

Mungo...



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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.

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September 2020

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Boonwurrung Word of the Month:

Muyang – silver wattle

Keeping On

Our group continues to meet monthly via Zoom. I'm very encouraged to have been able to welcome new members, hear their stories and learn a little about their interests. I'm sure that by coming together to exchange news and ideas - even during lockdown, we might also be able find ways to 'walk with us' as has been suggested recently by Stan Grant and Thomas Mayor. Please contact me with any suggestions you have. Also, thank you to all those who have renewed their membership, including a most generous donation.

Never Alone

Read more about this creative, hopeful and timely new digital billboard artwork by Barkindji artist Kent Morris that has been erected at the intersection of Fitzroy Street, Canterbury Road and Grey Street in St Kilda.



Vale Vivienne

Viv McCutcheon, a founding group member, died on 28 July and I send my heartfelt condolences to her family. In response, Thomas Mayor, Advocate for the Uluru Statement from the Heart said: "*Such terribly sad news.*"

She was such a big hearted, admirable woman. Thank you for letting me know. I will be in contact with the McCutcheon family to give them my love at this sad time. My condolences and regards to the PPCiR membership also for the loss of a much-loved member." More inside.

Congratulations

To First Nations' musician Mitch Tambo, announced as an ambassador for UNICEF, aiming to raise awareness about child rights and issues affecting children across Australia and beyond; and to all the talented art, fashion and music award winners.

NAIDOC Week

The National NAIDOC Committee has decided to cancel the 2020 National NAIDOC Awards ceremony, scheduled to be held in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in November. The difficult decision was made considering the changing and widespread impacts of COVID-19 and the uncertainty of travel restrictions, quarantining, and physical distancing requirements. This decision was not taken lightly and was reached in consultation with the Alice Springs NAIDOC Committee and other stakeholders and partners.

Rec Stonnington

I find the comments from members talking about the idea of White Privilege to be educational and at times, moving, and encourage everyone to read their report. More inside.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be via Zoom on **Tuesday 15 September, 6.30 pm.**

Please email Deb Stewart deb.stewart33@gmail.com if you'd like to participate.

VALE VIVIENNE McCUTCHEON

Viv, a woman of so many talents and interests and passionately involved in social justice issues all her life, died on 28 July. She was a former Health Services Commissioner, an enthusiastic initiator of local interest in the history of the City of Collingwood in the mid 1970s - leading to the formation of the Collingwood Historical Society - and with her late husband Andrew McCutcheon was a founding member of Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation. With Helen Sykes from Future Leaders, Viv sponsored the Andrew McCutcheon Prize for senior secondary students in PPCfR's 2018 Reconciliation Writing Competition. Several group members attended the live streaming of her funeral service on 5 August and, at the suggestion of the McCutcheon family, our group donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. PPCfR sends their heartfelt condolences to Viv's family.



Vivienne McCutcheon with Elder Judith Jackson, 2019.

CLOSING THE GAP STRATEGY REFRESHED

Almost \$50 million has been promised to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations as part of a joint 'funding pool' by Australian governments in line with the refreshed Closing the Gap strategy. In August, the federal government announced their initial contribution of \$46.5 million over four years, while the Victorian Government promised \$3.3 million. Dr Esme Bamblett, CEO of the Aborigines Advancement League, one of the 50 organisations that makes up the Coalition of Peaks, said the funding is welcome. "I think it's really good that we've got that commitment from the government; it's been a long time coming," she told NITV News. Dr Bamblett said this is just the beginning of the funding that will be needed, and is expecting other states and territories, all of which committed to the new Closing the Gap targets, to add to the funding pool. The lead convener of the Coalition of

Peaks, Pat Turner, also welcomed the funding, saying it would help deliver on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reform Two. "The Coalition of Peaks fought hard to put Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations at the centre of the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap," she said. "They deliver better services for our people, get better outcomes, protect our cultures and employ more First Nations people in their home communities."

This new funding for the initial delivery of Priority Reform Two will help strengthen and build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver additional services to First Nations people, including in new areas like housing and early childhood. The joint funding pool complements the commitments in the National Agreement on Priority Reform; two of which will also bring additional funding to community-controlled organisations over time and provide more jobs for First Nations people. The design of the funding pool will be done in partnership with governments and the Coalition of Peaks. The funding comes after the unveiling of the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

The First Peoples' Assembly Co-chair and proud Taungurung man Marcus Stewart admits the Assembly is looking at an "ambitious timeline" as it aims to get the key pieces of Treaty architecture into place to allow Aboriginal sovereign nations to begin negotiations with the Victorian Government by the end of 2022. The timeline, like so much in Victoria's Treaty process, is still up for ongoing discussion within the Assembly and the Aboriginal communities it is working to represent. Marcus is hopeful after emerging from the Assembly's first official negotiation meeting with Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gabrielle Williams in July. "For a long time, we've seen negotiations between Aboriginal communities and government, and then continually seen government not hold up their end of the bargain," Mr Stewart said. Out of the meeting, the Minister and the Assembly agreed to work on developing a code of conduct to govern the way the government and the Assembly will work together, which Mr Stewart hopes will be the first of several "small steps" to grow trust.

The Assembly, a combination of elected people and representatives from the state's Registered Aboriginal Parties, is not negotiating the Treaty or Treaties themselves, but setting up the umpire that will oversee them, the rules around how they will be negotiated and the self-determination fund that will support Traditional Owner nations in the process. Of the Assembly's 32 seats, the reserved seat for the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation remains vacant, a decision made by the corporation amid concerns voiced last year that the "farcical" body could "provide a fast track towards the disempowerment of the sovereign Yorta Yorta Nation and its people". The Assembly is currently considering whether it needs to offer more reserved seats to other Aboriginal nations to better include those who do not have the legal status of Registered Aboriginal Parties. Updates: www.firstpeoplesvic.org.

FROM THE HEART

For an easy-to-follow explanation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, plus news updates and ways of supporting the campaign, visit <https://fromtheheart.com.au/>.

INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is celebrating their national Indigenous Literacy Day on **Wednesday 2 September** virtually so people can take part via ILF's YouTube channel YouTube Live Premiere at 12.30 pm. This 45-minute celebration features ambassadors Andy Griffiths and Gregg Dreiss, a book-reading in Kriol, and a song from Jessica Mauboy. <https://www.youtube.com/user/IndigenousLiteracy>.

In other news, ILF ambassador and children's author Andy Griffiths, together with editor and author Jill Griffiths and illustrator Terry Denton, have brought their *Treehouse* series to every Coles store across the country in the form of collectible pocket books. Books also go to remote Indigenous communities through the ILF. Coles will launch its first-ever picture storybook competition encouraging children to get creative and develop their own fictional book. Every entry into the competition equals one new book donated to a remote Indigenous community.

KENT MORRIS BILLBOARD IN ST KILDA

Never Alone is a new digital billboard artwork by Barkindji artist Kent Morris, CEO of The Torch which he joined in 2011 to design, develop and deliver the Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program. The billboard art was developed during isolation and focuses on the First Nations' cultural belief that everything is interconnected. The work can be seen at the intersection of Fitzroy Street, Canterbury Road and Grey Street in St Kilda.

REC STONNINGTON REPORT

This report is from the inaugural Stonnington Council Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Committee meeting where I represented Rec Stonnington. It was chaired by the Stonnington CEO, with membership consisting of Traditional Owners, three council managers and the Aboriginal Liaison Officer; so good on Council for setting it up. We considered terms of reference and a RAP progress report. The Committee's role includes input into the review and evaluation of the RAP, and to monitor progress. We were advised that, due to COVID, the end-date of the RAP is now the end of 2020 rather than June. The RAP progress report showed that much has been achieved, which we applaud. Each of about thirty RAP items had at least several actions; some small, but actions nonetheless.

The CEO raised the concern that two big items - refreshing the Aboriginal local history curriculum and an Aboriginal place-name policy - were not completed and should be; action was requested. I mentioned that there is no acknowledgement of Aboriginal land and heritage at Prahara Square, and although there is an installation by an Aboriginal artist, it does not educate about local history and culture. Officers were requested to draft a public

places naming policy prior to the council caretaker period. I also noted that the RAP required reporting be included in Council's annual report; there was nothing in last year's report and the Committee agreed to include an annual reporting section on the RAP.

At our recent meeting, the Rec Stonnington Committee agreed to do our own evaluation of outcomes from the RAP so we can feed it into Council's evaluation process and identify what we want them to include for the next Reconciliation Action Plan.

Keith Gove, President, Rec Stonnington

WHITE PRIVILEGE

For the past two meetings, Rec Stonnington members have discussed the idea of White Privilege; an educational and, at times, moving discussion. Most agreed that it is something we all take for granted and have not previously thought much about. As part of the discussion, we considered what action we could take both individually and as a group, which certainly poses a challenge. Several members thought it was a difficult topic to raise. This is a summary of some of the comments.

'White' and 'Privilege'; two very simple words that when put together unlock an extremely complex assortment of ideas, actions, experiences and opinions. It became evident that 'White Privilege' becomes more apparent with our unconscious awareness rather than our conscious awareness.

Something that resonates is that it isn't enough to not be racist. I need to be anti-racist which, to me, means calling out, questioning and holding White Privilege to account. To not only notice but mention when there is a lack of representation of people of colour in meetings or decision making. I'll use my White Privilege and platform to amplify the voices of people of colour.

When you consider yourself anti-racist, it's very easy (and tempting) to assume White Privilege isn't something that influences you. My personal experience, however, has been that the more I dig into my own assumptions and behaviour, the more I uncover it in myself.

I think it's important for me as a young white woman who has grown up pretty oblivious to my privilege to recognise the ways in which I take up space, and whether that space is valid, or if it should be rightfully someone else's.

It's difficult. It's like blokes trying to understand misogyny because they haven't lived a female's life. We need to listen; it's our role to do so and try to understand and then take action.

I was struck by the comment in the discussion paper about people of differing colour or race not seeing themselves represented in the media, and was interested to see, just a couple of days later, a survey of Australian media saying exactly that.

RACIAL BIAS STILL RIFE

Three out of four Australians hold a racial bias against Indigenous Australians. No matter their age, gender, job, religion, education level or income - the majority of people on average held an unconscious negative view. The findings from an Australian National University study surveyed 11,000 Australians over a decade since 2009, revealing an invisible – and shocking – barrier faced by Indigenous Australians, with three in four people holding an unconscious racial bias against them. The study said some demographics were over-represented in the survey, including women, left-leaning voters and university educated people, but also that men were more biased than women against First Nations peoples, meaning the level of implicit racial bias may be under-reported. The findings were published in the Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues.

BUY ART ETHICALLY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks are highly valued pieces holding knowledge and culture and are sought after for their beauty and ability to convey meaning and reflect experience as well as for their connection to country, culture, language and tradition. Buying art ethically is primarily about fairness and transparency in commercial dealings which is important because for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, art sales can be the main source of income for themselves and those around them. Buying through the right channels ensures the money goes back to the artist and the community, creates long-term sustainability of the Indigenous community-owned and controlled arts enterprises, and maintains consistency across the market for artists through appropriate pricing and transparency.

The Indigenous Art Code recommends asking art dealers five questions: *Who* is the artist? *Where* is the artist from? *How* did you get the artwork or product in your art centre, gallery or shop? *How* was the artist paid for their work? If it is a *reproduction* of an artist's work, how are royalties or licensing fees paid to the artist? The Code was initially developed by the National Association for the Visual Arts, then by the Australia Council for the Arts, working closely with an Industry Alliance Group made up of artists, Indigenous art centres, commercial art galleries, public art galleries, auction houses and visual arts peak bodies. All Code members are signatories to an ethical standard and code of conduct, monitored on an ongoing basis.

OUR ART IS OUR LIFELINE CAMPAIGN

Creatives are being resourceful during the pandemic despite the cancellation opportunities for generating income. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, there's an additional challenge of being dependent on sales from a precarious art market where work is often not purchased in an ethical manner. *Our Art Is Our Lifeline* is a new national campaign launched by the Indigenous Art Code in partnership with Macquarie Group to encourage the ethical purchasing of artwork by First Nations' artists as audiences embrace online sales. Nine artists, including Victorian Taungurung artist Mick Harding, are featured in the campaign. See <https://indigenouartcode.org/>

CERISA GRANT APPOINTMENT

Music charity Support Act has appointed Cerisa Grant as their First Nations' Community Engagement and Social Worker. This new position is designed to increase the number of First Nations' artists, crew and music workers accessing Support Act's crisis relief and mental health and wellbeing services. Cerisa, a proud Walpiri, Jawoyn and Gurrindji woman from Katherine, resides in Melbourne. She's an artist manager, events manager and liaison/case support worker, has worked with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA),



Barpirdhila Foundation and Territory Families. Cerisa's 12-month appointment is made possible with Australian Government financial support.

Cerisa Grant has been appointed by Support Act as their First Nations' Community Engagement and Social Worker.

KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST NEWS

Koorie Heritage Trust has extended their *Affirmation* exhibition by artists Paola Balla, Deanne Gilson, Pierra Van Sparkes and Tashara Roberts, until November. KHT is also presenting the first ever exhibition of Narungga and Trawoolwaway artist Daen Sansbury-Smith in the Project Gallery. Access their virtual gallery and exhibition tour via www.koorieheritagetrust.com.au. KHT, leaders in Building Aboriginal Cultural Competency (BACC) through cultural awareness workshops, are hosting sessions for individuals and small groups. The learning outcomes of the workshops are to develop awareness of Aboriginal culture and identity; develop awareness of the strengths of Aboriginal culture and people; assist in making the connection and understanding the impact of colonisation and past policy for Aboriginal people today; develop capacity to be more understanding and responsive to Aboriginal peoples and communities; and motivate and support participants in their cultural competence journey. **10 September, 6 October, 11 November, 7 December.** All workshops are conducted via Zoom. Bookings essential: koorieheritagetrust.com.au

BOOKS

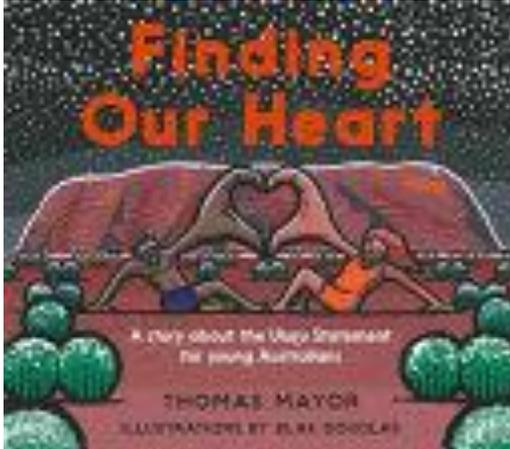
After Australia edited by Michael Mohammed Ahmad. Climate catastrophe, police brutality, white genocide, totalitarian rule and the erasure of Black history provide the backdrop for stories of love, courage and hope. In this unflinching new anthology, eleven of Australia's most daring Indigenous writers provide a glimpse of Australia as we head towards the year 2050. With Ambelin Kwaymullina, Claire G. Coleman, Omar Sakr,

Future D. Fidel, Karen Wyld, Khalid Warsame, Kaya Lattimore, Sarah Ross, Zoya Patel, Michelle Law and Hannah Donnelly. Published by Affirm Press in partnership with Diversity Arts Australia and Sweatshop Literacy Movement.

Finding the Heart of the Nation: A Book on the Uluru Statement for Young Australians

Author

Thomas Mayor's journey around Australia with the Uluru Statement has been a moving experience. He has been inspired by the school children he has met, who are learning Indigenous



languages, seasons and the truth of this country's history, unlike previous generations. Some children he met knew more about the Australian Constitution than most adults do! He offers ideas on how to accept the gift offered by the Uluru Statement, e.g. finding out who the Traditional Owners are of their hometown and trying different local bush foods. Illustrations by award-winning artist Blak Douglas. Picture book for ages 5-10.

Explore Australia Publishing.

My Tidda, MySister by Marlee Silva, Rachael Sarra and Charlotte Allingham. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and society has existed on this continent for millennia and is also a culture that has consistently been led by its women. This book shares the experiences of many Indigenous women and girls, brought together by author and host of the *Tiddas 4 Tiddas* podcast, Marlee Silva. Colourful artwork by artist Rachael Sarra, foreword by award-winning actor Leah Purcell. Explore Australia Publishing.

AWARDS

Music

The 2020 National Indigenous Music Award for Artist of The Year went to Baker Boy; Kee'Ahn won the Archie Roach Foundation Award, with Uncle Archie giving a moving tribute to Aunty Ruby Hunter. Archie won the Album of The Year for *Tell Me Why*. See SBS on Demand #NIMA2020 PS: Check out *Gadigal Land*, Midnight Oil's first release in twenty years. The band is joined by Dan Sultan, Joel Davison, Kaleena Briggs and Bunna Lawrie. #MidnightOil, #GadigalLand

Fashion

With a combined prize pool of \$60,000, six inaugural Indigenous Fashion Awards were presented, including Cultural Adornment and Wearable Art Award to Peggy Griffiths, Wirrawong artists, and Fashion Design Award to Julie Shaw, MAARA Collective.

Art

Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) winners included Alison Milyika Carroll and Djon Mundine OAM for the Red Ochre Award for Lifetime Achievement. The exhibition at the NT National Gallery runs until January. <https://exchange.telstra.com.au/natsiaa-2020-winners/>

