

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.

ABN: 444 16 152 998

P.O Box 1446, St Kilda South, Vic 3182

Phone: (03) 9699 8804

Mobile: 0418 675 734

Email: rosemary.rule@gmail.com

www.ppcfr.org

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.

July 2019

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Word of the Month: *Waring*

which is the Kulin season of deep winter

COPP Events

It's so encouraging to know that hundreds of people of all ages were engaged in recent local events to commemorate Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. As Todd Condie, COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, said: *'As is reflected by the range of activities, there is a high level of support in the City of Port Phillip for the recognition of the inherent rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the celebration of its geographically specific cultures,'* but added there is still much to do. Connecting with groups such as PPCfR, RecVic or ANTaR Victoria are some of the ways we can all keep informed about what's happening in our state, participate in events and campaigns, and learn more about our shared culture.

NAIDOC Week

The City of Port Phillip is hosting a flag-raising event to commemorate the 2019 National Aboriginal and Islander Week (NAIDOC) under the theme of Voice, Treaty, Truth: Let's Work Together for a Shared Future. Held on **Monday 8 July**, 11.30 am to 2.00 pm, St Kilda Town Hall, it will include a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony conducted by the Boon Wurrung Foundation, followed by a community luncheon. Contact Todd Condie, COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, 0403 606 559, for information, and see inside for other events.

Congratulations

Indigenous Elder N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs has been honoured with an Order of Australia in acknowledgement of her life mission to preserve her native Boon Wurrung language. Carolyn's AM reinforces the significance of her work. *'It's scaffolding in my journey that I am doing something right and people are recognising that,'* she said. In 2016, Carolyn founded the Boon Wurrung Foundation, currently based in St Kilda, and works to



preserve her native language and to help connect dozens of Indigenous youth to their heritage, and is well-known and respected within our community. I sent her a note of congratulations on behalf of PPCfR. Congratulations also to Jordan Sutardy, recently confirmed in his role as Indigenous Community Broker with the City of Port Phillip. In further good news, Ashleigh Barty is now the world number one women's tennis player! Ash, Tennis Australia's Indigenous Ambassador, paid homage to the trailblazer who came before her, seven-time grand slam winner Evonne Goolagong Cawley.

Diary Date

We'll be hosting a Treaty Conversation with Richard Frankland and other speakers, St Kilda Town Hall, **Thursday evening, 22 August**. Details next month.

Guest Speaker

Michelle Griffiths is a Wiradjuri woman whose work is primarily about reconnecting people with their lost dingo totem; work for which she received a NAIDOC Award. Michelle, who will be our guest speaker at this month's meeting, is new to her culture. Her maternal grandmother is a member of the stolen generation. All welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

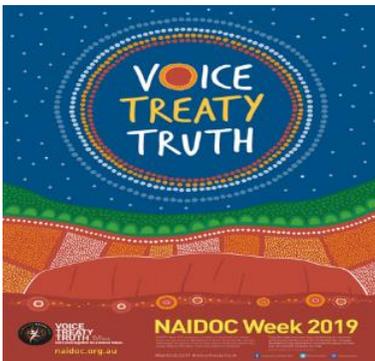
Damian O'Keefe

For the past eight years, Damian has been Project Officer with RecVic, a role he undertook with exceptional grace, personable-ness and boundless energy. Damian always made himself available to help when needed; his organisational and event planning skills are legendary and his engagement with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people was beneficial to the Reconciliation movement overall. On behalf of PPCfR, I want to thank him for all his support and to wish him well in his future adventures.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16 July, 2019, 6.30 pm
Sth Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street,
Sth Melbourne, with Guest Speaker Michelle Griffiths.
Refreshments afterwards. Free. All Welcome.

NAIDOC POSTER COMPETITION WINNER



Charmaine Mumbulla, a Kurna Narungga woman from South Australia, won the 2019 National NAIDOC poster competition with *Awaken*, depicting early dawn light rising over Uluru, symbolising continued spiritual and unbroken connection to the land.

NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, with many NAIDOC Week activities in Victoria falling in the week **1 - 7 July**.

Annual Flag-raising Ceremony: Monday 1 July, 9 am. To officially mark the beginning of NAIDOC in Victoria there will be a flag-raising and ceremony at Federation Square.

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service's 5th Annual NAIDOC March: Friday 5 July from 9.00 am, with pre-march activities before the march leaves from VAHS, 86 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, at 11.30 am, finishing up at Federation Square.

NAIDOC Week 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament: Wednesday 3 July, 10.00 am-2.00 pm, St Kilda PCYC Basketball Court, 179 Inkerman Street, St Kilda. With a live DJ, hip hop, \$600 in prizes. Supported by the City of Port Phillip and PCYC. Details 9534 7584.

Freshwater Dreaming Mural: Sunday 7 July, 10 am. The St Kilda Baptist Church, Pakington Street, St Kilda, will hold their usual Sunday morning gathering - with a difference - as they recognise the first day of NAIDOC Week and the completion of their beautiful Freshwater Dreaming Mural. This is NOT a launch of the mural, just the church community expressing gratitude to all the wonderful artists who have contributed. Gather at 10.00 am in the car park at the rear of the church where runs a deep drain that was once a lovely freshwater stream, part of the inspiration for the title of the mural. Bill Wall will lead a short reflection and acknowledge the Custodians of the land before moving to the driveway, inviting people to ponder the mural, then move into the church. At the end of the service, at around 11.15 am, people are invited to morning tea.

Family Day at the Farm: Wednesday 10 July, 9.30 am-3.00 pm. Aboriginal Housing Victoria is hosting their annual NAIDOC Family Day at the Farm, offering a range of activities, BBQ, etc. Free, Collingwood Children's Farm, 18 St Helliers Street, Abbotsford. Enquiries to communications@ahvic.org.au

The 'Wurrung' Our Languages Our Law Exhibition: Thursday 4 July, 6:00-9:00 pm. A celebration of the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages twenty-five year journey with Aboriginal communities. Presented in partnership with the 2019 NAIDOC Week 'Voicing Treaty Truth' and in conjunction with the UNESCO 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages. Blak Dot Gallery, 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick, Free.

Briars Aboriginal Cultural Walk with Yidaki: Monday 8 July, 10.30 am. Celebrates the start of NAIDOC week and discovers how Victorian Aboriginals have cared for and used the flora and fauna of the Mornington Peninsula during a beautiful walk with Gunditjmara Kirrae Wurrung-Bundjalung man Lionel Lauch (Living Culture) as your guide. This walk will empower, educate, engage and connect you in the land and moment. Included in this walk is a meditation and healing session where you will be immersed in the rhythmic primal sounds of the Yidaki (Didgeridoo) as it moves through your muscles and organs, creating a space for powerful healing to take place. In the event of bad weather this session will run in the Briars Barn. The Briars, Mount Martha, tickets from \$38: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/briars-aboriginal-cultural-walk-with-yidaki-naidoc-event-tickets>

POLITICAL HISTORY MAKERS



Newly-elected Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt wearing a traditional kangaroo-skin cloak in Parliament.

West Australian Liberal MP Ken Wyatt has become the first Indigenous Australian to be Indigenous Affairs Minister, appointed last month by Prime Minister Scott Morrison. As the first Minister for Indigenous Australians he will have a new National Indigenous Australians Agency attached to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. *'Incredibly honoured to be the first Aboriginal Minister for Indigenous Australians', Mr Wyatt tweeted. 'Committed to working & walking together with our Elders, families & communities to ensure the greatness of our many nations is reflected in the greatness of our Australian nation, now and forever.'* Ken Wyatt was also the first Indigenous Australian to become a federal government minister when he took on aged care in January 2017.

Former opposition leader Bill Shorten had promised to make 'the father of Reconciliation' Pat Dodson the Indigenous affairs minister if the Labor Party won the election. Mr Dodson has instead been appointed shadow assistant minister for Reconciliation and shadow assistant minister for constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians. Linda Burney is the shadow minister for Indigenous Australians.

ABORIGINAL FLAG LICENCE ISSUES

Recent reports that two Aboriginal-owned businesses and the AFL have received cease and desist warnings over their use of the Aboriginal flag on clothing have left many Australians surprised and confused. A company called WAM Clothing, not owned by Indigenous Australians, currently has exclusive rights to use the flag on clothing. It has issued cease and desist notices to companies including the AFL (which uses the flag on club jerseys for its Indigenous round) and Spark Health, an Indigenous social enterprise. The latter has launched an online petition calling for the copyright arrangements to be changed. While there is no need for anyone to get permission to use the Australian flag so long as they abide by the guidelines respecting its use, this is not the case for the Aboriginal flag.

The reason is that the Aboriginal flag is a copyright work owned by the artist who created it over 40 years ago – Luritja man Harold Thomas, who was successful in establishing his claim to authorship. As the creator of the flag, Thomas is its owner and can grant licences to other parties to make copies of the flag, or indeed refuse its use altogether. Under Australian law, his copyright will last for 70 years after his death, and can be claimed by his heirs or anyone else to whom he might choose to assign it. Thomas can assert his rights against anyone. Today, the licence to use the flag on items of clothing is held by WAM Clothing, granted by Thomas in October 2018. One of the owners of WAM Clothing, Ben Wooster, is also the director of a company called Birubi Art. Last year, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission brought legal proceedings against Birubi for its production and sale of boomerangs and other souvenir products featuring visual images and symbols of Aboriginal art, all of which were produced by artisans in Indonesia. The Federal Court found that by representing these works as hand painted or made by Aboriginal Australians, Birubi had engaged in misleading and deceptive conduct. A hearing on the penalties and orders was held mid-June, but Birubi is already in liquidation which could limit the impact of any orders. A recent report of the Australian Parliament's Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs identified the harms caused to Indigenous peoples and communities by inauthentic souvenirs and crafts with no connection to the Aboriginal peoples whose stories, histories and culture they depict.

INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The re-elected coalition government should be pressured to create an Indigenous voice to parliament in the current political term says Labor Senator

Pat Dodson. He is calling for a bipartisan approach to advance the demands of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and has vowed to work with Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt. *'I think the Australian public are almost tired of this discussion and want to get on with it,'* Mr Dodson told the Guardian Australia. Linda Burney said that the Labor Party would welcome a bipartisan approach to address calls to establish an Indigenous voice to parliament. The government has committed \$7.3 million to develop a proposal to take to a referendum and Mr Wyatt has vowed to take 'pragmatic action' while overseeing the portfolio. *'Our government is committed to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the constitution, while delivering critical, practical outcomes to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,'* he said. *'There needs to be more work done on what model we take to a referendum - which is why we are funding a consultation process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.'*

TREATY UPDATE

As momentum continues to build on the pathway to Treaty with Aboriginal Victorians it is heartening to hear the Victorian Government's use of the language of self-determination and its ongoing commitment to Treaty with *The Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018*. We are only months away from the realisation of these approaches with the establishment of the first ever First Peoples Assembly of Victoria. Elections begin soon for Aboriginal people in Victoria to vote for the Assembly, the elected body that will be the voice for Aboriginal people in the Treaty process. Treaty could be the first steps forward, the start to a process that will allow healing and new relationships. The Assembly will be made up of Victorian Traditional Owners elected by Aboriginal people in Victoria. The timeframe for the election to set up the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has been extended in response to community sentiment, the Treaty Advancement Commission has announced. Candidate nominations will close **Friday 16 August**, rather than Monday 17 June, and the voting period will go from **Monday 16 September to Sunday 20 October** 2019. Enrolment to vote and candidate nominations are currently open. People can enrol via post, in person, or online via www.firstpeoplesvic.org/enrol/ A candidate nomination form and information is available via www.firstpeoplesvic.org/candidate-nominations/. For further information and updates, see www.firstpeoplesvic.org

RECVIC'S TREATY PROJECT

RecVic's Treaty Engagement Project has had a strong response with the first of our Local Treaty Conversations, run by Banyule and Darebin Councils and broadcast live by 3KND, having attracted well over 200 people in total. Events have also been held in Swan Hill and Robinvale, and one was hosted by the Victorian Women's Trust. Upcoming events are being organised for Port Phillip, Mornington Peninsula, Hume, Knox and Moreland in the coming couple of months. RecVic's

project involves developing resources to encourage and support deeper local conversations with the non-Aboriginal community about Treaty/ies in Victoria. Visit reconciliation.vic.org to find out more about how you can support Treaty, and to learn about different Aboriginal perspectives on the Treaty process.

INDIGENOUS SUICIDE

Since the start of this year, 62 Aboriginal people – 15 of them children – have died by suicide; more than half of them were under 25 years old and the youngest was only 12. The Kimberley has Australia's highest youth suicide rate. The suicide rate is an 'unspeakable tragedy' says Australia's three major medical organisations, and they have written to the Morrison government pleading for action after four young Aboriginal people died in a single week in Queensland. There have been investigations, reports and additional funds pledged by the major parties during the election campaign, however, there is no national strategy for Indigenous suicide prevention. The Aboriginal health sector and a group of Indigenous leaders have called on the Australian government to take immediate action on Indigenous child and youth suicides, following the death of four Aboriginal people in Queensland. The Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSISP) has urged the government to call Indigenous suicide a national crisis.

Leilani Darwin, First Nations suicide consultant and spokesperson for CBPATSISP, said that funding needs to be put into the hands of Aboriginal-driven organisations. *'What we're saying with this call to action is to give us an opportunity and fund this appropriately so we can actually be determined of our futures, so that we can provide the real-time response to what's needed and so we can have leadership'*, said Ms Darwin. *'We're saying that [if] we have bipartisan support from government, then they need to actually step up to the page [and] declare the fact that this is a crisis. If this was happening among non-Indigenous people at [similar] rates ... It would be on the front page of every newspaper.'*

STONNINGTON NEWS

Gathering under the NAIDOC Week theme for 2019 of 'Voice Treaty Truth', a Welcome to Country and traditional Smoking Ceremony will open the exhibition at Chapel Off Chapel for a NAIDOC Week exhibition of artworks created by young people from schools across Stonnington under the mentorship of local Indigenous artists. Artworks on display are available to purchase. **Friday 12 July**, 5.00-7.00 pm (Opening); **Saturday 13 July**, Noon-5.00 pm (exhibition only); **Sunday 14 July**, Noon-5.00 pm (exhibition only). The Friday evening opening event is an alcohol-free event with catering provided. Both the opening event and exhibition are free to visit. Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Street, Prahran.

In other news, RecStonnington joined in celebrating the vibrant and diverse cultures of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community at a wonderful

Community Ngargee on 1 June at Prahran Market, put on by Stonnington Council during Reconciliation Week. A Welcome to Country was given by Boon Wurrung Elder N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs followed by local dance group Mur Min Bik Yan Yan artist Christinaray Weetra. Chef Greg Hampton and his team from Charcoal Lane shared some delicious bush tucker morsels and recipes, including wallaby, kangaroo and delicious barramundi smoked in paper bark.



Bush Tucker from Charcoal Lane was showcased at RecStonnington's Community Ngargee.

YUMARRALA NGULU

Box Hill Community Arts Centre in collaboration with Ondru brings Yumarrala Ngulu: Give voice - stories of courage and strength by the Stolen Generations. Stories have been told directly by the women or in some cases shared by family members. Yumarrala Ngulu means 'give voice' in the language of Woiwurrung spoken by the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. At Box Hill Community Arts Centre, 470 Station Street, Box Hill, until **Sunday 14 July**; 9895 8888.

THE MARGROOK ROCK'N'ROLL FOOTY EVENT

Come and be part of this event featuring Kevin Kropinyeri - Australia's leading Indigenous comedian - and Margrook Football panel regulars - Grant Hansen, Andrew Krakouer, Robert Dipierdomenico, Warrick Capper and host MC Leila Gurruwiwi. Plus The Big City Combo Band with former members of some of Australia's biggest acts including The Dell Tones, Ol '55, Swanee and Mental as Anything. **Saturday 27 July**, 6.45 pm, The Shed At St Francis, 46 Blucher Street, Strathfieldsaye. \$75-\$106, via Eventbrite.com.au

RED OCHRE AWARDS

Legendary stage and screen performer Uncle Jack Charles has been awarded the 2019 Red Ochre Award at the National Indigenous Arts Awards. The lifetime achievement award honours Indigenous Australians who have made outstanding contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts here and abroad. Jack, along with Aunty Lola Greeno, received the top National Indigenous Arts Award - the Red Ochre Award - for lifetime achievement. Lola Greeno is known for her superb shell work and cultural jewellery and was

honoured alongside visual artist Jenna Lee, who received the Dreaming Award for a young and emerging artist, and theatre maker Jacob Boehme who won the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Fellowship. For details of all Award winners, visit <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-arts/national-indigenous-arts-awards/>

WILLIAM COOPER SCHOLARSHIP

The William Cooper Indigenous Scholarship Fund, celebrating the activism of Australia's Aboriginal and Jewish communities, has announced its first recipients: Jaya Blandthorn, 19, and John Singh-Nagyivan, 26, from Monash University. The Fund will provide them with comprehensive financial support during their studies. It is made possible by a \$1 million donation from Melbourne philanthropists John and Pauline Gandel and honours the life and activism of Yorta Yorta leader William Cooper. It is designed to support high-achieving Indigenous students with leadership potential.

MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE CONCERT

Contours of Songlines is a concert by 2019 Artist-in-Residence William Barton who will sing and play the didgeridoo and guitar accompanied by Aunty Delmae Barton on vocals and Paul Grabowsky. **Thursday 18 July**, 7.30 pm, Hamer Hall.

BOOKS

In *Young Dark Emu*, Bruce Pascoe has brought together his research and compelling first person accounts from his award-winning *Dark Emu* in this book for younger readers, asking them to consider a different version of Australia's history before European colonisation. Ages 10+. Published by Magabala Books, \$24.99.

Wilam: A Birrarung Story Reading Book tells the story of one day in the life of the vital, flourishing Birrarung (Yarra) River, written by Aunty Joy Murphy and Andrew Kelly, illustrations by Lisa Kennedy. Black Dog Books. \$24.99. *The Yield* is a profoundly moving and exquisitely written book by Tara June Winch about a people and a culture dispossessed, but it is as much a celebration of what was and what endures, and a powerful reclaiming of Indigenous language, storytelling and identity. Penguin Books, \$32.99. *Journey into the Dreamtime* by Aunty Munya Andrews invites readers to step into the magical world of Aboriginal Dreamtime and to share in the world's oldest living culture - its ancient knowledge and spiritual wisdom, by exploring songlines and sacred sites. \$33.50. *The White Girl*, Tony Birch's new novel, is an allegory of good, evil and the legacy of Australia's colonial past – with strong black women at its core. QUP, \$29.95.

INDIGENOUS STORIES ON TV

Robbie Hood is a modern Australian retelling of a classic tale over six episodes, 10 minutes each, about Robbie, a thirteen-year-old misfit with a heart of gold. Directed by Dylan River (*Finke: There and Back, Sweet Country*), written by Kodie Bedford (*Mystery Road, Grace Beside Me*), produced by Tanith Glynn-Maloney (*She Who Must Be Loved, Nulla Nulla*) and Meg O'Connell (*Doodles, The Sketchy Show*), with Charlie Aspinwall (*Bluey, Doodles*), Daley Pearson (*#7DaysLater, The Strange Calls*) and Sue Masters (SBS) executive producing. *Robbie Hood* will drop on SBS On Demand on **Friday 5 July**, and air on SBS VICELAND on **Tuesday 9 July**, 9.35pm.

