

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

ABN: 444 16 152 998

P.O Box 1446, St Kilda South, Vic 3182

195 Bank Street, South Melbourne, 3205

Phone: (03) 9530 3245 Mobile: 0418 675 734

Email: rule@comcen.com.au

Web: www.ppcfr.org

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FROM THE CO-CHAIR

It is pleasing to find that discussions about issues about Indigenous health, education, compensation, treaty and land rights are back on the national agenda. Thankfully, the Federal government appears to be committed to addressing many of these issues and to taking action designed to reduce the appalling gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. For our part, a member has written, on behalf of the group, an Open Letter in response to the long overdue apology to the Stolen Children. It will be sent to politicians, the media and printed in *Mungo*. Also and perhaps in response to this resurgence of interest in reconciliation-related matters, several new people have expressed an interest in PPCfR and our activities. This is always heartening, giving us the chance to hear and share different points of views and to broaden our networks.

Essentially, PPCfR's objectives have not significantly changed over the past ten years of our existence:

- to promote an understanding of the history of Aboriginal people;
- to provide a forum for community discussion on issues relating to reconciliation,
- to develop closer links between local Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the community.

We continue to strive towards meeting these objectives and to work towards a healed, just and reconciled Australia. Forming relationships with local organizations is always a priority and we're looking forward to strengthening our ties with is Inner South Community Health Services (ISCHS) who provide a valuable range of services for their clients. We have met with Aunty Maria Starcevic who, among many other activities, is involved with Our Rainbow Place and will be sitting down with Kokwam Wapau who oversees their Aged Health, Rehabilitation & Indigenous Access program, to see what we could do together. There are likely to be opportunities for members to be involved in some of ISCHS's activities such as social outings, kids' days, BBQs and classes. More will be outlined in the next *Mungo*.

In the meantime, we have a busy few months ahead with invitations to participate in events. These include a joint stall with ANTaR during the Melbourne Social Forum at the EcoCentre, St Kilda on 5th April and a stall at the Farmer's Market, Gasworks Park, South Melbourne on 19th April. On 23 May, we'll be at "Recomiliate08 Dreaming Together" public forum at Federation Square hosted by the City of Melbourne in partnership with Reconciliation Victoria. On 25 May, we're proposing an event to commemorate the National Sorry Day Committee's "WALK Your TALK & Bring Them Home" 10 Year Anniversary Campaign - and the government's Acknowledgement and Apology - in O'Donnell Gardens, St Kilda.

But to participate properly in such events, we need help! We have a small (but amazing) band of dedicated people who regularly work at our stalls, attend meetings, do mail outs and a myriad of other necessary tasks. But we need to expand our base of people who can provide hands-on help. So if you can volunteer some time - even an hour or so - and assist in some way or other, please contact the office by phone or email: I will look forward to hearing from you! Please also visit our website - www.ppcfr.org. It was set up by Rachel Reilly and is now being maintained by Joe Malignaggi, for which we are most grateful.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting

Tuesday, 15th April, 2008, 6.30pm, 195 Bank Street, South Melbourne.

Everyone most welcome.

Vale Sid Spindler

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Sid Spindler, one of the key people to start ANTaR Victoria (then known as DON'T) who passed away in early March. Sid has been a leader and supporter of ANTaR Victoria and

advocate of Indigenous rights and was also a founder of the Australian Democrats.

Indigenous Theatre review

During March I was delighted to take in two excellent Indigenous theatre performances. The first, *The Dirty Mile*, was a wonderful piece of live walking theatre, through Gertrude and adjoining Fitzroy streets. It told of decades of Aboriginal social and personal history in the area, in a very funny, upbeat, colourful and moving manner. I felt privileged to witness this event.

Then *Nightshift* played at La Mama. A powerful 'in your face' compilation of fictionalised history, it delved deeper into the Stolen Generations, drugs, thieving and imprisonment. But always with humour, terrific original music and great performances. Once again I learned heaps and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Helen Bennett

Reconciliation Victoria News

Where to next? HREOC's 'Essentials for Social Justice' series

From Feb-April 2008 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma, will deliver a series of key speeches setting out an agenda for change in Indigenous affairs, covering: Sorry; The NT Intervention; Land & Culture; Health; Justice; and the Future. For the first two speeches see http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/essentials/index.html. The Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC) is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) offering nationally recognised training and inviting applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The training gives students the knowledge, skills and confidence to enable them to commence in pivotal roles in Indigenous Leadership. For info and application forms see www.indigenousleadership.org.au, or call 02-6251 5770, email ailc@indigenousleadership.org.au.

Reconciliation Week Calendar

The annual reconciliation week calendar is being produced by Reconciliation Victoria for events taking place from May 27-June 3. They are asking for event details to be sent to donna.morabito@reconciliationvic.org.au by 25 April.

New Aboriginal Studies Resource List

Produced by the Independent Education Union, The Catholic Education Office and Glee books, this online resource list was designed with New South Wales curriculum in mind, but will also be useful for Victorian Schools, preschools, kindergartens.
<http://abstresources.googlepages.com/home>

ANTaR News

You've probably already seen ANTaR's website, but you can also get active online with ANTaR by

- reading our blog by Indigenous Australians
<http://www.antar.org.au/blog>

- subscribing to National ANTaR's free email newsletter
<http://www.antar.org.au/content/view/310/1/>
- becoming our MySpace or Facebook friend
<http://www.myspace.com/ant4r> and
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2477897627>

Membership Drive aiming to increase the number financial members by 20% this year. Groups can help by having ANTaR brochures and/or newsletters at their stalls. Contact the ANTaR office, phone 9419 3613.

Human Rights Innovation grants from Amnesty

Amnesty has a fund for small grants for human rights related activities. For further details and funding rounds see http://action.amnesty.org.au/wiki/Human_Rights_Innovation_Fund?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=21Feb2008

Aboriginal

Dennis Fisher (with permission)

Aboriginal, first people of land
Blackfella and Whitefella
Original people of country
Relationship, building relationships
In with us or not
Great country for us all
Important for us all
Nationalities, culture, language and religion
Always Aboriginal land
Learning about each other going forward

Den The Fish© 2004

Petition on Northern Territory Intervention

This petition, initiated by ANTaR NSW, calls for the immediate review of the Northern Territory Intervention legislation in consultation with Indigenous leaders. A copy of the petition is available via the ANTaR website, <http://www.antar.org.au>.

Health Success Stories Booklets available

Success Stories in Indigenous Health, an 18 page booklet produced by ANTaR, is available for sale; \$2 each for reconciliation groups, otherwise \$5. Contact the ANTaR office to get copies, or download the booklet
http://www.antar.org.au/images/stories/PDFs/SuccessStories/success_stories_final.pdf

Kutchka Edwards

Performs 'Songlines of a Mutti Mutti Man' at the Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall, 26-31 May. This intimate music-theatre event tells Kutchka's story in a moving, insightful and highly personal way. Highly recommended. Kutchka's latest CD is 'Hope' and includes material from the show. For details visit: www.kutchka-

edwards.com or contact Kutcha Edwards Management, 9719 7395.

Drop the Charges Against Lex Wotton rally

Saturday 5 April, 12:00, begins outside Victorian Aboriginal Health Centre, 186 Nicholson St Fitzroy. Respected Palm Island resident Lex Wotton is facing charges of "riot with destruction" — a charge that could lead to a jail sentence of more than ten years. Wotton's trial commences in Brisbane on 7 April. With 400 others, Lex participated in the November 2004 protest against the killing of friend Mulrunji in the Palm Island watch house while in police custody. He continues to be harassed and persecuted as part of the crackdown that followed. For more information, call Cheryl - 0401 806 331, Mary - 0419 538 425 or ISJA - 03-9388-0062

Books of interest

Aunty Lily Neville's new book "Adnyamathanha Ngawarla" is now out. Adnyamathanha is the language and culture of the Flinders Rangers with around 20 fluent living speakers. The book contains words, phrases and illustrations and is described as being joyous and witty. Price: \$8 available from Australians Against Racism Inc. PO Box 107 Enfield Plaza 5085. info@australiansagainstracism.org.

"Rainbow Bird" by Czenya Cavouras is said to be more than a children's book. Written - and illustrated - by a 14 year old, it has something to say to everyone, young and old and has been launched to coincide with the anniversary of the Tampa crisis with profits going to Australians Against Racism Inc. Price: \$24.95. Published by Wakefield Press, 08 8362 8800, Box 2266, Kent Town, SA 5071; emails:sales@wakefieldpress.com.au.

Shaping a Koorie Way of Counselling

RMIT invites Indigenous community workers to share their existing counselling skills, learn new techniques and as a group develop and describe a Koorie way of supporting people to manage their problem situations as part of a FREE five day counselling skills workshop.

22nd,23rd & 24th of April and 1st and 2nd of May

Location: Central city!

Email: Julian.silverman@rmit.edu.au

Reminder: Sean Choolburra, Australia's finest, funniest and funkiest Indigenous comic performer

'Live and Deadly' at the Melbourne Comedy Festival

1-5 & 8-12 April, 8:30 pm

Imperial Hotel, 4 Bourke St.

Bookings: 1300 660013

Films to look out for: Now out on DVD

September, dir. Peter Carstairs

The plot of this film combines the personal and the political: it examines the friendship between two young men (one black, one white) and how their bond was torn by the 1968 decision to grant Aboriginal workers equal pay with whites.

Heartland, starring Cate Blanchett and Ernie Dingo.

Heartland deals with the mystery surrounding the death of an Aboriginal girl and the doubts concerning the guilt of her boyfriend, convicted of her murder. It is also a love story between the two people convinced of his innocence – their growing relationship must survive hostility and the obstacles of their different backgrounds and cultures.

Conversations at La Mama

Tuesday April 29, 7:30 pm.

Mammad Aidani talks to Meme McDonald, author of books for young people, *My Girragundji*, *Njunjul the Sun* (which received the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for YA Fiction), and her most recent novel, *Love Like Water*.

Bookings: 9347 6142 or bookings@lamama.com.au

La Mama 205 Faraday Stl Carlton, opposite Brunetti. City of Port Phillip Library has a range of Meme McDonald's books.

The Weekend Australian Art Melbourne 08 will take place at the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, Friday 18 April – Sunday 20 April 2008. Featuring 100 leading Australian galleries presenting new artwork from 800 artists including Indigenous art for view and for sale.

<http://www.artmelbourne08.com.au/am08/>

Fitzroy Xpress Victorian Tour

Fitzroy Xpress, 'Indigenous Australia's favourite country rockers', are bringing their infectious mix of country rock to Victoria for the first time. Their album 'Home Sweet Home' won the 2005 Deadly award for album of the year.

Wed 2 April East Brunswick Club

Fri 4 April The Palais, Hepburn Springs with Dan Sultan

Sat 5 April Martians Café, Deans Marsh

Sun 6 April Fitzroy Town Hall (arvo, 3-7 pm, all ages)

www.fitzroyxpress.com

Songline Cultural Tours

Brien Nelson's new venture, 'Songline Cultural Tours', gives people a unique opportunity to 'walk the country' of his ancestors and learn aspects of Aboriginal culture through story-telling, music and demonstrations.

Ph: 03 5436 1061; mob. 0458 367 766

Email: admin@songlineculturaltours.com

www.songlineculturaltours.com

Dungula Wamayirr (River People)

The Nicholls Family remembers the life of Pastor Sir Doug and Lady Gladys Nicholls.

Exhibition dates: 19 April – 27 June, 2008

Koorie Heritage Trust, 295 King St, Melbourn.

Information: 0433 488 330

And a related news item, Steve Perkin, Herald Sun March 17

Eltham grandmother Pamela Pedersen chased a suspected thief, wrestled her to the ground and sat on her until police arrived. Which sounds incredible until you realise that Pamela is the daughter of one Doug Nichols, footballer, pastor, much-loved governor of South Australia.