



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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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.

This newsletter is supported by a Community Grant from the City of Port Phillip, and we acknowledge Martin Foley MP, State Labor Member for Albert Park, for his ongoing support.

May 2018

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

2018 National Sorry Day Lunch

Please come along and commemorate National Sorry Day at our community lunch on **Friday 25 May**, 12.30-2.30 pm. Join Aboriginal Elders, politicians, members, friends and students from local schools gathering in the South Melbourne Community Centre, corner Ferrars Place and Park Street, South Melbourne, and be treated to a Welcome to Country, the inimitable MC-style of Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish (and my Co-Chair), and listen to the terrific singer/storyteller Dave Arden. We also have some fabulous Door Prizes to give away. Lunch and refreshments are provided. It's a free event but a gold coin donation is appreciated. Please RSVP by **Sunday 20 May** to 9699 8804 or via email - rosemary.rule@gmail.com. *Note:* Sorry Day is commemorated nationally on **Saturday 26 May**. Some of the many events are listed inside.



Songman and storyteller Dave Arden will perform at our National Sorry Day Lunch on Friday 25 May.

2018 National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week's theme *Don't Keep History a Mystery* explores Australia's past, helping us learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and developing a deeper understanding of our national story.

NRW is held annually from **Sunday 27 May to Saturday 3 June**. Dates that bookend the week commemorate the anniversaries of the 1967 referendum and the historic Mabo decision. This week includes National Sorry Day and Mabo Day. The City of Port Phillip will hold a flag-raising at 11.00 am, St Kilda Town Hall, on **Monday 28 May** with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by the Boon Wurrung Foundation, speech by the Mayor and a community lunch afterwards. All welcome. Learn more from Todd Condie, tcondie@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Victorian Reconciliation Network Forum

The Network Forum and tour on Wurundjeri Country took place over the weekend of 14-15 April. Braving the heavy rain, the 35 participants, among them PPCfR members Helen Bennett and Pat Nicol, enjoyed a stimulating two days at the Candlebark Farm and around Coranderrk, an historically important Aboriginal community as you will read in Ro Bailey's excellent report inside.

2018 Reconciliation Writing Competition

I encourage people to enter our recently-launched Reconciliation Writing Competition. Entries, due by **Friday 24 August**, will be judged by Tony Birch, Clare Bradford and Bryan Andy, and can be emailed to writingcomp2018@gmail.com. Full details on our website - ppcfr.org.

Guest Speaker

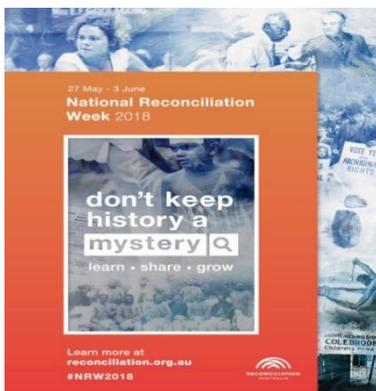
We'll have a special guest speaker at our June meeting - details next issue.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 15 May, 2018, 6.30 pm, South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. **All Welcome.**

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

The theme for National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2018 commemorates two significant milestones in the Reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 referendum



and the High Court Mabo decision. For this year's theme, *Don't Keep History a Mystery*, Australians are invited to Learn, Share and Grow by exploring our past, learning more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and developing a deeper

understanding of our national story. NRW is held annually from **Sunday 27 May – Saturday 3 June**.

Further information about NRW events and local activities is available on RecVic's website:

www.reconciliationvic.org.au or
info@reconciliationvic.org.au

THE LONG WALK

Join the Walk to the G from Federation Square which is held on **Saturday 2 June** and keep in the loop with all the entertainment, activities and news, including details about walking a full lap of the MCG prior to the game with Michael Long and the pre-game entertainment.

Tickets for *The Long Walk Experience* must be purchased by **Friday 25 May**. Visit thelongwalk.com.au for tickets, special packages and event updates.

TREATY BILL - IT'S A FIRST

A bill was introduced into the Victorian Parliament on 28 March bringing the State another step closer to having an official Treaty with its Aboriginal people. It is Australia's first Treaty law brought into the Victorian Parliament. The *Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Bill* recognises the Aboriginal Representative Body and enables it to negotiate with the State Government over the framework for a Treaty. It also commits funding, establishes negotiating principles, and requires the State Government and the Aboriginal Representative Body to provide annual reports on the progress of a Treaty. Victorian Treaty Advancement commissioner Jill Gallagher said it had taken years to get the bill to this point, but official Treaty negotiations were still years away. *'It's taken two years of hard work, blood, sweat and tears, and we still got a lot of hard work ahead of us,'* she said. The bill will need to pass Victoria's Upper House. Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Natalie Hutchins hopes it will receive support from the State Opposition.

Note: There are about 52,000 Aboriginal people living in Victoria, equally spread between the regional and metropolitan areas. Treaty consultations took place in community meetings and through online feedback. The Treaty Working Group estimates about 7,500 people have engaged in the process so far.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart, which was rejected by the Prime Minister, demanded a commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments, widely understood as a reference to Treaties.

RECVIC - LOCAL GROUPS VISIT TO HEALESVILLE

RecVic's Network Forum trip was held over the weekend of April 14-15, but Keith and I decided to go one day earlier just because we could, and because of this we booked into an Airbnb rather than staying with the other participants at Candlebark Farm. This proved to be fortuitous as our host lent me the book *William Barak, Last Chief of the Yarra Yarra Tribe, When the Wattles Bloom Again* by Shirley Wienke. I found the book compelling reading and finished it in one sitting on the Friday night, which really set me up for the weekend of learning about the Wurundjeri. I recommend this book - it was published in 1984, however, so is now hard to find and expensive to buy.

On Friday afternoon, we visited Worawa Girls Boarding School in Barak Lane, Healesville, and were taken on a tour of their art gallery and grounds. I had met the principal, Dr Lois Peeler, at an art exhibition where I was wearing an emu feather pendant I had made. She told me it was her totem so I said I would make her one, and being in Healesville gave me the opportunity to drop it off. She is so enthusiastic about the school and told us about the opportunities it gives to the girls.

The experience on Saturday began at Dights Falls in Abbotsford, and we decided to join everyone in Warrandyte at the second stop, however, we received a phone call to say that it was called off due to the group being soaked by the rain and desiring to be dry and warm again. We met up with the group at Candlebark Farm for an exercise on identity and other discussions. We heard that Bill Nicholson, who had conducted the first leg of the trip, had been very knowledgeable, so were sorry to have missed his session.

There were about 35 present representing LRGs covering most of the state. RecVic reported on major developments and on their survey of local groups. A young intern gave a talk on how to attract young people to the cause, telling us that social media is important and instructing us on how to set up a Facebook page. (Handouts on this available from RecVic). An update was provided on Treaty developments in Victoria. Jill Gallagher, Treaty Commissioner, has indicated that LRGs are well-placed to speak to their local MPs re the Treaty Bill and its importance. It is important that this remains a bipartisan political issue. The Greens position on a clans-based Treaty process was noted.

Other RecVic matters discussed included:

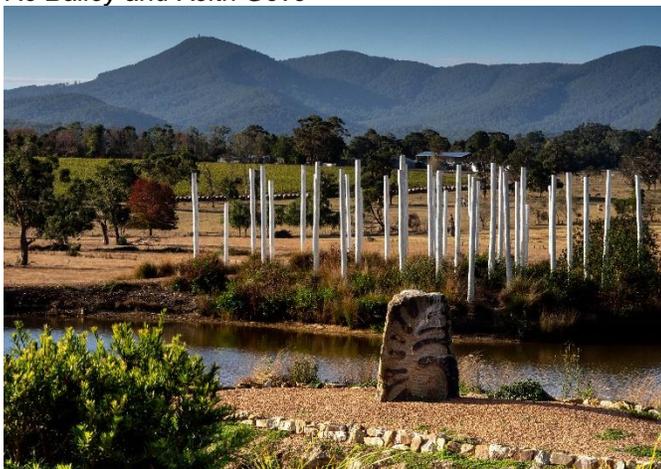
- The importance of LRGs working with RAP organisations to examine how their RAP commitments work out on the ground with a view to looking at maximising the collective impact

- working with Reconciliation Australia (RA) on learning circles and cultural safety
- the use of RecVic small grants and how to showcase the outcomes of different organisations
- the new RecVic website which is imminent and will include a page for education/school resources
- resources for the 2018 Reconciliation Week theme, which are on the RA website
- the August LRG Network meeting, which may focus on relationships with local councils.

The next day we visited Coranderk Cemetery and had a talk from David Wandin followed by a tour of Coranderk. David was also very knowledgeable and generous with his time and information. It was sobering to see the list on a plaque on Barak's tombstone of the number of deaths, including many children, which took place soon after colonisation.

Although the weather was not kind throughout the weekend, we enjoyed this meeting and are grateful to RecVic for arranging it. Meetings with Traditional Owners and other LRG groups are important and worthwhile.

Ro Bailey and Keith Gove



At Worawa Girls' School, these poles represent the 38 language groups in Victoria.

SHORT BLACK INDIGENOUS SHORT FILM RETROSPECTIVE

Join the celebration of Indigenous short film with a selection of shorts from talented Indigenous directors including Danielle Maclean, Mark Howett and Mitch Torres as part of the St Kilda Film Festival. Prior to the Retrospective, there will be a free panel discussion featuring filmmaker Nicholas Boseley, producer Michelle Broun and moderator Tasha James of the National Film and Sound Archive to discuss their filmmaking processes. Organised by the City of Port Phillip, on **Thursday 24 May**, 6.00 pm for the panel discussion, 7.30 pm for the screening, at St Kilda Town Hall. Tickets: \$18 Full or \$15 Concession. For further information contact Fred Gesha, 0439 902 621.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON NEWS

Reconciliation Stonnington took part in the Flavours Multicultural Festival on 17 March. This year, the council blocked off Greville Street and our information tent was placed there instead of in Grattan Gardens, as in the past. We employed local Aboriginal artist Brianna Gyesko, daughter of Peter Judda Mackay, to carry out body painting which was popular as usual. It was interesting being in Greville Street for a change, as it gave us a new audience and we were entertained by the hip, trendoid passers-by that frequent Greville Street. *Ro Bailey, Reconciliation Stonnington.*

INDIGENOUS FILM SCREENING

As part of the St Kilda Film Festival, the City of Port Phillip is showing a retrospective of the works of David Batty, producer of *Bush Mechanics* and *Black As*, on **Wednesday 23 May**, 7.45-9.00 pm. The St Kilda Town Hall will be converted into a theatre for the night. Featured screenings include scenes from *Bush Mechanics*, *Black As*, *Coniston* and *Desert Heart*. For further information contact Fred Gesha, 9209 6502, fgesha@portphillip.vic.gov.au

DAVID FRANKEL TALK

The Friends of Emerald Hill Library are privileged to have Emeritus Professor David Frankel come and discuss his latest research on Aboriginal heritage. His latest publication, *Between the Murray and the Sea. Aboriginal Archaeology in South-eastern Australia* will be the focus of this library talk. For a greater understanding of the past and for a discussion on the issues of preservation and management in Australian archeology, please join us on the third weekend of May. Professor Frankel is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and served on the Humanities Panel of the Australian Research Council. He was awarded the Prime Minister's Centenary Award for services to Australian society and the humanities, and is a member of the Permanent Council of the International Union for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, and joint Editor-in-Chief of Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology.

Saturday 19 May, 11.00 am, Emerald Hill Library, South Melbourne. For information contact Michael Sabada, Friends of Emerald Hill Library, 0417 556 143, oehl@hotmail.com

ARCHIE ROACH AND TIDDAS UNITE

These musical legends are reuniting for a one-off national tour in May to celebrate the release of Archie's recently-unearthed album *Dancing With My Spirit*. Recorded over two decades ago by producer Jen Anderson, circumstances at the time saw the demo shelved and virtually forgotten, until now. The album captures Archie's voice at its best, and the songs really come alive when Tiddas bring their sublime and bold vocal harmonies to the mix. It's been nearly twenty years since the women of Tiddas - Amy Saunders, Lou Bennett and Sally Dastey - have performed on stage together, so the tour will be a very special event. Performance on **Sunday 6 May**, 5.00 pm, Hamer Hall, Arts Centre.

PS: Archie Roach will be presented with an Excellence in the Community Award by charity Support Act - 'in recognition of his powerful contribution to the voice of First Nations' people and all Australians'- at Sydney's Ivy Ballroom on **Wednesday 16 May**. As well as a performance from Roach himself, Paul Kelly with Maddie and Memphis Kelly, Tiddas and Emma Donovan will all pay tribute to Roach and his career with performances on the day. The Music in the House event will raise much-needed funds for Support Act, a charity that assists members of the Australian music industry during times of hardship.

ART FROM THE HEART

Come along to a fabulous art auction of over thirty artworks direct from Central Australia on **Sunday 27 May**, 12.30-6.30 pm, at the Steps Gallery, 62 Lygon St, Carlton. All proceeds support Chansey Paech, Labor's member for Namatjira in the NT Legislative Assembly. The gallery will be open from 12.30 pm for viewing, and the auction will begin at 3.30 pm. Details: Louise Connor (lmconnor101@gmail.com). Visit the facebook event for photos of artworks - <https://www.facebook.com/events/622503224763039/>

KICK ON FOR LITERACY

This special event/fundraiser for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) features a special performance from Archie Roach and a celebrity debate that will battle out the topic *The Locker Room is Sexier than the Library*. Panelists include Anita Heiss, Graeme Simsion, David Lawrence, Belinda Duarte, Tanya Hosch and Campbell Brown. **Wednesday 30 May**, 6:30-11:00 pm, Eakins Dining Hall, Queens College, University of Melbourne, 1-17 College Crescent, Parkville. Tickets (\$100.00) include the show and a two-course dinner with beverages. There will also be a host of fantastic prizes for silent auction on the night, with all profits supporting our literacy programs for children in remote communities. Hosted by The Epic Good Foundation and Queens College, supported by Hawthorn Football Club. Seating is limited so booking is essential via TryBooking and the ILF: info@ilf.org.au

FILM NEWS AND REVIEWS

Gurrumul

Highly recommended is the new film *Gurrumul* about Australia's highest-selling Indigenous musician. Documenting his life, the culture of the Elcho Island community, and the extraordinary career of someone who is the antithesis of what a pop star is supposed to be, it culminates in the completion of his latest album *Djarimirri* (Child of the Rainbow) completed after his death mid-2017. The album can be viewed on YouTube. Serge Thomann wrote: 'The most moving documentary ever, *Gurrumul*'. There was a great Q & A after the advance screening at the Astor last month. Don't miss this masterpiece when it comes out. The beautiful Aboriginal world through the eyes of someone who cannot see. A bridge between cultures. Congratulations to all involved especially to director Paul Williams.'

The Song Keepers

Four generations of song-women, that make up the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir, go on a historic journey to take back the hymns that were given to their ancestors by German missionaries - but in their own ancient Aboriginal languages and on their own terms. Come on an adventure as the unlikely band on earth goes on tour...to the other side of the world! The film is being screened during the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival at ACMI, **Tuesday 10 May**, 8:00 pm. Tickets \$22.50/\$17.50 via: <https://2018.hraff.org.au/events/the-song-keepers/#ferve>.

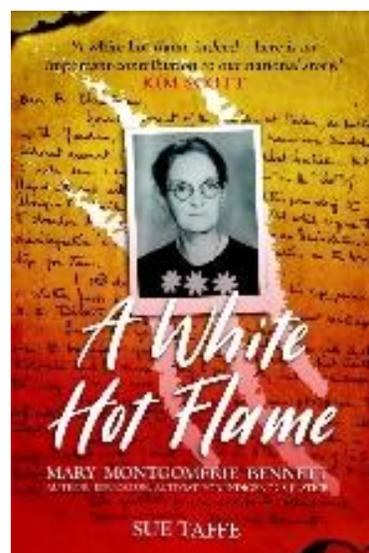
BOOK NEWS

Alexis Wright Wins 2018 Stella Prize

Alexis Wright has won this year's Stella Prize for Australian Women's Writing for her collective memoir *Tracker*, about the late Arrente man and activist Leigh Bruce 'Tracker' Tilmouth, a close personal friend and colleague in the fight for Aboriginal rights. Tilmouth was instrumental in the creation of the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and the Aboriginal Health Service in the southern part of the Northern Territory, and served as director of the Central Land Council for many years. 'He knew people left, right and centre, from the top to the bottom of this country. He'd been everywhere and he went everywhere and he didn't stay still. So, how do you write a biography about someone like Tracker?' Wright said. It is the second time in the six-year history of the prize that a non-fiction book has won, and the first time an Indigenous Australian has won. Wright is a Miles Franklin Award-winning writer, known for her novels *Carpentaria* and *The Swan Book*.

A White Hot Flame

A White Hot Flame about Mary Bennett, a remarkable woman, written by historian Sue Taffe, has recently been published by Monash University Publishing. Bennett (1881-1961) was ahead of her time by many decades: fighting for justice on behalf of the first Australians, opposing child separation from mothers in the 1930s, and arguing for rights to land and for the extension of human rights also. Bennett was described as a 'white



hot flame' for the intensity and passion of her convictions and activism. The author is a St Kilda-based historian who has written about the contributions of twentieth century activists to campaigns for Aboriginal rights. Sue is the author of *Black and White Together - FCAATSI: the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders*.



**Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation
Invite you to a lunch to commemorate**

National Sorry Day

Friday 25th May, 2018

12.30 – 2.30pm

**South Melbourne Community Centre,
cnr. Ferrars Place & Park Street,
South Melbourne**



Dave Arden

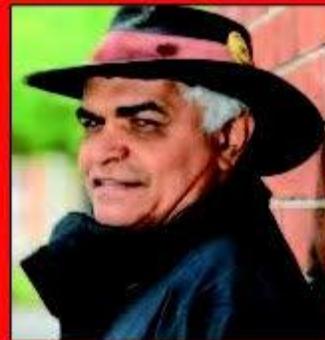
Welcome to Country

Master of Ceremonies

Dennis Fisher,
aka Den the Fish

Entertainment

Dave Arden,
Kokatha/Gunditjmara
Singer, Songman



Dennis Fisher

Lunch & refreshments provided.
Gold coin donation appreciated.
All welcome.



Proudly supported by
the City of Port Phillip

RSVP: 18th May. For bookings/information,
contact Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation
T: 9699 8804, E: rosemary.rule@gmail.com

PPCfR gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Port Phillip.

