

# Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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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.

October 2020

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boonwurrung Word of the Month:

*Bareep – Spring*

### Annual General Meeting

I invite our members and friends to come along to our virtual Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 20 October** at 6.00 pm. There will be an election for our Committee and the current members have kindly agreed to stand again, as follows: Co-Chairs myself and Dennis Fisher; Treasurer Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary Deb Stewart and Committee members Jo Bond and Denis Frankel. If you'd like to nominate and endorse a candidate, please complete the Proxy Form on the last page. Then it will be my pleasure to introduce our special Guest Speaker, Fay Stewart-Muir – Senior Elder of the Yalukut Weelum clan of the Boon Wurrung, Wamba Wamba and Wergiai clans. Fay is a cultural educator and language specialist, and is the author of *Respect, Family and Nganga*. It's sure to be a fascinating talk and I'm only sad that we can't have our usual supper afterwards and time for more conversation.



The Special Guest Speaker for our upcoming Annual General Meeting is Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir – Senior Boonwurrung Elder, author, language specialist and cultural educator.

### Elections

RecVic was asked by the Victorian Electoral Commission to produce a series of videos about the upcoming local government elections this month, featuring Aunty Vicki Clark OAM, Shane Charles, Levi McKenzie-Kirkbright and Diana David amongst others.

### Art News

The annual Albert Park College Art Show is being held online from **16-18 October**. Since its opening, PPCfR has had a strong association with the school so I encourage members to support their fundraising event. The Linden Postcard Show deadline has been extended to **Tuesday 20 October**. Elder Judith Jackson and I hope to attend the awards ceremony and present the \$500 prize from our group for Best Artwork by an Indigenous Artist. Updates inside.

### Council Update

I'd like to thank retiring COPP Mayor Cr Bernadene Voss for her interest in and support of PPCfR over many years, and for her immense contribution to our city. Todd Condie, COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, says that the We-Akon Dilynja Mourning Reflection event Council hosted on 26 January has been entered into the 2020 Premier's Sustainability Awards.

### Congratulations

To 'our' Martin Foley on his recent appointment as Victorian Health Minister; to the fabulous Archibald Prize winner, Vincent Namatjira, whose portrait of Adam Goodes has won the 2020 Archibald Prize, becoming the first Indigenous artist to win in its 99-year history; and to Packing Room Prize winner, Meyne Wyatt, and all the other Indigenous finalists. Details below.

### Aboriginal Flag

There's been a lot of commentary about the flag recently and, although not resolved at the time of writing, I've included an overview of this ongoing saga.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next Meeting:** All are welcome to attend our **AGM**, to be held via Zoom on **Tuesday 20 October, 6.00 pm** (note earlier time). Please contact Deb Stewart – [deb.stewart33@gmail.com](mailto:deb.stewart33@gmail.com) if you'd like to participate.

## FLAG ISSUES

The Aboriginal flag has come to mean many things to many people. Since its creation in 1971, it has appeared on everything from jumbo jets to tattoos. What has changed in 2020? Who 'owns' the flag and has the right to reproduce it? Why is there such a battle over these issues today?

Luritja artist Harold Thomas is recognised by most people as the creator of the flag, first used at a National Aborigines' Day march in 1971. Dr Gary Foley later took it with him to Canberra where it was flown at the Tent Embassy from 1972 and was then used at rallies and in imagery on posters, T-shirts and logos of Aboriginal organisations from then on. The red, black and yellow came to symbolise the strength, resistance and resilience of Aboriginal people, particularly for the modern land rights movement. In the 1980s, Thomas first asserted his rights to be recognised as its creator.

*Copyright:* As creator and sole copyright holder, Harold Thomas is its owner and can grant licences to other parties to make copies of the flag or refuse permission entirely. Under Australian law, this copyright will last for 70 years after his death and can then be claimed by anyone to whom he assigns it.

*Licences:* Thomas has made arrangements with several companies over time. The licence to make and sell the Aboriginal flag is with Carroll and Richardson flags whose company has had an arrangement with Thomas since 1998. In 2005, Thomas gave Birubi Art an exclusive licence for souvenir items bearing the flag image, issuing a statement saying he was glad to make an arrangement to respect his copyright and provide some financial benefit to him. In 2017, Birubi Art published another statement from Thomas in which he again explained the extent of the licensing he had permitted and his support for the company. In 2018, the Federal court found that Birubi Art had breached consumer law by selling fake Aboriginal art, and fined them \$2.3m, the largest penalty of its kind awarded by the federal court. This remains unpaid because, a month later, Birubi Art ceased trading and a liquidator was appointed. In November 2018, Thomas signed an exclusive licence and agency agreement for the flag on clothing with another company, WAM Clothing, part-owned by Ben Wooster from Birubi Arts.

*Issues:* Harold Thomas has said: *"It's taken many years to find the appropriate Australian company that respects*



*and honours the Aboriginal flag's meaning and copyright, and that is WAM Clothing. The Aboriginal flag is doing its job as it was intended to do, to bring unity and pride to all Aboriginals."* Since then, WAM Clothing has actively enforced its licensing rights and has sent several "cease and desist" notices to companies, including the AFL, NRL and several small Aboriginal community groups, charities and health organisations. In 2019, WAM announced it was now the "exclusive worldwide licensee for the use of the Aboriginal flag on digital media and physical media". That June, the federal minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, said he was hopeful of finding a resolution to the dispute. Labor's spokesperson on Indigenous affairs, Linda Burney, wondered about the legal status of the flag tattoo on her left arm, saying "we need to find a way so that the flag remains the property of First Nations people".

*2020 Updates:* The AFL decided not to engage with WAM Clothing based on advice it received from its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council chaired by Paul Briggs, which was "in line with Aboriginal community sentiment", and has not used the flag on its jumpers, most notably for this year's Indigenous Round. Every single AFL club has signed on to the #freetheflag campaign. In September, WAM Clothing fronted a parliamentary inquiry examining the flag's copyright and licensing arrangements, and the options open to the government to ensure its 'fair use' and the possibility of handing over the control of the design. The business has come under fire for sending cease and desist letters to those who use the flag on clothing without paying royalties. A public inquiry - Select Committee on the Aboriginal Flag - is looking into all the options available to resolve the issue, which, says one copyright law expert, means the government could negotiate with Mr Thomas about splitting the copyright while keeping the current commercial rights in mind. Stay tuned for further developments.

## MINING VS COMMUNITIES

The intense public and political fallout from Rio Tinto's decision to blast two 46,000-year-old Aboriginal rock shelters culminated in the resignation of their CEO and two of his deputies, putting the entire mining industry on notice. "The destruction at Juukan Gorge has highlighted the fact that, despite the best of intentions, Indigenous heritage areas lack adequate protection," said Warren Entsch, chair of the Joint Standing Committee of Northern Australia's public hearings into the blasting of the significant site. Calls for greater protection of other sacred sites that are spread across the mining sector continue to reverberate. Three BHP executives will also face the federal inquiry to be launched following the one into their rival mine. Mr Entsch said the parliamentary inquiry wanted to examine how BHP, the country's biggest miner, was approaching cultural heritage issues in the aftermath of the Rio Tinto disaster.

In another development, federal government announcements about the use of public money to work out how to fast-track fracking in the Beetaloo Basin in the Northern Territory are against the wishes of Traditional Owners, generating controversy. For years, Traditional

Owners (and landholders) in the Beetaloo Basin have opposed fracking on their country because of the high risk to precious water, land, culture and climate; their demands must be listened to.

*Footnote:* For nearly 30 years since Traditional Ownership rights were recognised, Indigenous owners in WA's iron-ore-rich Pilbara have been entering into legally-binding native title agreements with mining companies, under which miners provide valuable royalty streams in exchange for the impact to land and cultural heritage. Rio Tinto's Juukan Gorge disaster has brought into sharp focus concerns about the power imbalance between the companies and Traditional Owners, who have no legal power to prevent projects that would harm heritage on their ancestral land.

### **CORONERS COURT CHANGES**

Investigations into Indigenous deaths in custody will be fast-tracked as part of an overhaul announced by Victoria's Coroners Court. Coroners will immediately attend the scene of a death in custody; a specialist Koori court officer will meet grieving families; and an initial court hearing will also be held within 28 days of a death in custody. Under the changes, the investigating coroner will be briefed on relevant cultural issues surrounding the death within 48 hours of a death. The coroner's legal counsel must also contact the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service to facilitate advice for families on their rights in relation to the coronial process. Koori Engagement Unit manager at the Coroners Court of Victoria, Troy Williamson, said the changes are designed to give Indigenous families a greater voice and culturally appropriate support.

### **WAVE HILL WALK-OFF**

A handful of sand - and a long walk to freedom for the Gurindji people, but, on 8 September, 54 years after the Wave Hill Walk-off and the beginning of the modern-day Land Rights movement, Native Title was finally and formally recognised. *"It's important to the legacy of the old people who worked here. I'm carrying on in my father's footsteps; he was a stockman and I am a stockman. I was born on New Wave Hill Station. I've worked here like my father did,"* said Native Title holder, Matthew Algy. Native Title will give the Gurindji the power to use land and to negotiate with mining companies and others wanting to use the land. Refer <http://thewire.org.au/story/native-title-at-last-for-wave-hill-mob/>

### **UNIVERSITY'S EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

The University of Melbourne seemed to be heading down the right path in its commitment to increasing Indigenous employment to parity levels by this year, 2020, but further examination of the statistics on Indigenous employment 2015-20 points to some major flaws in the implementation and selection processes that need to be raised. Recent appointments of non-Indigenous staff over and above Indigenous people – including to teaching Indigenous Studies - is of major concern, highlighting systemic failures in the delivery of equality of justice in employment

outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, eliciting expressions of outrage from within the University.

One of the key supporting initiatives of the University's Reconciliation Action Plan was to introduce its Indigenous Employment Framework in 2010, designed to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to levels in line with the total population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of 2.6% by 2020. Statistics indicate that the current Indigenous staffing level at the University is only 1.6%, far below the target goal. Furthermore, it is reported that of the 139 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples working at the University, only 27, less than one fifth of the total number, were employed in full-time or equivalent academic positions.

*This is an edited extract of a response from Dr Wayne Atkinson, Senior Fellow of the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Melbourne.*

### **PROMOTING INDIGENOUS SCIENCE**

Kamilaroi woman and astrophysicist Krystal De Napoli has been recruited to be in the classroom as Monash University delivers its newest subject: Indigenous Science: Science through the eyes of Australia's First Peoples. *"I've grown up as a big nerd that's obsessed with science,"* Ms De Napoli told NITV. *"And the fact that I get to explore my cultural connection and my science together is absolutely amazing."* The new unit is supported by Monash University's William Cooper Institute - a hub for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research, learning and engagement and the promotion of Indigenous leadership and advancement across the University. The course will cover a diverse range of subjects. Ms De Napoli will be teaching students about the Wurdi Youang stone arrangement, which relates to the solstices throughout the year, as well as how certain stars map the beginning of seasons. All 50 students will receive cultural competency training. Under the auspices of the CSIRO, the Inquiry for Indigenous Science Students program brings Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in STEM together, to embed their



perspectives into the curriculum. Participants receive a certificate of completion that recognises ten hours of professional learning.

**Monash University's inaugural Indigenous Science teacher is Kamilaroi woman and astrophysicist, Krystal De Napoli.**

### **REC STONNINGTON'S AGM**

Rec Stonnington is aiming to have our 2020 Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 14 October** at 6.00 pm, most likely on Zoom, with a Cultural Awareness Training being organised. Details: Ro Bailey, Secretary, [ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au)



## ST KILDA/ELSTERNWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

At our recent church AGM, our faith community renewed its pledge to continue our journey towards Reconciliation with First Nations peoples. We seek to:

- Build relationships with local Aboriginal people
- Listen to the Aboriginal voice and hear their stories
- Learn more of the 'forgotten history' of our own country, our own city, and our locality
- Support local Indigenous agencies such as Galiamble Men's Recovery Centre and Winja Ulupna Women's Recovery Centre
- Maintain involvement with the Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation.

Like most organisations, our activities have been limited by Covid-19 this year. We are still hoping our annual Galiamble Winja Art Exhibition will be possible late this year or early next year. We have been corresponding with celebrated Indigenous singer and songwriter, Joe Geia, with a view to him visiting us next year when Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted. Joe has responded enthusiastically to the proposal of a Melbourne visit. We look forward to Joe sharing his story and artwork with us on a Sunday morning as well as performing in a concert at a venue yet to be determined. *Digby Hannah*

## TALKS

A second series of webinar talks from the newly formed Melbourne School of Discontent are scheduled for October featuring Professors Gary Foley, Tony Birch and Jacqui Katona talking about history, law, and the environment. \$20; a percentage of the proceeds goes to the Bubupwilam Aboriginal Children and Family Care Centre in Melbourne. Bookings via Eventbrite. Details: Gary Foley – gary@gooriweb.org

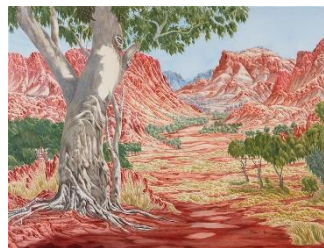
## ART

### *The 2020 Archibald Prize*

For the first time in its 99-year history, an Indigenous Australian has won the Archibald Prize. Vincent Namatjira, great-grandson of Albert Namatjira, has taken out the \$100,000 prize with a portrait of Aboriginal football legend Adam Goodes. His piece is entitled *Stand Strong for Who You Are*. Meyne Wyatt, a West Australian born, Sydney-based artist, writer and actor has won the Packing Room Prize with his powerful self-portrait. Hubert Pareroultja, an Indigenous artist from Western Aranda, has won the Wynne Prize for his painting of Tjoritja (West



Vincent Namatjira with his inspiring portrait of Adam Goodes - *Stand Strong for Who You Are* - which has won the 2020 Archibald Prize.



MacDonnell Ranges, NT, shown left). Finalist Blak Douglas, a Dhungatti artist, painted teen healer and activist Djuwan Hoosen, star of the documentary *In My Blood It Runs*, who in 2019 became the youngest person to address the UN Human Rights Council.

### *Albert Park College Art Show*

Each October the college Art Show exhibits professional and student artworks from around Australia and is the college's major fundraiser with monies raised going into funding upgrades to the library, makerspace and STEM facilities. Awards are presented, which this year will be in an online forum during a virtual opening on **Friday 16 October** at 7.00 pm. Exhibition runs until **Sunday 18 October**, and many works can be purchased. Details <https://albertparkcollege.vic.edu.au/events/artshow/>

### *8th Koorie Art Show 2020*

Presented by the Koorie Heritage Trust, this annual exhibition showcases the diverse talent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists living in Victoria. The show is an open-entry, non-acquisitive award exhibition presenting the works of emerging, mid-career and senior First Nations Victorian artists, designers and craftspeople. Entries close **Sunday 18 October**; all will be exhibited in the Koorie Heritage Trust's Gallery, Federation Square. See information/application forms, visit [www.koorieheritagetrust.com.au](http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com.au)

## BOOKS

*Indigenous Plant Use* by Barkandji woman Zena Cumpston, Research Fellow at University of Melbourne, details the uses of plants, including their medicinal, nutritional and technological uses, and how to grow them. Available as a free PDF online at [nеспurban.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08Indigenous-plant-use.pdf](http://nеспurban.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08Indigenous-plant-use.pdf)

Afro-Caribbean Author Maxine Beneba Clarke along with publisher Hachette are donating a percentage of the proceeds from Maxine's new picture book - *When We Say Black Lives Matter* - to the ILF.

*Respect* by Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson teaches children the importance of family, and how we need to listen, learn and share. (Fay and Sue also wrote *Nganga* which is part of *The Family* series of books).

*My Tidda, My Sister* shares the experiences of many Indigenous women and girls, brought together by author and host of the *Tiddas 4 Tiddas* podcast, Marlee Silva. Features colorful artwork by artist Rachael Sarra and a foreword by Helpmann and AACTA award-winning actor, Leah Purcell.

*Aunty's Wedding* by Miranda Tapsell and Joshua Tyler, illustrated by Samantha Campbell (Fry), tells the story of a Tiwi-Island girl preparing for her Aunty's wedding with help of her *maningawu* in this vibrant picture book by the popular actor and writers of *Top End Wedding* and the highly acclaimed illustrator of *Alfred's War*.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 20 October 2020, 6.00 pm, via Zoom

### AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM held 26/11/2019 (copies available)
4. Co-Chair's Report - Rosemary Rule
5. Treasurer's Report - Fiona Olney-Fraser
6. Election of Executive Committee  
Four officers to be elected: two Co-Chairpersons, Treasurer and Secretary as well as two additional members. Each officer is eligible for re-election and is required to hold office until 2021.
7. Other Business (for which there must be at least seven days' notice in writing)
8. Guest Speaker: Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir, Senior Elder of the Yalukut Weelum of the Boon Wurrung, Wamba Wamba and Wergiai Clans, cultural educator, language specialist and author of *Respect, Family and Nganga*.
9. Close

### PPCFR 2020 COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

For the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 20 October 2020, at 6.00 pm, via Zoom

I (Name of **Proposer**) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominate (Name of **Nominee**) \_\_\_\_\_

For the Committee position of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Two Co-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, Two Ordinary Members)

Signature of **Proposer** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of **Secunder** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of **Secunder** \_\_\_\_\_

The **Nominee** is prepared to stand for election to this position.

Consent of **Nominee**: I agree to the above nomination.

Signature of **Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: Proposers, Seconders and Nominees must be current, paid-up members of Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation. The Nomination Form must be delivered no less than 7 days before the meeting date to Rosemary Rule, PPCfR, PO Box 1446, St Kilda South, Victoria 3182, or [rosemary.rule@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.rule@gmail.com).

