

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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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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November 2017

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Celebrating Twenty years of PPCfR

More than 150 people helped us commemorate '20 deadly years' in a glorious celebration at the St Kilda Town Hall on 23 October. We got off to a great start listening to the singers from Galiamble and from Winja Ulupna under the enthusiastic guidance of conductor Digby Hannah. BoonWurrung Elder Arweet Carolyn Briggs gave a warm and personal Welcome to Country and then it was my pleasure to introduce MC Leila Gurruwiwi, NITV Marngrook Footy Show panellist, media personality and mentor. *'Working alongside PPCfR has been absolutely wonderful,'* Leila said. *'Everyone who is part of the group is always respectful, engaging and pro-active, which is what you always want to see.'* We heard about the group and its history from Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss, and the Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley MP, passed on some nice compliments. Richard Frankland came to the stage, giving a passionate talk about hope for the future. *'We need to focus on what we can build together along the way,'* he said. *'There's a light in the distance to help plant seeds for the future of a great Australia that one day will have an Aboriginal Prime Minister - and she'll be magnificent.'* On the issue of a Treaty, Richard suggested that before we all go down that path we need to rebuild a stronger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Donning his musician's hat, Richard invited his Wilin Centre colleague, opera singer John Wayne Parsons, to join him on stage, encouraging the audience to stand up and join in *'You can't be wrong if you're right.'*

My Co-Chair Den the Fish read two of his poems: *Civilisation* and *Lucky Country*. Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer Todd Condie drew out the door prize winners who received respectively a limited edition Aboriginal flag signed by designer Harold Thomas, a BoonWurrung Womin Djeka plaque, and merchandise from the Koorie Heritage Trust. Many thanks to Anna and Gregory Vaisman who put together a slide show of photos

they've taken of us over 20 years; it's a valuable memento. Winja Ulupna women with help from some of the Galiamble men sang a heartfelt original song entitled *We are Proud Cultural Women*. Guests mingled and reminisced, and enjoyed the excellent food provided by South Melbourne Market's Store 6.

There are so many people to thank including (but not only): Fiona Olney-Fraser who did a magnificent job coordinating the catering and other tasks that ensured the event proceeded smoothly, Gael Wilson, Deb Stewart, Denis Frankel, Helen Hoffman, Jo Bond, Helen Bennett, Sushena Krishnaswamy, Liz Gallois, Pat Nicol, Janine Wilder, Brigid Knight-Braniff, Mike and Matt Olney-Fraser, Kate Nicholson, Archie Calder and the many others who helped behind the scenes making sure it was indeed a deadly celebration.



L-R: Dennis Fisher, Judith 'Jacko' Jackson, Rosemary Rule, Gael Wilson, Leila Gurruwiwi, Richard Frankland and John Wayne Parsons.

Annual General Meeting

Our next event is the AGM on **Tuesday 21 November** at **6.00 pm** - please note earlier start time and do come along. Benson Saulo is the guest speaker. He's a young, high-achieving Indigenous man who works for Australian Unity where his duties include guiding implementation of their Reconciliation Action Plan. If you can't attend the meeting but would like to nominate for the Committee, please complete and return the Proxy Nomination form attached.



Left: Our magnificent guest speaker Richard Frankland.

Middle: PPCfR's dynamic Co-chair Rosemary Rule welcomes a full crowd of over 150 guests to the St Kilda Town Hall.

Below: Aunty Jacko and Todd Condie with the first lucky door prize winner Jordan Edwards, a proud Gunditjmara man. He received a limited edition Aboriginal flag signed by designer Harold Thomas.

Middle Park Primary School's Award News

I was pleased to be invited to the school to take part in a film shoot supporting the schools making the shortlist of the national Narragunnawali Awards organised by Reconciliation Australia, to be presented to one primary school and one preschool. More below.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 21 November, 6.00 pm,
 South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street,
 South Melbourne. **Guest speaker: Benson Saulo**
 Refreshments served. All welcome.

RECVIC NEWS

RecVic and ANTaR Victoria's joint AGMs were held on 28 October in Docklands. Following the meeting there was a panel discussion on Self Determination in Action and another discussion focused on From talk to Action - How to Promote Self-determination in your Community. PPCfR's Helen Bennett attended. More details next issue.

RECONCILIATION DAY TO BE A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair Professor Tom Calma has applauded the ACT for becoming the first Australian state or territory to gazette Reconciliation Day as a public holiday. The first Reconciliation Day public holiday will be held on **Monday 28 May 2018**, after a bill to amend the *Holidays Act* passed with tripartisan support in the ACT Legislative Assembly. The holiday will replace Family and Community Day, which means this year's celebration on 25 September will be Canberra's last. It will mark the 1967 Referendum anniversary and will be at the start of National Reconciliation Week. Professor Calma said he hoped the public holiday signalled a shift to celebrating multiculturalism rather than the proclamation of Australia on 26 January.



MIDDLE PARK PRIMARY AWARDS FINALIST

The Narragunnawali Awards presented by Reconciliation Australia are part of a national program. The winning prizes go to one primary school and one preschool. Middle Park Primary was very excited to make the finalists list – the only Victorian primary school to do so. A judging panel and film crew visited the school in October to meet staff, students, parents, members of our community – such as myself on behalf of PPCfR - and view their recently established Indigenous Garden – which is a beautiful space. Carly Sheldon, MPPS's Aboriginal liaison officer, provides ongoing encouragement for the school community, including the students learning the BoonWurrung language. As part of the Awards program, the school held a three-week immersion program for all students, with the help of Arweet Carolyn Briggs from the BoonWurrung Foundation. Anne Spackman, a member of the school's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, says the school and the wider community are on a journey together to build a strong and long-lasting relationship with the BoonWurrung people and *'the land we live and learn on.'* *'During the immersion program all students learnt basic BoonWurrung words,'* she said. *'Continuing from this*



we have BoonWurrung signs around our school, for example, our LOTE room door has a sign on it reading **wurrung** (language).' The Award winners will be announced late November. *Rosemary Rule*

ARTS NEWS

Voices from the Other Side

Pentridge's *Voices from the Other Side* and photo exhibition by Rupert Mann will be launched by Noel Tovey with Ray Mooney on **Friday 1 December**, 6.00 for 6.30 pm, at Long Division Gallery, Schoolhouse Studios, 81 Rupert Street, Collingwood. RSVP by 24 November to lilly@scribepub.com.au or 9388 8780.

Namatjira Copyright Returned

Family members of world-renowned Indigenous water colourist Albert Namatjira have had the rights to his artwork returned to them, [ending a struggle dating back decades](#). After years of campaigning, the copyright controversy was ended not in a courtroom, but on the phone after the intervention of a high-profile Australian millionaire, Dick Smith, who decided to offer his support to the Namatjira family's cause after becoming convinced that there had been a 'misunderstanding' between the family and copyright owner Legend Press. 'I had originally met [owner] John Brackenreg many years ago and found him to be an ethical person,' Mr Smith said. 'They'd reached an impasse after about 10 years of negotiation. In 15 minutes we worked our way around the problems. I agreed to donate some money - \$250,000 - towards the Namatjira Legacy Trust, and John Brackenreg's son Philip agreed that he'd transfer the entire copyright to the family.' Mr Smith said copyright was then handed over to the Namatjira family for a nominal amount of \$1.00. Law firm Arnold Bloch Liebler also got behind the campaign pro bono.

Judy Watson Exhibition

The Name of Places by Judy Watson is on view at RMIT Gallery, Swanston Street, until 11 November. Judy's Aboriginal matrilineal family are from Waanyi country in north-west Queensland. Working from stories and memories, she reveals Indigenous histories, following lines of emotional and physical topography that centre on particular places and moments in time.

Reconciliation Film Club

Reconciliation Australia, NITV and SBS have proudly partnered to launch the Reconciliation Film Club, an online platform that supports organisations to host screenings of a curated selection of Indigenous documentaries from Australia's leading Indigenous filmmakers. The initiative launches with Erica Glynn's *In My Own Words*, Trisha Morton-Thomas's *Occupation: Native*, Tyson Mowarin's *Connection to Country* (see following) and Steven McGregor's *Servant or Slave*. These compelling documentaries address issues such as cultural heritage, national identity, history, justice and equality. Hosting a screening in your organisation or community is an opportunity to bring people together to develop a deeper understanding of Indigenous people's perspectives, ignite conversation and spark change.

It's also a great platform to engage staff more actively in your organisation's RAP. The Reconciliation Film Club website hosts downloadable screening kits and discussion guides, and features articles and ideas to support a successful event. More documentaries will be continually added including Warwick Thornton's *We Don't Need a Map* to join early next year after its cinema release. Screenings start at \$99 for less than 50 people and non-profit groups. Visit sbs.com.au/reconciliationfilmclub

Connection to Country follows a group of Indigenous people from the Pilbara as they battle to preserve Australia's unique cultural heritage from the ravages of a booming mining industry. In the heart of Western Australia, the Burrup Peninsula hosts the largest concentration of rock art in the world; a dramatic, ancient landscape so sacred that it shouldn't be looked upon at all except by its Traditional Owners. In recent times this site of incalculable aesthetic and historical value is being threatened by industrialisation and development. The Burrup has become home to salt mines, iron-ore port facilities and one of Australia's largest gas plants. But the people of the Pilbara are fighting back on behalf of this most sacred of places and other important sites on their country. They are documenting the rock art, recording their thalu (increase) sites and battling to get their unique cultural heritage recognised and celebrated. *Connection to Country* explores how the WA State Government weakened the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972)* without due process in order to make new mining projects easier to get started. Ultimately, however, the main concern of the film is to explain the relationship that exists between Indigenous people and their land.

MUNGO MAN'S RETURN TO COUNTRY

The *Return to Country of Mungo Man* on **Saturday 18 November** represents a one-time opportunity for a long-overdue and powerful acknowledgment of Aboriginal Australians as the oldest living culture. This long-awaited moment offers space for truth-telling and healing for all Australians, commemorating the oldest modern humans known outside of Africa and one of the first expressions of spiritual consciousness in the entire human journey. The Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) to the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area (where Lake Mungo is situated) has requested that this moment be commemorated with a public event befitting such a momentous occasion. They have asked this event to be free of charge for any who wish to come. This invitation from the Elders has gone out to Indigenous communities across the country, and extends to all Australians, as well as to people from around the world. In order to make this amazing dream come true, we need your help. We need a minimum of \$80,000 and then up to \$150,000 in order to fully fund the event in a manner befitting such a significant and historic occasion in Australian history. All amounts – big and small – will help create this incredible moment together. Pledge via <https://pozible.com/project/mungo-man-return-to-country>.

PORT PHILLIP CITIZENS FOR RECONCILIATION

2018 COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

For the **Annual General Meeting** to be held at the South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne on **Tuesday 21 November 2017** at 6.00 pm.

I _____
(Name of **Proposer**)

Nominate:

(Name of **Nominee**)

for the Committee position of

(One of Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 x Ordinary members)

(Signature of **Proposer**)

(Name of **Proposer** in BLOCK CAPITALS)

(Signature of **Second**)

(Name of **Second** in BLOCK CAPITALS)

The **Nominee** is prepared to stand for election to this position.

Consent of **Nominee**:

I _____ agree to the above nomination.
(Name of **Nominee**)

(Signature of **Nominee**)

Please note: Proposers, Seconders and Nominees must be current, paid-up members of Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation. The Nomination Form must be delivered not less than 7 days before the meeting date to Rosemary Rule, PPCfR, PO Box 1446, St Kilda South, Victoria 3182, or rosemary.rule@gmail.com.

