

# 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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**September 2019**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boon Wurrung Word of the Month:

*Bareep* (Spring)

### Treaty Forum

I've no doubt that the 140 or so people who attended Treaty – A Community Conversation that PPCfR hosted on 22 August came away with a renewed interest in the Treaty process currently underway in Victoria, thanks to the inspiring keynote speakers, Diana David and Richard Frankland. Boon Wurrung Elder Janet Galpin's insightful and personal Welcome to Country set the tone for an informative evening ahead. *'Treaty is an aspiration for all Victorians, and the all-Aboriginal Peoples Assembly that is being set up is to be the best of the best,'* Diana told the audience in the St Kilda Town Hall. For Richard,



Treaty is about hope. He reckons it will be a purifying ride that will drive people across the cultural abyss we often find ourselves caught up in and will lead towards what he terms a better *'Tomorrow Australia'*. More below.



(Above, left to right) Moderator Keith Gove, Keynote speaker Diana David, Boon Wurrung Elder Janet Galpin and Keynote speaker Richard Frankland. (Below) Speakers set the stage. (Photos courtesy of Adam Sutardy)

### St Michael's Talk

By all accounts, PPCfR Co-Chair Dennis Fisher's talk and poetry reading in front of the St Michael's Grammar Assembly on 12 August was a deadly event. Den's invitation came after two of their teachers and three students met him at our Sorry Day lunch in May. Photo and report from the school and the participants inside.

### Local Reconciliation Groups' Forum

Wadawurrung Country - the Geelong/Surf Coast area, was the setting for this year's out-of-town LRG Forum hosted by RecVic. Ro Bailey and Keith Gove were among the participants and share their experience.

### Highly Recommended

I encourage everyone to see *The Australian Dream*, the documentary film about legendary footballer and former Australian of the Year, Adam Goodes. Written by Stan Grant who appears on screen, it uses Goodes' experience as an analogy for white Australia's conflicted attitude towards the dispossession of the nation's First People. In the process, he offers profound and insightful comments about where we've come from - and some hope for the future.

### Stay Tuned

News about the special guest speaker for PPCfR's Annual General Meeting later this year will be announced shortly.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next meeting: Tuesday 17 September, 6.30 pm,** South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. All Welcome.

## CONVERSATIONS ABOUT TREATY

Treaty - A Community Conversation hosted by PPCfR at the St Kilda Town Hall last month was a particularly informative evening that attracted a large and mixed crowd. Richard Frankland, Gunditjmarra man, academic, author and singer/songwriter is a deadly speaker and complimented the other keynote speaker, Diana David, CEO of RecVic. They outlined the Treaty process which began in 2016, and detailed the journey along the way and possible outcomes – and acknowledged it may not be in their lifetimes. They spoke of why it is so important for all Victorians to be part of this important social justice issue, and interspersed humour and personal comments into their talks. MC Keith Gove, a RecVic board member and Chair of RecStonnington, ably moderated the questions from the audience.

Many people contributed towards making the event the success it was. There are many to thank. Caterer Prem for the excellent refreshments provided; Jordan Sutardy, COPP's Indigenous Community Broker, for an amazing amount of support; the wonderful, hard-working volunteer members of the Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation: Gael Wilson, Sushena Krishnaswamy, Jo Bond, Deb Stewart, Liz Gallois, Janine Wilder, Fiona and Darren Olney-Fraser, Joy Bandy, Denis Frankel, Helen Hoffman, Helen Bennett, Viv McCutcheon, Moira Burke and Pat Nicol; photographer Adam Sutardy; COPP's Town Hall team and Sputnik TV.

Keep up-to-date about Treaty and other Reconciliation-related issues via the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission – [victreatyadvancement.org.au](http://victreatyadvancement.org.au); RecVic - [www.reconciliationvic.org.au](http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au); and/or Deadly Questions – You ask. Aboriginal Victorians Answer <https://deadlyquestions.vic.gov.au>

Another recent forum - A Conversation About Treaty - was presented by Initiatives of Change in Toorak last month when Susan Moylan-Coombs talked personally about her views and those of other Indigenous leaders including Minister Ken Wyatt and Senator Pat Dodson. Susan, a member of the Stolen Generations, founding director of the Gaimaragal Group and former executive producer for ABC TV's Indigenous programs, feels constitutional change ought to come before a Treaty. She spoke about issues around lore versus law and suggested that we all need the will to want to do things differently. (During the last federal election, Susan unsuccessfully contested the seat held by Tony Abbott). She is the granddaughter of the high-profile public servant and prime ministerial adviser H C Coombs, and daughter of former NSW Bar Association president John Coombs. Further talks on similar topics are anticipated at Initiatives of Change, a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with our own. see <https://au.iofc.org>. *Rosemary Rule*

## GARMA OUTCOMES

Constitutional reforms to recognise Australia's First Nations and the establishment of an Indigenous Voice to parliament dominated conversations at the opening day of the Garma Festival at Gulkula in Eastern Arnhem Land in July. Speaking to media before the official opening ceremony, the Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt praised the Festival and said he looked forward to a weekend of critical conversations about *'the changes that we need in our nation'*. Pressed on the coalition government's position on a constitutionally-enshrined Indigenous Voice to federal parliament, as called for in the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, the minister said any approach would *'have to be very pragmatic. Why would you take a question to the Australian people if the majority will not support it and the majority of the states and territories don't support it,'* said Mr Wyatt. *'Every constitution referendum where the question has failed has been sent into permanent retirement. That's why, if we go on a question of constitutional recognition, we have to get it right ... It's too critical to fail.'* Mr Wyatt said while the proposal of a Voice to parliament was still a viable option, he was *'going to look at the pragmatic way forward. We have to be very considered, very measured. But we have to consider all the other options as well.'* Mr Wyatt said he and the Prime Minister were *'walking together'* in their commitment to achieving constitutional recognition. *'He may have ruled out...a Voice entrenched in the constitution, but let me tell you he is committed to seeing a difference made in respect to this issue,'* said My Wyatt. Gumatj Elder, 71-year-old Galarrwuy Yunupingu, said an Aboriginal representative Voice needed to inform any part of constitutional recognition or the document should be *'thrown into the sea'*. Anthony Albanese said that if Australia is to move forward and achieve enduring Reconciliation with Indigenous people, enshrining a Voice in the constitution *'is what must come first'*. The Labor leader used his trip to Garma to say that *'the lies we've been telling ourselves as a nation to justify dispossession and destruction'* are beginning to fall away, and Australia is beginning to move past the erasure of Indigenous achievement.

Following on from the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a group of young Indigenous people gathered for the Youth Forum at Garma. Facilitated by AIME, it resulted in a declaration for the Prime Minister and Education Ministers across Australia - The Imagination Declaration. They want the Imagination Declaration in every school in the nation, from early childhood learning through to our most prominent universities. *'To our Prime Minister and Education Ministers, we call on you to meet with us and to work on an Imagination plan for our country's education system, for all of us.'*

## CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

Minister Ken Wyatt has been under pressure since Garma and his Vincent Lingiari Memorial Lecture in Darwin mid August to explicitly reject the idea of enshrining an Indigenous Voice in the constitution.

It was the minister's first open rejection of the Voice proposal, yet at the National Press Club last month the minister had left the door open to including a Voice in the referendum. 'The Morrison Government is committed to recognising Indigenous Australians in the Constitution and working to achieve this through a process of true co-design.' The Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Linda Burney, will be integral to that process, Mr Wyatt said.

### SAD NEWS

Acclaimed Indigenous actor Ningali Lawford-Wolf died on 11 August, aged 52, in Edinburgh while touring with the stage production of *The Secret River*. Well-known for her roles in the films *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, *Bran Nue Dae*, and *Last Cab to Darwin*, she was a Wangkatjunka woman born under a tree at Christmas Creek Station in the far-north Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Graham 'Polly' Famer, who revolutionised Australian Rules Football and stood as an Indigenous champion both on and off the field, died on 14 August aged 84. He was a trailblazing Indigenous footballer whose skill transcended the entrenched racism so prevalent in 1950s and 1960s Australia. The former Geelong ruckman helped set up the Polly Farmer Foundation to mentor young Indigenous players. Graham was just 18 months old when he was taken from his Noongar mother and placed in Perth's Sister Kate's home for 'half-caste' children.

### ST MICHAEL'S 'DEADLY' ASSEMBLY

At the Astor Assembly on Monday 12 August we were joined by Port Phillip Council Indigenous Policy Officer, Diversity and Inclusion, Mr Todd Condie, Port Phillip Council Indigenous Community Broker, Mr Jordan Sutardy, and Co-Chair of Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, Mr Dennis Fisher, who shared some of his poetry with us. When he read *Lucky Country*, the whole audience was not only silent, but very still, listening intently to the words as they landed. We are very grateful to the Council and to Dennis for their contribution to our community and our commitment to Reconciliation. *Mrs Terrie Jones, Head of School, St Michael's Grammar*  
PS: Dennis, Todd and Jordan were welcomed by Mrs Jones and the three student leaders Dennis had met at PPCfR's Sorry Day lunch in May. During the assembly, Todd Condie spoke about the Reconciliation process in the City of Port Phillip, the upcoming Treaty process in Victoria, and the importance of young people playing an increasing role. Afterwards, Jordan commented that he'd never heard students in Australia being so proud of their culture and history, or so much ownership given to the students who had organised the event.

Jordan Sutardy, Todd Condie and Dennis Fisher (centre) with St Michael's student leaders Sebastian, Sara and Isabella.



### BUSINESS BACKS INDIGENOUS SUPPLIERS

The Business Council of Australia is behind the Raising the Bar initiative, launched in August by Minister Ken Wyatt. Australian Unity, BHP, Rio Tinto, BP, Fortescue Metals, Qantas, Lendlease, Westpac and CBA are among corporates who pledged to spend over \$3 billion with Indigenous suppliers over the next five years. The companies have pledged to hit a target of 3 percent of procurement spending on Indigenous suppliers, starting with a 0.5 percent target this year, reaching 3 percent by the fifth year. Qantas already uses Dreamtime Tuka to supply 600,000 slices for their morning and afternoon flights. CBA has partnered with design agency Gilimbua and Winya Indigenous Furniture to deliver art and furniture for their new branches, and BP is spending \$1.2 million with Zenith Interiors for its Perth and Melbourne office makeovers.

### REC STONNINGTON'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Diana David, Kaanju Nation and Kulkagau Ya lama woman and CEO of RecVic, is the guest speaker at Rec Stonnington's AGM and will be joined by the Mayor of the City of Stonnington reporting on Council's Reconciliation Action Plan. **Wednesday 11 September**, 6.00 pm, Grattan Gardens Community Centre, Prahran. Refreshments provided. RSVP by 4 September to Ro Bailey, 9819 9106, or [ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au)

### REC VIC LOCAL RECONCILIATION GROUPS FORUM

RecVic's LRG's Forum on Wadawurrung Country started on the morning of Saturday 17 August with about 35 people assembled at Mount Duneed Reserve, Wauran Ponds, to meet with Corrina Eccles, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner. Corrina gave us a great Welcome to Country, including a chant in language accompanied by clapsticks, a smoking ceremony and an invitation to connect to the earth by painting ourselves with white ochre. She was authorised by the Elders to speak about Wadawurrung Culture and this was signified by the possum skin shawl she was wearing, consisting of two possum skins joined together. The Wadawurrung have been recognised by the Victorian Government as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area. We visited other areas around Geelong (or Djillong) and Corrina showed us a scar tree and pointed out a hole high in the tree that indicated a nest of native bees. On the beach at Point Impossible we saw shell middens and ochre, and at the Great Ocean Road Chocolaterie we saw circles of colourful poles painted by Indigenous school children, a project that the Chocolaterie carried out in their grounds in consultation with the Wadawurrung people. For lunch we made damper, to varying degrees of success and later that afternoon Corrina demonstrated how to make a Bush Bouquet. Corrina gave a talk on her perspective on Treaty and why she thought that only Traditional Owners should be involved in the process. That night, a dinner generously provided for us by Geelong One Fire group consisted of salads, baked vegetables, barbecued sausages and kangaroo which were combined into wraps and creatively named 'roovlakis'.

On Sunday morning we had the usual LRG Forum meeting with about 30 people. LRGs shared information, RecVic provided updates on Treaty conversations, and several non-group attendees talked about the organisations they were from (including Deakin Uni and Vic Electoral Commission). All in all, it was a most enjoyable and informative weekend, so good to be able

to be part of it. Thanks to RecVic for organising the weekend.

We're already looking forward to next year's meeting on country.

*Note:* Traditional Owner Corrina Eccles conducts cultural tours of the area so to arrange, contact her at:

[corrina@wathcorp.com.au](mailto:corrina@wathcorp.com.au).

Ro Bailey and Keith Gove, Rec Stonnington.



Waddawurrung Traditional Owner Corrina Eccles standing by the scar tree with a coolamon, explaining what removed bark could be used for.

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS MUSIC AWARDS

Archie Roach says: 'When one shines, we all shine.'

As did the winners of the NIMA Awards, Australia's biggest celebration of First Nations music, announced in Darwin last month. Baker Boy was awarded Artist of the Year. He took to the stage for a surprise performance of his single *Black Magic*. Mojo Juju won Song of the Year and Album of the Year for her defiant epic *Native Tongue*. Melbourne-based Kaiit was awarded New Talent of the Year. Briggs took out Film Clip of the Year for *Life Is Incredible*, and Community Clip of the Year went to fifteen Deniliquin High School students - known as the Deni Mob - for their song *State of the Heart*. Melbourne-based trio Tiddas and Cairns jazz singer Wilma Reading were inducted into the NIMA Hall of Fame. Archie Roach, Jack Charles, Jessica Mauboy, Dan Sultan, Electric Fields, Deborah Cheetham, Eric Avery and Spinifex Gum performed live.

*Note:* The first recipient of the Archie Roach Foundation Award was New Talent of the Year finalist, Mambali. The Award recognises a NT artist in the early stages of their career, providing \$2000 and mentoring from industry professionals, thanks to a donation from board member and inaugural ambassador Jack Charles.

## BOOK NEWS

**Blak and Bright** is a First Nations Literary Festival directed by Jane Harrison which showcases and celebrates the diverse expression of all genres from songs to essays, oral stories to epic novels, plays to poetry. The Festival includes a music concert at Melbourne Museum as part of *Nocturnal*, a dinner and storytelling experience at Charcoal Lane called *Quandong and Magpie* with host Kylie Belling, opera singer Shauntai Batzke and author Stan Yarramunua, and over 40 First Nations storytellers. Visit the Yung Tent Embassy where young Blaktivists are guided by the formidable Dr Gary Foley. **Thursday 5 - Sunday 8 September**. Details: <https://blakandbright.com.au/t>

**Melissa Lucashenko** won the 2019 Miles Franklin Literary Award for *Too Much Lip* which was praised by the judges as 'a novel of celebratory defiance'. Lucashenko, a woman of Goorie/Bundjalung and European heritage, said she set out to write 'a really hard-nosed book.....I wanted to shine a light and bear witness to the Aboriginal underclass, and to the lives of Aboriginal women in particular.' The Brisbane-based writer's book is shortlisted for the Stella Prize, the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and the ABI Awards.

**Tara June Winch** has written *The Yield* which is the story of a people and a culture dispossessed, a celebration of what was and what endures, and a powerful reclaiming of Indigenous language, storytelling and identity. A Wiradjuri woman, her novel *Swallow the Air* has been on the HSC syllabus for Standard and Advanced English since 2009, and she wrote the script for the Indigenous dance documentary *Carriberrie*.

**Salt** is Bruce Pascoe's latest book - a collection of stories and essays showcasing his shimmering genius across a lifetime of work. It features new fiction alongside Pascoe's most revered and thought-provoking nonfiction, including excerpts from his modern classic *Dark Emu*.

**Jack Charles - Born-Again Blakfella** is by Australian legend Jack Charles - survivor of the Stolen Generations, Indigenous Elder, actor, musician, activist and former heroin addict and cat burglar, on the cusp of his 76th birthday. He tells the full story of how he became a born-again Blakfella. Written with Namila Benson.

## ART TRAMS

The work of two Aboriginal artists from an Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community Program are featuring on the outside of trams across Melbourne, including the 109 Port Melbourne tram, and it's all thanks to The Torch program. The Torch program provides cultural and arts vocational support for Indigenous men and women in prisons and post-release in Victoria. Ngiyampaa woman Kim Kennedy's work *4 Rivers* depicts the river systems of Victoria and NSW, and calls attention to their importance in supporting healthy aquatic life, community and culture. Jeffery Jackson, a Mutti Mutti man, also painted about his relationship to Country. The initiative raises awareness of Indigenous over-representation in incarceration rates across Australia. Appearing alongside the artwork on the trams are statistics that



reveal First Nations men are 15 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-Indigenous men, while First Nations women are 21 times more likely to be imprisoned.

The artwork appears as part of The Yarra Trams Community Partnerships Program which awards \$1 million in free advertising to organisations making a positive impact on diversity and inclusion in Melbourne. The trams, featuring Jackson and Kennedy's artwork can be seen travelling on Route 109 between Box Hill and Port Melbourne and Route 48 between North Balwyn and Victoria Harbour Docklands.

## EXHIBITIONS

**Manggan - Gather, Gather, Gatherings** is an exhibition from the diverse landscapes of Far North Queensland. *Manggan* shares knowledge through the recent works of Indigenous artists from Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre alongside collection objects from the South Australian Museum and Museums Victoria, weaving together traditional and contemporary baskets (Jawun), ceramic fire spirits (Bagu), photography and film. At Bunjilaka Melbourne Museum.

**Revealed – Arnhem Land Barks** is a significant collection of art from Yirrkala and Milingimbi during the 'golden years' of bark painting from the Anita Castan Collection, on display until **Thursday 5 September** in the Burke Gallery, Gateway Building, Tin Alley, Trinity College, University of Melbourne. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00 am-4.00 pm.  
<https://museumsandcollections.unimelb.edu.au/news/items/new-exhibition-of-arnhem-land-barks-opens-at-trinity-college>

**NATSIAA Awards** Yolngu leader Djambawa Marawili AM who sits on the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council and on many boards including the Australia Council and Northern Land Council, won the 2019 Telstra Art Award. The Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) is Australia's longest-running and most prestigious Indigenous art awards. Victorian artists, Cassie Leatham and Kent Morris, were finalists.

## DANCE AND MUSIC

### **30 Years of Sixty-Five Thousand Years - A Celebration of Contemporary Dance, Story and Culture**

is a performance created by Bangarra, Australia's premier Indigenous dance company. Their latest work showcases three contemporary works with performances from **Thursday 5-Saturday 14 September**, Arts Centre, Melbourne.



**Spinifex Gum** features the voices of Marliya of the Gondwana Choirs alongside Felix Riebl, Ollie McGill and Emma Donovan, using old and new languages for a distinctly Australian experience. **Friday 13 September**, 7.30 pm, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall. Tickets \$79/59. Presented by the Melbourne Recital Centre.

## TREATY – A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION 22.8.19 Feedback and Photos



(Left) Richard Frankland and Diana David answer audience questions. (Right) Richard Frankland speaking about a 'Tomorrow Australia'. (Photo courtesy of Deb Stewart)

- Richard is an outstanding thinker and speaker, and Diana David brought a strong presence to the discussion. I very much appreciated the opportunity.....
- A terrific team effort; I learnt so much.....
- I heard so many positive comments from attendees after the event...
- The out-take for me was that the most pivotal message is grassroots support is necessary beyond the Aboriginal community. I don't think the reasons why this is so are stressed enough publicly. ...
- Thanks to PPCfR for putting on this significant event...
- The tone of sincerity with an edge of challenging us all was just right. The Welcome to Country and the speakers Richard and Diana were outstanding....

Some of the 140 guests who attended at the St Kilda Town Hall. (Photos courtesy of Adam Sutardy)



