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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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May 2017

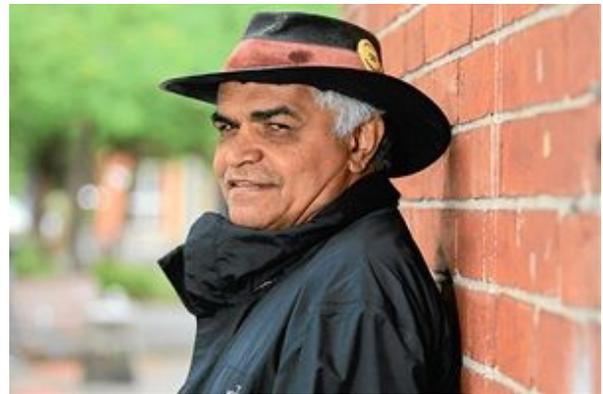
FROM THE CO-CHAIR

National Sorry Day Lunch

I warmly invite you to come along to our lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day on **Friday 26 May**, 12.30-2.30 pm, at the South Melbourne Community Centre located at the corner of Ferrars Place and Park Street, South Melbourne. We will have a Welcome to Country and be entertained by multi-talented singer/songwriter, composer and musical director, James Henry. Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish, will be the inimitable Master of Ceremonies and speakers will include the Mayor of City of Port Phillip - Cr Bernadene Voss, Martin Foley, MP, and Greens Senator, Sue Pennicuik. Lunch, dessert and refreshments will be provided and there will be plenty of time to meet and mingle with friends from our communities. Numbers are limited, so please book in through our office or email rosemary.rule@gmail.com and I'll look forward to seeing you there.



Singer, song writer and composer, James Henry, will perform at our upcoming National Sorry Day Lunch on Friday 26 May. All Welcome.



Dennis Fisher – Den the Fish – our inimitable Sorry Day Lunch Master of Ceremonies

National Reconciliation Week

There are a host of events taking place from **Saturday 27 May to Saturday 3 June** around Melbourne and within the City of Port Phillip. These include a screening of some Indigenous short films and a flag-raising ceremony. Details about these free events are below.

HART Awards

We were hopeful of being shortlisted for the HART Awards for our National Sorry Day Lunch however this did not come to pass. On the bright side, it does mean that there are some great things happening in the area of 'achieving Reconciliation together' around the State.

Bunjilaka Tour

Ro Bailey is hosting a private tour of the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre for PPCfR members and friends on **Sunday 23 May** at 10.30 am, and another for Reconciliation Stonnington members the following Sunday. If you'd like to go along, please contact Ro at: ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au or phone 9819 9106.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting: Tuesday 16 May, 6.30 pm, South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. All Welcome.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week 2017 will be held between **27 May** and **3 June**. It commemorates the 50th anniversary of the successful 1967 Referendum as well as the 25th anniversary of the Mabo High Court ruling. RecVic will again have a number of small grants available to support community activities celebrating National Reconciliation Week. For more information go to: www.reconciliationvic.org.au

In recognition of National Reconciliation Week, a consortia of prominent Melbourne organisations have come together to present WE | HERE | NOW, a week-long program of free-to-the-public activities and events in Fed Square. The inaugural program kicks off on **Saturday 27 May** with the raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at Fed Square. This is the first time the flags will have been raised permanently at this iconic Melbourne landmark, and, to commemorate this special occasion, Eddie Mabo's daughter, Gail Mabo, will join local Elders in honouring Australia's First Peoples.

The program includes:

- RIGHTS | NOW, a public talk in the Deakin Edge featuring artists, activists and academics - Paola Balla, Gary Foley, Kim Kruger and Rebecca Gerrett-Magee
- A film night under the stars featuring Stephen Page's movie *Spear* and the classic mockumentary *BabaKiueria* starring Bob Maza
- Free screenings for schools and the general public of *Satellite Boy* and *Mabo* at ACMI
- Exhibitions, workshops and live performances
- A Mabo Day Community Picnic & Celebration by the Birrarung (River Terrace next to Fed Square).

Visit the National Reconciliation Week Online Calendar for more information.

The City of Port Phillip Rec Week events are as follows:
Wednesday 24 May: St Kilda Film Festival – Indigenous film panel followed by short films, St Kilda Town Hall, 6.15-8.15 pm. For further information contact Fred Gesha on 0439 902 621.

Friday 26 May: Sorry Day Lunch, organised by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation in the South Melbourne Community Centre, 12.30-2.30 pm. For further information contact Todd Condie on 0403 606 559.

Monday 29 May: Reconciliation Week flag-raising event featuring the launch of City of Port Phillip's second Reconciliation Action Plan 2017-2020, Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony, catered lunch. St Kilda Town Hall, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. For further information contact Todd Condie on 0403 606 559.

Friday 2 June: Mabo Day flag-raising event featuring Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony, catered lunch, and Torres Strait Islander musical performances. St Kilda Town Hall (front lawn), 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. For further information contact Fred Gesha on 0439 902 621.

YIRRAMBOI FESTIVAL

Melbourne Recital Centre proudly stands on the land of the Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation and is celebrating the storytelling of Indigenous Australians with performances by some of Australia's greatest performers on **Wednesday 10 May**, in partnership with City of Melbourne's Yirramboi Festival 2017.

Yirramboi means *tomorrow* in the shared languages of the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nations, Nairn. Yirramboi is a gathering place, a creative lab, a skills-sharing platform, an inter-generational exchange for First Nations people that simultaneously engages non-Indigenous audiences in the presentation of new work and collective events. Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival, run and operated by Indigenous people, gathers creative visionaries from across Victoria, Australia, and around the world on the lands of the Kulin, Nairn, showcasing the future vision of Indigenous Arts in Melbourne. The opening night features a smoking ceremony and party hosted by circus performer Miss Celaneous. On **Wednesday 10 May**, performances include Kulin Tide Strings by James Henry with Silo Quartet.

This free event is an imagining of musical harmony between Indigenous and western sounds of the 18th Century, featuring songs written for Tanderrum - Melbourne Festival's opening ceremony - bringing together timeless sounds from opposite sides of the world. Other events include a full moon party with Uncle Larry Walsh telling stories to a live soundtrack, and a Mothers' Day ceremony. For details, contact: yirramboi@melbourne.vic.gov.au or phone 9658 9658, or visit Melbourne Recital Centre: boxoffice@melbournerecital.com.au Phone 9699 3333.

ANTAR CELEBRATES

In April, ANTAR Victoria celebrated their 20th anniversary by hosting an exhibition showcasing their history of supporting rights, recognition and reconciliation of Australia's First Peoples through pictures, articles, and memorabilia in the Fitzroy Library. *Background:* Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTAR) is a grassroots organisation campaigning for justice in solidarity with Australia's First Peoples. They are based on Traditional Aboriginal Country in what we now call Melbourne, Australia. ANTAR acknowledges that at the time of European arrival the totality of the lands that are now known as Victoria were occupied by sovereign Indigenous nations who owned, cared for and enjoyed their land in accordance with their laws, customs and traditions. The Indigenous nations' sovereignty as well as their peoples' right of ownership, occupation, use and enjoyment of lands have never been ceded. They acknowledge all Indigenous peoples in Victoria today, including the original language groups as well as all clans, family groups and land owning groups; as well as affirm their rights to their lands, their rights to self-determination and to exercise control over their culture and traditions. ANTAR Vic does not receive any sort of funding. They rely on donations and sales from their shop. Contact ANTAR Vic, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. T: 9483 1363; www.antarvictoria.org.au

WHERE IS TREATY AT IN VICTORIA?

Less than a year ago, renowned artist Richard Frankland led a crowd of hundreds in a powerful chant of *Treaty*. He was responding to protestors at the first Victorian Treaty Forum who were dissatisfied with the way the process was running. It was early into the historic talks, and already some labelled it bureaucratic and not grassroots. Just three months earlier, the Victorian community had made history. A gathering of 500 leaders from across the

state unanimously opposed constitutional recognition at the first major consultation with Aboriginal people in decades. Instead, they called for Treaty. Fast-forward 13 months and a lot has happened. An Interim Working Group was established, three Treaty forums attracting hundreds of people and countless consultations across the state have been held. But for some, the same concerns raised at the first forum have persisted. *"I don't think it's been going very well at all,"* Lidia Thorpe, a Gannai and Gunditjmara woman, told NITV. Lidia was on the Interim Working Group, but left last October when she felt her cultural integrity was being compromised. She says while there are good intentions, the process hasn't come from the grassroots, and has been rushed.

But Janine Coombs, who sits on the Working Group, disagrees. *"It's a collective voice. At the end of the day, if you don't listen and hear what people have to say, this is never going to work. So you have to come together as a collective and ensure every voice is heard,"* she said. She says the Working Group has been under pressure to meet deadlines, but has *"worked really hard"* to ensure every community member knows about the upcoming forum on **Friday 28 April**, *"and has had the opportunity to have a voice"*.

The April Forum is the third since the Treaty talks, and the community will need to decide on a representative structure: the body which will negotiate with the government going forward. Lidia Thorpe has very clear ideas about what that should look like. She wants to see a clan-based Treaty commission which builds on the tenants of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. *"To have a true Treaty process, every clan that remains today in this state must have free, informed prior consent. That's the only way we can go forward with a Treaty in Victoria,"* she said.

Source: Rachael Hocking, NITV News, April.

Note: RecVic's Position Statement on Treaty and Constitutional Recognition.

RecVic supports the calls of the Aboriginal community in Victoria for the long-overdue negotiation of a Treaty, and commends the Victorian Government for its commitment to enter into these discussions. RecVic says that a Treaty – an agreement between governments and Aboriginal people – will address the nature of Australia's settlement and colonial history and the ongoing impacts these have had on Aboriginal people, and provide Aboriginal people self-determination over their own lives and futures, as shown by evidence to be the key to creating wellbeing. *"We believe a Treaty has the potential to create the foundation for a brighter collective future in which all of us can share: a more courageous future that embraces and learns from the cultures of our First Peoples, that acknowledges our often painful shared history and connects all of us to the fifty thousand or more years of human history of this country."* RecVic's understanding is that both state-based Treaty discussions and the national constitutional reform agenda can be progressed alongside each other. Both will represent significant milestones in our country's history, but they must be informed by the diverse voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples if they are to be achieved. Visit www.reconciliationvic.org.au for updates.

VICTORIAN RECONCILIATION NETWORK FORUM

It was my privilege, along with other interested parties from the Victorian Reconciliation movement, to attend the RecVic Regional Network Forum and Tour on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, land of the Jaara people, on the weekend of Friday 31 March. Proceedings commenced with a beautiful Welcome to Country in language on Friday night at our Maldon camp, by Raquel Kerr, Co-ordinator of Cultural Heritage, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation. Raquel generously spoke about the work of the Corporation, and opportunities for the Jaara people resulting from the landmark Recognition and Settlement Act. After breakfast on Saturday morning, our group headed for the first stop, Yapeen School, where we were met by Uncle Rick Nelson, Jaara Elder, and Vic Say from Castlemaine ANTA. The school was named from the Dja Dja Wurrung word for 'meeting place' or 'Tanderrum'. We were welcomed by Uncle Rick with the 'baramul' (emu) chant. We then toured the school which is used to teach Aboriginal children living on this Country language and culture, followed by a viewing of a short film in language with English subtitles of a traditional story.

Our next stop was Vaughan Springs on the Loddon River where we had a lovely picnic lunch prepared by a local community-run catering business. Uncle Rick showed us an amazing rock formation which had been used by many generations of the Jaara people as grinding stones to sharpen stone tools. This was followed by a visit to Eureka Reef, where Uncle Rick led us to a series of rock wells which had been constructed by the Jaara people to access clean drinking water. We then met up at the Castlemaine Art Gallery to view a short film featuring Uncle Rick's father, Uncle Brian Nelson, and Gerry Gill, Lecturer of Sociology and Aboriginal History, La Trobe University, and their work on the Carisbrook Stone Arrangement (a men's initiation site). We returned to our camp at Maldon where we had dinner followed by the Local Reconciliation Forum.

Our final day on Dja Dja Wurrung country was a trip to Boort for a tour of cultural sites, hosted by Jida Gulpilil. Jida met us at the carpark of the small lake in Boort. We followed him to a burial site near the home of Paul Haw and Margaret Munro, long-time friends of and advocates with the Jaara people. Jida led us to an old campsite where we were honoured with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony. Jida explained that he was Dja Dja Wurrung on his mother's side and Yolgnu on his father's side. His father is renowned actor and dancer, David Gulpilil AM. Jida took us to an area where there were remains of ancient campsites and fire mounds dating back 4600 years, shared by generations of Jaara people and last used 187 years ago. We were shown local clay ball artefacts used as heat beads by the Jaara people moulded with a combination of river clay, water and grass. Jida explained that some clay balls still had fingerprints of his ancestors baked into them along with traces of grass seed.

Jida shared his passion in caring for country and examples of self-determination arising for the Jaara people from the Recognition and Settlement Act. He spoke about land and water management initiatives including the first Aboriginal burn soon to be implemented in Victoria since white occupation and hopes for eventual

World Heritage Recognition for protection of the extensive and unique Boort Lakes area.

Sincere thanks to the hard-working staff and volunteers at RecVic for making this tour possible. Individuals or groups interested in touring any of these sites or seeking more information are encouraged to get in touch with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Corporation - www.djadjawurrung.com.au, or Gulpilil Tours Australia - www.gulpililsaustralia.com.au.

Sylvia Edgar, PPCfR member was among the 45 people representing 15 LRGs who attended the forum.



RecVic Regional Network Forum attendees on the tour of Dja Dja Wurrung Country

ABORIGINAL INCARCERATION RATES

Aboriginal people are massively overrepresented in the criminal justice system of Australia. Aboriginals aged 18 years and older represent only 2 per cent of the total population yet more than 28 per cent of Australia's prison population is Aboriginal. Since 2004, the number of Aboriginal Australians in custody has increased by 88% compared to a 28% increase for non-Aboriginal Australians. Australia is heading towards one in two of the prison population being Aboriginal prisoners – by 2020. In 1992, the ratio was 1 in 7 and the imprisonment rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders has increased twelve times faster than the rate for non-Aboriginal people and half of the 10-17 year-olds in jails are Aboriginal.

Note: The Change the Record campaign aims to close the gap in imprisonment rates by 2040. It is overseen by a steering committee made up of Aboriginal, human rights and community organisations and offers key statistics and case studies. Visit <https://changetherecord.org.au> to learn more about how to pledge and make a difference.

RECONCILIATION AWARDS

Presented by the City of Whittlesea in partnership with the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group, these awards highlight and celebrate local Reconciliation initiatives during National Reconciliation Week. The awards are open to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, services, organisations, businesses, our diverse communities and people of all abilities and faiths. Nominations are now open in the following categories: individual award; education award; community award; Uncle Reg Blow

community champion award. The award recipients will be announced at the annual Reconciliation dinner on **Friday 2 June**. For more information/nomination forms, contact their Aboriginal Liaison Coordinator on 9217 2159 or email aboriginalofficer@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DANCE FORUM

Presented by BlakDance – the peak body for Indigenous dance, this National Indigenous Dance Forum held **Friday 5 May– 7 May**, gathers traditional practitioners, contemporary practitioners, rights' holders to songlines, community groups, independent artists, makers, creators, producers, choreographers, educators and scholars to participate in three days of discussions that will focus on the current situation affecting Indigenous dance practice within our communities in our great south land.

Noel Tovey will be speaking about the importance of a classical training as part of the Ballerina Panel, **Sunday 7 May**, Melbourne Town Hall - part of the Yirramboi Festival.

ARCHIE ROACH – LET LOVE RULE

In a voice rich with humanity, filled with joy, pain, love and longing, Archie will perform songs from his latest album, *Let Love Rule*. He will be joined by members of the award-winning Short Black Opera and Dhungala Children's Choir and backed by a seven-piece band comprising some of the country's finest musicians. Three decades after the release of his 1990 debut album *Charcoal Lane*, Archie's work continues to explore universal themes of love, friendship, family, country and community. *Let Love Rule*, his tenth album, explores love in all its glorious, unruly incarnations, to find that shared humanity rather than looking at the things that divide us. **Saturday 13 May**, 8.00 pm at the Arts Centre Playhouse. Bookings: 1300 182 183. Presented by the Arts Centre Melbourne and Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival.

LITTLE BLACK BASTARD

Little Black Bastard was originally performed at La Mama Courthouse in 2003. Since then, the book of the same name has been published and the performance has toured the world to critical acclaim. After becoming a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2015, Noel Tovey, 85, returned to perform *Little Black Bastard* at La Mama Courthouse - the building where he was taken from his parents at five years old. The performance is part of La Mama's 50th Birthday Celebrations. Noel enjoys the distinction of being Australia's first male ballet dancer of Indigenous heritage. He was born in Carlton, Victoria, on Christmas Day, 1934. Tovey's autobiography, *Little Black Bastard* (2004), for which he received the 2000 Indigenous Fellowship to write, was published by Hachette in 2004. *'My Little Black Bastard will have completed its circle and I will be satisfied.'* - Noel Tovey, 2015. Don't miss this celebration of an artistic career spanning seven decades, honouring this mentor to Indigenous performers and advocate for the LGBTI community with a special performance at 6.30 pm, **Wednesday 3 May**. Bookings required - rsvp@lamama.com.au. The play runs from 3-7 May, Wed & Thurs at 6.30 pm; Saturday 4.00 pm (with Q & A), Sunday 4.00 pm at La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St Carlton. Further information, 9347 614.

THE LONG WALK 2017

On 27 May 2017, join AFL and Essendon legend, Michael Long, and his supporters as they continue to promote the story of The Long Walk, raising awareness to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, wellbeing and life opportunities. Come together at Fed Square for The Long Walk: We Walk Together 2017 free community celebration from noon. Joe Williams will be MC with entertainment by Archie Roach and others. Visit <http://www.thelongwalk.com.au> for more details.

INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION

In the lead up to National Reconciliation Week, 27 May - 3 June, the ILF is examining the theme of *Taking the next steps* and how well that is reflected in their journey.

On **Wednesday 24 May**, they will celebrate National Reconciliation Week by launching their first enhanced Ebook in Warburton in Ngaanyatjarra language (and English). If you're looking for ways to support the future of Indigenous children, contact the ILF, info@ilf.org.au; (02) 9280 0644.

TREE PLANTING AT CORANDERRK

Help is needed on **Sunday 7 May** to create and extend habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum. Together with new fencing, watering systems and weed management, a new whole farm plan to restore and rejuvenate Coranderrk is being implemented. Share information about Coranderrk's history and future plans, including three-hour planting session and bush tucker tasting. Please bring hats, gloves, sensible shoes. BYO lunch and water. 9.30 am – 3.30 pm. Register at coranderrkreeplanting@gmail.com with your name, numbers attending, contact email or phone number. Coranderrk is located at 19 Barak Lane, Healesville.

NOEL TOVEY AT HARES & HYENAS

MP Fiona Patten from the Australian Sex Party will talk with Noel Tovey about his two books and his life on **Friday 12 May**, 7.00 pm at the Hares & Hyenas Bookstore, 63 Johnston Street, Fitzroy. Details: 9495 6589

PADDY BEDFORD

To celebrate thirty years, William Mora Galleries is presenting an exhibition of the major works of the renowned artist Paddy Bedford at 60 Tanner Street, Richmond, until 13 May. Details: 9429 1199

GROUND-BREAKING CHILDREN'S ANIMATED TV SHOW

NITV's new TV show *Little J and Big Cuz* is the first animated children's show to feature Indigenous Australians and their culture. Award-winning Aboriginal actress Deborah Mailman voices the character Big Cuz in the show, and says the benefit is the diverse landscape the characters traverse which makes it relatable to everyone. "So kids, no matter whether they're living in the city or the outback, see themselves represented in a way that's relatable to them." Lydia Miller, executive director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts at Australia Council, said it was incredibly important for Indigenous children to be able to see themselves on screen.

Producer Ned Lander said each episode had many layers within it, such as connection to country and what he called "both-ways learning". "*Learning from your own culture and learning from white fella culture, learning from your school and your grandmother*," he said. But making a show that reflected the diverse Indigenous communities within Australia was no small feat for the team.

Mr Lander said he had been contacted by numerous Indigenous community members who wanted to dub the show into their nation's language. The great thing about animation is you can dub it so easily," he said. So far the episodes have been dubbed in a number of Indigenous languages including Pintinjarra, Arrernte, Wiradjuri, Yawuru, and a reclaimed Tasmanian language called Palawa Kani. *Little J and Big Cuz* premiered on NITV on 28 April.

AWARDS

The 34th Annual Green Room Awards were presented live at Melbourne's Comedy Theatre in April. The Association's Patron, Julia Zemiro, hosted the evening to celebrate the outstanding work presented in Melbourne during 2016. Ilbjerri Theatre was the winner of the Independent Theatre, Production category for *Blood on the Dancefloor*. The Ted Albert Award for Outstanding Services to Australia was won by legendary songwriter, storyteller and activist, Archie Roach. Archie first came to national attention with the release of his debut album *Charcoal Lane* in 1990. The album launched his career, with the award-winning song *Took the Children Away* telling the heartbreaking story of the Stolen Generations and his own experience of being forcibly removed from his family. Since then, he has released ten albums.

Australia Council Dance Award went to Bangarra's Artistic Director, Stephen Page, recognising his lifelong, inspirational contribution to dance. This year he celebrates his 26th year with the company, creating *Bennelong*, a work based on the life of Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior man of the Eora Nation from the Port Jackson area in Sydney.

The Children's Book Council of Australia 2017 Shortlist includes: Book of The Year: Older Readers – *Mrs Whitlam* by Bruce Pascoe. Picture Book of The Year - *The Patchwork Bike* by Van T Rudd with text by Maxine Beneba Clarke. Notables 2017 – Early Childhood: *Dream Little One, Dream* by Sally Morgan, Illustrations by Ambelin Kwaymullina. Picture Book of the Year: *Welcome to Country* - Lisa Kennedy, text by Aunty Joy Murphy.

GONDWANA CHOIRS & VIENNA CHOIRS

Gondwana Choirs has announced a ground-breaking collaboration in 2017 between Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the renowned Vienna Boys Choir. The core of this project is bringing together two highly skilled children's choirs, both deeply connected to a rich cultural heritage. In collaboration with the Austrian National Tourist Office, these world class ensembles will contribute to the creation of new work, cultural exchange, touring and the culminating performances at the Sydney Opera House and the Cairns Convention Centre in October. Gondwana Choirs performed with the Vienna Boys Choir's in Vienna in May.

