

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

ABN: 444 16 152 998
P.O. Box 1446, St Kilda South, Vic 3182
Phone: (03) 9699 8804
Mobile: 0418 675 734
Email: rosemary.rule@gmail.com
www.ppcfrr.org

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 2018

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Sorry Day Lunch

Aboriginal Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson's Acknowledgement of Country set a warm tone for what was a special day. Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss and Member for Albert Park Martin Foley MP spoke about PPCfR in encouraging terms. (Sue Pennicuik MLA was unable to attend due to parliament sitting). Among the 100+ guests were current and former councillors and representatives from Star Health, Galiamble, Sacred Heart Mission, Optometry Australia, St Kilda Baptist Church, Stonnington Reconciliation and Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre. Den the Fish was a masterful MC. He talked about his own experiences, asked guests what Sorry Day meant to them, and invited Dave Arden to sing. Dave is a gifted storyteller with a beautiful voice who writes songs about family and relationships. It was a privilege to hear from each of them and in the process be given insights into Aboriginal culture in very personal ways. My thanks to the wonderful team who helped out: Gael Wilson, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Denis Frankel, Deb Stewart, Helen Hoffman, Jo Bond, Viv McCutcheon, Janine Wilder and Digby Hannah. Thanks also to Books Illustrated, AFL Indigenous Programs and The Prestige Presents who donated the door prizes that Auntie Jacko and Todd Condie handed out to several lucky guests.



Around one hundred guests attended our 2018 National Sorry Day Lunch on Friday 25 May at the Sth Melbourne Community Centre.

Reconciliation Week

There are significant events still taking place as the week officially draws to a close on **Sunday 3 June**, and I recommend *Uluru, we look to you*. The song was written by the late Andrew McCutcheon to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, dismissed by the PM after its presentation a year ago.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2jJO8M1Cw4>

Mabo Day Flag-Raising Ceremony

The City of Port Phillip will celebrate this significant day on **Monday 4 June** at 11.00 am on the lawn of St Kilda Town Hall with a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, speeches and a special performance of Islander dance by the Geribik Torres Strait Islander Dance Group from Cairns. Fred Gesha, 0439 902 621.

Guest Speaker

I invite you to meet bryan Andy (bryan's name is spelt with a lower case b) at our June meeting. A Yorta Yorta man from Cummeragunga, bryan will talk about work as a local government community planner, event organiser, radio broadcaster, LGBT advocate and freelance writer. Bryan is also a judge for our upcoming Reconciliation Writing Competition.

Black Soldiers Recognised

As part of the public commentaries about Anzac Day, it was encouraging to learn more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who fought for their country; more below.

NAIDOC Week

The first week of July includes celebrations of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal people. Some of the local activities planned by the National Aboriginals and Islander Observance Committee (NAIDOC) will be highlighted next month.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting: Tuesday 19 June, 2018, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street,
South Melbourne, with guest speaker bryan Andy.
Refreshments afterwards. Free, all welcome.

VALE TOM E. LEWIS

The Murrungun musician and actor Tom E. Lewis died in May of a heart attack aged 59. The family of Mr Lewis asked for privacy, however, in recognition of his extraordinary public life, agreed to the use of his image and voice. Lewis shot to fame at a young age playing the handsome, compelling lead in *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* and appeared in dozens of Australian films and series over his long career, including the miniseries *A Town Like Alice*, *We of the Never Never*, *The Proposition* and Ivan Sen's 2016 thriller, *Goldstone*. On stage, he received rave reviews as an Aboriginal "mad King Lear" in *The Shadow King*. An accomplished songwriter and musician, he released two solo albums and helped establish Djilpin Arts designed, he said, to bring 'healing medicine' to all people, sharing culture through stories, dance and song. Tom E. Lewis was a friend to several PPCfR members and will be missed.

RECONCILIATION WEEK

The City of Stonington is celebrating Reconciliation Week at Prahran Market on **Saturday 2 June**, 11.00 am-3.00 pm with Neil Perry and Omega Kitchen. Kicking the event off will be a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony delivered by Traditional Owners, cooking from the Charcoal Lane team, traditional dancing, didgeridoo performances, hip hop dance performances and art from young artists from the Prahran Community Learning Centre - www.stonnington.vic.gov.au. The Resonance Live concert celebrates 40 years in music for Bart Willoughby with special guests Shauntai Batzke, Phil Bywater, Tjimba Possum Burns, John Miller, Fadil Suna and Sermsah Suri Bin Saad in the spirit of Reconciliation. **Saturday 2 June**, Fitzroy Town Hall, Napier Street, Fitzroy. Doors open 7.00 pm, show 7.30 pm.

MABO DAY

Sunday 3 June, Mabo Day, marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia's judgement in 1992 in the Mabo case. The case made against the State of Queensland on 3 June accepted the claim by Eddie Mabo and the other claimants that their people (the Meriam peoples) had occupied the Islands of Mer for hundreds of years before the arrival of the British. This is a day of particular significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians as Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo's name is synonymous with native title rights. A Mabo Family Day event will be held at Federation Square, **Sunday 3 June**, 1.30-4.00 pm. Contact The Koori Heritage Trust if you can help volunteer.

WAR SERVICE FINALLY RECOGNISED

Every 25 April Australia commemorates the sacrifices of its military servicemen and women on Anzac Day, including the Indigenous Australians who have fought in every conflict since the Boer War. Australia's 'black diggers,' or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers, fought the same wars but not for the same privileges. They earned less than half the pay of white diggers and were rarely awarded senior ranks, service medals, war pensions or land grants that other

soldiers received. They were often denied access to local RSL social clubs for veterans. Almost every able-bodied Indigenous man throughout Australia's Torres Strait Islands signed up to defend their country against the threat of invasion during World War II, despite not being recognised as citizens. The country's first and only all-Indigenous army unit, the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, was formed in 1943 as the Japanese Imperial army menaced Australia's northern coastline. Approximately 880 recruits enlisted, from an estimated able-bodied male Indigenous population of 890, across the Torres Strait Island chain, said to possibly be the highest rate of volunteerism in the whole country, per capita, during WWII. Only three of the original members of that unit survive. After lobbying in the 1980s, members of the battalion were repaid their outstanding earnings and in 2001 received service medals.

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION SUBMISSIONS

Several groups and individuals sent in submissions to the forthcoming Joint Select Committee Inquiry into Constitutional Recognition in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the measures proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Final Report of the Referendum Council. The intention was to help the Committee responsible for conducting the inquiry to discharge their 'terms of reference' – Q&A's about their report to parliament. The Government is required to publish their response to the report. The timeframe is tight. Submissions are due 30 June and the Committee's interim report is due by 30 July, the final report by 29 November. Informative guidelines about CR and the Uluru Statement were distributed by the Melbourne Law and Reconciliation Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies/Laureate Program in Comparative Constitutional Law.

VICTORIAN TREATY TALKS

Victoria's historic Treaty process came under fire from a group of influential Aboriginal Elders who have accused the Andrews Government of cutting them out of negotiations. A new council of dozens of Elders from across the state said the government was mismanaging the Treaty process by failing to include leaders of the state's remaining Aboriginal clans. Victorian Greens MP and Gunai/Kurnai woman Lidia Thorpe spearheads the group and says that Clan Elders have not been properly resourced to engage in the dialogues, with the government appointing government officials to lead the conversation. Boon Wurrung Elder Carolyn Briggs, speaking on behalf of the inaugural Clan Elders Council on Treaty, called the government's treaty process 'flawed'. *'We call for a Treaty process that respects and acknowledges our Clans,'* she said. *'Our sovereignty and each of our language groups and our Clans must be clearly recognised in the government's Treaty advancement legislation.'* Ms Thorpe said the group's decision to form an Elders' Council was unanimous.

Note: Victoria is seeking to be the first state in Australia to sign a Treaty with its Aboriginal people.

The Treaty negotiation framework was established by the Aboriginal Treaty Working Group whose members were chosen not by Clan Elders but by agencies including the Aboriginal Heritage Council, the Koorie Youth Council and the state government. The Greens define Clan-based Treaties as agreements which acknowledge the roughly 100 Clans throughout the state, their unique languages and cultures, and which understand that sovereignty was never ceded.

INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION (ILF)

Illustrator Ann James has been named as one of the ILF's new ambassadors. Ann, co-founder of Middle Park's Books Illustrated, joins Kim Scott, Gregg Dreise, David Lawrence and Andrew Daddo, as well as NITV presenters Shelley Ware and Natalie Ahmat.

HOMELESS MEMORIAL

The Homeless Memorial is an opportunity for agencies, homeless people and the wider community to connect. Speakers, performers and a choir will be at The Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda, (next to Veg Out) on **Wednesday 20 June**, 4.30-7.00pm. Enquiries to Deb McIntosh, 9525 1300.

CITY OF YARRA'S NEW ARTWORK

A new public artwork commemorating the Stolen Generations entitled *Remember Me* by Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi artist Reko Rennie, which was commissioned by Yarra City Council with support from the Victorian Government, was launched on National Sorry Day by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Hunter. The Council worked with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to create this public artwork and garden to honour the struggles and resilience of the Stolen Generations. The marker is located in Atherton Gardens, Fitzroy, an historic gathering place where Aboriginal people came to find and reconnect with family.

THE LONG WALK

The Long Walk 'Dreamtime at the G' game between Essendon and Richmond will be played out at the MCG on **Saturday 2 June**. Pre-game entertainment at Federation Square from 2.00-5.30 pm includes performances from the Brolga Boys, Indigenous Hip Hop Crew and Soul Chic. Setting off at 5.30 pm, Michael Long will lead the Long Walk to the traditional game. www.longwalk.com.au

Help needed: Reconciliation Victoria & Australia is looking for volunteers at their Long Walk festival stall. Email info@reconciliationvic.org.au. The Koori Heritage Trust is also seeking volunteers. Contact Jade - jadehadfield@korieheritagetrust.com

POP-UP INDIGENOUS RESTAURANT

Bush tucker comes to Darebin with chef Zach Green. He's partnered with Homemade to curate two events that celebrate the history and voice of Indigenous people through shared stories, culture and food as part of the City of Darebin's Food and Wine Festival, **Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 June**, 5.45 pm, Darebin Arts Centre, Preston.

Dinner with alcohol pairing \$125, without alcohol pairing \$95. Zach, the partner of Leila Mindhili Gurruwiwi, runs a restaurant in Darwin. Details: 8470 8888; mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CHOIR

This amazing choir will perform at Hamer Hall, **Tuesday 19 June**, 7.30 pm, under the guidance of choir master Morris Stuart. *The Song Keepers*, a documentary about the choir, is screening in cinemas and was featured on ABC TV's *Australian Story* on 14 May.

FOODBANK EVENT

This event features a Welcome to Country, netball and footy competition, raffle, entertainment and lunch taking place at the Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda, **Saturday 9 June**. RSVP: judy.hanley@aus.salvationarmy.org, or rebecca.thatcher@aus.salvationarmy.org.

FISH FARM WALKABOUT AT FINNS RESERVE

Tour one of Manningham's little known Aboriginal aquaculture areas on the Yarra with local historian Jim Poulter and local Wurundjeri man Dale Wandin. Because Aboriginal technology was often invisible to European eyes, extensive aquaculture areas, like the ones at Finns Reserve and the Warrandyte Township, tended not to be recognised. Jim and Dale will lead an excursion along the riverfront at Finns, speaking about the historic 200-metre long fish trap, eel trap, yabbie nursery and freshwater mussel farm, **Saturday 2 June**, 10.00-11.30 am. Meet at the Suspension Bridge car park, Riverwood Lane, Templestowe. Free. Bookings: jimpoulter@bigpond.com

GROWING UP ABORIGINAL IN AUSTRALIA



Growing up Aboriginal in Australia editor Anita Heiss writes: '[These] stories cover country from Nukunu to Noongar, Wiradjuri to Western Arrernte, Ku Ku Yalinji to Kunibidji, Gunditjmara to Gumbaynggirr and many places in between.' Joining her in conversation are

contributors Celeste Liddle and Zachary Penrith-Puchalski, talking frankly about their formative years and life lessons. **Friday 1 June**, 6.15 pm, Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Free, bookings required – www.wheelercentre.com.au

STAN 'YARRA' YARRAMUNUA

Stan Yarramunua, a proud Yorta Yorta man and an internationally successful artist, musician, businessman and charity worker, is in conversation with Robert Hillman talking about *A Man Called Yarra* - his inspiring memoir of overcoming hardship and striving for a better life. Readings, St Kilda, **Thursday 7 June**, 6.30 pm. Free, bookings recommended. readings.com.au/events

2018 NATIONAL SORRY DAY LUNCH PHOTOS



Above left: Friends from Star Health attend the Sorry Day Lunch. Above right: Our inimitable Sorry Day Lunch MC Den 'The Fish' Fisher with guests from the lunch. Left: Aunty Jacko presents a Door Prize to lucky winner Tim McCowan. Below: Entertainment was provided by the magnificent singer and songwriter, Dave Arden.



MYSTERY ROAD

Australian television drama series *Mystery Road* screens on ABC from **Sunday 3 June**, a spin-off from Ivan Sen's award winning films *Mystery Road* and *Goldstone*. It tells the story of Detective Jay Swan (Aaron Pedersen) assigned to investigate the mysterious disappearance of two young farm hands on an outback cattle station, one a local Indigenous football hero and the other a backpacker. Working together with local cop Emma James (Judy Davis) the investigation uncovers a past injustice that threatens the fabric of the whole community. Six-part series directed by Rachel Perkins, produced by David Jowsey and Greer Simpkin.

ARTS NEWS

Brothers Wreck

Written by Jada Alberts, this breakout play transports us to the writer/director's home town in the Top End through a gripping drama about a grief-stricken family whose love for each other knows no limits. Malthouse, **8-23 June**. www.malthousetheatre.com.au

Which Way Home

As part of the Ilbjerri Theatre Company's touring program, the play *Which Way Home – a road trip 80,000 years in the making* will be presented at Gasworks, 21 Graham Street, Albert Park, **19-20 June**. Tickets \$45/\$35, 8606 4200, frontdesk@gasworks.org.au

Welcome To Country Guide

Professor Marcia Langton, Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne, has written a unique and comprehensive guide to Indigenous travel experiences throughout Australia. It details getting to them, the best time to go and what to see with informative notes on cultural and historical contexts that travelers need to be aware of. Hardie Grant, \$39.99.

Book Award

Kim Scott's book *Taboo* which tells the story of a group of Noongar people who revisit (for the first time in many decades) the site of a massacre, was awarded the \$30,000 Indigenous Writers' Prize and the \$10,000 Book of the Year Prize at the 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Kim also won the Indigenous Writers' Prize of \$30,000, offered biennially.

Art Prizes

Yukultji Napangati took out the \$40,000 Sulman Prize, and a self-portrait of Vincent Namatjira, grandson of Albert, was highly recommended in the Archibald Prize.

Dan Sultan Tours

Dan Sultan has announced new performance dates in June promoting his latest collaborative EP, *Killer - Under A Blood Moon*. This special release features four selected tracks from Sultan's ARIA-Award nominated LP *Killer*. www.dansultan.com

Special Print Offer

Buy a limited-edition Giclee print on canvas of an illustration by Lisa Kennedy taken from Aunty Jo Murphy's Book *Welcome To Country*. Stretched on canvas - \$520, framed - \$710. Lisa is a Trawlwoolway storyteller and artist, a descendant of Woretmoeteyenner from North-East Tasmania now living in South Gippsland. Books Illustrated, Middle Park, T: 9695 5036, www.booksillustrated.com.au

