

# Mungo...



**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](mailto:rosemary.rule@gmail.com)

[www.ppcfrr.org](http://www.ppcfrr.org)

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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**September 2018**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Reconciliation Writing Competition

Entries have closed and the Judges, Tony Birch, Clare Bradford and Bryan Andy, now have the task of selecting the winners in the adult and student categories. Winners will be notified by Monday 1 October and given prizes at the Awards Ceremony, Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park, on Tuesday 16 October. More news next issue.

### Todd's Talk

At our August meeting, Todd Condie, the City of Port Phillip's Indigenous Policy Officer, gave us a fascinating insight into the workings of the Wadjanburra Aboriginal Corporation in Far North Queensland, of which he is a board member. Todd spoke about how the corporation seeks to protect significant Aboriginal cultural sites like Lake Barrine and Lake Eachem on the Atherton Tablelands, and about the Dreaming stories surrounding the Cassowary and the Yellow Hummingbird that represent totemic connections for members of the Yidinji Rainforest Nation. Elder Judith Jackson and Jordan Sutardy, COPP's recently appointed Aboriginal Health and Reconciliation Officer, were among the guests (*photo below*) who lingered afterwards to chat and enjoy the refreshments.



City of Port Phillip's Indigenous Policy Officer Todd Condie was guest speaker at our August meeting and spoke about his work with the Wadjanburra Aboriginal Corporation in Far North Queensland.

### Garma Festival

Our Federal parliamentary leaders couldn't make this year's festival; many other prominent people did, providing some excellent commentary on the state of Indigenous affairs in Australia. Report inside.

### Reconciliation Network Forum

Speakers at this informative event on 18 August discussed a range of issues under the theme Advocating for Reconciliation with State and Local Governments. PPCfR and COPP reported on their working relationship; details below.

### Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 20 November

Please come along to our AGM on **Tuesday 20 November**. Special guest speaker is Morris Stuart, Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choirmaster. Updates next month.

### Supporting the ABC

Several PPCfR members attended Middle Park Bowling Club last month to hear Maxine McKew, noted journalist and lecturer. She outlined the importance of maintaining and supporting the ABC to ensure the national broadcaster remains a strong, independent, reliable and credible organisation, even more crucial after the government's recent changes to media laws. Maxine also warmly endorsed the re-election of the Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley, who urged people to defend the ABC and support the Friends of the ABC. Martin also spoke about the many outstanding amenities residents of our 'city' enjoy - (new) schools, public transport and infrastructure.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 18 September, 2018, 6.30 pm,** South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. **All Welcome**

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT BACKS 'VOICE TO PARLIAMENT'

The interim report by the Joint Select Committee (JSC) on constitutional recognition has been released. It puts a national, constitutionally-enshrined voice back on the table for further consideration by the Parliament and the Australian people. The interim report also reflects strong support for regional and local voices. However, according to the report '*clear support for the concept of a voice has not yet extended to any accepted view on what the voice, or series of voice proposals, should look like; nor is there clarity on how such bodies should interact with each other or with the Parliament and the executive*'. The committee is seeking further submissions until **Monday 17 September**, and will table its final report in November. [Read the Interim Report](#) and go to RecVic's website for their submission to the JSC.

## NEW ABORIGINAL YOUTH JUSTICE TASKFORCE

Victoria's Families and Children Minister, Jenny Mikakos, said that the new Aboriginal Youth Justice Taskforce will be the first of its kind established in Victoria, and will examine the cases of about 250 Aboriginal young people in the youth justice system over 18 months. Approximately 16 percent of those in Victoria's youth justice system identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, despite making up just 1.6 percent of the general population aged between 10 and 18. Taskforce 250 will be led by the independent Commission for Children and Young People and will examine the current care of Aboriginal young people within youth justice and identify issues that impact on their development and cultural connectedness. Aboriginal communities and young people will be involved in the taskforce to identify issues, with Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Justin Mohamed, to co-chair the steering committee. Taskforce 250 addresses a recommendation made in the landmark Armytage/Ogloff review, and is supported with \$1.9 million over two years through the Victorian Budget 2018/2019. It is part of a total \$10.8 million to provide culturally-specific supports to improve the rehabilitation of Aboriginal young people, and an Elders Support Program in which young people are provided cultural leadership through mentors and positive role models. An additional \$5.04 million will continue the expanded Koori Youth Justice Program, which aims to prevent offending or reoffending by ensuring young Aboriginal people are connected to their families and communities and other services.

## TRADITIONAL OWNERS' AGREEMENT

The Victorian Labor Government is continuing to work with the Eastern Maar Traditional Owner group towards an agreement under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* – the only state legislation of its kind in Australia. Attorney-General Martin Pakula visited the Framlingham Aboriginal settlement near Warrnambool to mark negotiations to formally recognise Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights over crown land in south-west Victoria. The area under negotiation stretches from near Port Fairy along the Great Ocean Road, up to Ararat in

the north, and to Colac in the East. The Act allows for out-of-court settlements recognising the rights of Victorian Traditional Owners, and was introduced as an alternative to litigation under the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993*. The Act is one way in which the Government supports Victoria's Traditional Owners to achieve self-determination. The Government has previously reached Traditional Owner settlements with the Dja Dja Wurrung and Gunaikurnai peoples.

## GARMA 2018

Thousands of Australians camped at the sacred Yolngu site Gulkula in August for the 20th anniversary of the Garma Festival – with the exception of the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, who were notably absent. In an emotional address at the Festival's opening, Yolngu leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu said he was dismayed at hearing of Indigenous groups unable to access land and resources. Several leaders said that a referendum to give Indigenous people more power to run their own affairs is a '*life and death matter*'. Gumatj clan leaders Dr Yunupingu and Djawa Yunupingu said they were bitterly disappointed with the Government's treatment of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The statement - delivered by hundreds of people last May - called for a referendum to establish an Indigenous advisory body in the constitution; however, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull rejected their proposal saying it was short on detail and would not succeed at a referendum. Yothu Yindi Foundation deputy chairman Djawa Yunupingu said the decision had been deeply frustrating. '*How long do we have to wait to get this right? Another committee? Another hearing? Another meeting? Another Prime Minister?*' he said.

Over two decades, Garma has become Australia's key forum for debate on constitutional change. A joint parliamentary committee is currently considering options to include Indigenous people in the constitution, and to give communities more power. Hundreds of Indigenous people endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart last May yet the Federal Government decided against holding a referendum to test the idea; a committee has begun a fresh round of consultations on the issue. Several other prominent people also weighed in on the debate. Former Liberal politician Fred Chaney said that Aboriginal people have been dealt a '*cold slap in the face*' due to policy failures and the rejection of a referendum push. The Government's reaction to the Uluru Statement of the Heart was '*a tragedy and a terrible mistake*,' said Mr Chaney, and he urged government departments to repair relations with Indigenous communities, taking bureaucrats to task over what he described as a series of policy decisions that had driven people further into poverty. Cape York leader Noel Pearson said Mr Turnbull's rejection of the request to create a permanent Indigenous advisory body had '*destroyed*' people. '*We can't take the word of an ordinary person, we can't be intimidated, can't be told that the Australian people are so racist or redneck or opposed [to a referendum]*.' Award-winning author Richard Flanagan says the Turnbull government wrote

itself out of history and wasted a chance at Reconciliation when it rejected last year's Uluru Statement. *'It was a great achievement of our democracy. Those who are from the beginning of our nation would now, for the first time of which I am aware, accept the sovereignty of the Commonwealth in return for recognition of their sovereignty within that Commonwealth,'* Flanagan said.

Note: At Garma, Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion said his Government had '*championed*' constitutional recognition and that the idea for a Voice to Parliament needed more detail and clarity.

## VICTORIAN RECONCILIATION NETWORK FORUM

RecVic held its annual Reconciliation Network Forum on 18 August at MAYSAR in Fitzroy. The focus of the forum was working effectively with local governments and was well attended by over sixty people with representatives from fifteen local Reconciliation groups as well as councils and many new faces from across the state – including COPP's Todd Condie. The forum commenced with a warm and engaging Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Hunter, followed by a moving presentation of the MAYSAR story from David Shannon. We were privileged to hear an update about the Treaty Process from Diana David of the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission. ANTaR Victoria presented their newest campaign - a State Government Election Scorecard - before we launched into the Working with Local Government session. Several speakers highlighted the importance of supporting Treaty with local candidates in the lead-up to the Victorian State Election. A panel discussion followed featuring Todd Condie, Shona Stewart from the City of Whittlesea, Cr Geoff Ellis from Bass Coast Shire and Terry Makin from Reconciliation Banyule - sharing case studies from their many years' experience working in Reconciliation. After lunch, the Local Reconciliation Groups Forum asked representatives of LRGs and ANTaR Victoria to share an update on their work and progress since our last forum. RecVic also shared an update about current work and upcoming changes to the structure of the organisation. The next combined forum/AGM will be held on **Saturday 27 October**, 2018.



From left: Dr Susan Rennie, Victorian Local Governance Association; Todd Condie, City of Port Phillip; Geoff Ellis, Bass Coast Reconciliation; Terry Makin, Reconciliation Banyule; and Shona Stewart, Whittlesea Reconciliation Group

**Possum Skin Cloak:** Jill Gallagher, Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner, is creating a visual record of the Treaty journey using a possum skin cloak to which Aboriginal people who attend the state-wide forums and consultations can add a panel, add a personally written



message about their aspirations, or draw an image that's meaningful to them. A kangaroo skin was also provided for whitefellas to draw or write a message on, which several Forum attendees did.

## ANTAR'S ELECTION SCORECARD

[Election Scorecard: A guide to policies which affect First Australians in the 2018 Victorian Election](https://antarvictoria.org.au/election-scorecard/)

has been released by ANTaR Victoria, highlighting six areas of concern to Aboriginal Victorians and how the three biggest parties measure up in addressing these issues. These areas are: Treaty, Education, Justice, Health, Land and Waterways, and Out-of-Home Care. While local efforts towards self-determination have often proved effective in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's autonomy over their lives and communities, state legislation plays an important role in building and maintaining the rights, opportunities and respect for Aboriginal Victorians. State legislation has proven its ability to support Aboriginal Victorians and provide culturally-appropriate and supportive initiatives, guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. On **Saturday 24 November** 2018, Victorians will vote for our next parliament. We believe it is important to support Aboriginal Victorians through voting and encouraging our candidates to positively address the concerns of the Aboriginal Victorian community. We encourage members of the public to contact their local candidates and express their commitment to supporting Traditional Owners. The Scorecard outlines how Aboriginal Victorians have been disenfranchised in the six key areas and provides evidence-based approaches. It also examines future policies and past commitments of the Australian Labor Party of Victoria, Victorian Liberal National Coalition and Victorian Greens Party. <https://antarvictoria.org.au/election-scorecard/>

## FLAG FLIES

For the first time in history, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are now being permanently flown at Melbourne's Government House.

## FROM A TO ME FEATURING AUNTY JACKO

This short doco-style web series created by Fancy Films profiles a diverse range of inspiring Australian female leaders and is the beginning of their pledge for #100daysforchange. One of the interviewees is Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson. The series features candid interviews and authentic discussions about what it means to be a female leader in Australia today. The series will engage women and men to address the gender gap for a more inclusive workspace; it's about women, by women. Jacko's interview is one of the first of the '*honest, authentic women talking about their journey.*' Check it out: [www.fancyfilms.com](http://www.fancyfilms.com), *From A to Me*.

## INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY AND WORAWA

In addition to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's program work, ILF's Indigenous Literacy Day is their biggest advocacy event for the year, to be launched on **Wednesday 5 September**. People can register for a Great Book Swap and join with over 600 schools, libraries, businesses and festivals to ensure that Indigenous Literacy Day is a time where there is a national focus on addressing the literacy challenges experienced by remote Indigenous children. A key event will take place at Fed Square to celebrate the best in ILF's Community Literacy Program, which mentors young storytellers in remote communities and publishes books, where possible, in home languages. Students from Worowa College will perform pieces of fiction, non-fiction and poetry from their book *The Deadly Sisters of Worowa*. Students from other Victorian schools will be joined by Lifetime Ambassadors and authors Andy Griffiths and Anita Heiss, ILF Ambassador Shelley Ware (from the Marngrook Footy Show on NITV), artist/storyteller Gregg Dreise and Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy. Details: [info@ilf.org.au](mailto:info@ilf.org.au)

## REC STONNINGTON NEWS

Rec Stonnington's AGM was held in August with special guest speaker Jill Gallagher AO, Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner, who gave a stirring and comprehensive overview of the Treaty process she's currently overseeing. The group will be celebrating their 20th anniversary with a BlakWiz political satire trivia show on **Thursday 11 October**, 6.30 pm in the Grattan Gardens Community Centre. More details next month. In further news, Stonnington Council considered its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in early August. The RAP includes developing a public places naming policy to acknowledge Aboriginal heritage; supporting early childhood and primary school educators to engage with relevant curriculum tools to use cultural and language immersion programs for children; and improving the usability of the curriculum materials produced as part of the 2009 History of Stonnington Project. A RAP Advisory Committee will be established with the Stonnington CEO as a member. <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au>

## VACCA AWARDS

The Mollie Dyer Awards celebrate Victorian Aboriginal Peoples' excellent work in supporting Aboriginal children, young people and families to feel safe, strong and proudly connected to culture and community. At the awards ceremony in November, the winners will each receive a plaque and \$3,000 for showing leadership and inspiring positive change. Nominations close **Friday 14 September**. Details: [awards@vacca.org](mailto:awards@vacca.org)

## DARK EMU

Bangarra's newest work, *Dark Emu*, inspired by the award-winning book of the same name by Bruce Pascoe, explores the vital life force of flora and fauna, challenging our misconceptions about Aboriginal history in the process. Performances from **6-15 September**, Arts Centre Melbourne.

## MUNIAK MULANA

This theatrical production touches on themes relating to dispossession of Indigenous peoples, assimilation policy and apocalyptic genocide, whilst also expressing intergenerational resilience, with strong Indigenous sovereignty undertones. \$30/\$20. La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond St, Carlton, **11-16 September**. Bookings: [info@lamama.com.au](mailto:info@lamama.com.au)

## THE ART OF HEALING: AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS BUSH MEDICINE

Following the premise of Tjukurrpa (dreaming), this exhibition looks at traditional Indigenous healing practice as past, present and future simultaneously. Examples of healing practice from the many distinct and varied Indigenous communities throughout Australia will be shown through contemporary art practice and examples of plants and medicines. The exhibition runs until **Saturday 29 September** at Melbourne University Medical History Museum, Brownless Biomedical Library, Kernot Road, Parkville.

## TWO VOICES

*Wangka Kutjara, Tjukurpa Kutju – Two Voices* exhibition features mother-daughter duo Puna Yanima and Linda Puna who highlight the importance of women in the Mimilli community and surrounding Anangu Pitjantjatara Yankunytjatjara lands. On at Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, City, free, until **Sunday 2 September**. [www.lindenarts.org](http://www.lindenarts.org)

## GROWING UP ABORIGINAL IN AUSTRALIA

Matthew Lillyst, Zachary Penrith-Puchalski and Jack Latimore – three of the Melbourne-based contributors to this fascinating book – will be on a panel and interviewed for a fundraiser for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. **Wednesday 12 September**, 6.30 pm, Carlton Library, Rathdowne St. Free, but all attendees will be asked to make at least a gold coin donation.

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS MUSIC AWARDS

The posthumously-released album of acclaimed artist Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu swept the 2018 National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs), picking up three more awards for the late renowned musician. Breakthrough star Baker Boy - who raps in Yolngu Matha was the night's other big winner. The NIMAs named him Best New Talent, and the music video for his hit song *Marryuna* also won Film Clip of the Year. The Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir was awarded a NIMA Special Achievement Award.

## VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS THROUGH EARLY EUROPEAN EYES

Written by David Frankel and Janine Major, this book explains how within two generations of the first European settlement of Victoria, traditional Aboriginal society was almost entirely destroyed. It is a convenient entry-point into this important body of information and will be of use to anyone with an interest in Victorian Indigenous history and society. <https://library.latrobe.edu.au/ebureau/ebook.html#victoran>.

