

# 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.



**Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.**

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**May 2019**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boon Wurrung Word of the Month:

*Ngarnga* (hear/listen)

### Sorry Day

I invite members and friends to join me at our Sorry Day lunch and help share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations\*, their families, communities and friends. Special guests include Aboriginal Elders, the Hon Martin Foley MP, City of Port Phillip Mayor Dick Gross and Councillors, Dennis Fisher as MC and songs by First Nations singer-songwriter Pirritu Brett Lee - plus door prizes, food and refreshments. This is a free event and all are welcome. South Melbourne Community Centre, cnr Park St & Ferrars Place, South Melbourne, 12.30 pm, **Friday 24 May**, (two days before the official National Sorry Day commemoration). To help with catering, please RSVP by 17 May to Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, 9699 8804; [rosemary.rule@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.rule@gmail.com). \*Stolen Generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.



Pirritu Brett Lee will perform at our Sorry Day lunch.

### National Reconciliation Week

Celebrate Reconciliation Week, **Monday 27 May - Monday 3 June**, under this year's theme *Grounded in Truth, Walk Together with Courage* with a wide range of events including those hosted by the City of Port Phillip, outlined below.

### Reconciliation Groups Forum

Along with fellow PPCfR members Helen Bennett and Janine Wilder, I attended RecVic's statewide Reconciliation Forum focusing on *Treaty in Victoria: We All Have a Role!* at the Mullum Mullum Gathering Place in Ringwood East on 6 April. It was a privilege to listen to **Jill Gallagher AO**, Victorian Treaty Commissioner, explaining the background to the Treaty process in such an informative and educational manner. Jill noted that all Aboriginal people who have lived in Victoria for three-to-five years will be eligible to vote on the Treaty process, with designated Traditional Elders to be part of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria. She encouraged us all to support the process and to learn more by organising and promoting Treaty Conversations as an important social justice issue, the outcomes of which will enhance us all. Check progress via <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/treaty>

### Guest Speaker

Dr Sue Taffe was, until recently, an Adjunct Research Associate in the Monash Indigenous Studies Centre. Her work has focused on 20th century collaborations between black and white campaigners working for justice for First Australians. One of these was Mary Montgomerie Bennett, a visionary but little-known advocate. Sue will talk about her biography of Mary, *A White Hot Flame*, at our meeting on **Tuesday 21 May**. Refreshments afterwards.

### Vale Ian Spalding

Please see Gael Wilson's tribute to Ian Spalding, a highly-respected PPCfR member and friend who died in April.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next meeting: Tuesday 21 May**, 6.30 pm, Liardet Community Centre (aka Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre), 154 Liardet Street, Port Melbourne. Enter via door cnr Lalor and Farrell Streets, opposite Coles car park.

**Guest Speaker: Dr Sue Taffe.**

Refreshments afterwards. All Welcome.

## CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION RE-IGNITED

The federal government has re-ignited the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition Relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians options for a Voice to Parliament for Indigenous Australians, committing \$7.3 million for 2019-20. The budget papers also make the commitment to 'conduct a referendum once a model has been settled.' While the budget papers claim this approach is consistent with one of the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee, the other recommendations advocate truth-telling and the establishment of a Final Resting Place in Canberra. Engagement and consultation are complex words, full of the kinds of ambiguities that can preclude real commitment. Budgets make commitments by documenting future investments. Seeing no amount budgeted for that future referendum does not inspire confidence. When, after countless hours of rigorous discussion, hundreds of Elders present a Statement from the Heart to the prime minister who dismisses it, what is needed next is not more engagement and consultation.

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK (NRW)

The theme for NRW 2019 is ***Grounded in Truth: Walk Together with Courage*** and it aims to foster positive relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader community – relationships grounded in a foundation of truth. Whether you're engaging in challenging conversations or unlearning and relearning what you know, this journey requires all of us to walk together with courage. Follow events and related news on social media using #NRW2019, #GroundedinTruth2019, and #WalkTogether2019, to be part of the national conversation during National Reconciliation Week **Monday 27 May - Monday 3 June.**

The City of Port Phillip will host a Reconciliation Week Flag-raising Event on **Monday 27 May**, 11.30 am-2.00 pm. It will feature a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony conducted by the Boon Wurrung Foundation, followed by a community lunch in the St Kilda Town Hall. For more information, contact Todd Condie, Indigenous Policy Officer, City of Port Phillip, 0403 606 559. On **Thursday 30 May**, a cultural performance by Torres Strait Islander resident John Wayne Parsons accompanied by Monica Weightman will be held at St Kilda Library, 6.30-7.30 pm. Details: Katherine Foster, Library Services, 9209 6655. On **Friday 31 May**, Access Health will host a community event featuring a Welcome to/Acknowledgement of Country, a football and netball competition, Elders' activities and a catered lunch. Competition winners will receive gold-class cinema prizes. Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda, (next to Luna Park), 12.00-3.00 pm; All welcome. Contact Judy Hanley or Bec Thatcher, 9536 7780 for information.

## REMEMBERING IAN SPALDING 1928-2019

Ian Spalding was one of the original members of our Reconciliation group and contributed in many ways. He was a country boy from Ararat who studied Arts and Commerce at Melbourne University, worked as a teacher, and was involved in international and community development programs all his life. One day in the mid-1930s, an elderly Aboriginal man came to the back gate and talked to Ian's mother at the kitchen door. This man was David Unaipon of the Ngarrindjeri people from South Australia – preacher, inventor and author – and, from 1995, featured on our \$50 bill. He was selling pamphlets door-to-door that he had written detailing the rights of Aboriginals. Ian never forgot the respectful way his mother behaved with this striking stranger and it is easy to understand why this was a formative moment in Ian's life.

After his studies he embarked on many journeys hiking through Australia where he saw first-hand the harsh living conditions experienced by the families who had taken part in the walk-off from Cummeragunja Aboriginal Station. This was one of a growing list of encounters he had during his travels that turned his attention to the experience of the Aboriginal people of Australia, something that had been made invisible in the society and culture that he grew up in. While this interest endured for his entire life, Ian felt a sense of real discomfort in his role as a kind of unqualified interloper into what, for a long time, he called 'Aboriginal Affairs'. It has to be recognised, however, that this was at a time when the term used was 'Native Welfare' implying paternalism and control. Ian rejected this term and his advocacy over the years that followed should be credited, to some extent, in getting government departments around Australia to modernise their terms and their titles. Ian remained acutely aware of how the terminology would continue to move forward and develop as conventions and attitudes changed. We pay respect to him for his contribution to the true spirit of Reconciliation. Vale Ian and loving thoughts to his wife Barbara and three daughters Rebecca, Harriet and Ellen and their families. *Gael Wilson, Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation.*

## POSITIVE NAPLAN OUTCOMES

Indigenous students' literacy and numeracy skills have improved at twice the rate of their peers over the past decade, new NAPLAN data shows. A Victorian Education Department spokeswoman said Victorian Koorie students' literacy and numeracy results had shown positive improvement in 2018, with increased mean scores in Years 3, 5 and 9 reading and numeracy. 'The 2018 NAPLAN results show Koorie students are among the Victorian students achieving outstanding results and making significant improvements while at school,' she said. The performance of Year 3 Indigenous students improved by 7.4 percent, compared with 4.2 percent among their peers, while Year 5 students improved at a rate of 5 percent, compared with 2.2 percent among the wider population.

The growth has been less pronounced among high school students but still outstrips that of non-Indigenous students. While this growth is not fast enough to close the education gap until the next century, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority said the 2018 national report results were worth celebrating.

### 'LANGUAGE' COIN

A brand new 50-cent coin has been released into circulation featuring 14 different translations for the word 'money' from Australian Indigenous languages. The Royal Australian Mint released the coins in April to celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Language, working together with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) to include various Indigenous language groups. *'These coins are a celebration of Australia's unique and diverse Indigenous languages,'* Mint chief executive Ross MacDiarmid said. *'We hope the coins will serve as a tangible reminder of the important efforts being undertaken to preserve, protect and revitalise Indigenous languages in Australia.'*



### INDIGENOUS SOLDIERS' TRIBUTES

A new sculpture has been unveiled at the Australian War Memorial which pays tribute to the military service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women. Aboriginal artist Daniel Boyd created the sculptural pavilion in collaboration with Edition Office Architects. *'It's a huge honour to be given the opportunity to create a space that memorialises the Indigenous experience in the armed services and acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their relationship to the Memorial,'* Mr Boyd said.

A new book of oral histories and family photographs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women has been published entitled *Our Mob Served: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories of War and Defending Australia*. The book is edited by Allison Cadzow and Mary Anne Jebb from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies' publishing arm, Aboriginal Studies Press. Visit <https://www.firstnationstelegraph.com/socialour-mob-served>.

### FESTIVALS

In honour of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL) and Yirramboi Festival will present a program of 100 plus free and ticketed events spotlighting over two-hundred First Nations creatives under the guidance of Boon Wurrung woman and Creative Director Caroline Martin. Yirramboi, which means *tomorrow*,

is based at the Meat Market, North Melbourne. Catch the blockbuster Opening Night which includes: Blak Market; screenings of Kutcha's Carpool Koorioke; the world-famous Miss First Nation; plus music, Critical Conversations, and a special one-night-only performance at the Arts Centre with the founding members of Yothu Yindi - Witiyana Marika, Stu Kellaway and Kevin Malngay Yunupingu. The Festival runs from **Thursday 2 - Sunday 12 May**. Program/tickets: [yirramboi@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:yirramboi@melbourne.vic.gov.au).

The Wominjeka Festival's Indigenous Cultural program includes *A Little Piece of Heaven*, the story of Uncle Dick and Aunty Ruth Carney. 7.00 pm, **Wednesday 8 - Saturday 11 May**, Footscray Community Arts Centre, 45 Moreland Street, Footscray. Presented by Orana Arts in partnership with Brown Cabs and Yirramboi Festival. Details: 9362 8888; [reception@footscrayarts.com](mailto:reception@footscrayarts.com)

### WILIN JAM SESSION

The Wilin Centre invites everyone to come together and Jam! to celebrate the pivotal contribution of Indigenous musicians, artists, performers and community members. The next Wilin Jam session features a guest performance by Kee'ahn Bin Dol and her band who will perform her original set of soul and indie-pop. Free. Noon, **Wednesday 29 May**, Wilin Garden, Victorian College of the Arts, Southbank. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wilin-jams-tickets-57560179045>

### LIN ONUS

*Eternal Landscapes* is the title of a beautiful exhibition of rarely-seen paintings by the late artist Lin Onus, presented courtesy of his widow Jo and son Tiriki. A Yorta Yorta man and self-taught artist, Lin made several trips to Maningrida in the mid-1980s and mastered the *raak* pattern of cross hatching and the X-ray style used by the region's bark painters. Lin used these techniques to create shimmering surfaces that suggest contrasting understanding of place, time and spirituality. Margaret Lawrence Gallery (part of the VCA), 40 Dodds Street, Southbank, until **Saturday 11 May**.

### THE SAPPHIRES

*The Sapphires* returns to the stage in a series of concerts across Victoria. It's the story of four young women from regional Australia who like singing country music, and who suddenly get the chance to change their tune, their clothes and their lives trying to spread joy during the Vietnam War. The story is inspired by the true story of writer Tony Brigg's mother. **Friday 17 May**, 8:00 pm, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton. Bookings: [mrc.vic.gov.au/buytickets](http://mrc.vic.gov.au/buytickets), 1300 888 802. Details of other Victorian performances: <https://www.facebook.com/...sapphires...2019>.

### AUSTRALIA DAY

*'As uncomfortable as it is, we need to reckon with our history. On January 26, no Australian can really look away,'* writes Stan Grant in his latest book *Australia Day*. Stan has been crossing the country talking to huge

crowds about how racism is at the heart of our history and the Australian dream, talking about our country, about who we are as a nation, about the Indigenous struggle for belonging and identity in Australia, and what it means to be Australian. Published by Harper Collins Australia.

### ARCHIE ROACH PRINTS

Wiradjuri artist Robert Henderson powerfully captured Archie Roach's essence in a portrait he painted back in 2014; his first portrait as an adult and first Archibald Prize entry. Since then, Robert and Archie have produced a run of limited edition prints, now morphed into a shared fundraising event between the Archie Roach Foundation and the Wayne Weaver Foundation to continue their work with First Nations families, with funds raised split 50/50 between each charity. Prints are signed by Archie and Robert with a certificate of authenticity. Order at <https://wayneweaverfoundation.com/archie-roach-prints>; \$310 plus p&h. [www.archieroach.com/about-the-foundation](http://www.archieroach.com/about-the-foundation), [www.wayneweaverfoundation.com](http://www.wayneweaverfoundation.com)

### FILM NEWS

**Top End Wedding** is a new Australian romantic comedy described as a love letter to the NT. It is co-written and produced by the Deadly Award-winning actress Miranda Tapsell, who plays the lead role. In cinemas from **Thursday 2 May**.



Miranda Tapsell stars in the new film *Top End Wedding*.

**Bayi Gardiya (Singing Desert)** is a bold, ambitious and new virtual reality work in which Christian Thompson invites audiences to walk through the landscape of his childhood where they will witness a simple yet profound aesthetic gesture of the artist singing in his traditional Bidjara (lost) language. ACMI until **Thursday 23 May**; Free event.

**Deborah Mailman** has been appointed to the Screen Australia board for three years, the second Indigenous person to serve in that role following Rachel Perkins. The stage and screen actor currently serves on Screen Australia's Gender Matters task force and has been a member of the Sydney Opera House Trust since 2015. In 2017 she received an Order of Australia Medal for her services as a role model for Indigenous performers and to the performing arts. Deborah, whose recent credits include *Jack Irish*, *Bite Club*, *Mystery Road* and *Get Krack!n*, is starring in Blackfella Films' *Black B\*tch* (working title), a six-part drama for the ABC directed by Rachel Perkins.

### INDIGENOUS HERITAGE WALKS

The Birrarung Wilam Walk takes people through Federation Square and down to the Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) Aboriginal art installations. Experience the Aboriginal history of the Birrarung Marr (Beside the River of Mists) and Aboriginal peoples of the Kulin Nations with a Koorie guide, daily, 3.00 pm, until **Friday 17 May**. Bookings/details: Koorie Heritage Trust. Indigenous-led guided walks are also regularly conducted at the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne; bookings required: 9252 2429.

### SPORT

Congratulations to Queenslander **Ashleigh Barty**, Australia's newest 10th top-ranked tennis player in the world. Daughter of a Ngarigo man, she is the National Indigenous Tennis Ambassador for Tennis Australia helping to promote the associated Indigenous Tennis Program that is expected to reach more than 1,000 children each year in the NT. In 2018, Ash was recognised as the Dreamtime Female Sports person of the Year.

**Greg Inglis**, one of Rugby League's most decorated players, announced his retirement in April. He set the tone for his glittering career by scoring a try in his NRL debut for the Melbourne Storm in 2005, and went on to play 263 top grade games for that club and South Sydney. Greg also scored in 18 State of Origin tries in 32 matches for Queensland, and played 39 Tests for Australia.

# SORRY DAY

## Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation

Invite you to a Lunch to commemorate



### National Sorry Day

Friday 24 May 2019  
12.30 – 2.30 pm



South Melbourne Community Centre  
Cnr Ferrars Place & Park Street, South Melbourne

### Acknowledgement of Country

Master of Ceremonies:  
Dennis Fisher,  
aka Den the Fish

Entertainment:  
First Nations  
Singer-songwriter  
Pirritu Brett Lee

Door Prizes  
Lunch & Refreshments  
Gold coin donation appreciated

Free - All Welcome

RSVP: 17 May

Bookings/information: Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation

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