

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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December, 2007

FROM THE CHAIR – Rosemary Rule

What a year! 2007 will be remembered for many things by all those interested in reconciliation. Among them, the far-reaching Northern Territory Intervention policies introduced to 'save the children'; former Prime Minister Howard's just-discovered interest in reconciliation, the 40th anniversary of the Referendum giving Indigenous Australians the right to vote, the tenth year since the release of the 'Bringing Them Home' report and the settlement of the Gunditjmara native title application (first made in 1996) among them. And of course, following the election of Kevin Rudd as Prime Minister on 24 November, it will also be remembered as the first time in Australia's history that the Labor Party will hold government in every state, territory and at Commonwealth level. In his victory speech, Mr Rudd affirmed his commitment to Indigenous Australians. During the election campaign, Labor's Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin outlined the party's priorities. They include eliminating the 17 year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous babies, halving the rate of Indigenous mortality rate, improving reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks and improving housing infrastructure. While they supported the Liberal's Intervention in the NT, Labor has said they will seek to revoke several key initiatives, including revoking the abolition of the permit system, and they also pledged to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Many will be watching to ensure that Kevin Rudd does indeed govern for all Australians.

Closer to home, our work goes on, thanks in great measure to the hard working committee members. 2007 also marked our tenth anniversary, a mighty milestone for a small group of volunteers. It will be formally acknowledged at the Council's Civic Awards event on 5 December. Over the past 12 months, PPCfR has tried to broaden our networks within the local community. We have supported Inner South Community Health Services, Unity Foundation, the

City of Port Phillip with their activities including the Yalukit Wilam Ngargee festival, Sorry Day, NAIDOC Week and joined the Cultural Volunteering Network. Members felt so strongly about the government's intervention into the NT that a group got together and wrote a public Open Letter to the media. On other fronts, we continued our support of both ANTaR and Reconciliation Victoria, Bayside and Stonnington Reconciliation groups. We also farewelled the former Member for Albert Park John Thwaites and met the new MP, Martin Foley - and saw the creation of our very own website (www.ppcf.org). Of course, there is always more to do but we'd like to spread the load and would be most appreciative of other members with some time to spare to come forward and be more actively involved.

I'd like to invite members and friends to join us for our traditional end-of-year barbecue at the public BBQ's in Gasworks Park, South Melbourne, on Tuesday, 18 December, from 6.00pm. BYO food and refreshments. (It's a dog-friendly park). In the event of bad weather, Gael Wilson has kindly offered her house in Port Melbourne; contact 9530 3245 or 0418 675 734 to learn more.

We will be back in 2008, reinvigorated and re-committed to achieving the goals of the reconciliation movement, building relationships and fostering friendships. This is the last Mungo for '07 as we take a break in January. Your next issue will arrive in February. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I'd like to thank our members for their support and wish everyone a healthy, happy and productive year ahead.

Rosemary Rule

PPCfR November Meeting : Friendships of Activists for Aboriginal Justice

At our November meeting Sue Taffe, Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, Monash University, spoke on "Fighting Friendships: activists for

Aboriginal justice across racial/cultural divides in the 1950s-1980s"; this was based on her book, "Black and White together", written for the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI).

Lasting friendships that developed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, with a variety of backgrounds, were of importance in ongoing campaigns. Examples of the range of people who became involved in various ways are:- Stan Davey, a non-Aboriginal Church of Christ pastor from W.A, and Doug Nicholls, an Aboriginal pastor of the same Church, associated in the Victorian Aborigines Advancement League -- (Stan later worked with Aboriginal communities in Northern Australia); Joe McGinness, Aboriginal member of the Waterside Workers Federation, was President of FCAATSI; Dr Barrie Christophers, medical practitioner in Melbourne; Kath Walker (Oodgeroo Noonuccal); Faith Bandler; Don Dunstan, S.A.Premier; Gordon Bryant, Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Sue Taffe's talk prompted many questions and comments; it was of particular interest to some members who knew personally people of whom she spoke, for example in the Victorian Aborigines Advancement League. The range of backgrounds of those who cooperated in ongoing campaigns or struggles on particular issues was impressive and can give us encouragement in participation with others, either individually or as a group, in working for justice and reconciliation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Harry Ward

Next meeting

Tuesday, 19th February, 2008, 6.30pm, 195 Bank Street, South Melbourne.

Everyone most welcome to attend, share ideas, plan events and actions.

Launch of Wetenngerr Project

Stonnington City Council with World Vision launched its sponsorship of the Wetenngerr Governance Project on Wednesday, 21st Nov at Phoenix Park Community Centre. Mayor John Chandler, CEO Hadley Sides & Social Development Manager, Connie Gibbons provided an introduction & explanation of council's role before handing over to WV CEO Tim Costello. Tim described the environment WV found at this remote community near Tennant Creek, the importance of taking time to understand & bring everyone along in developing that understanding. A point to note was an emphasis on community councillors putting their decisions above or separate from, kinship. [similar to the role of local government councillors]

The audience which included over 50 Stonnington Council Officers, Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation members, councillors, press & photographers was an indication of council's intention to use this project in the broadest sense.

Excitement & a sense of occasion was evident.

Tom Moloney, Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation

Yalukit Wilam Ngargee: People Place Gathering 2008 **A celebration of Indigenous culture from around the bay. YWN08 is Low in Carbon and High in offsets.**

Program and dates soon to be released: see <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/>

Volunteers Needed

The Yalukit Wilam Ngargee: People Place Gathering is in need of volunteer support to help with various duties leading up to and during the festival,

Wed 30 Jan to Sat 2 Feb 2008

Current Roles to fill include;

Pre-festival – Mid Dec/Jan

- Volunteer Administrator to help administer volunteer roles and responsibilities during festival
- Administration: Festival data entry, excel spreadsheet, and word experience needed
- Distribution: Flyer and poster drop in local vicinity prior to festival
- Market Stall: Stock taking and sorting market stall shades, discarding or fixing broken shades with market stall co-ordinator.
- Evaluation/Survey collectors: Collect evaluation information from festival participants.

Festival Main Day - Saturday 2 February 2008

- Bump in/out crew: Bump In help set up festival precinct including erecting market stall shades and assisting market stall holders to there areas.
- Bump out: deconstructing market stall shades, assisting market stall holders from their areas and helping to clean festival precinct site.
- Info Tent: Disseminate festival information from information tent.
- Evaluation/Survey collectors: Collect evaluation information from festival participants.
- Children's Activities: Assist with children's activities program; note a police check is required for this position.
- Drivers: To drive vehicles that provide either production support, artist pick ups or transfers. Must have current license and available for police check.

All positions are required for a minimum 3 hour shift and will receive a meal and T-Shirt on festival main day

This is a perfect opportunity to contribute, develop and take part in a community minded event. If you're interested or know of others within your networks who may be interested please email - ywn@portphillip.vic.gov.au or phone - Assist on 9209 6777

Bo Svoronos, Indigenous Arts Officer, City of Port Phillip.

Support for Koori Schools

The Greens are supporting the four Koori schools in Victoria under threat of closure. Sue Pennicuik, MLC for Southern Metropolitan, has contacted the Minister for Education expressing concerns about the review of the schools being conducted to assess the Victorian College of

Koorie Education's (VCOKE) success in reaching various educational outcomes for indigenous children. The College was established to bring the four existing Koorie Open Door Education (KODE) schools together as a single multi-campus school. Sue said that the proposal to close the college and send all the Koori students back to mainstream schools is not the answer. The Victorian P-12 College of Koorie Education has the support of its communities who do not want its schools to close and are prepared to fight to keep them open. Sue has requested the minister that she maintains the government's commitment to the Victorian P-12 College of Koorie Education model which has only been in operation for two years and works with the community to ensure the future of the college as a matter of priority.

Coming events

Pastor Sir Doug and Lady Gladys Nicholls Memorial Unveiling, Sunday 9 Dec, 11 am. Entry via Nicholson St
Pastor Sir Doug and Lady Gladys Nicholls were prominent members of Melbourne's Indigenous community and were active campaigners for Indigenous rights and justice. The City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government have commissioned a major sculptural memorial to them. This will be the first Indigenous memorial in Melbourne located in Parliament Gardens Reserve in East Melbourne. The funding partners have worked closely with the Nicholls family on this project. Ph. 9658 9131

Indigenous Social Justice Association – Melbourne Support Group, 5 December, 6.30, Solidarity Salon, 580 Sydney Road, Brunswick

At this meeting ISJA will host guest speaker, Andrew Jackomos, from the State Government's Indigenous Affairs Unit. Andrew will speak on progress by the Victorian Government into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. This will be followed by a question and answer session.

Unity Foundation – 2008 Men in Black Calendar, \$29.95

The 2008 Men in Black Calendar is the major fundraising activity for the Unity Foundation. Featuring some of Australia's most dynamic and exciting sporting stars, the calendar seeks to inspire Indigenous youth to 'Achieve their Dreams, Goals and Ambitions'. For information: www.unityfoundation.org.au/2008-men-in-black-calendar/

Films coming up:

Set in Western Australia in 1968, *September* is a humane, cinematic and intricately drawn coming-of-age story about two 16 year old boys, one black, one white, whose friendship begins to fall apart against the backdrop of a turbulent and pivotal moment in Australia's past.

Opening 29 November at Palace Brighton, Dendy Brighton Bay, Kino Dendy and Palace Como Cinemas

Liyarn Ngarn

RMIT Capitol Theatre, Swanston St, Melbourne Sunday 2 December 11 am.

Sponsored by OXFAM Australia.

'*Liyarn Ngarn* is our description of coming together of our spirits, a recognition of our common fate; as peoples of the

land and the sea, *Liyarn* is a way of life that is uniquely ours' – Pat Dodson.

Cast: Pete Postlethwaite, Pat Dodson, Archie Roach.

Discussion forum and music to follow screening. See:

Human Rights Arts and Film Festival, www.hrff.org.au

Exhibitions:

Tracks in the Desert, 15-November – 2 December 2007

This is an exhibition of contemporary and traditionally informed art by Arabunna artists and artists who regularly visit and work in the Marree region of South Australia. The artists witness country, its people and their stories in painting, photography, sculpture, installation, music and film. Venue: Brightspace, 8 Martin St St Kilda. Ph: 9593 9466. Email: bright@brightspace.com.au.

www.brightspace.com.au

Gallery hours: Wed – Sat 12-6 and Sun 1-5.

Tjukurrpa Arts presents an exhibition of extraordinary paintings from artists of the Central Desert communities and Utopia and Watiyawanu. Tjukurrpa, meaning 'the dreaming' or 'the dreamtime', are the stories, passed down from generation to generation, by Aboriginal people in Central Australia. Each painting is a unique expression of these stories and may depict such things as the significance of important ceremonies or native flora and fauna.

Friday 7th December 6.30pm -9.30pm Elwood Community Centre (Behind Elwood Beach House) 63a Ormond Esplanade, Elwood Map ref. 67 C1

Find Aboriginal arts sellers or artists

The **Aboriginal Art Directory** is the one-stop information resource and online guide to finding **Australian Aboriginal Art Vendors** around the globe. Start your search to buy Aboriginal paintings here with the largest online search tool for Australian and international commercial galleries, community art centres, wholesalers, retailers, websites and online stories specializing in selling Aboriginal art. <http://www.aboriginalartdirectory.com/>

Heide Museum of Modern Art

Power and Beauty: Indigenous Art Now,

17 Nov – 10 March

See paintings, sculptures and installations which respond to the current pressures of living in Australia. Curator's talk on the 'Power and Beauty' exhibition Sunday, 20 Jan, 2 pm. Also at Heide, Wed 20 Feb, a panel entitled 'Art is Political', a panel of artists, writers, curators and musicians who will discuss relationships between Indigenous art, aesthetics, politics and power. See:

www.heide.com.au

Journeys – Aboriginal Art from Central and Western Desert, Gasworks Arts Park, 10 Dec – 21 December

Curated by Jennifer Dudley and Outback Aboriginal Art, this exhibition features paintings, sculpture and objects made from fibre materials from Maningrida by renowned elder artists as well as the new and emerging artist Sarrita King.

