

# Mungo...

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 2019**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boon Wurrung Word of the Month:

*Manameet* (Autumn)

### Sorry Day

Around 110 plus guests crowded into the South Melbourne Community Centre on 24 May for our Sorry Day lunch. They included Boon Wurrung Foundation Elder David Tournier, who performed a Welcome to Country, COPP Mayor Dick Gross, Councillors Tim Baxter and David Brand, Martin Foley, Member for Albert Park, Sue Pennicuik, Serge Thomann, Elder Judith Jackson, RecVic's CEO Diana David, Father Turi Hollis, teachers and students from St Michael's Grammar, and groups from DOXA Youth Foundation's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, Gowrie Victoria, Star Health and Galiamble Men's Alcohol and Drug Recovery Centre. Todd Condie, COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, invited guests to observe a minute's silence to reflect on the Stolen Generations commemorated on Sorry Day as well as the unacceptably high rates of suicide among Indigenous youth. MC and PPCfR Co-Chair, Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish, read his poems and interacted with the audience in a most engaging way. Pirritu Brett Lee spoke about his background and performed a couple of sets. It was great to meet new people and to receive positive feedback for this very special event within our community.



Pirritu Brett Lee, Dennis Fisher, Judith Jackson and Diana David.

Many thanks to the awesome PPCfR team who made the lunch proceed so beautifully: Gael Wilson, Deb Stewart, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Jo Bond, Helen Bennett, Denis Frankel, Helen Hoffman, Pat Nicol, Janine Wilder, Joy Bandy, Liz Gallois and Jim Richardson along with COPP's Todd Condie, Jordan Sutardy and Jacek Przybylski.

### National Reconciliation Week

Events continue to be held celebrating the theme *Grounded in Truth - Walk Together with Courage* until Mabo Day on **Monday 3 June**. To commemorate Eddie Mabo's legacy, the City of Port Phillip will hold a flag-raising event featuring a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by the Boon Wurrung Foundation and a performance by special guests - Gerib Sik dance and culture group from Far North Queensland. St Kilda Town Hall, **Monday 3 June**, 11.30 am-2.00 pm, followed by a community lunch. Details: Fred Gesha, COPP Indigenous Arts Officer, 0413 136 253.

### Sue Taffe Talk

The large group of members attending our May meeting heard author and historian Sue Taffe talk about Mary Montgomerie Bennett, the subject of her excellent biography *A White Hot Flame*. Photo and more inside.

### Homeless Memorial

PPCfR has made a donation to assist the Homeless Memorial gathering at the Peanut Farm Reserve, Chaucer Street, St Kilda, **Thursday 20 June** from 4.30 pm, a significant event to support.

### Meeting Venue

I'm pleased to advise that from June onwards our monthly meetings will once again resume in South Melbourne, details below.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next meeting: Tuesday 18 June, 2019, 6.30 pm,** South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. **All Welcome.**

## VALE BOB HAWKE

Leaders from across the political spectrum paid tribute to former Prime Minister Bob Hawke who died at his Sydney home on 16 May, aged 89. He was Labor's longest-serving prime minister and led Australia from 1983-1991. Reflecting on Mr Hawke's political contributions to the Indigenous community, Professor Marcia Langton, Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne, said: *'I think what Bob Hawke was doing was trying all the time to elevate our position in Australian society and to ensure our rights were recognised. He made sure that Indigenous people were included in every possible way.'* Our condolences go to his wife, his children and their families.

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK AND MABO DAY

You can find details of a range of National Reconciliation Week and Mabo Day events listed on their website: <https://www.reconciliation.org.au>. Mabo Day is celebrated each year on 3 June to commemorate this day in 1992 when the High Court of Australia delivered a landmark decision which recognised the traditional rights of the Meriam people to their Mer (Murray) Island in the Torres Strait.



Gerib Sik dance and culture group will perform at the City of Port Phillip's Mabo Day celebration on Monday 3 June.

## THE FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

Earlier this year, the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission, after extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community, announced the model for the independent organisation which will support Aboriginal communities to negotiate Treaty. The democratically elected representative body, known as the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, is charged with negotiating Treaty or Treaties on behalf of Traditional Owners. Following on from the first phase of RecVic's Treaty Engagement Project, the second phase involves developing resources to encourage and support deeper local conversations with the non-Aboriginal community about Treaty or Treaties around the state. RecVic has made small grants available for local Reconciliation groups to host a Local Treaty Conversation. Hopefully, the Port Philip Citizens for Reconciliation will be successful in their grant application to help host a public Treaty Conversation later this year. More details shortly.

## WINNING LOGO DESIGN

Tom Day has won the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria logo competition. The Kerrupmara-Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba artist was born in Shepparton and raised near Lake Condah. *'The theme of Treaty and this moment inspired me to enter the competition. This moment represents people coming together to plant a seed that will eventually grow into a very powerful, strong tree,'* Tom commented. Keep updated at [treatyforvictoria.org.au](http://treatyforvictoria.org.au).



First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

## RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA (RA)

Check out the May issue of RA's informative newsletter which includes articles on National Reconciliation Week, an interview with Baker Boy, a Reconciliation Barometer, the Uluru Statement from the Heart – denied but not dead – and much more. Visit [www.reconciliation.org.au](http://www.reconciliation.org.au)

## MIDDLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Middle Park Primary was a finalist in Reconciliation Australia's 2017 Narragunnawali Awards in recognition of their outstanding achievement and commitment towards Reconciliation in education. Middle Park Primary's vision for Reconciliation, as articulated in its Narragunnawali Reconciliation Action Plan, focusses on understanding, respect and unity through its strong connections with the local Boon Wurrung community. Anne Spackman, the school's Reconciliation team leader, said: *'Our relationships with the local Boon Wurrung community members and especially with respected N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs are at the heart of our successes. Since the Awards, Middle Park teachers and students have continued to strengthen relationships and improve their Boon Wurrung language learning practices, have created a Reconciliation garden, hosted a Smoking Ceremony, renamed school rooms and made all school signs bilingual in Boon Wurrung and English.'*

## NEWS FROM REC STONNINGTON

As part of the Windsor Community Children's Centre Co-op's ongoing commitment to Reconciliation in the early years, all the educators at the Centre attended a symposium at Moonee Valley Racing Club in May to explore Reconciliation within the sector, under the auspices of Early Childhood Australia. The Centre is very proud and appreciative of their parent community for supporting this initiative (the Centre was closed for a day) and acknowledged the Foundation of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies for the approval of the Warrawong grant. Attendees at the ECA Reconciliation Symposium learnt about a culture dating back more than

40,000 years, and participated in facilitated table discussions which led to an atmosphere of understanding and engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants.

The Symposium brings the matter of Reconciliation in early childhood into the spotlight and works towards a better future for all Australians. Highlights of the two days included Welcome to Country from Uncle Bill Nicholson and keynote addresses from: Karen Mundine, Reconciliation Australia; Diana David, RecVic CEO; Muriel Bamblett, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency CEO; and Justin Mohamed, Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People. Some of the topics discussed were: pushing the boundaries of Reconciliation activism; teaching and learning on Boon Wurrung country; tokenism; and the role of educators in achieving real change. The closing keynote speech with John Briggs was very powerful and moving and the dance performance with the Djirri Djirri Dance Group was beautiful.

*Rose Kelly, Director – Windsor Community Children's Centre Co-op. Member of Rec Stonnington*

### SUE TAFFE TALK

Sue, pictured here at the launch of her inspiring book *A White Hot Flame* last year, explained to PPCfR members at the May meeting what a dedicated advocate of social justice for Aboriginal people Mary Montgomerie Bennett was, tirelessly campaigning here and abroad for the rights of Aboriginal Australians, quite unusual for the times. Sue said how much she'd appreciated help from



PPCfR member, the late Ian Spalding, while writing her book.

**Author and historian Sue Taffe at the launch of *A White Hot Flame*, her biography of social justice advocate Mary Montgomerie Bennett.**

### NAIDOC 2019

As part of the St Kilda Film Festival, a panel including acclaimed filmmaker and Gunditjmara man, Richard Frankland, will discuss Treaty and its influence on film making. St Kilda Town Hall, **Wednesday 26 June**, 7.45 pm-9.30 pm. Tickets \$14. Bookings: <https://stkildafilmfestival.com.au>. Contact Fred Gesha, Indigenous Arts Officer, COPP, 0413 136 253.

In the lead up to NAIDOC Week 2019, the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative is hosting the Geelong NAIDOC Ball at the Mt Duneed Estate, Waurin Ponds, **Saturday 29 June**, 7.00 pm; tickets from \$70. Enquiries to [Ebony.Hickey@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:Ebony.Hickey@wathaurong.org.au), 0449 948 475. The theme for this year's NAIDOC Week, **7-14 July** is VOICE.TREATY.TRUTH. More news next issue.

### CELEBRATING ADAM GOODES

In the last year of his decorated AFL career, Sydney Swans player Adam Goodes wore a guernsey for the game's Indigenous round which was designed by his mother Lisa-May Sansbury. Lisa-May was forcibly removed from her family as a child and dedicated her life to raising her own children to be the best they could be. This poignant relationship has been sung to life by Dan Sultan and Paul Kelly in *Every Day My Mother's Voice*.

Every day my mother's voice  
Talks to me  
Every day I make my choice  
What to do and how to be

The song is the final track on a new documentary, *The Final Quarter*, premiering at the Sydney Film Festival on **Friday 7 June**. Described as highly sensitive, it focuses on the final three years of Adam Goodes' career. A second international production, *The Australian Dream*, will premiere in August. <https://musicfeeds.com.au/.../paul-kelly-dan-sultan-release-every-day-my-mothers-voice...>

### EXHIBITIONS

*The Best of Baluk* is a group exhibition showcasing works made by artists from Baluk Arts, an urban Aboriginal arts centre based in Mornington, featuring artists Lisa Waup, Cassie Leatham and Dominic White. It explores the fragility and strength of our planet, and the materials used by the artists are inspired by the fundamental elements of nature – Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Wood and Metal. At Linden New Art, 26 Acland Street, St Kilda, until **Sunday 23 June**. This exhibition is presented as part of ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE. [www.artclimatechange.org](http://www.artclimatechange.org).

*From Bark To Neon* presents an impressive range of works from the NGV's Indigenous art collection exploring major artists such as Emily Kam Kngwarray, Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, Brook Andrew and Destiny Deacon. NGV Fed Square, Level 3, Ian Potter Centre until **Sunday 14 July**. Free.

*Silent Witness: A Window to the Past*, showcases Gunditjmara Elder Jim Berg's beautiful photographs of scar trees. At Bunjilaka, Melbourne Museum, until **Sunday 9 June**.

### READING THE STARS: THE SCIENCE OF ABORIGINAL ASTRONOMY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People developed practical ways to observe the sun, moon and stars to assist navigation, predict weather, create calendars and inform law and social structure. Learn about the science that is encoded in these oral traditions and material culture with Dr Duane Hamacher, an astronomer and Senior Research Fellow at Monash University in Indigenous Studies. **Thursday 6 June**, 7.30 pm, Glenroy Library, 737 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy. Free. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au>

### **EUMERALLA: A WAR REQUIEM FOR PEACE**

Written and composed by Deborah Cheetham AO, acclaimed Yorta Yorta soprano, composer, and Artistic Director of Short Black Opera, this Requiem for peace will be sung entirely in the ancient dialects of the Gunditjmarra people. Accompanying Deborah is Linda Barcan, mezzo soprano; Don Bemrose, baritone (Gungarri); MSO Chorus; and Dhungala Children's Choir featuring masters students from Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and young talent from Melbourne Youth Orchestras. **Saturday 15 June**, 7.00 pm, Hamer Hall. \$35.

### **QUEENSCLIFF MUSIC FESTIVAL**

As part of the Festival's special winter series of concerts, Dan Sultan will perform tracks from his new release *Aviary Takes*. **Saturday 15 June**, 8.00 pm. Archie Roach will also appear with a special guest, 8.00 pm, **Saturday 22 June**, in the Queenscliff Town Hall. Email: [admin@qmf.net.au](mailto:admin@qmf.net.au)

### **AWARDS**

Two years after the outback western *Sweet Country* premiered, the critically-acclaimed film has won the top prize at the Australian Directors' Guild Awards. The awards were a triumph for Indigenous film and TV, with Rachel Perkins being recognised for the ABC TV series *Mystery Road* and Paul Damien Williams winning a prize for the documentary feature *Gurrumul*. At the Australian Book Industry Awards, Indigenous Literacy Foundation's lifetime Ambassador, Anita Heiss, won an award for her anthology *Growing Up Aboriginal in Australia*, alongside another Black Inc title, *Deep Time Dreaming* by Billy Griffiths and Allen and Unwin's *Catching Teller Crow* by Ambelin and Ezekiel Kwaymullina. APY Lands artist, Sylvia Ken, won the \$50,000 Wynne Prize for her painting *Seven Sisters*. Her win marks the fourth consecutive year that Indigenous artists have won the Wynne Prize.

### **PPCfR'S SORRY DAY LUNCH 2019**



City of Port Phillip's Jordan Sutardy and Todd Condie with senior students from St Michael's Grammar.

Singer, songwriter and storyteller Pirritu Brett Lee entertains over one hundred guests at the Sorry Day lunch.



Sorry Day lunch guests Serge Thomann, Sue Pennicuik and Martin Foley.

*Note:* PPCfR is very grateful to the sponsors who donated door prizes for lunch guests: Bangarra Dance Theatre, Yagiz Turkish Restaurant, (22 Toorak Rd, South Yarra), AFL and RecVic Treaty.

