. **Sunday 9 July**, 12.30 pm. Entry into the event is free however bookings are recommended. For more information/bookings contact the NGV.

## MAKARRATA

At the time this issue of *Mungo* was being prepared, the Government was about to deliver its final report on Indigenous constitutional change: details next month.

Meanwhile, Labor Senator and Aboriginal leader Pat Dodson demanded that *'the stubborn stains in our racist Constitution'* be removed. He noted that the key points from the Referendum Council's convention called for a new representative body and a pathway toward treaties, and that the Opposition frontbench called for leaders not to discard the 2012 recommendations. He said that Australia cannot move forward while our founding document *'embodies our racist past.'* Senator Dodson was disappointed that the meeting did not push for the so-called race powers to be taken out. He said: *'Having an Indigenous voice enshrined in the Constitution without amending the Constitution to remove racially entrenched ideologies is puzzling. It seems to assume that an Indigenous voice in the Constitution could be strong enough to challenge the entrenched structural racism which shapes the policies and laws that affect the lives of Aboriginal people without removing the racist elements of the Constitution.'*

**Background:** Delegates at the First Nations Constitutional Convention at Uluru in May issued a powerful *Statement from the Heart*. They called for the establishment of a 'First Nations Voice' enshrined in the Australian Constitution, and a commission to progress treaty-making between governments and Indigenous people. The Uluru Statement reflects long-held Indigenous aspirations, but, in rejecting symbolic constitutional recognition, it puts pressure on Australia's political leaders. Will they – and non-Indigenous Australians – listen? Not a unanimous view. While consensus was indeed not unanimous and sparked a great deal of public debate, what came out

was the statement reflecting a strong consensus position of Indigenous Australians; the culmination of three days of meetings at Uluru following six months of regional dialogues held across Australia. The delegates believe this can be achieved through a national representative body with the power to advise parliament on laws that affect Indigenous people, and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations while also undertaking a public truth-telling process. (Makarrata is a Yolngu word meaning 'a coming together after a struggle').

**Note:** Makarrata will be the central theme at this year's Garma Festival in Arnhem Land in August. Learn more: Uluru Statement – [www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au) Referendum Council – [www.referendumcouncil.org.au/dialogues](http://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/dialogues)

## SOME THOUGHTS ON MAKARRATA

It was devastating to hear Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce publicly rejecting the Uluru proposals for an Indigenous Advisory Body to our parliament without apparently having read the Uluru report. If we are to progress as a united Australia, we are necessarily going to have to reconcile our past histories. The post-1788 Australia will have to incorporate the pre-1788 First Nations' 50,000 years of history of caring for this great continent and its environment into the overall history of Australia and thus become the proud possessors of one of the greatest histories of all time.

We - all Australians, Indigenous and more recent immigrants - have never been in a better position to do this. Why? Several significant changes have been taking place over the last fifty years since the 1967 Referendum.

Indigenous people have quietly and steadily taken their place in more and more parts of our national life. They are represented in academia, culture, parliaments, sports, media, and other public realms by outstanding individuals. More and more Indigenous people are gaining an education and training for meaningful employment. The impact of this is slowly but surely changing the relationships between Indigenous people and post-1788 immigrant Australians. The recently completed task of conducting a nationwide series of consultations ending up in the recent Uluru Constitutional Convention has presented to us all an Indigenous proposal and plan for the way ahead for Australia: the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. I hope that this proposal can be given the same respectful consideration as that which went into its preparation. It deserves nothing less. Hopefully, after discussion and negotiation comes a proposal that we can all embrace and adopt by referendum. There are three parts:

- 1 A proposed Indigenous Advisory Council that would review and offer advice on all legislation affecting Indigenous people directly to the parliament;
- 2 A Truth in History Commission that would seek the truth in our history by blackfellas and whitefellas working this out together; and
- 3 A Makarrata (an Aboriginal word for settlement of a dispute) so we can get on with life.

The Uluru proposal is balanced, generous and open. It is realistic and not tokenistic. It contains wisdom collected over 50,000 years of occupancy of this land. It is built on a deep fundamental relationship to this land. In the view of the First Nations, this land and its people have suffered much over the last 229 years. The proposed pathway set out in the Uluru Statement has not stooped to the vindictive, nor is it seeking retribution. It hopes for a Makarrata - a 'settlement' from which we start anew.

Another significant change has been the more recent challenges to the false descriptions and jaundiced picture painted of the First Nations' peoples - as nomadic savages, illiterate, Stone Age primitives. Over the two centuries after 1788, these views have been passed on to succeeding generations, deliberately suppressing the vast evidence across the continent of a sophisticated peoples who engaged in farming, husbanding resources, managing the environment, and building for social and domestic lives.

We are indebted to current scholars - Indigenous and non-Indigenous - who have explored the records and uncovered vital evidence buried and ignored for generations so that the image of Indigenous society and cultural practices could remain maligned. Indigenous culture was over-run; their land management systems that had preserved the environment for many millennia were crushed and destroyed. Their social mores were decimated by the newcomers' ways and their imported diseases. Today, the facts of Indigenous agriculture, hunting and fishing, building, and social cultural life are being reassembled. Bush tucker and the medicinal properties of native plants has been recognised for longer.

*Andrew and Vivienne McCutcheon, PPCfR members*

See also: Mungo MacCallum's blog - *The View from Billinudgel*; the article '*Psychologists issue official apology to Aboriginal people*' by Bianca Hall, *The Age*, 19 June; and the series on efforts towards Indigenous Reconciliation in settler countries around the world, *The Conversation*, 19 May.

### **HISTORIC YARRA RIVER PROTECTION**

In late June, the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, joined Wurundjeri Elders in Victorian Parliament to introduce the *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Bill 2017*. In an Australian first, the bill identifies the Yarra River and the many hundreds of parcels of public land it flows through as one living, integrated natural entity for protection and improvement. The bill combines the 'Caring for Country' wisdom of Traditional Owners with the most modern river management expertise. In another first in the Victorian Parliament's history, the bill is co-titled, and part of its preamble is written in Woi-wurrung, assuring Traditional Owners a permanent voice in the governance and protection of the Yarra River. Among other things, the bill will strengthen the protection and management of the Yarra River via a range of strategies. Learn more via the Premier's website or email [daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au)

### **RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA**

Professor Tom Calma AO and Melinda Cilento, Reconciliation Australia Co-Chairs, have announced the appointment of Karen Mundine to the role of Chief Executive, Reconciliation Australia, and also that from July 2017, after three years heading the organisation, current Chief Executive Justin Mohamed will be moving on to pursue other ventures. Karen Mundine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Technology Sydney and is a Director of the Gondwana Children's Choir board.

### **NEWS FROM REC STONNINGTON**

Rec Stonnington took part in Stonnington Council's Reconciliation Week functions over three days in Prahran Market by having an information stall. It was a great opportunity to present our group and share information on Stonnington's Aboriginal history with a different audience. Council's decision to hold functions over three days honoured the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mabo decision. The first event took place on 1 June - the launch of an art exhibition with an Aboriginal theme by students from Prahran Community Learning Centre and other local artists. This was preceded by a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony carried out by Jaeden Williams, grandson of Boon Wurrung Elder Arweet Caroline Briggs. On Friday, the program consisted of cooking demonstrations by a team from Charcoal Lane Restaurant, with samplings of dishes made from kangaroo, emu, barramundi and other native ingredients. On Saturday there was a four-hour program including a fashion parade of bags, back packs, caps and shoes painted by a young Aboriginal artist and designer, storytelling by Jaeden Williams, and a wonderful dance performance by Evolving Culture. Overall, the program was a credit to Stonnington Council and an enjoyable opportunity for Rec Stonnington.



Rec Stonnington's Ro Bailey and Mike Scott with Stonnington Mayor, Cr Jami Klisaris.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11 July**, Prahran Community Learning Centre, Grattan Gardens, Prahran, at 6.00 pm. We will plan for our AGM to be held in August. All welcome. Enquiries to Ro Bailey, 9819 9106.

### **BOROONDARA ISSUES**

On 13 February, Boroondara Council held a meeting which lasted 7 minutes and passed, without vote or consultation, a motion to make Acknowledgement of Country (AoC) an optional rather than a mandatory obligation. The RAP outlining the protocol for AoC was born when the current Mayor, Phillip Healey, was in

position. It expired in 2013 and nothing was put in its place. Damian O'Keefe from RecVic contacted David Crawford from a sleepy ANTaR Boroondara group about this and action began. Letters were written to many relevant people by members of the group and by individuals, a public meeting was organised during Reconciliation Week, and a petition was put together. Many helped but special mention must go to David Crawford for his coordination and for taking on most of the work. Support came from all over. Thank you to Rosemary Rule and PPCfR for the letter in support of AoC and the importance of a RAP.

Over 100 people gathered in the Balwyn Church Hall on 31 May. Speakers were Uncle John Baxter of RecVic, the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP, and Cr Trent McCarthy of the City of Darebin. The meeting was chaired by Associate Professor Ken Coghill. David Crawford invited Mayor Healey who agreed to attend. With the agenda set at 30 minutes for each speaker, David and I were told that two other Boroondara councillors were to speak. Instead of declining, David agreed but they would use the 30 minutes allocated between them. The speakers outside of Boroondara city area were in full support of reinstating the AoC, however, the same cannot be said for the Mayor and councillors.

Mayor Healey spoke about freedom of speech and how much he considers Council does; Jim Parke claimed that Indigenous people don't perform AoC and gave his version of how AoC came about. Steve Hurd spoke about the lack of acknowledgement of blind people like himself. Natalie Hutchins was told that we don't need government telling council what to do. Trent McCarthy was told to stay out of other councils' business. It was disheartening to see such behaviour and highlighted concerns from the audience and greater community.

I had been in contact with Liberal MP John Pesutto who told me afterwards that a few people had called him. Boroondara Reconciliation Network, as we now call ourselves, has grown as people are concerned, particularly following such a mess of a meeting. The motion passed at this meeting was that we would like to reinstate AoC and we will soon present the petition to council.

On a more positive note, I was impressed by the dignity of the group and the way they dealt with everything. As a person from Generation X, a meeting in a hall filled only with people - no tweeting, no videos to watch, no music manipulating emotions - was a welcome change. Most attendees were of an older generation. I'm not sure why more people my age are not involved. Thanks to everyone for your good work. *Yosefine Deans, Boroondara Reconciliation Network*

## **TIES THAT BIND**

Viv Parry runs the art program at Galiamble and works with the Aboriginal men in their 16-week live-in recovery program to discover/rediscover their culture through art. The Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC) is staging a yearly art exhibition in support of the program to honour its 20-year association with the

centre. Viv has created a 9-minute film entitled *Ties That Bind* and invited Uncle Boydie, 88, William Cooper's grandson, to the centre to meet 95-year-old Moshe Fiszman, an Auschwitz survivor. The purpose of the conversation is to allow the two Elders, who are amongst the last eye-witnesses to these historic events, to share their life stories, creating a legacy for future generations. The film will be launched at the JHC on **Sunday 2 July**, 2.30–4.30 pm. There will be an exhibition of artwork by the Galiamble men inspired by their visit to the JHC, and a didgeridoo performance by Stan Yarramunua. For information, contact Judi Kenneally, [judikenneally@bigpond.com](mailto:judikenneally@bigpond.com); 0409 866 107.

## **ARTS & CULTURE**

### **Book Launch**

Mick Woiwod's new book *Barak vs the Black Hats of Melbourne* will be launched by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson followed by a discussion panel of Elders with Uncle Jack Charles as MC. **Sunday 9 July**, 1.00-4.00 pm, Rosina Auditorium, Abbotsford Convent, 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford.

Details: [www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

### **No Turning Back**

The Deakin University Art Gallery has partnered with community arts organisation The Torch to showcase creative artworks by Indigenous artists in its latest pop-up exhibition *No Turning Back: Artworks from The Torch*. The ten artists participated in The Torch's Indigenous Arts in Prison and Community program, which supports current and former Indigenous offenders in Victoria. Their focus is on cultural strengthening and artistic expression in the rehabilitation process. One hundred per cent of the purchase price goes to the artist, with the major part of the purchase price held in trust until the artist is released. Interest from the trust account goes to a fund supporting victims of crime. The exhibition will be open until **Friday 14 July** at Deakin University's Pop Up Gallery, Deakin Downtown, Level 12, Tower 2, Collins Square, 727 Collins Street, Docklands.

### **Djuki Mala**

This fabulous and exciting Yolngu dance group from Elcho Island will be performing as part of MAP57, St Kilda's Winter Garden Festival, **18-28 July**, Jacka Boulevard, next to the Palais Theatre. Bookings: [www.map57.com](http://www.map57.com) Phone 8370 7002

### **Takayna/Tarkine**

As part of the celebration of beauty and art in nature, the *Takayna/Tarkine – a Global Treasure in Danger* event is being held at Deakin Edge, Federation Square, **Friday 14 July**, 6.00-8.30 pm. Speakers include Bob Brown, Senator Janet Rice and members of Tasmania's Aboriginal community. Performances will be held by the Muka Nawnta women's singing choir. Tickets \$25.00 (\$20.00 at [bobbrown.org.au](http://bobbrown.org.au)).

### **Indigenous Art in the CBD**

Artist Ray Traplin's work entitled *Life in the Ocean* is being unveiled on the exterior of a new building under construction in the CBD and is on display at 399 Little Lonsdale Street. Traplin is one of around sixty artists

who have come through the St Kilda-based Torch program run by Kent Morris.

### **Smith Street Dreaming**

Smith Street Dreaming 2017 celebrates the footprint of Koorie history in Collingwood and Fitzroy. Featuring Frank Yamma, Emma Donovan, Yung Warriors, Indigenous Hip Hop Projects and traditional dancers Jindi Worabak; MC Shelley Ware (Marngrook Footy Show). **Saturday 22 July**, noon. No-alcohol event. Free entry. Cnr Stanley & Smith Street, Collingwood.

### **Songs and Stories with Richard J Frankland and The Letter String Quartet**

Indigenous singer, songwriter, author, poet and filmmaker Richard J Frankland premieres new songs written collaboratively with the Letter String Quartet's Artistic Director, Bidy Connor. **Thursday 6 July**, 6.00 pm. Contact Melbourne Recital Centre for details.

### **DR MIRIAM-ROSE UNGUNMERR-BAUMANN TALK**

Melbourne's Anglican Archbishop Philip Freier and his wife Joy Freier were among the crowd who packed into Saint Oswald's Church, Glen Iris, on 3 June to hear Dr Miriam-Rose's talk *Dadirri - A Deep Listening to Local Issues*. An Elder from Nauiyu (Daly River) in the Northern Territory, Miriam served for many years as the principal of the local Catholic primary school and is a renowned artist, activist, writer and public speaker. Introduced by Aboriginal Minister Reverend Glenn Loughrey, Miriam told us about the foundation she has established to help support the 500-person community. For Miriam, Reconciliation is a big thing. Saying she was comfortable walking in both worlds, Miriam encouraged the audience to engage in deep listening, and to be appreciative of our surroundings, ourselves and our spirit. Proceeds and funds from paintings sold at the church went to the foundation to support students studying off country, some in Victoria. *Rosemary Rule*

### **MIRIAM ROSE FOUNDATION**

The Miriam Rose Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation working to empower Indigenous youth through education, art, culture and opportunity. It is based at Nauiyu, a remote Aboriginal community set on the banks of the Daly River, approximately 250 km south of Darwin. For information, visit <http://www.miriamrosefoundation.org.au/>

### **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AWARDS**

Actor Deborah Mailman was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her services to the performing arts and as a role model for Indigenous performers in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June. Also awarded: Ian Anderson and Ian Ring for their service to Indigenous health; respected Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Patricia 'Patsy' Cameron, for her service to Indigenous education and custodianship, and Bangarra Dance Artistic Director, Stephen Page. All four were made Officers of the Order of Australia (AO). Ruth Abdullah was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the Indigenous community of Western Australia.

### **THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP: THE OPEN HOUSE STORY**

This book by Reverend Digby Hannah is a collection of remarkable stories of transformation; lives changed as a result of the unconditional offer of friendship to people who were disengaged and dispirited. The book begins with a collection of stories from the 46 years of Open House history, a local grass roots organisation which has served the needs of people (especially young people) in its community. The underlying aim of the book is to raise issues regarding different ways of 'helping', by reflecting upon the differences, strengths and weaknesses of professional caring and 'helping' as compared with a relational, grass-roots, 'friendship' approach. Cost \$20.00 plus postage from Open House; 9450 7600; [office@openhousecic.org.au](mailto:office@openhousecic.org.au)

*Note:* Digby Hannah, a PPCfR member, lives in St Kilda. His paid work involves

conducting a-cappella choirs and facilitating group-work for parents involved in custody disputes. He has been a teacher, youth-worker, editor, chaplain and local pastoral minister. As he approaches retirement,

increasingly Digby's labours are 'for love' and for the satisfaction of working towards better treatment of refugees and improved services for those struggling with drug and alcohol addiction.



### **NEW PORTRAITS**

Ken Wyatt is the first Indigenous member of the House of Representatives and he now has the distinction of being immortalised through a portrait that was unveiled in Canberra's Parliament House during Reconciliation Week in May. Painted by artist Mary Moore, who said she attempted to depict his strength, humility, hope and sadness, it will be joined by the newly announced depictions of Nova Peris, the first Indigenous woman in the Senate, and Linda Burney, the first woman in the House of Representatives.

### **CLEVERMAN**

The second series of the intriguing and fascinating *Cleverman* - about an Indigenous mythological tribe, the Hairy People, who battle to survive in a futuristic world that seeks to silence and destroy them - had another joint US/Australian premiere to launch its second season. Returning key cast include Iain Glen (*Game of Thrones*), Frances O'Connor (*The Missing*), Deborah Mailman (*Offspring*, *Redfern Now*), Hunter Page-Lochard (*The Sapphires*, *Wentworth*), Rob Collins (*The Wrong Girl*), plus Clarence Ryan (*Lockie Leonard*) & Rachael Blake (*Rake*). The Sundance TV/ABC drama premiered on 28 June on Sundance TV in the US. Screens on ABC TV, **Thursdays at 9.30 pm.**

