

# 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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**October 2019**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boon Wurrung Word of the Month:

*Murnong* – Yam Daisy

### Tanderrum

Each year the first words of the Melbourne International Arts Festival come from those who have carried this land's stories the longest—the First Peoples of Melbourne. Tanderrum is a ceremony bringing together the Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung, Boon Wurrung, Taungurung, Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung language groups of the Eastern Kulin Nation. This sacred ceremony had been hidden since European invasion until six years ago, when the Eastern Kulin brought Tanderrum back to open the Festival, and now this cross-cultural moment has become an essential Festival element and a Welcome to Country for local and international audiences, helping ensure that Aboriginal culture remains present and relevant to our city. At Federation Square, **Wednesday 2 October**, 6.30 pm; free. Highly recommended. Visit <https://www.festival.melbourne/2019/events/tanderrum/#.XYiE8o6XmzJ>.email

### Jack Charles

What an engaging, masterful storyteller Uncle Jack Charles is! The self-described 'Born Again Blakfella, kurdaitcha man, who walks feather-footed on the Fitzroy strip' captivated the St Kilda Library audience with his



Masterful storyteller, Uncle Jack Charles, speaking at the launch of his new book at the St Kilda Library. Photo: Margaret Wong [marg.g.wong@gmail.com](mailto:marg.g.wong@gmail.com)

yarns - and singing - on 11 September, while promoting his book *Uncle Jack Charles - Born Again Blakfella*. We learned about his extraordinary life, how his Aboriginality saved him, his current work as Elder statesman helping prisoners, and others, and how his belief in history has helped shape his life. I urge you to buy his book to find out more about this living treasure, and then watch out for volume two. The adventures of Jack's larger-than-life experiences couldn't fit within the 256 pages of his first book.

### News

See inside for news from the City of Port Phillip, including their Cultural Development Fund grant being awarded to artist Lee Dorroch, proud Boon Wurrung, Yorta Yorta and Mutti Mutti woman. Elsewhere, read about RecVic's forthcoming AGM and forum, and an account from Rec Stonnington.

### Annual General Meeting

We are inviting a special guest speaker to be part of our AGM to be held in November. Details next issue.

### Join Us

If you're interested in the work that the Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation does and appreciate the special events we organise, or would like to become more involved in our activities and help support our ongoing work, join up! If you are already a member, please renew your membership. Annual fee is \$10 and you automatically receive *Mungo* each month. The Membership form on the last page can be mailed with your subscription, or brought to a meeting.

### Rosemary Rule

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

## TREATY UPDATE

The framework for a Treaty, bringing agreements with the government, is even closer in Victoria. More than 75 Aboriginal people have nominated as candidates for the First People's Assembly across five regions after nearly four years of community consultation by Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner Jill Gallagher, who said Aboriginal people had been demanding a Treaty for 240 years. More than 2000 Victorian Aboriginals, of the 30,000 eligible, have already enrolled for the non-compulsory vote for the leaders nominated as candidates to the Assembly for a five-week voting period open until October. Commissioner Jill Gallagher said it was the first time Aboriginals have ever been able to vote for such an Assembly. *'This is ground breaking. This is something that your great-great-grandchildren are going to talk about. This is something that, if we are successful, will right those wrongs that were committed on our communities in the past,'* she said. *'We cannot underestimate the power the assembly will have.'* The Assembly will then create the Treaty authority which will act as an umpire during Treaty negotiations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians will vote to elect a 32-seat First People's Assembly. The first meeting for the Treaty discussions is scheduled for December. Visit <https://victreatyadvancement.org.au> for updates.

## MARLIYA SINGERS USE THEIR VOICE

*Spinifex Gum* is a musical collaboration created for the Indigenous female youth choir Marliya, of Gondwana Choirs. As part of an online petition, they are calling for a First Nations Voice to parliament to be enshrined in the constitution, a key recommendation of the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart. The group took a vinyl-pressed recording of their song *Dream Baby Dream* to Canberra's Parliament House in September, their performance designed to appeal directly to Minister Ken Wyatt and his colleagues – the politicians who have chosen not to put the issue to public vote. *Spinifex Gum*, the self-titled first album, was released in 2017; the second, which comes out later this year, includes lead single *Dream Baby Dream*, performed in English and, thanks to a translation from Michael Woodley, Yindjibarndi language. *'It's about time we go to parliament and bring our voices there so they have to listen to us,'* said Grace Miller, a 16-year-old Aboriginal South Sea Island woman and Marliya singer. The group received a standing ovation at their Melbourne Recital Centre concert on 13 September. Check out <https://spinifexgum.com>

## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL PRESS CLUB

Labor Senator Pat Dodson launched the National Aboriginal Press Club in Canberra last month. Despite a proliferation of Indigenous media organisations since the 1960s and their role in changing mainstream attitudes, the Senator wondered whether much has changed. *'There has always been, in the mainstream media, a fundamental bias against Indigenous stories - there's a maxim in the game that black stories don't rate,'* the Yawuru man from Broome said. He pointed to a study that found mainstream reporting of Indigenous Australia

was increasingly focused on violence, conflict and corruption, and often appeared unwilling to engage with complex issues. He urged them to embrace a full range of sources across Indigenous communities instead of continually seeking comment from a small group of elites. *'I'm deeply troubled by the strife among our peoples that's being wrought by social media warriors who so readily and thoughtlessly punch out abusive messages, or simply re-tweet baseless allegations often made by white racists,'* he said. Senator Dodson also cautioned that Indigenous people in remote communities were particularly vulnerable to the fake news phenomenon.

## COUNCIL NEWS

Under a City of Port Phillip Cultural Development Fund grant, Boon Wurrung, Yorta Yorta and Mutti Mutti artist Lee Darroch will be an artist-in-residence at the Australian Tapestry Workshop in South Melbourne in 2019/20. A coiled basket installation using natural local materials together with silk, cotton and fibres will be created for the exhibition. Mayor Dick Gross said the two annual grants programs, which support a total of 65 community projects this year, show Council's commitment to an inclusive and creative Port Phillip. The Australian Tapestry Workshop residency and a confidence-building soccer program are just two local projects recently benefitting from nearly \$465,000 in Port Phillip Council grants. Councillor Bernadene Voss noted that 37 Nations were represented in a special citizenship ceremony on 17 September, held for Citizenship Day, with students from Albert Park Primary proudly singing numerous songs in the local Aboriginal language.

## ULURU

On **Saturday 26 October**, 34 years to the day since the Anangu people received land rights for Uluru and Kata Tjuta, the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Board of Management will officially close the rock for climbing. While visitor numbers may decline, the decision heralds a fresh beginning and a new direction for the park, designed to keep Anangu law and culture safe. A new range of activities is under proposal, including Opera Australia's inaugural performance at Uluru in November.

## RECVIC AGM AND FORUM

*Connecting the Dots: Victoria's Changing Reconciliation Landscape* is the theme of this year's RecVic AGM and Forum on **Saturday 26 October**, 12.30 pm-3.30 pm, Edinburgh Gardens Community Room, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy North. Victoria has a long history of strong activism from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people fighting for their rights; with several recent developments around Treaty, Statement of the Heart and Self-Determination in Victoria. Join us to unpack what these developments mean in the midst of ongoing injustice, what this means for Reconciliation work in Victoria, and how we define Reconciliation and create systemic change. The day will also include the RecVic and ANTaR Victoria AGMs. Contact: [ea@reconciliationvic.org.au](mailto:ea@reconciliationvic.org.au); 9016 0657, [www.reconciliationvic.org.au](http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au)

## REC STONNINGTON'S AGM

On 11 September, 25 people attended Rec Stonnington's 21st AGM - an achievement in itself. We were pleased to have the new City CEO present, the Mayor, one other Councillor and a representative of the local federal MP. Our guest speaker, Diana David, RecVic CEO, gave a personal and inspiring presentation on Treaty and Reconciliation. She celebrated the progress Victoria has made, and noted that other states are very interested in the Treaty process. She also reminded people that while Treaty is important, Reconciliation is also about truth, Aboriginal voice, self-determination and justice. Rec Stonnington had indicated to Council our disappointment that the recently-named public square in the centre of Prahran didn't have an Aboriginal name (it is named Prahran Square). The Councillor present indicated that it may be possible to include explanations about Prahran being a compound of the Aboriginal words - Pur-ra-ran - meaning 'land partially surrounded by water'.

In the election of office-bearers we have been through a bit of renewal. After nearly 20 years of service, Tom Moloney stood down from the role of Vice President and we welcomed Mike Scott to the position. We also finally found a replacement for our long-time treasurer Ron Higgins – thanks Liz Kennedy – and welcomed Michael Sullivan as our Minute Secretary. An exciting new team!

*Keith Gove*



Keith Gove (President), Jacquie Weatherill (City of Stonnington CEO), Diana David (RecVic CEO).

## RIVER OF LANGUAGE

This multi-media soundscape exhibition celebrates UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages and the 25th anniversary of the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL). Co-curated with VACL, *ngulu wurneet, galada-al wurrung-u, parniwaru tyalingi, waran woorroong-ee, barringgi dyaling* – *River of Language* encourages visitors to be immersed in Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, Being and Doing, and learn through listening and observation. VACL's curatorial working group of Vicki Couzens and Brendan Kennedy ask visitors to take the time to 'learn to see the world through our eyes, through our words, stories and images.' Until **Sunday 13 October** at Bunjilaka, Melbourne Museum.

## THE KUTCHA EDWARDS HOUR

The final series of Black Box drama *The Kutcha Edwards Hour* is an opportunity to be immersed in a lifelong experience of the Stolen Generation told through music and storytelling, with a Q&A afterwards. **Wednesday 30 October**, 7.30 pm, Bunjil Place Studio, 2 Patrick Northeast Drive, Narree Warren. Tickets \$25-\$35. Box office inquiries: [bunjilplace@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:bunjilplace@casey.vic.gov.au), or 9709 9700.

## ARCHIBALD WINNERS AT TARRAWARRA

TarraWarra Museum of Art is the exclusive Victorian tour venue for the Archibald Prize 2019, Australia's oldest and most prestigious art award, presented by the Art Gallery of New South Wales and ANZ. Amongst the 51 works in the exhibition are paintings which portray significant Australian subjects, including actor and producer David Wenham by Tessa MacKay; Vincent Namatjira's tribute to his friend and fellow artist Tony Albert; and Bidjigal Elder and artist Esme Timbery in a striking portrait by Blak Douglas. Until **Tuesday 5 November**. Visit <https://www.twma.com.au/exhibition/archibald-prize-2019/>

## BOOKS

*Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World* by Tyson Yunkaporta is about everything from echidnas to evolution, cosmology to cooking, sex, science and spirits to Schrödinger's cat. Tyson looks at global systems from an Indigenous perspective. He asks how contemporary life diverges from the pattern of creation. How does this affect us? The book is about how can we do and see things differently and provide a template for living? Most of all it's about Indigenous thinking, and how it can save the world. \$32.99.

*Wilam: A Birrarung Story* by Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy is her second children's book which is beautifully given form by Indigenous artist Lisa Kennedy and Yarra Riverkeeper Andrew Kelly. It tells the story of one day in the life of the vital, flourishing Birrarung (Yarra river). Ages 6+. \$17.25.

*The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe* is the second updated edition of Professor John Maynard's bestseller from 2011, and celebrates the journey taken by Aboriginal sportsmen and women who forged the way for the current crop of talented players, detailing the previously untold history of Aboriginal involvement with the 'world game'. The multicultural environment of Australian soccer after World War II provided Aboriginal players with a haven from the prejudice and racism of wider Australian society. The book interweaves John's personal narrative and expert historical and cultural understanding with links to the broader Indigenous world community. John Maynard is a Worimi Aboriginal man from the Port Stephens region of NSW and Professor of Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Newcastle. \$34.99.

## TV AND FILM

*Total Control* is the new drama series starring Deborah Mailman and Rachel Griffiths about an Indigenous woman entering federal politics. Directed by Rachel Perkins, founder of Blakfella Films which produced *Redfern Now*, *Mabo* and *Deep Water*, it will screen on ABCTV from **Sunday 13 October**.

*Australia: The Wild Top End* is a new IMAX nature film narrated by Aboriginal Elder, Balang, better known as actor Tom E. Lewis. It marks his last screen appearance following his death in August 2018, and, according to the director, Tom's narration shines through as though you were on the journey with a person who really knows the place. At IMAX Melbourne Museum.



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# Membership Form

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation (PPCfR) is a voluntary community group affiliated with Reconciliation Victoria and Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation Victoria (ANTaR). We work closely with the City of Port Phillip from whom we receive a small grant. We participate in Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week events, host a free lunch for Sorry Day each year, participate in local community festivals, and publish an informative monthly newsletter, *Mungo*.

Meetings are held at 6.30 pm on the third Tuesday each month in The Community Hub attached to the South Melbourne Town Hall, and are open to anyone interested.

Please help us continue our work by joining the group – or renewing your existing membership. The rate remains unchanged and is valid until 30 June 2020.

Membership Fee: \$10.00, \$5.00 Concession: Amount enclosed: \$.....

Electronic payments can be made using the following details.

**Important:** Please include your name in the Reference field so that we can identify your payment.

**Account Name:** Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation

**BSB:** 633 000 **Account Number:** 135 518 546

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode:.....

Phone: (H)..... (W)..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Completed membership forms can be sent to: **PO Box 1446, St Kilda South, 3182**

Subscribers automatically receive a free copy of *Mungo* each month. Would you prefer to receive it by email and help save postage – and trees?

\*Yes.....No.....

Are you able to help with events, stalls or mail outs? \*Yes.....No.....

\*(Tick preferred option).

Date: .....

