

# 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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June 2017

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Sorry Day Lunch

Another memorable day was held. PPCfR's Sorry Day Lunch brought together about 100 people from Galiamble, Winja Ulupna, Port Melbourne Holden, students and their teacher from Elwood College, faith group representatives, founding and current PPCfR members and two very young children – all happily mingled, sharing a meal, conversation and songs from our fabulous entertainer, James Henry. The event included a minute's silence for the Stolen Generations. Elder Judith Jackson gave an Acknowledgement of Country before the MC Dennis Fisher united the audience with his humour and poetry. Speeches were made by the Mayor, Cr Bernadene Voss, and the Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley. Also in attendance were Councillors Catherine Copsey and David Brand. (Greens' senator Sue Pennicuik was a late apology). Our hardworking members, including Gael Wilson, Jo Bond, Deb Stewart, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Denis Frankel, Yosefine Deans, Liz Gallois and Helen Hoffman, made sure everyone was well catered for and I also appreciated the help from Todd Condie and his COPP colleagues. Before the lunch, I was interviewed by Dean Shingange, 3CR Community Radio Thursday breakfast presenter. The Port Phillip Leader did not mention the event which is disappointing.



Some of our enthusiastic guests from the 2017 Sorry Day Lunch.

### Mabo Day

National Mabo Day, **Saturday 3 June**, commemorates the day in 1992 when the fiction of *terra nullius* was overturned, thanks to the efforts of Eddie Koiki Mabo. The historic Mabo decision proclaimed that 'native title' did exist and it was up to the people of Mer (Murray Island) to determine who owned the land. The City of Port Phillip is hosting a flag-raising event on **Friday 2 June** featuring a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony, catered lunch and Torres Strait Islander musical performances. St Kilda Town Hall (front lawn), 11.00 am-1.00 pm. Details: Fred Gesha 0439 902 621.

### Guest Speaker

Dr Sushena Krishnaswamy, an infectious diseases physician, worked in Alice Springs Hospital from 2012-15. With a long-standing interest in the health of Indigenous Australians, this was the third time she was drawn to Central Australia. Sushena will speak about her work at our meeting on **Tuesday 20 June** and we'll have some refreshments afterwards. I hope you can attend.

### Homeless Memorial

This annual and very moving event will be held on **Wednesday 21 June**, 4.40-7.00 pm at the Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda. Once again, we will make a donation.

### Bunjilaka Tour

A group from PPCfR enjoyed their tour of the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre hosted by Ro Bailey, a volunteer guide at Melbourne Museum and Secretary of Reconciliation Stonnington.



Next Meeting: **Tuesday 20 June**  
6.30 pm Sth Melb Community Hub  
Fishley Street, South Melbourne  
Guest speaker:  
**Dr Sushena Krishnaswamy**  
**All Welcome**

Rosemary Rule

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

Events are being held until **Saturday 3 June** as part of this annual celebration for all Australians to reflect on our shared histories and on the contributions and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme is *Let's Take the Next Steps* which reminds us that all big changes take persistence and courage. The week is framed by two key events in Australia's history that provide strong symbols of the aspirations for Reconciliation - the 1967 Referendum and the historic Mabo decision. Check out RecVic's online Sorry Day and NRW event calendar to find out more. <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au>

## ULURU CONVENTION

Hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gathered last month in Uluru to try to reach a consensus on what a referendum might look like. For some Indigenous Australians, recognition in the Constitution is a long-overdue statement about the true history of our country; for others, it's just a hollow gesture that would mean nothing to their daily lives. Tension between those pressing for substantial reform and others who fear an ambitious proposal will never succeed were overcome. Indigenous leaders from across the country have rejected outright the idea of mere recognition in the Constitution, instead calling for a representative body to be enshrined in the nation's founding document and a process established working towards Treaties. A referendum could be held early next year to enshrine a 'First Nations Voice' in the Constitution after the historic all-Indigenous convention overwhelmingly backed the move.

### Key points:

- Constitutional recognition was '*totally rejected*' says Referendum Council members
- Uluru delegation calls for First Nations' voice enshrined in the Constitution
- Delegation also calls for a Truth and Justice Commission

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* is the result of three days of deliberations during the national gathering.

*'Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people,'* the statement said. *'We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country. We call for the establishment of a First Nations' voice enshrined in the Constitution.'*

There has been bipartisan support for a referendum on recognition but there has never been a model for change endorsed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Ms Anderson said that in the discussions held by the Referendum Council people said they wanted a Treaty. *'In the discussions that we've had in the last six months, people want Treaty ... they don't want acknowledgment, they want Treaty and a Truth and Justice Commission,'* she said.

Australia is the only commonwealth country that does not have a treaty with its Indigenous peoples. Among those gathered were Co-chair of the government-appointed Referendum Council, Pat Anderson; Cape York Leader, Noel Pearson; Indigenous Health Minister, Ken Wyatt; Recognise Joint Campaign Director, Mark Yettica-Paulson; and Professor Gracelyn Smallwood, AO.

Visit <https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/dialogues> for updates and news.

## BROOK ANDREW: THE RIGHT TO OFFEND IS SACRED

Brook Andrew is an artist of considerable daring and flair whose work often confronts dangerous ideas and questions conventional readings of the world. His constantly-shifting, interdisciplinary practice challenges stereotypical notions of history, identity and race without apportioning blame or guilt. *Brook Andrew: The Right to Offend is Sacred* includes many of Andrew's most memorable works contextualised in new ways juxtaposed with formative works that have had very limited exposure. The solo exhibition will also include a new sculptural work. Exhibition at NGV Australia, Federation Square, until **Sunday 4 June**.

## KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST VOLUNTEER CALL OUT

Koorie Heritage Trust is calling for volunteers to help out for a few hours at the Mabo Day Picnic at Birrarung Marr, **Saturday 3 June**. Help is needed with management of crowds, supporting performers on the day and being there to answer questions from the public. If you can help, email [info@reconciliationvic.org.au](mailto:info@reconciliationvic.org.au)

## BIRRARUNG WILAM WALK

Join the Birrarung Wilam (River Camp) Walk held every Thursday and Friday during 2017. Starting at 1.00 pm and lasting one hour, the walk goes through Federation Square and down to the Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) Aboriginal art installations, experiencing the Aboriginal history of the Birrarung Marr (beside the river of mists) and Aboriginal peoples of the Kulin Nation. With friendly Koorie guides, learn how the land on which Melbourne is located has changed over time and learn the significance of the Birrarung Wilam to the local Kulin peoples. Bookings: 8662 6333.

## MURAL WALL FOR PASTOR SIR DOUG NICHOLLS AND WILLIAM COOPER

Two prominent Aboriginal Elders have been immortalised in a street art mural in Shepparton. Their families say it is about time they were recognised. The nine-metre mural features Yorta Yorta men Sir Doug Nicholls and William Cooper, and is part of Shepparton's Aboriginal Street Art project. Hundreds of people packed an alley in the city for the official launch of the project on 23 May, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum to recognise Indigenous people as citizens of Australia. Descendants of both men were delighted with the painting by artist Matt Adnate. The Nicholls/Cooper mural will be the first of many street art projects celebrating Indigenous contributions to life in Shepparton. The city has announced two prominent Indigenous women will feature in a second mural to be commissioned later this year. The women will be chosen by local Elders and will feature on a wall next to the mural of Sir Doug and Mr Cooper.

## WELCOME TO THE TOVEY

An Indigenous performance space at this year's YIRRAMBOI Festival held in May was named in honour of Noel Tovey, AM, who enjoys the distinction of being this nation's first male ballet dancer of Aboriginal heritage. Noel has led a remarkable career spanning sixty years as an actor, dancer, singer, director, choreographer, designer, writer and teacher in Australia and in Europe.

## SAY YES

Say Yes is a story by Jennifer Castles about the landmark 1967 Referendum and the two women - one white, one Aboriginal - who came together to change the law ... and how the Australian people said 'Yes!.' It is based on the story of two girls who were best friends. They did everything together. As they got older they weren't allowed to do the same things anymore. Because they looked different. Because of the law. Illustrator Paul Seddon is descended from the Wuthathi and Muralag people of North Qld. Published by Allen & Unwin.

## YINGADI IMMERSION 2017

You are invited to experience and explore Aboriginal spirituality and connection to land by walking with Mutthi Mutthi woman Vicki Clark in the footsteps of her ancestors at Lake Mungo and Balranald, **Monday 14 – Friday 18 August**. Advance bookings recommended. (Leaving from Sandhurst Diocese, Bendigo)

Cost: \$1200 all inclusive (transport, accommodation, meals). Send expressions of interest to Karen Mahoney – Yingadi Immersion Coordinator: [yingadi@edmundrice.org](mailto:yingadi@edmundrice.org)  
Phone: 9439 8282.

*Note:* Yingadi is an immersion offered through the Christian Brothers Oceania Province in partnership with Vicki Clark and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry.

## INDIGENOUS SOLDIERS

It was heartening to hear that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders led the national Anzac Day march in Canberra for the very first time this year. Over 1000 Indigenous soldiers fought in World War I and over 3000 Indigenous soldiers are estimated to have fought in World War II according to the Australian War Memorial's website, although some who tried to enlist were deliberately denied due to their race. Aboriginal people have served in every Australian conflict since at least 1901.

## 2017 LOGIE AWARDS

Congratulations to Rob Collins, who featured in *Cleverman* (ABCTV) and *The Wrong Girl* (Network Ten), for taking out the Best New Talent Award at the 59th Annual TV Week Logie Awards on 23 April. Rob was also nominated for the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding Newcomer.



## OUR 2017 SORRY DAY LUNCH

*'I just wanted to extend my most sincere thanks for having our team from Holden be a part of this special day. Aivars, Julie, Ben and myself were delighted to be there. We very much look forward to doing what we can to support the Indigenous community as part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion.'*

**Simone Reginato, Organisational Capability & Diversity Co-ordinator, Holden.**

The Holden Team pictured with PPCfR's Dennis Fisher.



**Aunty Judith Jackson with Elwood College students and their teacher.**

