

# 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.ppcfr.org](http://www.ppcfr.org)

The Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boonwurrung Nation who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land.

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.

**April 2020**

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

**Boonwurrung Word of the Month:**  
*Ngarn-ga* – understanding

### Changing It Up

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the dramatic impact it is having on all aspects of our lives, perhaps it is time to change things up, to think differently and creatively, to join in social/digital media conversations when it's not possible to attend events in person, and most importantly, to look after ourselves, our families, neighbours and the local community. As the Dalai Lama says: *'It is worth remembering that the time of greatest gain in terms of wisdom and inner strength is often that of greatest difficulty.'*

### Cancellations

There have been many cancelled events, such as South Port Community Housing Group's proposed festival on 21 March, with more to come. PPCfR is cancelling several planned events, including a screening of the Australian documentary *In My Blood It Runs*, our community lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day on 26 May, and the launch of our 2020 Reconciliation Writing Competition. Similarly, events to be held during Reconciliation Week, 27 May-3 June, have been cancelled, among them those that would have been organised by the City of Port Phillip. The National NAIDOC Committee has already decided to postpone NAIDOC Week 2020, 5 July-12 July, in the interests of safety for their communities.

### Stolen Generations

Thankfully, there is always good news to report. The Victorian Government has officially announced a \$10 million redress scheme for Stolen Generation survivors. Just over 50 years ago, Kutcha Edwards and his siblings were taken away from their parents on Balranald Mission in NSW, and on 18 March 2020, Kutcha stood with his brother Mik and sister Eva-Jo to describe the pain they still live with. More inside.



**Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gavin Jennings and Premier Daniel Andrews with Kutcha, Eva-Jo and Mik Edwards. The day after the launch, Minister Jennings, who is also Special Minister of State, announced his retirement from state politics after 21 years.**

### Congratulations

To Nova Peris, Olympian and former politician, who is the winner of the national title of the Australian Awards for Excellence in Women's Leadership; to Belinda Duarte, recipient of the inaugural Parbin-ata Louisa Briggs Award for women who live or work in the City of Glen Eira; to Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir and Dr Lois Peeler AM, who are among the Local Champions in the 2020 Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

### *Rosemary Rule, Co-Chair*

### Meetings

PPCfR's monthly meetings are cancelled until further notice, and this will be the last issue of *Mungo* for the foreseeable future. Visit [ppcfr.org.au](http://ppcfr.org.au) for updates.

## STOLEN GENERATIONS NEWS

After years of lobbying by the state's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Victorian Government today announced a \$10 million redress scheme for Stolen Generation survivors, describing the forced removal of children as genocide. *'The Victorian scheme will try to address the trauma and suffering caused by the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families'*, the Government said. It will include a range of redress options, such as payments, counselling and a funeral fund. About 1,200 Victorians are expected to be eligible for the scheme, which will be expanded if needed. Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gavin Jennings became emotional during the announcement. Pointing to the state parliament during the announcement, he said: *'Thousands of families across this country were torn apart, and they were torn apart by parliaments like this one....It was an act of genocide, it was a conscious decision made in that parliament.'* Premier Daniel Andrews said too many people had died without proper acknowledgement or support. *'For too long we have not made good on the apology we provided many years ago, and the nation provided more recently,'* he said, adding: *'It's never too late to do the right thing.'*

The Greens believe an adequate scheme would be in the order of \$100 million dollars, and that its development must place the voices of First Nations people front and centre. Leader of the Victorian Greens, Samantha Ratnam MLC, said: *'This announcement is long overdue and a testament to our First Nations people who have had to fight for too long for justice. We hope that First Nations people will be central to the development of this scheme and that the scheme itself amounts to at least \$100 million.'* The first consultations will be held this year.

## MORE CONSULTATIVE VOICES

The Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt has announced the latest consultative group to create a model for an Indigenous Voice to government. The new Local and Regional Co-design Group will be made up of 17 people responsible for developing options for communities to liaise with governments to give local voices a viable platform to be heard. The new group will be co-chaired by Professor Peter Buckskin and National Indigenous Australians Agency senior official Letitia Hope. Mr Wyatt told NITV News the group will be an instrumental way of implementing Indigenous voices at all levels of government. *'What I want them (the group) to do is have discussions about what a local voice looks like,'* he said. The new group follows the establishment of the National Co-design Group and the Senior Advisory Group - the first of the three announced in November as a way to develop a Voice to government, co-chaired by Professor Tim Calma and Professor Marcia Langton. The Senior committee is also responsible for identifying potential candidates to comprise the National Co-design Group and the Local and Regional Co-design Group. The Minister said the newly formed Local group will establish a framework at ground level for models and options based on what

community members want to see change, supporting the overarching national voice with this input. The three groups will put forward a Voice model that Mr Wyatt hopes will be widely supported, particularly on how to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians.

## HEALTH STRATEGY LAUNCHED

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has launched a Strategy from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health experts, regulators and health organisations committed to embedding cultural safety into the health system. It is endorsed by 42 organisations, academics and individuals, including the entities who set the education standards for the 183,000 students who are studying to become registered health practitioners, and the regulators of Australia's 750,000 registered practitioners. The Strategy focuses on achieving patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the norm, along with the inextricably linked elements of clinical and cultural safety. A key feature is that it is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and individuals via the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group that represents all signatories to the Strategy. Inaugural Co-chair of the Strategy Group, Professor Gregory Phillips, said this work has been a long time in the making and marks an important milestone for addressing health equity. *'The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group has already instigated and progressed significant reform to help achieve health equity and address racism in the health system. We have much work to do, but together we can have a broad-reaching effect that will help embed cultural safety into the health system across Australia.'* Strategy signatories include pharmacy stakeholders such as the Australian Pharmacy Council and the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

## RECONCILIATION AGENCIES

Reconciliation Australia plans to provide more information for small groups, individuals, families, and friends, including downloadable educational and activity resources along with suggestions for other in-real-life activities via #NRW2020. RecVic is operating, as much as possible, with the mentality of 'business as usual' and has taken all necessary and suggested hygiene and physical distancing precautions to limit the impacts to staff and community. For the time being, their small team will be working remotely. They are monitoring the virus and flow-on effects on upcoming events like National Reconciliation Week. Due to the restrictions on non-essential gatherings, RecVic is exploring online alternatives for all meetings and events, and encouraging groups to do the same, while working on a list of resources and ideas to give people a starting point from which to facilitate and develop their own ideas, events and discussions. Check out RecVic's *How To Take Action* page for ideas or visit <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/>.

## RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON NEWS

A group of RecSton members took a tour of Bunjilaka at Melbourne Museum on Sunday 15 March, led by RecSton secretary Ro Bailey. Bunjilaka is a wonderful international award-winning gallery, with a wealth of creative exhibits of Indigenous culture, specialising in Victorian Aboriginal groups. Ro has worked as a volunteer tour guide at Melbourne Museum for almost 20 years so has gained a good knowledge of the exhibits there. She would be most happy to take you on a tour if only the museum had not closed due to the dreaded plague. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, keep it in mind for when things get back to normal.

*Note:* RecSton is sad to announce that our group meetings are now in recess until further notice owing



to our meeting venue being closed as a precaution by City of Stonnington.

Ro Bailey (third from right) with RecSton members at Bunjilaka.

On Saturday 15 February, several RecSton members attended a sad but celebratory memorial for group member Rose Kelly who was killed in a car accident late last year. Rose had been a strong member of our group, injecting terrific energy for Reconciliation in the early childhood sector. The memorial was held at the Windsor Community Children's Centre where Rose had been Director. It showed its strong commitment to Reconciliation in many ways. Boonwurrung man Jaeden Williams gave a terrific Welcome to Country - he had a strong relationship with Rose and contributed much to the Centre. There was a lot of symbolism in the Centre, information about Aboriginal words and languages, much mention of *bubups* (children). Rose was extremely well-regarded as shown by the hundreds in attendance, including local member Sam Hibbens. Seeing the many bubups running around in such a 'Reconciled' environment showed hope for the future, led by people like Rose. We will miss her energy, and hope she enjoys her time with Bunjil. *Keith Gove.*  
*Apology: In the March issue of Mungo, a photo captioned Share the Spirit Festival was included. It was actually taken at Rose Kelly's memorial. My sincere apologies. Rosemary Rule.*

## THE TORCH

The Torch provides support to Indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria through artistic, cultural and vocational programs. The Torch has delivered the Statewide Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community Program (SIAPC) since 2011 and embraces program participants as artists rather than offenders. They employ Indigenous Arts Officers to deliver the program

to Indigenous men and women in prisons, and to support participants who are transitioning back into the community, aiming to reduce the rate of reoffending by encouraging participants to explore identity and culture through art, develop confidence and define new pathways for themselves upon release from prison. See The Torch's online gallery – [thetorch.org.au](http://thetorch.org.au) or email: [info@thetorch.org.au](mailto:info@thetorch.org.au).

## BOOKS

***On Red Earth Walking: The Pilbara Aboriginal Strike, Western Australia 1946-49*** by Anne Scrimgeour is the first comprehensive account of this significant period in our history. In 1946, Aboriginal people walked off pastoral stations in the Pilbara region, withdrawing their labour from the economically important wool industry to demand improvements in wages and conditions; their strike lasted three years. Dr Scrimgeour worked with Pilbara Aboriginal people over many years and undertook extensive research into their history. \$30.95.

***Pathfinders: A History of Aboriginal Trackers in NSW*** by Michael Bennett charts an engaging path through many interesting stories, exploring the almost unique situation of trackers as one of the very few groups of Aboriginal people whose traditional skill set was readily transferable to the colonial economy. \$34.99.

***Defying the Enemy Within*** is Joe Williams' story about the steps he took to get well and his struggles with mental illness. The proud Wiradjuri First Nations man played in the National Rugby League (NRL) for many years before switching to professional boxing in 2009, winning two welterweight championships despite suffering severe mental illness. Joe now works to inspire youth through motivational speaking workshops, and works with disengaged students and in drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres and jails. \$27.99

***Tell Me Why*** by Archie Roach was chosen by Australia's independent booksellers from the Leading Edge group as the 2020 non-fiction winner.

## MEDIA

Apologies for the typo in 3CR's station number in last month's *Mungo*. Listen to the station at **855AM** on the dial. 3CR is on digital radio also and streams live at [3cr.org.au](http://3cr.org.au).

## SPORT

*Yokayi Footy* is a new weekly sports show with a First Nations perspective. Hosts are Barranbinya man Tony Armstrong, a former professional Australian Rules footballer and a host on Triple M radio, who made history as the first Aboriginal play-by-play caller on commercial radio; Kamilaroi, Barkindji, Ballardong and Whadjak woman Bianca Hunt, an AFLW advocate and youth pioneer; and Arrente man and AFL player Darryl White. Wednesdays, 8.00 pm on NITV; Fridays, 3.00 pm on SBS Viceland. Catch up on SBS On Demand after broadcast. *Note:* Yokayi replaces the ground-breaking *Marngrook Footy Show*.

